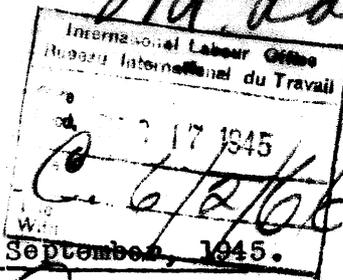


INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH



C6/2/66

Industrial and labour Developments in September, 1945.

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

Amendment to National Service (Technical Personnel)
Rules, 1940: New Form prescribed for Service
Certificate.

Reference was made at page 1 of the report of this Office for August 1945 to an amendment to the National Service (Technical Personnel) Rules, 1940, requiring industrial undertakings to issue to technical personnel employed by them, on their discharge or release from the undertakings, a Service Certificate in a prescribed form. A further amendment to the National Service (Technical Personnel) Rules, 1940, gazetted by the Government of India on 1-9-1945, provides for some minor modifications in the form of the Service Certificate.

(The Gazette of India, dated 1-9-1945;
Part I, Sec.1, Pages 1182-1183).

Amendment to Weekly Holidays (Baluchistan) Rules, 1943.

Further amendments to the Weekly Holidays (Baluchistan) Rules, 1943 (vide page 1 of the report of this Office for September, 1943), have been gazetted by the Chief Commissioner, Baluchistan. The amendment prescribed the form in which every person closing his shop under the provisions of the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942 (and every proprietor, or other person responsible for the management of a restaurant, theatre or an establishment exempted from the provisions of section 3 of the Act by the Chief Commissioner), shall prepare, and ~~display~~ submit and display notices specifying the day or days of the week on which his establishment shall remain closed.

(The Gazette of India, dated 22-9-1945;
Part II-A, page 289).

Bombay:

Statistics relating to Factories to be collected in
Bombay: Rules drafted under Industrial Statistics Act,
1942.

The Bombay Government has gazetted on 20-9-1945 a draft of the revised rules and form it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 12 of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942. The rules follow closely those made by the Sind and the Punjab Governments in March 1945 (vide pages 4-5 of the report of this Office for March 1945).

The rules require every owner, proprietor, manager or any officer of any factory on whom the "Statistics Authority" of the Government of Bombay serves or causes to be served a notice in writing to submit

returns in a prescribed form by a prescribed date. As in Sind, part A of the Form requires the owner of the factory to furnish general information relating to the factory; part B, information as to its capital structure; part C, details regarding its production and its annual selling value; part D, a description of the materials used in manufacture; part E, details regarding the labour and other personnel employed, wages and salaries paid, etc.; and part F information relating to the consumption of power, fuel and lubricating materials. In addition to these, however, the rules framed ~~by the Government of Bombay regarding the~~ by the Bombay Government requires the owner of the factory to furnish in part G of the form details regarding the power equipment used, the consumption of energy, energy costs, and fuel consumption.

The draft will be taken into consideration by Government on or after 15-10-1945.

(The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 20th September 1945, part IV-A, Pages 136-144).

Orissa:

The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1944 (Act No. XIV of 1944)
Extended to Partially Excluded Areas of Orissa.

Reference was made at page 1 of our report for April 1944 to the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1944 (Act XIV of 1944). The Government of Orissa has notified that the amending Act shall apply to all the partially excluded areas of the province of Orissa.

(~~The~~ Notification No. 4626-Com., dated 24-9-1945, published in the Orissa Gazette, dated 28-9-1945, part III, page 158)

United Provinces:

The Factories (Holidays) Rules: U.P. Government's
Revised Draft.

Reference was made at page 2 of our report for August 1945 to the Factories (Holidays) Rules 1945, gazetted by the Government of the United Provinces, among other provincial Governments. In supersession of the draft Factories (Holidays) Rules published at pages 222-223 of the United Provinces Gazette, Part I-A, dated 25-8-1945, the Government of the United Provinces has now gazetted a fresh draft for general information. The draft will be taken into consideration on or after 15-12-1945.

(The Government Gazette of the United Provinces, dated 15-9-1945, part I-A, pages 235-237).+

SOCIAL POLICY.

States Standing Committee on Labour: Labour Welfare and
Legislation in Indian States: Nawab of Bhopal's Inaugural
Speech.

Inaugurating the States Standing Committee on Labour at New Delhi on 26-9-1945, the Nawab of Bhopal who is the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, stated that it was now well recognised that it was the function and duty of the State to protect by legislative measures the health, welfare and security of the working classes. The Indian States were determined not only to keep pace with British India in the field of labour legislation, but, if possible, to go forward and set an example.

Referring to the criticism that the Indian States still lagged behind in respect of labour legislation, the Nawab pointed out that the reason why labour legislation had not been enacted on a comprehensive scale in Indian States was not because the States were wilfully negligent of their duties in this respect, but because industry had not advanced sufficiently in those areas to warrant such legislation. Some of the major States which were industrially advanced had already adopted most of the beneficent labour laws in force in British India.

His Highness further made it clear that Indian Princes did not intend to set up in their territories unfair competitive conditions in the field of industry by permitting labour conditions which were not in accordance with the prevailing labour standards in the adjoining provinces of British India. For the first time, a representative from the Indian States had been included in the Indian delegation to the International Labour Conference to be held in Paris during October 1945, and His Highness declared his intention to suggest to his brother Princes that they should take a personal interest in the question of labour welfare in their territories.

Referring to the objects of the States Standing Labour Committee, His Highness said that since labour legislation would play an important part in India during the post-war period, it was essential that Indian States should have machinery for advice on all questions relating to labour welfare and legislation. One of the main tasks of the Committee would be a study of the administrative machinery set up in the Indian States to enforce labour legislation. The mere enactment of labour legislation would not by itself serve the purpose unless effective administrative machinery was set up to enforce such legislation.

(The Statesman, 27-9-1945). †

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Hours of Work and Weekly Rest, etc.

Weekly Holiday for Madras Hotel Employees: Hotel Managements
Concede Demand.

Hotel employees (servers, cleaners and cooks) of Madras numbering about 2,000 struck work on 7-9-1945. This step was taken by them as the hotel managements had refused to comply with the demands made by the hotel employees, namely, increased wages, security of service and a weekly holiday. In the note making these demands employees had also stated that if the above demands were not met they would strike work one day every week without notice.

The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, received representatives of both parties to the dispute on 8-9-1945, and as a result of discussion, in which representatives of hotel managements and of the Hotel Workers' Union participated, the former expressed willingness to concede the principle of a weekly holiday, provided the Provincial Government introduces a suitable legislative measure. The employees' representatives thereupon agreed to resume work from the morning of 9-9-1945.

(The Hindu, 8 and 9-9-1945). +

Forced Labour.

Jhabua State Legalizes Forced Labour.

According to a message in the Hindustan Times from its local correspondent, by a notification in its State Gazette, the Jhabua State Government has ordered that Bhils (members of an aboriginal tribe) in the State have to work as labourers when asked to do so by the State Engineer, the Palace Engineer, or contractors engaged by the Public Works Department. The explanation given in support of this step is that since there is no labour class in the State, the local Bhils have to be called upon to work.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-9-1945).+

6

Industrial Disputes.

Arbitration Court's Award in Kolar Gold Fields Dispute.

Reference was made at page 6 of our report for August 1945, to the appointment by the Government of Mysore, of a court of arbitration of three members, to decide the issues involved in the recent strike by about 20,000 labourers in the Kolar Gold Fields.

The Arbitration Tribunal, giving the award on 21-9-1945, held that, according to the terms of agreement, the labour Association had no right to give notice during the war period, of the change desired, namely, that the service gratuity should be payable to each of the workers who had put in a service of 15 years underground or 20 years on surface, and observed that the revision of the service gratuity scheme brought into force under the agreements of 1942 and 1943 had terminated with the termination of the war, thus actually bringing the old schemes into force again.

As regards revision of standing orders, the Counsel for the Mining Companies having agreed to the definition of contract and temporary employees as desired by the Labour Associations, the Court allowed it. ~~Regarding other standing orders,~~ certain modifications were suggested by the Arbitration Board.

(The Hindu, 25-9-1945).

Calcutta Tramway Workers' 9-Day Strike in Calcutta:
Dispute Referred for Conciliation.

About 8,000 tramway workers employed by the Calcutta Tramway Co., which owns a total of 307 tramcars, ~~struck~~ work on 19-9-1945. The workers' main demands were payment of a month's wages as Id and Puja bonus, reinstatement of two dismissed workers and withdrawal of disciplinary proceedings against another worker. On the sixth day of the strike, the ~~taxi~~ bus and taxi drivers, who had also submitted a memorandum of grievances to their employers, joined the strike. The intervention of the provincial Government, ~~the~~ and the various meetings between the spokesman of the tramway workers' Union, the management and the Bengal Government were not fruitful in the earlier stages. Final agreement was, however, reached at a conference of the representatives of the Union and the Company and Mr. R.L. Walker, Adviser to the Governor of Bengal on 27-9-1945. It was decided to refer the points at dispute to a conciliation board consisting of two representatives each of the Company and the Union, and the Company and the Government of Bengal agreed to appoint Mr. J.C. Gupta, M.L.A., a nominee of the Workers' Union — Chairman of the Conciliation Board.

The tramway workers returned to work on 28-9-1945.

(The Statesman, 29-9-1945;
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-9-1945)

General.

Owners of Coalmines to submit Returns relating to Wages
and Health of Labour.

By a notification published in the Gazette of India dated 25-9-1945, the Central Government requires the owner, agent or manager of every coalmine in British India to prepare each month and send to the Coal Commissioner with the Government of India, 1, Council House Street, Calcutta, and to the Chief Inspector of Mines in India, Dhanbad, so as to reach them not later than the 10th of each month, (in addition to the correct return in duplicate in a prescribed form of raisings, despatches and stocks of coal which they have been submitting hitherto) a labour return in a prescribed form giving the following details: average number of men and women employed daily, underground work, surface work and open workings; cash earnings per shift for labour with monthly basic pay of Rs. 40 and under, in each of the above types of works; average output per man per shift in underground working; and the number of cases of malaria, cholera and other ~~infectious diseases~~ sickness in the colliery. The notification will take effect from 1-9-1945.

(The Gazette of India, dated 25-8-1945,
Part I, Sec. 1, page 1148). +

8

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Levy of Cess on Industries: Central Government's Scheme
for a Fund for Technical Training and Welfare.

It is understood that the Government of India is planning to levy a small cess on industries on the basis of workers employed. The Fund thus created will be utilised for technical training of workers and for welfare and activities for labour, particularly housing.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
13-9-1945).

National Investment Board for India: Government of India's
step for orderly industrialisation.

It is understood that Government of India will soon constitute a National Investment Board on the same lines as that appointed by the British Government. It is explained that such machinery is necessary to effect orderly industrialisation in India. Matters such as capital issues, priority for industries, extent of State control and limitation of private profit in industries will be dealt with by this Board.

(The Statesman, 12-9-1945).

Manufacture of Aeroplanes, Cars, Radios, etc., in India:
British Industrial Interests' Help on Reciprocal Basis.

It is understood that arrangements on a reciprocal commercial basis have been entered into between an industrial combine of Indian commercial concerns and its counterpart in the United Kingdom. Under this arrangement, certain important British industrial interests will give facilities for the manufacture of motor cars, aeroplanes, radio sets and other goods in India as part of post-war industrial development. The relations between Indian and British interests will be entirely on "unorthodox lines"; thus, the Indian combine will not only have joint Indian and British capital in India, but will have capital interest in Britain in the concerns which have joined hands with them.

(The Hindu, 7-9-1945).

9

Industrial Progress of Indian States: Inauguration of
Planning Committee's States' Industrial Delegation to
United Kingdom and United States.

Meeting of Indian States Planning Committee.- On 16-9-1945, the Nawab of Bhopal, the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, inaugurated a meeting of the Indian States Planning Committee. Speaking on the occasion, the Chancellor welcomed the statement recently issued by the Government of India on industrial policy, emphasising, inter alia, the need for a high degree of collaboration between British India and the States, and explained that the Planning Committee would not go into details of industrial development in individual States, but would lay down modes of action for guidance in the matter of industrial progress of the States as a whole. He also suggested that by regional arrangements between the States and the neighbouring provinces, the industrial development of the States might be brought out more quickly and ~~and~~ effectively.

States' Industrial Delegation.- The Chamber of Princes is also sending a States' Industrial Delegation, headed by Mr. S.B. Mallick, Prime Minister of Patiala State (Punjab), to the United Kingdom and the United States. The Delegation is expected to investigate the position in these countries with regard to the supply of capital goods and technical assistance for the industrialisation of Indian States. The tour would last ten weeks and the delegation is also likely to visit Sweden and Switzerland, where capital goods may be available. The delegation would primarily concern itself with textile and sugar refinery machinery and machines for some subsidiary industries.

(The Times of India, 18 and
22-9-1945).

National Planning Committee Meeting, Bombay, 17-9-1945;
Decision to Continue Committee's Work.

An informal meeting of the members of the National Planning Committee as well as some of the chairmen and secretaries of sub-committees of the National Planning Committee was held at Bombay on 17-9-1945, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, presiding.

The committee, after deliberations, passed the following resolution:-

"In view of the long period that has elapsed since the last meeting of the National Planning Committee and the vast changes that have taken place due to war conditions and otherwise, it is desirable that the Committee should review afresh the objective for a planned economy and should issue directives to the sub-committees about future work. In considering this, the previous resolutions of the Planning Committee as well as the various plans for national planning placed before this country should be reviewed with a view to speed up production and to organise distribution in such a way as to bring about the maximum increase in the standard of living of the people within a minimum period of time. It is also necessary to prepare a factual statement of the

changes that have taken place in the country and outside and their effect on any scheme of planned economy. Further, it is desirable to draw a list of priorities with the resources which may be available to us that may be taken up immediately with a view to meet the problems of varying urgency that are likely to confront the country in the immediate future. These questions should be considered by the National Planning Committee at its next meeting to be held on November 6. Meanwhile, a sub-committee consisting of Dr. John Mathai, Col. Sokhey, Sir C.V. Mehta, Mr. A. D. Shroff, Mr. Manu Subedar and Prof. K.T. Shah (convener) is appointed to consider these questions and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Committee."

Lack of Data.- In an interview to the Press after the meeting, Pandit Nehru said that ever since the Committee began to work, it has been hampered by lack of reliable data and statistics and other materials relating to various subjects under consideration. To begin with, much of the required data is not in existence and such as exists is not made available to the public. These difficulties have grown during war-time, and reports have not been published for a number of years. Even when such reports have been published, copies are difficult to obtain. The material collected by the various panels appointed by the Planning Department of the Government of India is wholly inaccessible. He, therefore, urged the Government to publish or release all such reports and statistics as are available but have not so far been published, in particular, reports and statistics relating to the trade and industry of the country, such as the report of the American Grady Mission which visited India in 1942.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 19-9-1945).+

Latest Developments in Chemical Industry: Indian Delegation to undertake Study-Tour in U.K. and U.S.A.

A delegation of seven persons representing the chemical and pharmaceutical industries in India will shortly leave for the United Kingdom and the United States of America to study the latest developments in the chemical industry in those countries. The delegation, of which Dr. K.A. Hameed will be the leader, will consist of the following Members: Mr. Mahomed Haniff and Dr. B.C. Das of Calcutta, Mr. K.K. Raman of Trichinopoly and Mr. R.B. Amin of Baroda. In the event of any of the members being unable to proceed, Mr. M.L. Shroff and Mr. B. Mitra of Calcutta will take their place.

(The Hindu, 15-9-1945).

