

THE  
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GANDHI

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villages by local production and local use. The beginning has to be made by inducing cotton cultivation in every village, even in those where it is never known to have been grown. Without decentralization of cotton cultivation, universal manufacture in villages may not be possible. We have authentic examples of deserts having been turned into smiling gardens by judicious manipulation of the soil. It ought not, therefore, to be impossible to grow enough cotton in every village for local use. Not only will this cheapen khadi for the villagers, but it will also improve the durability of khadi. Experience has conclusively demonstrated that the strength of yarn and the output are affected by the variety of cotton used and the manner of picking, cleaning, ginning, carding and spinning cotton. A material from which the famous Dacca muslin could be produced must demand gentle handling during all the processes it undergoes, before it comes out as *shabnam* or the morningdew.

*Harijan*, 3-8-1935

#### 440. REMARKS ON BODY-LABOUR<sup>1</sup>

Why worry about those who do not do body-labour? I have never imagined that every man on earth will earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, but I have simply enunciated the golden rule. Are you prepared to do it? If you are, you need not be jealous of the man who is not prepared to do it or cannot do it. I may not be able to earn what fruit and milk I eat by mere body-labour, but that means that I am to be pitied, the rule is not affected. Only a few people can observe *brahmacharya*, but should they, therefore, be jealous of the millions who cannot? The latter may be pitied, rather than be envied. . . . I have indicated the ideal to work up to. Let everyone try to observe it as best as one can. Don't worry because you are incapable of doing any body-labour. Do whatever other clean labour you can, and be sure that you do not exploit those that labour for you. Do not worry about the doctors and the rest who in your opinion seem to have no time for body-labour. When they will practise their professions in a pure spirit of service to the community, the community will take care to see that they are not starved.

*Harijan*, 3-8-1935

<sup>1</sup>This is extracted from the "Weekly Letter" by Mahadev Desai, who had reported: "Some of the simplest things that Gandhiji has been saying and writing seem to puzzle and perplex people. One of these is Gandhiji's insistence on bread-labour." What follows is Gandhiji's reply to them; *vide* also pp. 211-2.