11

Report of Industrialists' Delegation: Poor Prospects
for Imports of Capital Equipment.

The Indian Industrialists' delegation which returned to India early in September after a four-month tour in the United Kingdom and the United States (vide page 17 of the report of this office for May 1945) has summarized its impressions in an 1200 word report released to the Press on 15-9-1945.

Need to import Ready-made Technique.- Emphasizing the improvements in technique and the scientific advances effected in both the U.K. and the U.S.A. in recent years, the report states that if India's industrialization is to be as speedy as public opinion and her economic situation demand, she should unhesitatingly seek to import ready-made technique and industrial know-how from these two and other countries. A number of important industrialists with whom the delegation discussed the matter were willing to ~~arrange~~ afford India the necessary facilities in this direction, and the delegation believes that much can be secured at the level of technical co-operation. As for financial participation in Indian industries by foreign interests, the delegation made it quite clear that it would be acceptable to India only if effective control of ownership and management remained in Indian hands and industrialists both in the U.K. and the U.S.A. have, on the whole, shown an appreciation of this point of view.

Capital Equipment.- Regarding the chances of India's capital equipment needs being met from the U.K. and the U.S.A. the report states that the prospects are anything but bright. With the possible exception of medium-sized general-purpose machine tools which will be available in both countries fairly freely, the demand for capital equipment both from domestic markets and from the rest of the world is so great that deliveries and prices are bound to be unfavourable for a considerable time. The position is probably the least satisfactory in regard to textile machinery, for which India's need is perhaps the most urgent. There appears to be no chance of getting any for a long time from America, while deliveries from England cannot be expected under two years. In the case of other types of capital equipment, such as power plants, heavy and special purpose machine tools, transport equipment, electrical equipment, mining machinery, forging, foundry and chemical plants, etc., delivery periods vary greatly, from six months to two years or more, but they are generally longer in England than in the U.S.A.

Warning against Purchase of Second Hand Equipment.- In both countries, and particularly in America, a certain amount of secondhand equipment is available but much of this secondhand machinery is likely to be obsolete or worn out. The report, therefore, sounds a note of warning against the purchase and installation of old and worn-out equipment which would cripple India's capacity to compete in later years with up-to-date machinery. Prices as well as deliveries are likely to become easier in a couple of years and the machinery then available will be of a more advanced and efficient type. The delegation, therefore, regards it inadvisable for industrialists in India to be in a hurry to purchase capital equipment under present conditions except, of course, where requirements are so urgent or of such a nature that they cannot be postponed. However, the purchase of war surplus stock, an immense amount of which has been and will shortly be declared surplus in both the U.K. and the U.S.A. and is either new or practically new, is a possibility well worth exploring. In this connection the report

impresses upon the government and the business community in India the necessity and urgency of constituting in both countries an organization which would locate available equipment, inspect and report on it when necessary, canalize all inquiries from India, and furnish machinery for their procurement from the various surplus disposal boards.

Plea for Release of Sterling Assets and Closure of Empire Dollar Pool.— Arguing that Britain will not be able to supply the whole of India's demand for capital and consumption goods, the report urges the release of India's sterling assets and demands that India should be immediately released from membership of the Empire Dollar Pool. The hope is expressed that in her own interests the United States "will use her influence to bring about a reasonable solution of this difficult problem".

(The Hindustan Times, 16-9-1945).

Working class cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during March, 1945.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during March 1945, as compared with February, 1945.

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>Feb. 1945</u>	<u>March, 1945.</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	229	225
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	195	187
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	195	195
Nagpur	August 1939	249	247
Ludhiana	1931-35	375	378
Cawnpore	August 1939	301	302
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914	297	298
Jamshedpur	Ditto	300	301
Jharia	Ditto	318	329
Madras	Year ending June 1936	225	224
Madura	Ditto	226	221
Coimbatore	Ditto	221	222

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for March, 1945).

Separate Highways Department to be in Charge of Roads:
Madras Government's Proposal.

There are about 36,670 miles of roads in Madras Province, excluding municipal lanes and streets. Of these, at the outbreak of the war, about 1,400 miles were under the control of the Government (Public Works Department) and the rest under district boards. Since the outbreak of the war about 2,600 miles of roads of military importance have been taken over by the Government.

Reasons for Government taking over Roads.— The Government of Madras feels that it has not been possible for district boards to maintain all the roads under their control properly, mainly account of the inelasticity of their revenues and the necessity of incurring increasing expenditure on public health, education, etc. A special officer appointed by Government in December 1943 to examine the position has recommended that all important roads should be taken over by the Government and placed under the control of a new Highways Department, and his proposals have, in the main, been accepted by the Post-War Reconstruction General Committee of the Province.

Highways Department to be created.— The Government of Madras has, therefore, decided to constitute a separate Highways Department and to take under its control roads of military importance and other important roads in the Province. Under the present proposals the Government will take over from the local bodies about 13,700 miles of ~~roads~~ important roads in the district ~~boards~~ board areas (including 2,600 miles of roads of military importance already transferred to the Public Works Department) and the continuation of such roads in municipal areas. These consist of (a) all roads now classified as trunk roads; (b) all other roads or portions of roads which are proposed to be classified as National Highways or Provincial Highways in the Post-war Plan; and (c) important inter-district roads, and marketing, second-class and other roads not included in item (b), but which connect important agricultural centres with markets and industrial centres with consuming areas and important railway stations, all of which are proposed to be classified as major district roads. It is also proposed to take over eventually some more roads which will be classified as major district roads.

Bill to Amend Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.— But under the law as it stands at present, when roads vested in local bodies are taken away from their control, those bodies will not be under any obligation to provide lighting, scavenging, drainage, watering, etc., for those roads. The Government, however, considers it necessary that the local bodies concerned should continue to provide these civic amenities in respect of the roads lying ~~within their~~ within their jurisdiction though they have been taken under the control of the Highways Department. With this and in view the Government of Madras has gazetted a bill for further amending the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

The Scheme and the Bill have been published for eliciting public opinion.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 18-9-1945,
Part II, Pages 604-606; Part IV, pages 93-96).

Research Schemes approved by Governing Body of Industrial Research Council: Survey of India's Uranium Resources .

The construction of a Technological Block of the Glass and Ceramic Research Institute in Calcutta at an estimated cost of Rs. 221,000, a block grant of Rs. 60,000 per annum to the Madras University for meeting the cost of a Leather Research and Technological Institute and a grant of Rs. 75,000 per annum to the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, for work on astrophysics and experimental physics and cosmic ray research, were among the schemes approved at a meeting of the ~~Government~~ governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research held in New Delhi on 21-9-1945 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development.

Among other schemes considered and accepted by the Governing Body was the survey of the resources of India in uranium, the element used in atomic bomb, and conducting research on ~~xxx~~ radio-active elements.

The Governing Body also approved the establishment of a Road Research Board and the opening of training classes in Plastics Engineering and the starting of Building Research at the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee.

(Unofficial Note No. F.96/8/45-Pub., issued by the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India on 22-9-1945).

Opposition to Scaling Down of India's Sterling Balances: Resolution of All-India Congress Committee.

On 23-9-1945, the All-India Congress Committee passed the following resolution on India's Sterling balances: "The A.-I.C.C. has noted that enormous credit balances due to India have accumulated and are kept in London in sterling. These balances are not available for utilisation for India's own immediate needs of industrialisation and general economic development. They have arisen out of the supply of goods and services provided by this country for Britain's war effort. The goods and services which these balances ~~represent~~ represent were obtained ~~is~~ from India mostly at controlled prices, and the suggestions made in certain British quarters that the amount of these balances is inflated is contradicted by the actual facts, as recorded and admitted by a British Parliamentary Committee which recently investigated the subject. The British demand, therefore, for a scaling down of the amount is wholly unwarranted, and India cannot submit to any settlement of this problem which involves a sacrifice of her just claims and great injury to her future development. The A.-I.C.C. is of the opinion that every effort must be made for an early settlement of the question of India's Sterling balances so that they may be utilised for the planned economic development of the country".

(The Times of India, 24-9-1945).

Development of India's Mineral and Water Resources:
Proposed Expansion of Geological Survey of India .

To enable it to undertake extensive exploration of India's mineral and water resources, and thus to assist post-war plans for industrial and economic development, the Geological Survey of India is to be expanded by the Central Government of India. The primary function of the Survey is the preparation of a geological map which provides the basis for all other geological work. Equal importance will now be given to mineral development and economic geology. Under the scheme now planned the functions of the Survey will cover: (a) preparation of geological maps, (b) economic geology, (c) engineering geology and water supply, (d) geophysical work, and (e) dissemination of information. The cadre of the geological officers, which was hardly 30 during pre-war days, will, under the expansion scheme, be raised to 125 as soon as possible.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 25-9-1945).+

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Social Security Plan for India: Sir William Beveridge to Investigate Possibility!

The London Correspondent of the Times of India, Bombay, reports that Sir William Beveridge has accepted an invitation from the Government of India to investigate the possibility of adoption in this country of a scheme of social security, and that he is expected to leave for India shortly.

No announcement regarding this visit has yet been made by the Government of India.

(The Times of India, 21-9-1945). +

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Post-War Unemployment: Conference Urges Unemployment Allowance
and Public Works Schemes.

At the Unemployment Conference held at Calcutta on 2-9-1945, under the joint auspices of the Indian Federation of Labour and the Radical Democratic Party, a resolution was passed viewing with grave concern the menace of post-war unemployment. The Conference demanded, among other things, an unemployment allowance, drastic reduction of the general level of prices and the immediate undertaking by Government of large scale public works schemes. It also urged that there should be no discharge of employees without previous consultation with their respective organisations.

(vanguard, Delhi, 4-9-1945). +

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MIGRATION.

Government of India's Agent in Malaya: Mr. S.K. Chettur
to be appointed.

It is understood that the services of Mr. S.K. Chettur, Secretary to the Government of Madras in the Local Administration Department, will be placed at the disposal of the Government of India shortly, for appointment as the Indian Agent in Malaya. Before proceeding to Malaya, Mr. Chettur will work in Delhi for a few months.

(The Hindustan Hindu, 14-9-1945).

Indians

Immigrants in Natal, 1944: Report of the Protector of
Immigrants.

According to the Annual Report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants in Natal, approximately 17,600 Indians were employed in the provinces of Natal, South Africa, during 1944, as compared with 26,000 employed in 1943. The total number of male adult Indian immigrants in the province was 43,218. Many of the immigrants are farming on their own account and carrying on other trades. The housing accommodation, still leaves much to be desired. However, there were no complaints of ill-treatment by employers. No immigrants returned to India during the year. The health of the Indian population was good during the year, but the death-rate from tuberculosis was high. The total population increased to 217,549, from 210,107 in 1943. The total number of children attending Government and Government-aided schools during the year under review was 32,875, showing an increase of nearly 2,000. Still, there were many Indian children who were receiving no education owing to there being no room for them in schools.

(The Statesman, 25-9-1945).

Protection of Rights of Indians in Burma and Malaya:
Resolution of All-India Congress Committee.

During its session held at Bombay from 21-9-1945 to 23-9-1945, the All-India Congress Committee passed the following resolution:- "The A.-I.C.C., believing as it does in the right of freedom of all countries, holds that the people of each country have the further right to develop their own resources in such manner and with such means as they think fit. Where Indian labour has been employed and Indian capital is ~~invested~~ invested, the Committee considers, that their just interests should properly be safeguarded with due regard to the primary claim and interests of the people of the country concerned. All such problems should be considered by the representatives of those countries and of India on a

basis of mutual adjustment. No concessions should be given or new vested interests created by British authorities in favour of foreign capital in Burma and Malaya which curtail the rights of peoples of those countries or which injure Indian interests there. Trade relations of an ~~endur-~~ enduring character and problems relating to the movement of population can only be properly settled by representatives of a free India, free Burma and free Malaya".

(The Times of India, 24-9-1945).

Return of Evacuees to Burma: India Government's Scheme.

As a result of a conference held in June 1945, by the Government of India with representative Burman and Indian leaders and representatives of associations and bodies interested in Burma, a procedure for the return of Indian evacuees to Burma is being worked out by the Government of ~~Burma~~ India in consultation with the Government of Burma. Briefly the scheme is to provide special facilities for the return of evacuees to Burma. Special shipping will be arranged to take evacuees from four principal ports, viz., Madras, Vizagapatam, Calcutta and Chittagong.

Arrangements are being made in consultation with the provincial Governments to issue certificates of ~~their~~ identity to Indian evacuees, for which the evacuees will have to make applications in a prescribed form, which will ask for certain particulars including addresses in India and Burma, interests in Burma, the names of dependants for whom passages are required, etc. Copies of the certificates will be supplied to the Protectors of Emigrants at the ports of embarkation to enable them to grant facilities to the evacuees. The particulars asked for in the application forms are required to arrange a system of priorities.

It is, however, pointed out that the return of the evacuees can take place only after the Civil Government has returned to Burma and made arrangements for the reception of evacuees at the receiving ports.

(The Hindu, dated 28-9-1945).

Rights and Privileges of Indians in Burma: Demand of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry which met at Calcutta on 23-9-1945, decided to represent to Government that no fresh immigration agreement should be concluded by the Government of India with the Government of Burma which does not grant Indians the same rights and privileges as are accorded to Britishers domiciled in Burma, and that such agreements should not be concluded without prior consultation with ~~the~~ ~~Burma~~ ~~Indians~~ ~~interests~~ the Committee of the Federation and other Burma Indians' interests. Pointing out that Indians owned extensive properties in Burma, and exported over 3,000,000 tons of rice from that country to India and Ceylon, the Committee emphasised the need for giving full facilities to Indians to return to Burma in order to enable them to resume their activities.

(The Times of India, 26-9-1945).

Ceylon Minister Demands Recall of Government of India's Representative in Ceylon.

Answering a question in the State Council on 25-9-1945, Mr. Bernard Aluwihare, the Acting Minister of Agriculture, Ceylon, hotly criticised what he called the mischievous propaganda of Mr. Aney, the Government of India Representative in Ceylon. He denounced the attitude that was being adopted by Mr. Aney and said that he interpreted it as Mr. Aney's attempt to belittle the international credit of Ceylon. Mr. Aluwihare also accused Mr. Aney of being responsible for exacerbating the bitter feelings that already existed between the Indians and the Ceylonese and appealed to the Government of India to recall Mr. Aney immediately in the best interests of the two countries.

It appears that Mr. Aney had made a request to the Government of Ceylon for certain information relating to the development of the cooperative movement in Ceylon and its effects on Indian traders settled in Ceylon. Mr. Aluwihare thought this request for information was a "fact of Indian imperialism" and refused to supply it on the ground that this was an intolerable interference with the Ceylon Government's day-to-day affairs. Mr. Aney had referred to this in a speech he made at Jaffna.

The other ministers, however, dissociated themselves from the views expressed by Mr. Aluwihare. Mr. Mahadeva, the minister for Home Affairs deprecated the statements made by Mr. Aluwihare, and said that in fairness to Mr. Aney an opportunity should have been afforded to him to explain any statement that he might have made in this connection. The Acting Leader of the State Council, Mr. W.S.R.D. Bandarnaike, declared that whatever statement Mr. Aluwihare had made reflected only his personal opinion and did not represent the opinion of the Government. He said that it was a matter for the two Governments to discuss and not for individual ministers. He also said that Mr. Aluwihare should have brought this matter to the notice of the Board of Ministers before making such statement in the Council.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-9-1945).+

AGRICULTURE.

Collective Farming Experiment in Hyderabad State.

It is understood that collective farming is to be introduced by the Hyderabad Government in the Karnatak regions of the State. For this purpose, the Government proposes to divide agricultural lands into plots of hundred acres each and band together cultivators to work on these plots under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. The Government has placed orders for 30 tractors, which will take the place of the plough and bullocks; 5 of these tractors, each of which costs Rs. 25,000, are expected to arrive in Hyderabad at the end of ~~the~~ 1945 and the remainder in 1946. The government plans to introduced tractor ploughing throughout Hyderabad State later on.

(The Hindu, 7-9-1945).

Agricultural Production
Improvement of Indian Agriculture: ~~Governmental~~
Adviser to visit U.K. and U.S.A.

According to an Associated Press of India message the Government of India is deputing ^{an} agricultural production adviser, Mr. D.R. Sethi, to visit the U.K., U.S.A. and Canada for about four months to study the availability of agricultural machinery and implements in these countries and expedite their supply to further India's grow more food campaign. He will study the latest agricultural production machines abroad with a view to employing them in India. He will investigate the possibility of giving foreign training to Indian students in power farming and of securing foreign experts to develop it in India, and will study the technique of land development and utilisation projects similar to the Tennessee Valley authority.

He will also advise the Indian Supply Mission in Washington on all matters connected with agricultural machinery and tractors ordered from North America for speeding up agricultural production in India.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-9-1945).

Dairy Development in India: Expert to visit U.K. and U.S.A.

It is learnt that the Government of India is deputing its Director of Dairy Research, Dr. K.C. Sen, to visit the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. to study the latest developments in dairying and dairy research, including the organisation of dairy farms, with a view to employing them in the reconstruction of the Imperial Dairy Research Institute. He will also study the various types of machinery and equipment used in these countries and their availability for similar improvements in India. He is likely to be abroad for about a year and may also visit Switzerland, Holland and Denmark to acquaint himself with dairying conditions in these countries.

(The Hindu, 21-9-1945).

Abolition of Zamindari System: Need for Reforms in Agrarian Economy: Sir Manilal Nanavati's Minute of Dissent to Famine Commission Report.

Sir Manilal B. Nanavati, one of the members of the Famine Inquiry Commission, disagreeing with his colleagues regarding their recommendations in respect of the permanently settled estate system, has, in a minute of dissent to the commission's second report, dealt with the various aspects of agrarian reform in India. The report has recommended that enquiries should be undertaken in the permanently settled provinces (other than Bengal) with a view to finding the defects in the permanent settlement which present difficulties in the way of improving agricultural production and increasing the standard of life of the cultivators, and with a view to suggesting measures that should be undertaken, as long as the system continues to exist, to remedy the defects and remove the difficulties in question. This, says Sir Manilal, indicates that the permanent settlement has been looked at in the report from the narrow viewpoint of economic usefulness while wider issues such as the moral implications of the system, its inequitable basis, and the degenerating influence it exercises on the vast population under it have been completely ignored. At the same time, he considers such inquiries quite unnecessary. The following are the salient features of his minute of dissent:-

Floud Commission's Recommendation: Abolition of Permanent Settlement:

The origin of the permanent settlement and the various characteristics for which the system has fallen into disrepute being the same in every province, the decision arrived at in respect of Bengal can in no way differ from that in respect of the rest. For instance, the Floud Commission found that the permanent settlement has involved the expropriation of the rights of the ryots, has rendered land revenue inelastic, has resulted in inequalities of assessment, has deprived the government of close contact with and intimate knowledge of agricultural conditions, has imposed an iron framework which has had the effect of stifling the enterprise and initiative of all classes concerned, has permitted the creation of a number of parasitic intermediary interests between the zamindar and the actual cultivator, and has led to an immense volume of harassing and expensive litigation between the landlord and tenants. Finally, the Commission expressed the view that so long as the system remains, it would be difficult to evolve any satisfactory arrangement for revising rents all over the province on an equitable basis and for maintaining the records of rights. These findings of the Commission are so clear-cut and definite that they leave no doubt about their being generally applicable to all permanently settled areas. The decision has already been accepted by the Bengal Government and there is no reason why the other provinces such as Bihar, Orissa, the United Provinces and Assam, where the problem is practically the same, should not accept this decision as equally applicable to them.

Any attempt at modification of the permanent settlement which does not take into account the viewpoint of cultivators, who have to bear the burden of its operation, is bound to fail in practice, because the conflict of interests would continue and would grow even stronger with the organisation of kisans (peasants) and the present no-rent campaign. There is no hope of ending this tension so long as we have the permanent settlement under which there is no direct contact between the cultivator and the Government, or between the zamindars and the cultivators or again between the Government and the zamindars except for the limited purposes of collecting rent and revenue. This clash of interests

between the actual cultivators and the landlords cannot be eliminated so long as the permanent settlement in any modified form continues, as these defects are inherent in the system and would disappear only with it. The case against the permanent settlement being so well established, it is undesirable to waste time and funds on further enquiries into the defects of the system and the difficulties it places in the way of agricultural improvement and welfare. The only hope lies in abolishing the system without further delay.

Importance of a Sound System of Land Tenure.- No scheme of agricultural planning for the post-war period would achieve material results if it overlooks the adverse effects of a defective land tenure system on the productivity of land. It is one of the prime requisites of land reform that the cultivator himself should have a holding of a reasonable size which he can call his own and from which he can get at least a certain minimum standard of living. The basic land system of the country, the distribution of ownership of land, the terms on which it is held and cultivated, and the relation of the cultivator to the landlord and the Government—each of these factors has its effect on the productivity of land. Failure to recognize this fact has led the main Report to take the narrow view that a scheme "designed merely to replace one land system by another" is of less importance than "schemes of irrigation or industrial development which ... are calculated directly to increase the productive resources of the country". There is no justification for such a view which considers land tenure reform as less important or less effective than "direct" land improvement. Agricultural efficiency is determined as much by the social, economic and legal status of the cultivator as by technical perfection of implements and soil. Sir Manilal, therefore, urges the abolition of the zamindari system. The acquisition by the State of all proprietary interests between the ryot and the State is only a beginning in a comprehensive plan for agricultural development. The need for reforming the prevailing land tenure is not confined, however, to the permanently settled estates. Absentee landlordism is found today all over India in various forms. Instances of these are the Inam tenures in Madras and Bombay and the 'Revenue-Free estates' in Bengal and Bihar. Even in the ryotwari areas absentee landlordism is spreading — more than 50 per cent of the area in the Punjab and 30 per cent in Bombay being in the hands of non-cultivating owners. Conditions in Sind and Madras are no better.

Objectives of Agrarian Reforms.- Side by side with the abolition of the permanent settlement, resolute action should be taken to reform India's agrarian economy. In this connection, Sir Manilal, lays down the following objectives:-

- (a) All lands should be owned by Government, i.e., the intermediate feudal interests should be removed.
- (b) Occupancy rights should be given to cultivators with certain reservations, such as restrictions as to sub-division of the plot, transfer of land, etc.
- (c) These holdings should be economic units and should be, as far as possible, in one block.
- (d) The land should be cultivated by the man who owns it.
- (e) The cultivator should live on the farm or as near to it as possible.
- (f) The land should not be used as security for unproductive purposes.
- (g) The holdings should be taxed on a graduated scale.

To achieve these objectives, Sir Manilal recommends the following methods generally adopted by European countries after the Great War of 1914-18: (a) buying up of big estates and setting up of small cultivators thereon; (b) putting restrictions on the transfer of land; (c) imposition of low rental so that landowners who do not cultivate may have no incentive to hold lands; (d) financial assistance to buy land; (e) creation of non-attachable farm properties; (f) prohibition

of attachment or sub-division of properties by the declaration of the owner ~~of~~ to the judicial authorities that the said properties are "family" properties; and (g) preventive measures against the division of land on succession.

Fundamental Problem.- The fundamental problem, according to Sir ~~Manilal~~, is to transform Indian agriculture from a mode of living into a business proposition for the benefit of the cultivating classes. Large-scale industries would produce wealth but absorb only a very small percentage of men. The real solution therefore lies in ~~the~~ readjustment within the agricultural economy itself. ~~And~~ ~~Energies~~ should be directed to reforms on the lines of these two objectives. This would necessitate a readjustment of land ownership and reform of land tenure systems so as to facilitate increased agricultural production and its equitable distribution.

As for the measures to be taken to reform the agrarian economy, the first step is to know the facts showing how that economy is operating. Unfortunately the most essential statistics and information on land, holdings and the improvements of the cultivators are lacking. This defect must be removed at the earliest date. This information, when collected, should be supplemented by rural censuses taken every five years as in the United States of America or ad hoc censuses as on the continent of Europe. The second and equally urgent need is for the Central Government to establish an efficient organisation with the best of experts who may be available, make their own independent studies and help the Provinces and the States to frame a concerted ~~an~~ policy. The Central Government should provide the necessary funds. The third step is to adopt rehabilitation measures of the nature adopted in the U.S.A., where the cases of groups of men under different categories such as uneconomic holders, tenants-at-will, crop-sharers are carefully studied and efforts are made first to resettle them by various measures and ~~then~~ then to apply these in a general way. The rehabilitation measures are not confined to land settlements alone but to every aspect of their life in a co-ordinated form so that the whole man is dealt with and put on the way to prosperity.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
21, 22-9-1945). +

"Crop Finance" for Bombay Agriculturists: Measure under
Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act.

The Government of Bombay is extending facilities for the provision of crop finance by co-operative societies to agriculturists of the province seeking relief under the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Act, 1939.

Earlier Guarantee to Co-operative Societies.- In November 1944, the Government had guaranteed co-operative societies giving crop finance to debt-adjusted agriculturists to reimburse them against losses due to bad debts and other causes, to the extent of 5 per cent of outstandings on account of finance advanced to agricultural debtors whose debts had been adjusted by Debt Adjustment Boards and in whose cases awards had been passed. It had also agreed that the guarantee should apply to all finance advanced by any one financing agency to credit societies to provide crop finance to adjusted debtors, but that,

so far as credit societies were concerned, the guarantee should apply only to the operations of each society.

Extension of Guarantee.- The Government of Bombay has now extended its guarantee. It has agreed that it should apply to loans advanced by co-operative societies to debtors who are parties to any proceedings under the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act. The guarantee is to be calculated at 5 per cent of the total advances during the co-operative ~~xxxx~~ year made for such finance by individual co-operative societies, either from their own funds or from funds borrowed from one of the central financing agencies; or of advances made by central financing agencies direct to their members who are not financed by co-operative societies. While the Government subsidy will be directly available to the central financing agencies, in cases in which losses occur from unrecovered arrears the distribution of the Government subsidy will be left to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who will, when distributing the subsidy between the central financing agency and the co-operative society, verify the proportion of the loss being finally borne by the co-operative society and by the central financing agency, and divide the subsidy in proportion to the loss borne by each.

Crop Finance.- "Crop finance" is taken to mean finance made available by a co-operative society, either from its own funds or from funds borrowed from a central financing agency, or finance made available by a central financing agency direct to members, either ordinary or ~~xxxx~~ nominal, whose debts are under examination by Debt Adjustment Boards, or whose debts have been adjusted and who are not members of any society dispensing credit. The "central financing agency" is taken to include the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank Limited, all district central co-operative banks and banking unions and any other co-operative agency which has been authorised to finance debtors, who are parties to any proceedings or awards under the Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, direct or through societies.

Recovery of Arrears.- Advances for crop finance will be recovered within a maximum period of one year from the date of the advance. If any amounts remain outstanding at the end of this period, they will constitute arrears of crop finance for that particular year. All such arrears not recovered within the subsequent 12 months will be regarded as loss for the purpose of the Government guarantee, except where an extension of time to recover the arrears has been granted by societies for crop failures, or for any other reason, with the prior approval of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The subsidies paid by the Government are, however, liable to readjustment until the losses are finally written off by the Co-operative Societies or the central financing agencies concerned, with the Registrar's approval, at the end of four years from the date of the original loan. A subsidy available under the Government guarantee will also be made available to reduce the loss of interest on arrears. This means that the Government guarantee will apply both to the amount advanced and to the interest due thereon.

Appropriation of Debts Recovered.- Amounts recovered on account of crop finance from debtors who are parties to any proceedings or awards under the Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act will be appropriated between the societies and the central financing agency in proportion to the risk undertaken by each of them.

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Tuberculosis Treatment: Madras Government Servants in Inferior Service to get Six Months' Leave on Average Pay.

According to a notification published in the Fort St. George Gazette, the Government of Madras has approved a proposal that Government servants in inferior service taking leave on medical certificate for tuberculosis treatment should be permitted to draw during the leave, average pay for a period not exceeding six months, irrespective of whether a substitute is appointed or not. The grant of average pay will be subject to the condition that the Government servant concerned produces a certificate from the medical officer in charge of a recognized tuberculosis treatment centre to the effect that he has undergone regular treatment during the month for which the leave salary is claimed.

The notification gives a list of medical institutions recognised for this purpose as treatment centres for tuberculosis.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, dated 18-9-1945, Part I A, pages 226-227)*

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CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

American Expert to study Reconstruction of Countryside: Plan to Develop Rural Industries.

Mr. George Nathanson, an American international trade and planning expert, will, it is understood, be shortly leaving for India on the invitation of Mr. N.R. Sarker (who was recently in the United States as a member of the unofficial Indian Industrial Delegation) to study rural reconstruction and the possibility of substituting Indian and Chinese products in world trade for articles formerly produced by Germany and Japan. On his arrival in India, Mr. Nathanson would discuss with Mr. Sarker and Mr. G.D. Birla a plan for cooperation to promote and clear merchandise from rural industries which would be developed in India and Burma.

It is suggested that a programme for rural reconstruction in India and Burma is necessary to balance the large industrial projects which are contemplated, and according to Mr. Nathanson, Mr. Sarker expressed a desire to utilize the services of hundreds of American engineers and architects in order to develop modern industries and buildings in India and Burma.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-9-1945). +

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(The Hindustan Times, 7-9-1945). †

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

Production Targets based on Nutritional Requirements of Population: Recommendation of Sub-Committee on Nutritional Requirements.

The Sub-committee on Nutritional Requirements set up by the Nutrition Advisory Committee of the Indian Research Fund Association, in its report submitted recently, has recommended that production targets based on satisfactory estimates of the existing and potential production and the nutritional requirements of the population should be set up by provinces and States in close collaboration with the Government at the centre. Hitherto, the food policy had been concerned mainly with the supply of the minimum quantities of cereal grains needed to sustain the population at a low level of nutrition. It is necessary that consideration should be given to all the foods which are needed to make up a well-balanced and satisfactory diet, which is essential for the maintenance of good health.

The ~~Sub-committee~~ Sub-committee has further recommended that food and agricultural authorities should, in all their activities, strive towards one goal—the provision of a satisfactory diet for the entire population; that, as an immediate policy, emphasis may be laid on an increase in the production of fish and vegetables; that attention be paid to the education of the public to ~~popularize~~ popularise the alternative cereals to rice, and to schemes for covering the special needs of "vulnerable groups", e.g., school-feeding, provision of milk to expectant and nursing mothers and young children etc., and that, as a long-term policy, untiring effort over a considerable period of years be made to attain the production targets, which indicate the direction in which advance should be made.

("Indian Information", 1-9-1945).+

Housing.

Bombay Corporation urges Immediate Government Action to
relieve Housing Shortage.

At a meeting held on 17-9-1945 the Bombay Municipal Corporation adopted a resolution urging the Government to take immediate steps to ~~relieve~~ relieve the housing shortage, by encouraging the construction, for the poorer and lower middle classes, of 50,000 to 60,000 one and two-room tenements and by letting suitable sites at concessional rates.

(The Times of India, 19-9-1945).*

Bengal Slum Improvement Bill, 1945, Revised Draft: Local
Authorities to carry out Improvement Schemes.

Reference was made at pages 39-40 of the report of this Office for May 1945, to the draft text of the Bengal Slum Improvement Bill, 1945, published in the Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary dated 31-5-1945. The Bill has now been redrafted in the light of opinions received and the revised draft replaces the original Bill.

Improvement Schemes to be prepared by Local Authorities.- While the original Bill empowered the Provincial Government to direct the owners of property within notified "slum areas" to improve their property, the new Bill empowers the provincial Government to authorise local authorities to carry out schemes of improvement within notified slum areas. Such schemes shall make provision for: (a) the construction of streets or passages within such area sufficient in number and of ~~xx~~ sufficient width to enable the proper scavenging of the slum area; and (b) the construction of drains and sewers in such manner ~~xxx~~ as to render the slum area sanitary. They may also provide for (i) the partial or complete removal or demolition of any hut or other building in the slum area, or the alteration or reconstruction of any such hut or building; (ii) public water supply, common bathing arrangements and public privies or latrines for the use of the inhabitants of the slum area, and the lighting of any streets, passages, common bathing arrangements, and public privies or latrines constructed in such area; and (iii) the filling up of tanks, wells, ditches or trenches or low lands in the slum area and the construction of new tanks or the deepening or improvement of existing tanks in such area. If a local authority authorised to prepare a scheme does not do it within such time as the provincial Government considers reasonable, the provincial Government may, after giving the local authority an opportunity to explain the delay, by order in writing, direct such local authority to prepare such scheme and estimate within such period as may be specified in the order.

Finance for Improvement Schemes.- These schemes will be carried out, ~~as far as possible and equitable~~, at the expense of the owners of the buildings and lands within the notified areas. Provision has however been made in the Bill to enable the provincial Government and the local

authority in exceptional cases to bear, in equal shares, such part of of the cost, not exceeding half, as the provincial Government may determine. The improvements which may be made in notified areas are for securing the immediate amelioration of living conditions within those areas, and for removing circumstances likely to cause or to facilitate the spread of disease.

(The Calcutta Gazette, dated
20-9-1945, Part IVC, pages 9-16).

The United Provinces Roadside Land Control Bill, 1945:
Measure to Check Ribbon Development.

In order to prevent congestion on roads radiating from towns and to regulate the use of lands adjoining roads, the Governor of the United Provinces proposes to enact the United Provinces Roadside Land Control Bill, 1945. The measure is designed to give power to the provincial Government to regulate 'ribbon development' along roads around towns. ~~The Bill includes provision for the regulation of excavations and approach roads and for the control, by means of licences, of the use of land for brickfields and kilns.~~ Unregulated excavations, e.g., in connection with brickfields, not only result in the creation of breeding places for malaria-carrying mosquitoes but also frequently render future development of the land for building purposes impossible without expensive levelling operations. The Bill also enables the necessary control to be exercised over areas adjacent to main roads in the province except in cantonment areas. The draft of the Bill is to be taken into consideration on or after 1-10-1945.

(The United Provinces Gazette,
dated 1-9-1945, Part VII, pp. 27-30).†

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Bombay Beggars Bill, 1945: Unanimity of Opinion
regarding Removal of Begging from Bombay.

Reference was made at page 35 of our April 1945 report to the draft Bombay Beggars Bill, 1945. The Government of Bombay has now received opinions on the draft bill from various associations and the Municipal Corporation and it is understood that there is unanimity of opinion on the need for the removal of beggars in Bombay. A few associations and public bodies, however, are against the clause enabling the imposition of jail sentence on beggars. Jain associations have also urged that Jain Sadhas (religious mendicants) should be excluded from the provisions of the measure. The Municipal Corporation has agreed to legislation being undertaken by Government and to bear 50 per cent of the recurring expenses of maintenance in respect of beggars of Bombay domicile in the certified institutions. The Corporation has also expressed the view that offences under the proposed Beggars' Act should be bailable.

(The Times of India, 6-9-1945).+

PUBLIC HEALTH.Army Hospitals in India: Pandit Nehru suggests handing over for Civilian Use.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has made a special appeal to the Army authorities, specially the Americans, to hand over all hospitals built up by them during the war period for civilian use. A large number of hospitals with costly equipment have been built up all over India, and now, with the end of the war, the Army authorities will have no use for them. Pandit Nehru urges that they should not be either destroyed or sold out but be given over for civilian use, in view of the urgent need in India for hospitals.

Dr. B.C. Roy's Statement.- In a statement endorsing Pandit Nehru's appeal, Dr. B.C. Roy, President, Indian Medical Council, points out that as far back as October 1943, the Health Survey and Development Committee (of which Sir Joseph Shore is the Chairman) requested the Government of India to take steps immediately on the cessation of war to utilise the so-called temporary hospitals erected for the military personnel in order that the civilian population of the country might be benefited.

(The Times of India, 1-9-1945). †

Two Mobile Hospitals for Hyderabad State: Scheme Sanctioned by Nizam's Government.

The Government of the Nizam of Hyderabad has sanctioned a scheme for two mobile hospital units at an estimated expenditure of over Rs. 100,000 annually. The scheme envisages ~~main~~ miniature hospitals with accommodation for 100 patients. A model child welfare centre will be attached to each unit which will provide treatment for all ailments and look after maternity cases. The units will begin functioning in October 1945. The Government has also sanctioned continuation of the mobile eye camp at an expenditure of Rs. 5,000,000.

(The Times of India, 25-9-1945). †

EDUCATION.

Special Scholarships in Punjab for Children of small Land-owners.

The Punjab Government is allotting Rs. 1.0 million per year with effect from the current financial year for special scholarships for the education of children of landowners paying land revenue not exceeding Rs. 25 a year. The allotment is to be distributed among the districts according to a certain plan and the selection of suitable candidates is to be made by district committees. According to present plan 70 per cent of the total number of scholarships will be for general education, 20 per cent for professional and technical education and 10 per cent for foreign studies. Scholarships for foreign studies will be awarded by a Central Board with the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, as its President.

(The Hindustan Times, 1-9-1945).

Post-War Plans for Educational Development.

According to the Special Representative of the Times of India at Simla, considerable progress has been made in ~~defining~~ defining the shape of post-war educational development in India. All the provinces have agreed generally on the main principles of the Sargent scheme (vide pages 36-37 of the report of this Office for October 1943), the implementing of which is divided into seven five-year programmes, during each of which an area or areas will be fully dealt with.

Five-Year Programmes.- With the exception of Bengal, all the provinces are understood to have sent in their five-year programmes. The Central Government has still formally to accept its financial commitments under the scheme, but the Education Department appears determined to go ahead with its programme on the assumption that it will.

Plans for sending Students Abroad.- The overseas plans of the Education Department include the sending this year of 600 selected candidates for higher technical and applied science training abroad, the number being divided in approximately equal proportions between the United States and Britain (vide page 64 of our report for January 1945). An educational liaison officer, Mr. M.S. Sundaram, has already been appointed in America, and two educational representatives from India are to be attached to the staff of the Indian High Commissioner in London.

(The Times of India, 1-9-1945).

Bengal Famine's adverse Effect on Education: Findings
of Statistical Survey.

One of the findings of a statistical survey undertaken in connection with the Bengal Rehabilitation Inquiry is that the Bengal famine of 1943 and its aftermath reacted badly upon the Province's education, a fair proportion of the middle-class population being pushed to a lower level and financially ruined. The survey was undertaken by Prof. K.P. Chattopadhyaya, head of the Anthropological Department of the Calcutta University, in collaboration with the Indian Statistical Institute.

The position of 310 villages in 40 sub-divisions of the Province was studied. The condition of these areas, according to the classification adopted by the Government Revenue Department, varied from severely affected to unaffected by the famine. The total number of children at school in 1939 in these villages was 28,000. It dropped to 18,526 in 1943, and 17,849 in 1944, about 37 per cent of the students leaving schools due to financial difficulty and 19 per cent ~~sixth standard~~ on account of illness. Scarcity of cloth, kerosene and books caused another 17 per cent to give up school education. There was an increase in the rate of children going to schools during the decade from 1930 to 1940, but this was not maintained, and there was a definite setback, from 1943-44 onwards.

According to Prof. Chattopadhyaya, the Inquiry has revealed the fact that a large number of the middle-class population has been brought down to a lower level, while those in the upper level have not also escaped entirely the baneful effects of the devastation. He suggests that educational rehabilitation, to be successful and worthwhile, should start from below upwards.

(The Times of India, 26-9-1945).*

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Continuance of Dearness Allowance to Ahmedabad Textile Workers:
Bombay Industrial Court Award.

The Industrial Court, Bombay, has given its award in the dispute between the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association and the Ahmedabad Mill-owners' Association regarding the continuance, after 8-8-1945, of the dearness allowance granted to the textile operatives of Ahmedabad. (Vide page 52 of our report for July 1945).

The Award.- The Industrial Court has decided that dearness allowance should continue to be paid to the workers on the scale and in the manner fixed in its award month by month for a period of one year from 8-8-1945. At the end of that period either party may approach the Industrial Court with a request for the continuance or revision of the allowance. The Court has further decided that the dearness allowance to be paid to the employees shall be Rs. 4 for 11 points' rise in the cost of living over the datum index number of 75 in the month of August 1939. The allowance calculated at this rate shall rise or fall as the index number for the cost of living for Ahmedabad rises or falls. The index number for June 1945 being 102, the dearness allowance for August 1945 payable in September shall be $4/11 (102-75)$, i.e. Rs. 43/4/4. The dearness allowance for September payable in October shall be calculated on the index number for July in accordance with the same formula viz. $4/11 (x-75)$, x being the index number for July. The award adds that workers employed by contractors and those drawing more than Rs. 75 a month, will not be entitled to the dearness allowance.

The new scale laid down by the Industrial Court neutralises the rise in the cost of living to the extent of nearly 76 per cent. But Mr. Gulzarilal Wanda, Secretary of the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association has submitted pointed out that the workers will, according to the new award of the Industrial Court, draw only Rs. 43/4/3 as dearness allowance for the month of September, instead of Rs. 54/14/6 which would have been due to them under the pre-existing arrangement.

Employers extend Dearness Allowance to 'Excluded' Workers.- The Mill-owners' Association, Ahmedabad, has recommended its member mills to pay dearness allowance also to the workers excluded from the payment of dearness allowance by the Industrial Court, viz. workers employed by contractors and working in mills as employees getting between Rs. 75 and Rs. 200 per month. For these, however, the dearness allowance will be calculated at the rate of 66.2/3 per cent., of the dearness allowance paid to the other workers.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 7-9-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 11-9-1945).

Retrenchment of Labour and Reduction of Dearness Allowance:
Central Government's Consultations with Provincial Governments,
Labour Organisations and Employers' Associations.

It is understood that the Department of Labour, Government of India, is in communication with the provincial Governments, labour organisations and employers' associations to ascertain their views on two questions, reduction in the dearness allowance owing to a fall in the cost of living index and discharge of workers from various industries.

The Government of India is concerned with the multiplicity of rates of dearness allowance prevailing in the country which tends to lead to a good deal of avoidable discontent and labour unrest. With the end of war, the Government is anxious to lay down on this question, in consultation with the employers' and workers' organisations and provincial Governments, their future policy. The Government does not favour uniform rate of reduction of dearness allowance. It attaches greater importance to spontaneous and voluntary co-operation on the part of all. As regards the subject of discharge of workers from various industries, the Government of India envisages a gradual reduction in the employment of workers in official and private undertakings, though the possibility of large-scale discharges in the near future is not ruled out.

(The Statesman, 11-9-1945).

Bonus for Ahmedabad Textile Workers: Industrial Court's
AWARD.

In a dispute about bonus between the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, and the Ahmedabad Mill-owners' Association, the Industrial Court, Bombay, has given the following decision.

Textile workers in Ahmedabad earning less than Rs. 200 per month shall be given a bonus equivalent to one-fifth of their total earnings in 1944 irrespective of whether they are at present employed in those mills or not. Those, who have worked for less than 75 working days but more than 32 working days, shall, however, be granted a bonus to the extent of one-tenth of their earnings, while those, who have worked for less than 33 working days, shall not be paid any bonus. Earnings, for the purpose of calculating the bonus, shall mean wages or salaries, exclusive of the dearness allowance, bonus or other emoluments, paid to an employee in 1944. In the case of women employees on maternity leave, the actual maternity allowance paid to them shall be treated as part of the wages for computing the amount of bonus.

The Court further directed that bonus should be paid in two equal instalments, the first instalment to be paid in the second week of October and the second one in the second week of November. The quantum of bonus to be paid to contract labour and to employees getting more than Rs. 200 per month was left to the discretion of the individual mills.

(The Times of India, 21-9-1945).

Demand for consolidating Dearness Allowance in Basic Wage:
A.I.T.U.C. Working Committee's Statement.

An urgent meeting of the Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. in Bombay on 14-9-1945, with Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose presiding, adopted unanimously a statement on the impending unemployment, cuts in dearness allowance and wages. The suggestions made in the statement with regard to dearness allowance and wages are summarised below.

Need to consolidate Dearness Allowance in Basic Wage.-- With the end of war, employers of labour are thinking of either reducing or abolishing dearness allowance, thereby effecting an indirect wage-cut. But the basic wages of Indian workers are extremely low and the dearness allowance secured by them during war-time has been utterly inadequate. For instance official data obtained from the returns under the Payment of Wages Act show that the average total earnings, including dearness allowance, per worker rose by only 83 per cent in 1945 over the average in 1939, while the cost of living rose by about 150 per cent or more on an average. Thus the real wages, which were already extremely low in pre-war days have gone down still further. In this connection, the Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. feels that the proposals contained in their recent circular letter addressed to the provincial Governments by the Government of India on the subject of dearness allowance are inadequate and unsatisfactory in as much as there is a danger of the circular being used to the disadvantage of the workers for reducing the amount of their dearness allowance. The Working Committee is definitely against any reduction in the existing amounts of dearness allowance and would insist that the whole present amount of dearness allowance should be immediately consolidated in the basic wage.

Demand for a Statutory Living Wage.-- At the same time, the statement demands that steps should be taken to introduce legislation under which every worker should be guaranteed a living wage which should be determined on the basis fixed by the Divatia Textile Labour Inquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay. The fundamental objective of industrial development being a general rise in the standard of living of the people, the industrial workers should be enabled to secure a fair wage and decent conditions of life and work.

(The Trade Union Record, September, 1945).

Revised rates of Dearness Allowance for Assam Government
Servants.

In view of the recent revision of rates of dearness allowance and war allowance made by the Government of India and of the fact that the minimum war allowance (available to those drawing pay in excess of Rs. 250) has been increased to 17½ per cent (vide pages 38 and 39-40 of the report of this Office for April 1945), the Government of Assam ^{also} has decided to revise the rates of dearness allowance ~~also~~ in order to provide that no Government servant will draw a smaller concession than 17½ per cent, while at the same time maintaining the differentiation between those serving in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in the rest of Assam which has been observed hitherto. For those for whom the existing concessions already amount to 17½ per cent or more of their pay, Government has decided to increase the cash allowance by an extra rupee per mensem.

The revised rates of dearness allowance are as indicated below:

For those taking rice concession and not free rations

Part I

Pay per month	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Rest of Assam
Rs. 30 or below.	50 per cent	40 per cent
More than Rs. 30 but not more than Rs.60.	25 per cent	20 per cent
More than Rs. 60 but not more than Rs.100.	20 per cent	15 per cent

Plus an extra dearness allowance of Rs. 6 per mensem.

Part II

More than Rs. 100 but not more than Rs. 250. 20 per cent 17½ percent

For those taking free rations and not rice concession.

The concession of free rations will continue to be available in the ~~special~~ case of those Government servants who exercise the option of free rations as against dearness allowance plus rice concession. In addition such Government servants, will also draw a cash allowance of Rs. 4 per mensem as hitherto admissible plus an extra dearness allowance of Rs. 6 per mensem, ~~in~~ i.e., a total cash allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem.

~~The above revised rates take effect from 1-7-1945.~~

(The Assam Gazette, dated ~~1-7-1945~~
5-9-1945, Part II, pages
869-870).

Local Bodies in Bombay to be compelled to pay Dearness Allowance to their Employees: Bill to amend the Bombay Primary Education Act, 1923 and the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923.

While recognising the necessity of paying adequate dearness allowance to their employees to meet the high cost of living occasioned by the war some local bodies in Bombay have pleaded inability to pay it owing to want of funds. Also, the district local boards require more funds to meet the expanding needs of rural areas in respect of communications, public health, education, etc. The Bombay Government, therefore, proposes to amend the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923, to raise the minimum and maximum rates at which the local fund cess on land revenue can be levied. The compulsory minimum rate is proposed to be raised from one anna to two annas and the discretionary maximum rate from two to three annas on every rupee of land revenue.

At the same time in view of the increased resources made available to district local boards from the higher rate of cess, the Government ~~proposed~~ to make the payment of dearness allowance by local bodies to their staff compulsory at rates fixed by Government. The Bill to amend the Bombay Primary Education Act, 1923, and the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923 which the Bombay Government proposes to enact requires that, when so required by the provincial Government, a dearness allowance at such rates as may be fixed by the provincial Government from time to time shall be paid to the administrative, teaching, inspecting, supervising, clerical and inferior staff maintained by a local authority. Another

clause in the amending Bill provides that, when so required by the provincial Government, a dearness allowance at such rates as may be fixed by the provincial Government from time to time shall be paid to the officers and servants maintained by a district local board.

The draft of the Bill has been published for eliciting public opinion.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated
13-9-1945, Part I, pages 2304-2305).

Production.

Machine Industry for India: Panel Discusses Possibilities.

The first meeting of the panel for heavy machinery and industrial plant, constituted by the Department of Planning and Development, Government of India (vide pages 64-65 of our report for March 1945) was held at Calcutta in the first week of September under the Chairmanship of Mr. G.L. Mehta.

The panel had a full preliminary discussion regarding the necessity and possibilities of establishing a heavy machinery industry in India concurrent with general industrial development. The question as affecting the different industries, and particularly the textile industry was gone into. It was also felt that in view of the difficulty of importing capital goods from the U.K. and the U.S.A. during the next two or three years, it was all the more essential to establish the manufacture of machinery within India so as not to be completely dependent on outside sources for capital goods. Some of the basic factors which should be taken into account for establishing a heavy engineering industry were outlined, such as specialised kinds of steel, alloys and metals, a central bureau and research organisation for patents and designs, standards of accurate measurement, metallurgical analysis of raw materials and products and an efficient machine tool industry.

The panel decided to issue questionnaires to industrial and engineering associations and firms as well as provincial governments and Indian States, making specific inquiries about the present position and prospects of a machinery industry. It was considered necessary to ascertain the nature and quantity of the requirements of different industries on which would depend the establishment of a machinery industry. The panel also directed the Secretary to collect the necessary statistics and information.

The next meeting of the panel is likely to be held towards the end of November in Bombay.

(The Times of India, 5-9-1945).

Protection for War-time Industries: Tariff Board to be set up.

An important decision regarding tariff policy and the appointment of an Indian Tariff Board has been taken by the Government of India. According to a United Press of India message published by the Times of India. The personnel of the Board which may comprise four members is understood to have been selected. The Board will investigate the scope for expansion in peace time of industries which sprang up in war time and determine the amount of help needed for their protection.

The government of India, it is understood, have received replies from industries to their circular inquiring which industries are needed in the post-war period, and all applications received will be placed before the Board for examination. The Board is likely to submit a report before the financial year closes.

(The Times of India, 13-9-1945). T

Control Measures.

Rationing of cloth: to be introduced in 40 Towns in Punjab.

The Punjab Government has decided to ration cloth in nearly 40 towns in the province with a population of 20,000 and over, including the 29 district headquarters. Details are being worked out and rationing will be in operation in about two months. All Indian mill-made cotton cloth will come under rationing. Silks, woollens and handloom cloth, handkerchiefs and towels will be exempted.

(The Statesman, 3-9-1945).

Trade Controls: Central Committee of All-India Manufacturers' Organisation demands Removal.

The Central Committee of the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation, at its second quarterly meeting held at Bombay on 16-9-1945, adopted a resolution urging the immediate removal of the control measures imposed by the Government of India, particularly those relating to the import and distribution of machine tools, metals, chemicals, engineering stores, etc. and those relating to price control and the export of goods manufactured in India. The Committee also urged the abolition of the Supply Department of the Government, in view of the fact that the war emergency for which it had been created has ceased to exist and suggested that the Government of India should set up purchasing organisations in America, the U.K., and Europe to buy capital goods required for Indian industries.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who presided over the meeting, suggested that a committee consisting of representatives of industrial and commercial organisations presided over by a judge should be appointed to inquire into the operation of Government's policies in connection with imports and controls of civil supplies, in view of the "numerous complaints that have been brought to public notice from time to time".

(The Times of India, 18-9-1945) ✓

Export Control relaxed: Future of Export Controls.

With the cessation of hostilities and availability of commodities in supplying countries, measures by way of relaxation of import trade control have already been introduced, according to an unofficial note issued by the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India. The ~~object~~ object is to facilitate larger imports of necessary goods into the country and enable larger number of persons to participate in India's import trade.

As regards the export trade the most important consideration weighing in the matter of control is the supply position in India of the goods concerned. Where commodities are in short supply and exports have to be controlled, it is considered that the interests of exporters can best be protected by granting quotas to established shippers with reference to a basic period. Whenever it is found that quotas cannot be utilised fully by established shippers, the surplus quota is distributed to other suitable traders in the line so as to encourage the flow of trade. Further liberalisation of the present export control policy, will depend on the improvement in the internal supply position of the various controlled commodities.

Also, steps are being taken to see if normal trade channels cannot be restored in the near future in respect of those countries, e.g., Turkey and Persia, whose government representatives at present arrange for the distribution of quotas in the countries concerned. So far as jute goods are concerned, a beginning in this direction has already been made, and Turkish sugar factories will henceforth obtain their requirements of bags direct from India.

(Unofficial Note No. F.12/10/45-Pub.,
Bureau of Public Information, Govern-
ment of India.).+

Food.Food Controls to Continue: Meeting of the Central Food
Advisory Council, 13-15-9-1945.

A three days session of the Central Food Advisory Council was inaugurated in Delhi by Sir J.P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, on 13-9-1945.

Food Member's Speech.- Referring to the future of food controls in India the Food Member pointed out that the world food situation in 1946 was not likely to be less difficult than in 1945. The devastated countries in Europe will need food in large quantities from outside. While there was a prospect of rice being available for export from Burma and other Far Eastern countries like Siam and Indo-China in 1946, the quantities offered for export, so far as the present information went, were likely to be small, compared with those in pre-war times; and, in any case, there will be other countries which, owing to the devastation caused by the war or their normal dependence on imports from these areas, will be strong claimants along with India to whatever was available for export. Again the monsoon had not been quite satisfactory this year in the north-eastern region, particularly in western Bengal, northern Bihar and some districts of Orissa. The outturn of rice in ~~some districts in this region~~, it was therefore feared, will be below normal. In these circumstances, the Food Member felt that the food situation in India in 1946 would need the utmost vigilance on the part of the administrations. The present controls with regard to procurement, distribution, movement, prices and rationing can be relaxed in 1946 only at the risk of a serious breakdown. The Food Member was, therefore, contemplating the setting up of a committee, similar to the Food Grains Policy Committee, composed of representatives of the provinces, States, producers, consumers and traders, to examine the whole question of the relaxation of controls and to formulate a programme of ~~urgent~~ action which can be the basis of Government policy in the immediate post-war period.

Other problems on which the Food Member needed the guidance of the Council were food planning and the development of food industries. A planning section had already been set up in the Food Department, under Dr. V.K.R.V. Ramesh and in the formulation of plans both short-range and long-range objectives were kept in view. The short-range objective was to secure, by the correct use of the available resources, the most rapid improvement possible for the feeding of the people generally, and of the vulnerable sections of the community in particular; the long-range objective was to plan the production and distribution of food ~~planning~~ in accordance with the country's future needs so as to ~~enable~~ enable all ~~classes~~ classes to obtain a full and balanced diet. As regards food industries during the war, the Food Department had had to undertake food processing on a scale and with a range of items unknown in the country before. The questions that now arise are: which of the industries developed in war-time should ~~be~~ be helped to continue in the post-war period, what new industries should be encouraged, and for what new industries should the Government of India themselves or the provincial Governments take responsibility.

Resolutions.- The main resolutions adopted by the Council relate to food ~~planning~~, food control and food industries. As regards food planning, the Council trusted that the inquiry initiated in connection with the formulation of policy would be carried out expeditiously and concrete proposals placed before the country as early as possible, and urged that the problem of short range planning should be dealt with immediately, in the light of the information already available. The resolution on controls states that the conditions which necessitated the imposition of economic controls have not materially altered with the cessation of hostilities and that under the present conditions it will be inadvisable to withdraw controls over procurement, supply, distribution, movement and prices. ~~Manufacture~~ Controls should, therefore, continue, subject to review from time to time, ~~whenever~~ with a view to ~~making~~ their relaxation or abolition as soon as circumstances permit. Stressing the importance of securing an adequate quota of imports of rice from Burma, the Council urged the Government of India urgently to ~~impress on H.M.G.~~ the need for giving India a full share in the World's ~~surplus~~ ^{of rice} as early as possible in 1946. With regard to food industries, the Council recognised their importance in the economy of the country and recommended that the development made during the war should be maintained and accelerated in the interests of conservation of food stuffs, general nutrition, and industrialization of the country.

(The Statesman, 14, 15-9-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 14-9-1945).

Famine Inquiry Commission's Final Report: 'Adequate Food for All' - State Responsibility: Recommendations for Post-war Food Policy.

The Final Report of the Famine Inquiry Commission, under the Chairmanship of Sir John Woodhead, set up by the Government of India in 1944 (vide page 30 of our report for June 1944), was released to the Press on 20-9-1945. The first part of the Report entitled 'Report on Bengal' was published in May 1945 and dealt mainly with the Bengal famine in ~~its~~ its different aspects (vide pages 51-53 of our report for May 1945). The present Final Report surveys the food problem of India as a whole and suggests the lines of food policy designed to prevent famines in future and to improve the diet of the people for a better standard of health. The main principle ~~affirmed~~ affirmed by the Commission is that the State should recognize its ultimate responsibility to provide food for all and take every possible step not only to prevent starvation, but to improve nutrition and create a healthy and vigorous population.

A. Short Term Aspects:-

"Grow More Food" Campaign to be continued.- Dealing with the ~~short-term~~ aspects of the food problem in India, the Report states that before the war India was not self-sufficient in cereals; a small exportable surplus of wheat was offset by large imports of rice. The results achieved by the "Grow More Food" Campaign during the two years 1942-44 have not been spectacular as the main requisites for a large

increase in agricultural production were absent, namely, an improved water supply and an increase in the supply and use of manures and fertilizers. The need for laying down a clear agricultural policy and providing administrative machinery for its execution is emphasized, and it is recommended that the "Grow More Food" campaign should be continued with undiminished vigour.

Procurement and Distribution: Government Monopoly Favoured.- Reviewing the system of procurements and distribution at present in force in the different provinces of India, the Commission express the view that the only satisfactory system of procurement and distribution is that of complete monopoly and recommend that administrations should aim at introduction of complete monopoly schemes. However, they admit that such schemes are not a practical proposition in permanently settled areas enjoying an assured surplus. The Report emphasizes the need for adequate grain storage accommodation and recommends that all administrations which stock grain on any considerable scale should entrust their storage problems to fully qualified technical staff. On the problem of the quality of food grains, the view is that it cannot be completely solved until there is in each province a reliable agency competent to test and inspect all food grains under the control of the Government.

High Price of Food grains in India; Need for Central Reserve.- Turning to food grain prices in India the Commission's view is that they are high compared with the world level but so long as supply of consumer goods does not become more plentiful and cheaper, and imports of rice are not once again available, the present policy to hold prices at about their present levels is the correct course to follow. Emphasizing the need for more accurate statistics of acreage and yield of crops in India the Commission consider that India is still in need of imports owing to the growth of population, a higher per capita consumption by the poorer classes of the population and the requirements of the Defence Services, and emphasize the need for building a Central reserve of 500,000 tons of food grains from imported wheat.

Period of Transition to Normal; May last till 1951-52.- The return to normal conditions, the Commission feel, must be a gradual, regulated and co-ordinated process. The transition period may be taken to begin with the arrival of the first shipments of rice from Burma in appreciable quantities. Its duration will depend on a number of factors, the most important of which are the following: first, the imports of rice from Burma should increase until they can bridge the gap between production and consumption in India; secondly, transport conditions in India should return to normal, that is, the need for restrictions on movement of rail, steamer and coastal shipping should disappear; thirdly, the present world shortage of food as well as shipping should no longer exist; and fourthly, demobilization should have been completed. The probable duration of the transition period is unpredictable and the Commission suggest that it may last until ~~1951~~ 1951-52.

The organisation of food administration during the transition period should be designed, according to the Commission, not with a view to securing the most expeditious return to pre-war conditions but so that it can evolve into a system of regulation of prices in normal times.

First Stage of Transition: Relaxation of More Stringent Forms of Food Control.- During the first stage of the transition period, the Commission feel that it should be possible to secure the diminution and eventual elimination of wide price disparities existing in different

parts of the country. The Commission consider that a price level of 240 per cent of the average of the five years ending 1938-39 broadly represents the target price level to be pursued, at the end of the first stage of the transition period. Concurrently with a reduction of prices, more stringent forms of food controls such as total procurement, levy schemes (including rationing in rural areas) and other systems of monopoly purchase from the producer should be withdrawn.

Second Stage of Transition: Co-ordinated Removal of Cordons round Regions and Restoration of Normal Trade Channels.- During the second stage of transition the main problems would be the co-ordinated removal of cordons round provinces and States and the retransfer of responsibility for distribution of supplies from Government agencies to the trade. Effective methods suitable for preventing the price level from falling below a pre-determined minimum should be perfected at this time, and during this stage the price level should not exceed 240 per cent of the pre-war level nor fall below 180 per cent of the pre-war level.

Regional and All-India Food Councils.- To ensure regional co-ordination during the transition period, the Commission recommend the establishment of Regional Food Councils consisting of representatives of Governments of provinces and Indian States. Their function would be to advise provincial and State administrations on the steps to be taken to secure the co-ordinated removal of cordons, the maintenance of supplies through inter-provincial and State-wise trade, the execution of a common price policy and the fulfilment of the All-India Basic Plan. Side by side, there should be a permanent and recognised machinery for co-ordination of food administration at the Centre as well as in provinces and States. This permanent organisation might be an All-India Food Council, for the co-ordination of the activities of Governments in framing and executing a common food policy for the country.

As regards the Food Department, the Commission state that, during the transition period, it will have to continue to perform functions substantially of the same character as these at present. In due course however, it might be convenient to constitute a single Department of Food and Agriculture, whose functions would be limited to these two subjects only.

B. Long-term Aspects:-

Population Problem: Possibilities of Emigration and Birth Control.- Turning to long-term aspects, the Commission suggest that India's population might reach 500 million in 20 or 25 years time. However, successful measures for increasing food production might be, an ultimate decrease in the rate of population is not only desirable but necessary. Emigration is one way of reducing numbers and the Commission look forward to the day when Indians will be able to emigrate as colonists, entitled to the full rights of citizenship, to the sparsely populated areas awaiting development within the British Commonwealth and the Empire. As regards the other and most effective method, viz., family limitation, the Commission feel that a deliberate State policy with the objective of encouraging the practice of birth-control among the mass of the population in India is impracticable. But the State can legitimately take steps through the medium of health services, which will have the effect of encouraging family limitation. Knowledge of birth-control could be imparted through maternity and child welfare centres, by women doctors, to women whose health would be endangered by further or excessive child-bearing and also to women who seek advice because of the reasonable desire to "space" their children.

Improvement of Nutrition.- Despite the serious population ~~situation~~ ~~situation~~, the primary problem in India, in the opinion of the Commission, is that of under-development of agricultural and industrial resources. Despite the magnitude of the task, the Commission consider it possible to produce not only enough food to meet the needs of the growing population at subsistence level but enough to effect an improvement in the people's diet. Today, however, a well-balanced and satisfactory diet is beyond the means of large sections of the people, and an improvement in the diet of the people cannot be achieved without a great increase in the production of protective foods and simultaneous increase in the purchasing power of the people. The Commission, therefore, recommend the development of sea, estuarine and inland fisheries in India, as fish has special importance as a supplement to ill-balanced cereal diets; an increase of 200 to 250 per cent of fats and oils on nutritional ~~grounds~~ grounds; and the most profitable use of the country's land resources by increased production of those crops which give larger returns of food energy ~~of~~ calories per unit area ~~and~~ than cereals, thereby releasing land for the production of other foods, notably protective foods. In this connection, the Commission discuss the place of potatoes, sweet potatoes, tapioca and plantains in the agricultural economy of the country. On the question of milk, the Commission consider that there is no immediate prospect of an increase in production to such an extent as to bring it within reach of the ~~poorer~~ poorer classes in India.

Stabilisation of Agricultural Prices.- The Commission consider maintenance of agricultural prices at a level fair both to the producer and the consumer ~~as~~ a factor of fundamental importance in post-war agricultural economy. A sub-committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is already examining the problem, but the Commission stress the following lessons to be drawn from wartime experience. (i) The hard core of the problem of agricultural prices in India is the stabilisation of rice and wheat prices as more than 4 out of every 5 acres of cultivated land are under food crops and wheat and rice account for nearly half of the area under all food crops. (ii) During the ~~post-war~~ ^{post-war} transition period minimum and maximum prices should be fixed and maintained for wheat and rice even if it is found that the prices of other commodities cannot be so regulated. During this period, the essential requisites for price control, viz., control ^{of} stocks and an organisation for making purchases and sales in the market, should all be in existence.

Rural Economic Development.- The most important of all rural economic problems is underemployment. Its solution, according to the Commission, is to be found in a combination of the following among other measures: (a) intensive farming involving adoption of various measures for increasing yields such as irrigation, manuring, improved seeds, mixed farming, etc.; (b) cottage industry such as handloom weaving; (c) agro-industry as in Walchandnagar in Bombay Presidency; (d) organisation of village works through panchayats with powers to raise money by taxation and with grants in aid ~~in~~ from public revenues; (e) migration from over-populated to underpopulated rural areas; and (f) large-scale industry ~~with~~ with development of hydro-electric power.

For the development of agriculture in the case of small and medium farmers, the Commission recommend the organisation of these classes into multi-purpose village co-operative societies with unlimited liability and the federation of such societies into multi-purpose co-operative unions with limited liability. A beginning should be made by carrying out a survey of economic and social conditions in selected areas in each province and by preparing on the basis of such a survey a plan of the improvements to be carried out by the joint efforts of a multi-purpose co-operative organisation and Government agency.

A programme of rural economic development in the immediate post-war period is likely to encounter special difficulties in the permanently settled areas. As the replacement of the permanently settled estate system by the ryotwari system will take time, powers should be taken by Government to supervise and control the management of such estates with a view to ensure that the system functions properly as long as it continues.

Machinery for ensuring Co-ordination.- For the purpose of securing co-ordination of policy and administration in the field of development in the provinces, the Commission make the following recommendations: (a) The establishment of a development committee of the Cabinet; (b) The establishment of a development board consisting of Secretaries to Government in the Development Departments together with the Secretary of the Finance Department; (c) The co-ordination of all district development activities under a single administrative head, the District Officer.

In conclusion, the Commission express the fervent hope that theirs "will be the last Famine Commission and at the same time the first of a series of Food Commissions concerned not with prevention of famines but with the replacement of hunger and mal-nutrition by plenty."

Two members, Mr. Afzal Hussain and Sir Manilal Nanavati have expressed appended separate minutes to the Report. The former emphasizes the importance of ~~tubers~~ tubers in the food economy of India, while the latter deals with the necessity for an early abolition of the permanent settlement system of land tenure.

(The Statesman, 20-9-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 20-9-1945).†

Salaried Employees and Public Servants.

Concessions for Demobilised Nurses.

The Provincial Nurses Registration Councils and the Provincial Governments favour the grant of certain concessions to members of the Auxiliary Nursing Service, India, to enable them on demobilisation to become certified nurses.

Concession with regard to prescribed Training.- Among the concessions accepted by the Councils are, (a) recognition in full as approved training of the preliminary course of instruction under the Auxiliary Nursing Service scheme as well as subsequent training, if any, taken in the selected military hospitals which have been specially staffed for instructional purposes, and (b) recognition in part as approved training of military service rendered in the Auxiliary Nursing Service (not less than one-fourth and not more than one-half of the period will be counted). A considerable number of auxiliary nurses will now be able to take their preliminary State examination in nursing while still in service, and their final examination with a minimum of 11 months' training in a civil hospital after demobilisation.

Dependents' Pensions.- While members of the Auxiliary Nursing Service are eligible for the award of disability pensions, according to a recent decision, pensions will also be granted to the dependents of those general service nurses whose death is held to be attributable to military service. The rates of pensions and the conditions for the grant thereof will be in accordance with the grant prescribed rules.

Additional Bonus.- All general service members who undertook to serve for the duration of the war and six months thereafter will, on fulfilment of such undertaking, be granted an additional bonus of Rs. 50 for each completed year of service.

There are in India today about 7,000 qualified nurses, and the number will be appreciably increased on the demobilisation of the Auxiliary Nursing Service. India needs, on a conservative estimate, about 75,000 qualified nurses.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-9-1945).+

Compensation for War Injuries.

Amendments to War Injuries Compensation Insurance Scheme.

In a notification dated 7-9-1945, the Department of Labour, Government of India, has gazetted certain amendments to the War Injuries Compensation Insurance Scheme (vide page 49 of the report of this Office for December 1943) and the War Injuries Compensation Insurance Rules, 1943. These relate to the basis on which the premium due from an employer shall be calculated, the manner of assessing the final premium due from an employer and the manner in which arrears shall be recovered from a defaulting employer.

(The Gazette of India, dated 15-9-1945, Part I, Sec.1, pages 1261-1262).*

War Risk Insurance.

War Risks(Goods) Insurance to Terminate on 1-10-1945.

Reference was made at page 58 of our report for August 1945 to the termination of War Risks (Factories) Insurance. An Ordinance issued on 14-9-1945 terminates the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme with effect at and after midnight between September 30 and October 1, 1945.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 14-9-1945, pp. 777-778).*

Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Workers' Cooperative Societies for Resettling Demobilised Personnel: Madras Government's Experimental Measure.

It is understood that a scheme for the formation, as an experimental measure, of cooperative societies in one or two centres of demobilised soldiers as they return home from service is under consideration of the Government of Madras, with the object of providing them immediate employment in building, irrigation and road works. The matter was considered by the heads of the departments concerned on 12-9-1945.

(Vanguard, Delhi, 15-9-1945).

Special Section in Central Employment Exchange to deal with High-grade Appointments.

The Central Government has drawn up a scheme which enabled civil governments and professional, commercial and industrial firms in India to contact suitably qualified servicemen of all ranks with a view to high-grade post-war appointments. Under the scheme a section has been set up at the Central Employment Exchange, Simla, to deal with applications which will be forwarded to commercial and industrial organisations throughout India. Firms associated with these organisations will then be able to approach individuals directly. Under the same arrangement, applicants will be put into touch with civil governments. The scheme, a voluntary one, is open to men and women domiciled in Britain or India who seek temporary or permanent work. Although planned to simplify the task of drawing-up contracts irrespective of the date of demobilisation, it can in no way affect the official release-group of any serviceman or woman.

(The Hindu, 12-9-1945).

Technical and Vocational Training, Information Bureaus, and Special Training of Disabled Personnel: Measures contemplated by Resettlement Directorate.

Nawab M.A. Gurmani, Director-General of Resettlement in the Labour Department, Government of India, reference to whose appointment was made at pages 62-63 of our report for July 1945, outlined in the course of a radio talk broadcast from Delhi, the Central Government's scheme for the rehabilitation of demobilised personnel. The salient features of the scheme are summarised below.

At the outset Nawab Gurmani pointed out that resettlement in civil life of demobilised services personnel involved: (i) advice and guidance in the selection of civilian occupation; (ii) training or re-training for satisfactory employment; (iii) placement in suitable jobs; and (iv) follow-up after employment.

Resettlement Advice Service.- The Department of Labour is setting up a ~~Resettlement Advice Service~~ which will contact demobilised services personnel at the release centres. Its functions will be to (i) assess the intelligence and aptitudes for training for various types and grades of employment of such demobilised personnel as may need and ask for resettlement or employment assistance; (ii) give them detailed information and advice regarding available employment opportunities and technical and vocational training facilities; (iii) complete the card indices of all demobilised services personnel; and (iv) explain to them the procedure to be adopted for contacting the appropriate employment information bureau or the employment exchange.

Technical and Vocational Training.- As regards technical and vocational training, it is intended to provide facilities for the following ~~in~~ four categories: (i) those whose training was interrupted through war-service; (ii) those who have acquired some trade during their war-service (their skill will be tested by trade-testing panels at release centres); (iii) those who had some trade before joining the Defence services and needed up-grading; and (iv) technicians and needing experience in production work for whom apprenticeship training facilities are required. There will be a number of unskilled demobilised services personnel who may want technical training. Their training will depend upon the scope and opportunities for employment in the technical field. The scope of technical and vocational training facilities which will be provided in government and private institutions, factories and establishments will embrace: (i) clerical and commercial occupations; (ii) engineering, building and other technical trades; (iii) professional and semi-professional occupations; (iv) domestic and social services; and (v) agricultural and allied occupations.

Placement in Suitable Jobs and Welfare Services.- As regards placement, in addition to the net work of employment exchanges the Department of Labour is setting up (vide pages 55-56 of our report for May 1945), Nawab Gurmani indicated that the Department is also setting up management information bureaus in rural areas which will work as agencies of the employment exchange concerned and will form a link between the demobilised soldiers and the employment exchange. To meet the needs of ex-service men and women who will be seeking higher posts of an administrative, managerial, professional, scientific or technical character, an appointments branch office has been established at each regional exchange. The appointments branch office will ensure that the experience of persons possessing higher qualifications is used to the best advantage. Government is also setting up a welfare (follow-up) service to look after the interests of resettled personnel.

Disabled Personnel.- Such disabled persons as have not so far been discharged from the services will be retained in the services until the completion of their medical and post-hospital rehabilitation and technical and vocational training. Besides their pay, they will receive the usual concessions and allowance to which they are entitled as enrolled personnel. The disability pension to which they are entitled will not be affected by their training or increase in their earning capacity. For cases of serious disablement, there will be special training centres which will provide training for employment under sheltered conditions or for such occupations as are suited for special types of disablement. Efforts will be made to equip them for the most skilled work in which ~~and~~ their potential employability is utilised to the maximum.

Concluding Nawab Gurmani hoped that the employment service the Government was setting up will eventually develop into a permanent service closely integrated with the economic policies directed towards achieving full employment and higher living standards for the people of India.

(The Hindu, 4-9-1945).

✓ 113 Recruiting Centres Functioning as Employment Exchanges: Model Farms for Demobilised Peasant Soldiers.

Writing on the army's plans to aid demobilised soldiers, the Special Representative of the Times of India at New Delhi points out that by turning their 113 recruiting centres into employment exchanges (vide pages 62-63 of our report for August 1945) the military authorities are helping the civilian Government to prepare the groundwork for demobilisation of Indian soldiers. These military employment exchanges are widely distributed covering 163 of India's 230 districts. Their situation approximates roughly to the areas where recruitment was heaviest and in the province of Bombay the exchanges are concentrated largely in the Satara and ~~Satara~~ Patnagiri districts.

Another measure now being contemplated for aiding the demobilised personnel is the establishment of model farms which ~~should~~ would provide ocular demonstration in improved ~~farmlands~~ farming ~~methods~~ methods to ~~peasant~~ servicemen. At each release centre the military authorities are organising a model farm of approximately 12½ acres, where the ~~ex-servicemen~~ will receive ~~visual~~ visual demonstration of the advantages of applying modern methods to agriculture, irrigation, cottage industries, poultry keeping and a variety of useful and remunerative occupations. ~~the advantages of thrift and cooperative methods will also be encouraged.~~ Briefly, the idea is to prepare the soldier about to be demobilised for his return to civil life. It is hoped that he will carry into his ~~post-war~~ life the sense of ordered discipline and better standard of living to which the army has accustomed him.

(The Times of India, 3-9-1945). †

✓ Demobilisation of Indian Army: to be spread over Eight Months from October 1: 850,000 to be released.

Plans for the demobilisation of the Indian Army are announced in a Press note issued by the Government of India on 17-9-1945. They are, of necessity, of an interim nature for, until the situation in recovered territories is clearer, requirements for occupation cannot properly be assessed. The Government of India has, however, decided to proceed with the initial stage of demobilisation.

Officers and British Other Ranks.- The release of officers and British ~~OTHER RANKS~~ of the Indian Army is linked ~~the~~ with that of their opposite numbers in the British service, and will continue parallel with it, group by group. The only difference is that, for the present, the date of release of those in the Indian Army refers to release in India. This means that Group 20 of the Indian Army will be released in India on the same date as Group 20 of the British service is released in the United Kingdom.

Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks: Estimated Surplus. According to the note it is clear that the majority of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, other ranks and enrolled non-combatants wish to continue to serve. Against this desire to continue service, however, a very considerable reduction is necessary to bring the army down to the numbers necessary for immediate post-war needs. The initial surplus amounts to about 850,000, of whom approximately 130,000 are recruits no longer required as reinforcements to maintain the forces in the field.

Order of Demobilisation.- The first process of demobilisation is to be spread over eight months beginning on October 1, and surplus recruits will be the first to go. The reason for this is that it is necessary to clear the training centres which ~~must~~ are to be used for demobilisation purposes.

After the recruits certain trained men will be released, and as far as their location and transport facilities permit, they will go generally in the following order: Personnel who wish to be released; regulars who have earned their pensions; personnel other than regulars who are in low medical categories; personnel, other than regulars, in age and service groups 1 to 12 who have not already been released, and other personnel who will be surplus to requirements and for whom no place can be found within the authorised establishments.

In certain classes and trades it may be necessary to postpone ~~the~~ release temporarily because of existing and anticipated deficiencies, but this should disappear before long. Where there is an excess of those who wish to be released, men in the earlier age and service groups will go first.

Demobilisation Centres and Resettlement Advice Service.- It has been arranged ~~that~~ that VOOS, other ranks and non-combatants will be released through demobilisation centres located with the offices which keep their records and accounts. This will ensure that if there are discrepancies and errors men will have an opportunity of having the matter investigated in their presence ~~and~~ by officers specially appointed for the purpose. At each of the demobilisation centres there will be officers of the Resettlement Advice Service, whose duty it will be to hear men's wishes and to advise them how best to achieve them. Afterwards they will be assisted in finding employment by the Labour Department's employment exchanges, which have been temporarily augmented by turning 115 recruiting offices into recruiting and employment offices. These are located all over India so that demobilised men will be within easy reach of advice and help.

Recruitment to continue for some Classes.- In spite of the proposed reduction in strength of the Indian Army there are classes and trades in which deficiencies will have to be made good by further recruitment. For ~~an~~ instance, the number of officers who wish to be released exceeds the reduction of establishment, and the recruitment of emergency commissioned officers must, therefore, continue for some time. The work of the recruiting organisation, therefore, is not yet finished. What is more, in addition to this measure of recruiting, it will have the added duty of helping to find employment for demobilised personnel.

(The Statesman, 18-9-1945).

Employment Plans for Demobilised Personnel: Government's Schemes.

A number of steps have been taken by the Central and provincial Governments to accelerate the absorption of men released from the Army, as well as from factories and workshops engaged on war work, and to help in the smooth conversion of industry to peace-time requirements. Demobilisation must necessarily ~~not~~ be spread over a considerable period and considerable forces are likely to be retained for garrisoning the liberated territories. This will greatly reduce the incidence of demobilisation. Also, as considerable forces will have to be retained in India and overseas, demands on industries for war supplies, other than munitions, will continue though on a much smaller scale.

Public Works Schemes.- In order to deal with any unemployment situation that may arise, provinces and departments of the Central Government were asked several months ago to select and plan in detail schemes which would create employment. Most of these will be taken from the five-year plans already prepared by provincial Governments. It is understood now that comprehensive schemes for the rehabilitation and improvement of existing roads are in ~~and~~ an advanced state of preparation. Other large schemes include irrigation and hydro-electric works, some of which have already started. Departments at the Centre, e.g., Railways, War Transport and Labour have similar schemes under preparation. The combined effect of these schemes will undoubtedly create a great deal of employment both directly and through the demands made on industry.

In order to facilitate these preparations a promise of substantial assistance has been made to provinces by the Central Government, should it become necessary to start work to absorb surplus labour. Also, the majority of provinces have themselves large funds in hand for post-war development.

Assistance to Civil Industry.- Further, measures have already been ~~adopted to assist~~ civil industry in the process of conversion, although for a time difficulties over transport and shortage of coal may be a handicap. There are certain expansions already under way, e.g., cement, chemical and vanaspati industry. The Government ~~is~~ also setting up a large fertilizer plant at Sindri. A considerable number of companies are only waiting for the availability of machinery and materials to begin on their new projects of industrial expansion.

In the field of cottage industry, there has been an acute shortage of raw materials, e.g., leather, brass, iron, etc., and many of the men who came from villages to the Army as technical recruits or to factories may be ~~technical~~ absorbed into suitable employment as a large demand for agricultural implements, tube-well equipment, etc., can now be satisfied.

Expansion in Government Services.- Also, as compared with their pre-war strengths both the Central Government and Provinces will require an increase in their existing gazetted, subordinate and inferior staff to meet the immediate requirements of their post-war development schemes and to fill war vacancies. These will be recruited as far as possible from the services. Some of the special priority schemes included in the five year development plans have already been approved, and eventually the staff requirements of the five-year plans are expected to be very large.

Demand for Houses: House-building Materials to be Released.- Another source of employment will be a large amount of repairs and maintenance of houses, equipment and machinery of all kinds. This will absorb labour, both directly and indirectly, through demands for materials. For housing alone ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ there is a large pent-up demand in both towns and villages, ample funds being available for the purpose. Steps are being taken to release cement, timber, steel and coal (for brick burning) to meet this demand. These materials will be available in increasing quantities as transport difficulties become easier during the next few months. There is also a large rehabilitation demand from Governments—Central and Provincial. Maintenance of buildings, roads and railways and repairs will absorb a large number of workmen and a considerable quantity of materials.

Compensating Factors.- There are also other compensating factors. ~~There is the present shortage~~ of agricultural and other labour in certain areas and a proportion of labour can be absorbed without difficulty straight into the existing economy. Then there are a number of factories, e.g., jute mills, glass works and re-rollers, which have been till now unable to work to their full capacity in spite of a big demand for their products owing to a shortage of coal, raw materials and transport difficulties. These factories may, therefore, be expected to absorb labour in the future.

Steps to expand Technical Personnel.- ~~The extent to which post-war development plans can be implemented depends not so much on finance as~~ on the provision of technical staff. Every effort, it is understood, is being made to recruit technical personnel, whether from the army or ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ elsewhere. The military authorities are giving full assistance in the early release ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ of such personnel from military service. The training of personnel, it is stated, will be expedited, arrangements having been made for a number of students to proceed overseas for training. Training institutions under the Centre and in Provinces are being expanded and it is proposed to set up certain new Central institutions.

Provincial Governments to watch Employment Situation.- In order to keep a watch on the employment situation the Provincial Governments have been asked to keep the question continually under review. They are being assisted in this by advance information from the Defence Services and Departments of Government as to the demobilisation of soldiers and probable discharges of labour. They will also be assisted by the Labour Exchanges recently set up under Directors of Resettlement and Employment in each province.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-9-1945).

"Temporary Workers" in Railways: Railway Board's Plans.

According to the special Representative of the Times of India at New Delhi, the fears recently expressed by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation that nearly 260,000 men will be thrown out of employment with the termination of hostilities (vide pages 59-60 of our report for August 1945) are not ~~entirely~~ entirely shared by the Railway Board at New Delhi. While it is admitted that circumstances may compel the discharge, some time in February 1946, of nearly 100,000 purely temporary hands, the Railway authorities emphasise that even in their case arrangements are being made both through the Employment Exchanges and the Railways, to find them temporary alternative employment till they can be absorbed in permanent vacancies.

Switch-over to Peace-Time Conditions to take till 1947.- According to a ~~railway spokesman~~ ~~the task of adjusting railway staff~~ to peace-time employment is conditioned by the Government's decision to give 70 per cent of the permanent vacancies which have accrued since June, 1942, to ex-service personnel. Of the present temporary personnel posted against permanent vacancies 30 per cent will be confirmed in ~~their~~ their employment. The remainder are in no danger of being immediately discharged since the jobs earmarked for ex-servicemen are for skilled labour and the vast majority of demobilised personnel will have to be trained for a period from six months to a year before they can step into their new appointments. The progress of demobilisation is not ordinarily rapid, and allowing for the training period after that, it is calculated that it will be early in 1947 before the switch-over from a war to a peace-time footing can be effected.

New Development Schemes to absorb Discharged Personnel.- By that time, ~~the railway authorities~~ hope, ~~will~~ their post-war development projects will have reached their initiation stage. These include the laying down of 500 new miles of lines every year in addition to an ambitious rehabilitation and construction programme, and are expected to absorb a large number of those displaced by the influx of ex-service personnel.

It is also suggested that the Railway Selection Committees, before whom ex-servicemen and other skilled workers will appear, may have labour unions associated with them, if not directly, through some sort of consultative machinery.

(The Times of India, 22-9-1945).

'War Reserved' Vacancies in Central and Provincial Services to be Filled up.

Recruitment of candidates with war service to fill "war reserved" vacancies in the Central and Provincial Services other than in the subordinate and inferior services (vide page 62 of the report of this office for August 1945) is to begin shortly. Arrangements for the recruitment of war service candidates have been so designed as to ensure that, so far as possible, all eligible candidates, whether, they are in His Majesty's Forces or in civil occupations, and wherever they may be, will have substantially the same opportunity of being considered for appointment. The detailed regulations governing recruitment to these Services, including nationality and domicile, age, education and "war service" qualifications required of candidates, together with ~~in~~

information as to the number of vacancies, conditions of service, etc., are contained in descriptive leaflets entitled "Civil Appointments under the Central Government"; "Civil Appointments in ~~Bombay~~ Madras"; "Civil Appointments in Bombay"; etc. Special arrangements have been made to enable those serving in the forces to obtain copies of these leaflets through Service Channels.

(The Statesman, 22-9-1945).

Steps to Prevent Mass Retrenchment: A.I.T.U.C. Working Committee's Suggestions.

Questions relating to the impending mass retrenchment of workers, cut in dearness allowance and wages and the suggestions made by the Government of India in this connection in their circulars to Provincial Governments (vide pages 60 and 52 of our report for August 1945) were considered at an urgent meeting of the Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. at Bombay on 14-9-1945, with Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, President of the A.I.T.U.C., in the chair. The Committee adopted unanimously a statement outlining the policy which should be followed. The suggestions with regard to the retrenchment of war-workers are summarised below.

Need to maintain Present Level of Employment.- The Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. views with grave concern the impending crisis of great magnitude that may overtake the Indian working class as a result of large-scale discharges consequent on the termination of the war. Nearly 150,000 jute workers of Bengal are reported to have already lost their jobs and more than 250,000 railway workers are facing the grim prospect of enforced idleness in the very near future. More than five millions persons owe their present employment directly to conditions created by the war, and assuming ~~arrangements~~ that each employed person has four dependents on an average, the total number of those to be adversely affected by loss of employment comes to twenty million. The urgent need of the hour, therefore, is to maintain the present level of total employment in the country with a view to enabling each and every person who is gainfully engaged at present to find his or her way back into peacetime employment, without bringing down the general level of earnings now obtaining in the country.

Measures for ensuring Stable Employment at Present Level.- To achieve the objective of stable employment at the present level Government should take steps for the immediate conversion of war industries to peace-time production. A nationwide programme of public works should be immediately undertaken for the promotion of constructional activities such as the development of irrigation, railways, road making, road transport and hydro-electric power. Similarly, a properly laid out plan of house-building on a countrywide scale should be taken in hand, to provide adequate and decent housing to the working and middle classes. Again, in the past, shortage of coal has often led to enforced unemployment in factories. The Government, therefore, should take over the coal mining industry, improve the conditions of life and work of the workers in the industry, use modern methods of raising coal and thus secure a larger output of coal.

Tripartite Boards to consider Retrenchment.- Both at the Centre and in the Provinces tripartite Boards should be set up to consider all questions of reduction of personnel and their re-employment and absorption. All questions of impending large scale and bloc discharges should be brought to the notice of these Boards for their consideration. Joint Committees of the representatives of the workers and the employers should also be established in all industrial centres to consider these questions as affecting the workers in their particular localities.

Miscellaneous Measures: Unemployment Relief.- Other measures which might assist greatly in reducing the volume of unemployment are (i) the shortening of the hours of work and reducing them to 44 per week as an immediate first step towards further reduction to 40 per week; (ii) the granting of at least fifteen days annual holidays with pay to every worker; (iii) the elimination of all overtime work; and (iv) the retirement of men on superannuation with adequate provision for old age. Lastly a scheme of unemployment relief should be immediately instituted with a view to mitigating the evil of interim unemployment.

(The Trade Union Record, September, 1945).

Each Department of Government of India to have a Retrenchment Committee.

It is understood that in order to effect the maximum retrenchment without impairing efficiency each department of the Government of India will have a retrenchment committee, and an officer from the Finance Department will be appointed Secretariat Reorganising Officer to co-ordinate the findings of the various departmental retrenchment committees.

(The Statesman, 26-9-1945).

Congress Working Committee's Resolution on Demobilisation.

Meeting at Bombay on 24-9-1945, the Congress Working Committee adopted the following resolution on the demobilisation of soldiers and war workers.

"The end of war has suddenly brought many problems to the forefront among them being the provision of suitable employment to demobilised soldiers. It is not only necessary to find gainful employment for them in such a way as not to throw others out of employment, but also to use their services, as trained men and women, for working out national reconstruction. This work, as all other large-scale activities, requires careful planning and adjustment. The reconstruction policies and programmes of the present Government are unsatisfactory and likely to cause dissatisfaction to the demobilised forces. They may have to be shaped in such a way as to fit in with other schemes of national development, and to afford the persons concerned an opportunity to be absorbed harmoniously in the national life of the country. While the demobilisation of the armed forces has yet to begin, the demobilisation of labour,

especially employed on war work, has already started. Involving as this does, millions of workers, there is danger of large-scale unemployment and injury to the economic structure unless immediate steps are taken to ~~absorb~~ these workers as they are gradually released, in works of national importance. From the social and economic view-point also, it is harmful and wasteful for the nations' resources not to use trained and skilled workers."

Hospitals.- "Further, the large number of well equipped hospitals, built all over India under the lend and lease system or otherwise, will not be required for military purposes. Hospitals are urgently needed in India for civilian use. All these hospitals should be handed over to suitable civilian authorities and public organisations as soon as the military vacate them."

Farms, Buildings and Camps.- "During the past five years of war, a large number of training camps, transit camps, rest camps, farms and dairies, store-sheds, factories and workshops have been constructed all over the country, with good roads, bridges, and sometimes railway lines leading up to them. They are situated on healthy sites and their sanitation and drainage system have been carefully attended to. A vast sum of money, amounting to hundreds of crores of rupees has been spent on them and every effort should be made to utilise these buildings, camps etc., for objects of public benefit. In particular, these buildings can be used, with suitable alterations, for educational establishments, hospitals, libraries, reading rooms, co-operative societies, village panchayats, sanitary and health centres, recreation rooms, gymnasia, granaries and innumerable other purposes. They can also be used for housing purposes. In these and other ways, they can be of great help in improving the civic life and rehabilitating men of our villages. In order to use these camps and buildings to the best advantage and to prevent any deterioration in them in case they are left vacant, immediate steps should be taken to consider these questions in all its aspects".

(The Times of India, 26-9-1945).

Technical Training Scheme to be wound up: Bevin Scheme held in Abeyance.

Technical Training Scheme to be wound up by October, 1945.- According to an Associated Press of India message the Technical Training Scheme of the Labour Department of the Government of India, which was introduced in 1940 for training men to meet the war time need for skilled workers (vide page 45 of the report of this Office for January, 1941), will be wound up by the end of October, 1945.

Recruitment to almost all the trades under the scheme will be suspended. Boys enrolled under the scheme for some trades, will, however, be kept at the technical training centres, till the completion of the training. Those of the boys who have not passed the basic training test have been ordered to be discharged. The district selection committees, set up under the Technical Training Scheme, have been dissolved, while the services of the entire publicity staff under the scheme, except the provincial publicity and recruiting officers, will terminate after October, 1945.

The reception depots which were set up under the scheme for the benefit of civil trainees have also been wound up. In the province of Bombay alone 14 training centres with a capacity for accommodating about 2,100 trainees were established under the scheme. Some of these centres have been functioning in the Indian States such as Baroda, Kolhapur and Sandur.

Bevin Scheme in Abeyance.- The Bevin Scheme (vide pages 30-31 of the report of this Office for November 1940) which was initiated in 1940, is being held in abeyance pending discussions between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government. Even if the scheme is continued in peace time there will be material modifications in the working of the scheme.

("Dawn", 30-9-1945).

Categories drawn up for Demobilisation.

For purposes of release from the defence forces, service men seeking discharge have been classified under three heads, 'A', 'B' and 'C'. ~~CLASS 'A'~~ CLASS 'A' will comprise those who want to get back to their homes, farms and offices as soon as they can be spared; class 'B' those who ~~are~~ are urgently required in a civilian capacity for work of national importance; and class 'C' those whose families and relations or businesses will suffer from unexpected stress.

The release scheme is voluntary and release can be deferred so long as there is room in the authorised establishment for the individual who wishes to defer release. Government will not discharge servicemen who wish to remain in the forces so long as their services can be usefully employed.

Each class of servicemen will be entitled to certain benefits in the form of leave with full pay and allowances and clothing concessions.

According to present estimates, about 22,000 persons out of the 85,000 to be demobilised from the army from October 1945 to June 1946 are likely to be absorbed in the railways.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-9-1945).

Recruitment to Vacancies in Government Service: Proposal to use Employment Exchange Machinery.

It is understood that a proposal to use the employment exchange machinery for recruitment for Government posts has been circulated by the Central Government to all provincial Governments. The intention is that in addition to information regarding demobilised services personnel and discharged war workers seeking civil employment, the exchanges should also have information regarding vacancies in Government service. This will enable them to submit a list of qualified men on their register to the appointing authority concerned. The employment exchanges will ask those

candidates who are selected for the interview to appear before the appointing authority on the date and place fixed for the purpose.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-9-1945).

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Cochin State sets up Unemployment Exchange.

Resettlement and employment schemes for demobilised soldiers and retrenched labourers have already been taken in hand by the Cochin Government. An Unemployment Exchange Bureau has been recently set up to aid in this work.

(The Times of India, 14-9-1945).+

Plans for providing an up-to-date tuberculosis clinic are under preparation and as soon as the building is ready, its work will be the first step in a much wider campaign. A sum of Rs. 400,000 has already been set aside for this purpose.

(The Statesman, 19-9-1945).

Delhi's Post-War Development Plans.

Addressing the Central India Centre of the Institution of Engineers at New Delhi, Mr. G.C. Dorsett, the Principal Planning Officer of Delhi stated that the local Government has prepared ambitious plans for turning Delhi into a model Province. The plans deal with public health, education, agriculture, rural uplift, housing and road development.

Public Health Scheme.- The Public Health Scheme covers such aspects as setting up of health centres and maternity and child welfare centres throughout the province, provincialisation of hospitals, improved arrangements for the control of epidemics, an improved sewage system, a leper home and better arrangements for treatment of T.B. patients and control of venereal diseases. The scheme also deals with practical means of feeding school children and with school health centres.

Education Scheme.- The scheme relating to education seeks to provide for technical education; night schools for adults, particularly for demobilised soldiers and seamen; girl schools and an improved system of secondary education.

Miscellaneous Schemes.- Other schemes, Mr. Dorsett said, will provide for better supply of milk and poultry, clearance of slums, a sports stadium, a 50 metre olympic pool, a paddling pool for children and a swimming pool for purdah ladies. Delhi will thus be a centre for interprovincial and All-India sports contests. According to Mr. Dorsett most of these plans should be completed or be well in hand by 1950.

("Dawn", dated 13-9-1945).

Bengal's Post-War Reconstruction Plans: Permanent Settlement to go in 23 Years.

Liquidation of the permanent settlement in 23 years, construction of over 3,500 miles of new roads, raising of the standard of living by increased opportunities for employment, development of subsidiary industries, vastly improved agricultural, veterinary and health services, introduction of compulsory primary education and strengthening of the administration generally, are the principal features of Bengal's first five-year post-war plan of reconstruction published by

the Bengal government on 22-9-1945. The plan is the first instalment of a 20-year project and is not a blueprint. It may undergo modification. It is finally hoped to prepare an integrated plan by co-ordinating the various schemes. (A brief summary of the plan was given at page 64 of the report of this Office for July 1945).

Finance.- The total cost of the plan at the end of the five-year period is estimated at Rs. 1,500 million, or, excluding the cost of national highways which are a Central responsibility, Rs. 1,450 million. The Government of India have suggested that Bengal may tentatively assume that its share of the Central Post-War Development Fund will, during the first five years, be approximately Rs. 690 million.

The plan points out that a preliminary forecast of Bengal's post-war finances shows that without increased assistance from the Centre, Bengal could not possibly carry the annual burden which the complete programme will ultimately impose on provincial revenues. It adds that, while Bengal is doing her utmost to develop provincial resources, it is to be hoped that the necessary additional financial assistance will be forthcoming.

Agriculture: Permanent Settlement to be abolished in 23 years.- The plan concentrates primarily on agriculture, on which must depend the progress and well-being of the whole province. It envisages the liquidation of the Permanent Settlement, first in the districts of Bakarganj, Faridpur, Burdwan, Hooghly and Sunderbans. It is estimated that this will take 11 years to complete, but progress after the sixth year will be accelerated and the entire province will be covered in 23 years. The cost is estimated to be Rs. 120 million in the first quinquennium.

Other schemes under agriculture include expansion of the Agriculture Department, setting up of a seed multiplication farm in each district and promotion of horticulture. The outlay on agricultural schemes will be Rs. 175 million.

Irrigation and Drainage Projects.- To improve irrigation, two major projects will be carried out, first, the Damodar Valley project which is expected to benefit the districts of Howrah, Hooghly, Burdwan and Bankura and which the Government of India have since undertaken to execute and, second, the More Reservoir Project which involves construction of a weir at Khatanga and a dam for the generation of electric power benefiting the districts of Birbhum, Burdwan and the western part of Murshidabad. In addition, it is proposed to execute 47 smaller irrigation and drainage projects designed not only to benefit agriculture, but to improve rural sanitation by removing waterlogging. The total cost of the schemes is estimated at Rs. 371.9 million.

Land Reclamation.- The larger of the land development schemes are connected with reclamation of waste land in Western Bengal where it is estimated that about 1,000 square miles of land have been lost to cultivation through erosion. Some 200,000 acres of waste lands in different areas are to be brought under the plough. Another scheme for the reclamation of 280,000 acres is designed to help in resettling some 10,000 ex-soldiers and seamen. The land is to be farmed mainly collectively to facilitate mechanical operations.

Improvement of Livestock.- Nearly Rs. 45 million is to be spent on the improvement and care of livestock by the expansion of the Livestock and Veterinary Departments, the setting up of 5 research and livestock breeding stations, provision of Veterinary Dispensaries at each thana and the appointment of a peripatetic staff to render veterinary aid at the villager's door.

Communications.- As regards communications, 3,500 miles ^{of roads} (made up of ~~300 miles~~ of national highways and 2,600 miles of district and village roads) are to be completed in the first five years ending 1951-52. The ultimate target is the construction in 20 years of 1,200 miles of national highways, 6,300 miles of major district roads and 20,000 miles of minor district and village roads linking up all villages with a population of over 500. Waterways are to be improved and 12 important routes, four of them inter-provincial, are to be kept open for navigation throughout the year by employing dredgers. On the construction of roads about 50,000 to 60,000 men from the Civil Pioneer Force are proposed to be employed either as a unit or individually through contractors.

Industries.- The plan does not deal with major industries, the development of which comes within the purview of the Central Government. But a number of technical training institutes are to be reorganised or set up to help resettle the returned soldier and produce technicians to meet post-war industrial requirements. Special attention is to be paid to the silk and fishing industries.

Labour Welfare: Pilot Scheme to re-house Calcutta's Slum-dwellers.- Schemes have also been drawn up for labour welfare and to gain experience and information as to the ultimate cost of a more comprehensive project a pilot scheme to rehouse 50,000 of Calcutta's bustee dwellers will be taken up.

Education: Compulsory Primary Education throughout Bengal in 20 years.- ~~Primary education~~ is an important feature of the educational plan and is to be modelled closely on the Sargent Report. It is estimated that to educate some 7½ million school children in the province, 50,000 schools and 350,000 trained teachers will be required. It is hoped, however, to achieve quicker results than envisaged in the Sargent Report. According to the Plan, "provided unforeseen difficulties do not supervene, compulsory primary education will have been introduced throughout Bengal in 20 years, i.e., in half the period visualised in the Sargent Report".

Medicine and Public Health: Provision for Rural Dispensaries.- In regard to Medicine and Public Health, all existing hospitals are to be greatly improved and better equipped. A minimum of 16,400 beds is necessary for the Province and it is hoped that in the first five years the number of existing beds will have been raised to 8,900. Five hundred new rural dispensaries, each with two doctors, and 100 mobile medical units are to be started besides the 1,729 dispensaries now existing. A scheme also provides for the encouragement of qualified doctors to settle and practice in rural areas.

A Bengal Nursing Service is to be established to improve service prospects and working conditions so as to encourage women to take up this profession. Facilities for the training of doctors and nurses are to be expanded. Vigorous anti-malarial measures are to be undertaken systematically by a Directorate under a malarialogist of international repute and 20 control units are to be set up in the first instance. A rural water supply scheme, aiming at one source of supply for every 500 people, has been planned.

Co-operative Societies.- Co-operative societies are to receive considerable attention. The entire structure of co-operative credit is to be overhauled and reconstructed and the supervisory staff strengthened. Greater facilities are to be provided for financing co-operative ~~enterprises~~ enterprises, for assisting in the rehabilitation of fishermen seriously affected by the famine, for the development of the co-operative handloom industry and of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce.

Strengthening of General Administration.- Finally, general administration is to be strengthened at a cost of Rs. 75 million as a prerequisite to the successful execution of the plan. For this purpose the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee will be kept in view.

The plan has been drawn up on the assumption that the first post-war quinquennium will begin from April 1947 and it is proposed to take up, as far as possible, a large number of schemes dealing with the training of staff and other preparatory work.

(The Statesman, 24-9-1945; and
~~The~~ Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24-9-1945).+

Planning and Reconstruction Board for Orissa.

The Government of Orissa, in order to associate popular opinion with the final framing of its post-war reconstruction plans, has decided to constitute a Planning and Reconstruction Board which will advise Government as to the necessary modifications and additions. The Board is constituted, in the first instance, for a period of one year with 3 official and non-official members and with the Governor as President and his Adviser as Vice-President.

(The Vanguard, 24-9-1945).+

Five National Highways to radiate from Delhi: Pilot Scheme for Delhi Province: Proposals before Council of Indian Roads Congress.

Inaugurating the session of the Council of the Indian Roads Congress at New Delhi on 20-9-1945, Sir Arthur Griffin, Member for War Transport, revealed that the Government of India had sent to provincial Governments proposals for a national highway scheme, in which Delhi was one of the most important focal points, with five highways radiating from it. He said that the best interests of the country demanded more detailed regulation and more effective co-ordination of the activities of the road operators and the railways, in order to provide the community with the best and cheapest general transport on all routes, and without the past tendency towards extensive concentration in certain areas at the expense of the undeveloped areas.

Mr. Dean's Address.- Mr. A.W.H. Dean, Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department and President of the Indian Roads Congress, in an address to the Council, said that Delhi province would be the venue of experiments in modern ideas in road construction. In planning, he

emphasised, the stage had been reached when they must pass from generalities and produce actual designs with detailed drawings and specifications, and with an estimate of requirements in labour, plant and materials, so that actual work could start whenever this was decided upon as necessary.

Pilot Road Scheme for Delhi.- The proposed road programme for Delhi, Mr. Dean said, was a development which might be described as the actual execution of a limited pilot scheme in one area. Delhi Province is large enough—996 square miles—for such ideas to be worked out on a practical scale and yet small enough for the cost not to be prohibitive. The scheme involved the construction of specially designed cycle tracks, to enable, among other traffic, the milk vendors, who daily bring milk from considerable distances on bicycles, to do so with less risk to themselves and other traffic using the present roads. Rules to make their use compulsory would have to be enforced, besides, construction of ~~at least~~ one or more pedestrian subways, construction of a few miles of a road, with dual carriage-ways, and construction of one or two fly-over crossings.

(The Times of India, 24-9-1945).

Post-War Schemes in Provinces and Indian States:
Central Government's Schemes of Assistance.

In a memorandum circulated by the Supply Department of the Government of India to the Heads of Departments and Local Bodies in Provinces, the Central Government has set out the general policy it proposes to pursue in respect of assistance to post-war industrial projects. It is stated that the Government of India attaches the greatest importance to the initiation, at the earliest possible moment, of those schemes which Provincial and State Governments have decided to carry out in the first stage of their programmes. The heavy cancellations of orders for the Defence Services make an immediate beginning possible, by releasing materials and fabricating capacity; and it is obviously desirable to prevent avoidable unemployment and dislocation of labour.

Supply Directorates to assist Provincial and State Schemes.- At present the control and allocation of many basic materials—coal, steel, cement, timber, rubber, chemicals, etc.—is exercised by the Supply Department, which also controls fabricating capacity and the nature of the product in certain cases, e.g., the heavy engineering industry and the rubber manufacture industry. The various Directorates in the Directorates-General of Supply, Munition, Production, Ship-building and Repairs, and Aircraft, not only provision materials and resources for firms making war supplies but assist in obtaining priorities of transport, etc., for them. While controls continue, it is contemplated to do the same thing to assist provincial and State Schemes, should the Provinces and States so desire. The Director-General, Munitions Production, has already invited Provinces and States, if they so wish, to place orders on the engineering fabrications through him, and it is now possible to ~~accelerate~~ accelerate the provisioning of steel and allocation of civil orders. The memorandum urges that Provinces and States, should give the appropriate controlling authorities phased programmes

GENERAL.

Separate Departments in Government of India for Agriculture, Health and Education: Education, Health and Lands Department to be split up.

By a Resolution published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 1-9-1945, the Government of India has announced the creation, with effect from 1st September 1945, of three separate departments viz., Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Department of Education in place of the existing Department of Education, Health and Lands.

A notification following the above resolution announces that the Government of India is appointing, with effect from 1-9-1945, Sir Pheroze Merwan Kharegt, C.I.E., I.C.S., to officiate as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture; Mr. S.H.Y. Gulshan, C.I.E., M.C., I.C.S., as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Health; and Dr. John Sargent, M.A., B.Litt., C.I.E., to officiate as Secretary to the Government of India, in the Department of Education.

(Resolution No. 208/45 Public (C) dated 1-9-1945: The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 1-9-1945, pages 701-702)†

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of their requirements for, say, the next twelve months, so that a fair allocation may be made, particularly of materials which may continue for ~~time~~ a time to be in short supply as compared with requirements.

It is the intention of the Supply Department to set up a liaison and co-ordinating organisation in the Secretariat at New Delhi for industrial reconversion generally, to which problems and difficulties can be referred, but the ~~immediate~~ immediate step should be to indent on the appropriate control, (e.g., Regional Iron and Steel Controller for steel, Director-General, (Munition Production) for structural work, Regional Controller for cement), or on the appropriate Directorate for finished goods as soon as possible.

(The Hindu, 23-9-1945). ◆

List of the more important publications received in this Office
during September, 1945.

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National Labour Legislation.-

The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Regulation, 1353F. H.B.H. The Nizam's Government, Hyderabad-Deccan. Government Central Press, Hyderabad-Deccan. 1945.

Economic Conditions.-

speech delivered by Mr. Gaganvihari L. Mehta at the first session of the Andhra Industrial Conference. Bezwada, 15th and 16th September, 1945.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association for the year ended 31st December, 1944. Calcutta: Printed at the Star Printing Works, 30, Shibnarain Das Lane. 1945.