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during May 1943.

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## NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

### Draft Mines Rules, 1943.

#### Government of India.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 30 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, the Government of India has, on 27-5-1943, published (pages 573 to 578 of Part I, Section I, Gazette of India, dated 29-5-1943) the draft of certain rules superseding all similar rules adopted by provincial Governments under the Act. The rules provide for the constitution and functioning of mining boards and courts of inquiry, and maintenance by employers of registers and other documents, and lays down certain minimum standards in respect of sanitation and health and provision of first-aid, medical help and safety arrangements in all mines to which the Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies. The draft will be taken up for consideration after 1-10-1943.

The Gazette of India, Part I,  
Section I, dated 29-5-1943, pages  
573-578.

#### Bombay.

The text of the Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provision Shops Bill, 1943, is published at pages 959-961 of Part I of the Bombay Government Gazette, dated 13-5-1943. The Bill provides for opening of provision shops for and regulating the housing and sanitary conditions of non-agricultural labour in areas outside municipal and cantonment limits. Objections and suggestions in respect of the Bill have to be submitted by 30-6-1943.

(For fuller information about the Bill see section: Living Conditions - Housing, of this report).

SOCIAL POLICY.

Government of India's Labour Secretary to Study  
Labour Problems in London.

It is understood that Mr. H.C. Prior, Secretary, Department of Labour, Government of India, is proceeding to London on deputation, to ~~be with the attached to the British Ministry of Labour~~ acquire first-hand knowledge of the Labour Department in Britain, particularly in relation to labour legislation and labour welfare. He is expected to be in London for about six weeks.

Prof. D.T. Jack, Labour Adviser to the Government of India, is also returning to London on the expiry of his term. Mr. Prior is likely to select a successor to Prof. Jack during his stay in London.

(The Statesman, dated 27-8-1943).

Industrial Disputes

Industrial Relations Board to be set up in Travancore state

The considerable industrial development that the State of Travancore has witnessed in recent years has brought in its wake increase in the number of disputes between workers and their employers. At present, such disputes can be settled only by reference to Government under the Trade Disputes Act. Procedure under the Act is not simple and is subject to delay. It is therefore proposed to set up an Industrial Relations Board. An Industrial Relations Committee is to be set up for each industry consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and labour, and, in addition, a chairman who may be elected by both parties from amongst themselves or from outside.

The Board will be constituted from the members of these Committees and will chalk out the general policy underlying industrial relations in the State. It can also function as an appellate authority over the Industrial Committees. If the Board acts under the provisions of the Travancore Arbitration Act, any award made by it will be legally binding, or the decision can form a gentleman's agreement which will be adhered to by both parties.

(The Indian Review, May, 1943.)

Labour Disputes in Textile Mills in Gwalior State:  
Textile Labour Commission set up by Government.

In order to investigate the causes of industrial disputes in textile mills in Gwalior, the Government of Gwalior State has appointed a Textile Labour Commission with Professor Kale as Chairman and Messrs. S.C. Joshi of Bombay, G.R. Garde, member, Judicial Committee, Gwalior Government, S.S. Mirajkar of Bombay and Rao Bahadur Lalchand Sethi of Ujjain as members. The commission has started work and held its first sitting in Gwalior towards the close of April 1943.

(The Hindu, dated 3-5-1943).

## Holidays

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### Leave and Leave Allowance of Inferior and Menial Servants of Local Bodies: Madras Government's Draft Rules.

The Government of Madras has, on 10-5-1943, gazetted draft rules for regulating the grant of leave and leave allowances of inferior and menial servants of local boards in the province.

Inferior Servants.- The rules provide that servants whose posts are classed as inferior in the rules regulating the grant of gratuities by local boards may be granted leave and leave allowances (i) as provided for in the Fundamental Rules in the case of persons who were entertained in service prior to the 4-9-1933; and (ii) as provided for in the Madras Leave Rules, 1933, in the case of persons who were entertained in service on or after that date. Casual leave may be granted to inferior servants up to a maximum of fifteen days in all in the course of one calendar year. No single period of absence on casual leave may exceed seven days. Casual leave may be combined with Sundays or authorized holidays provided that the resulting period of absence from duty does not exceed ten days. They will not be entitled to any casual leave as a matter of course. Casual leave cannot ordinarily be taken in combination with any other leave, vacation or joining time. The president of a local board may, however, sanction such combination in special cases provided there is no evasion of rules, for instance, when a servant is obliged to be absent owing to the prevalence of infectious disease in his house.

Menials.- Servants classified as menials may be granted in each year of service calculated from the 1st April to the 31st March, following- (i) leave on full pay for a period not exceeding fifteen days; and (ii) leave on half pay for a period not exceeding one month subject to the production of a medical certificate granted by a registered medical practitioner.

All leave admissible to a menial, but not taken by him within the year as specified therein, lapses. In the case of menials of less than one year's service, leave may be granted only to the extent earned by active service, i.e., in the proportion which his active service bears to the full active service prescribed for a complete year. The two kinds of leave specified above may be granted in combination. Menial servants are not entitled to casual leave.

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

The draft rules will be taken up for consideration after 10-7-1943.

(Rules Supplement to Part IA, Fort St.  
George Gazette, dated 25-5-1943, pp.1-2).

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General

Labour Conditions of Factory Operatives in Baroda in 1940-41\*

Number of factories. - The ~~xxx~~ total number of factories on the register in the Baroda state on 31-7-1941 was 158 as against 162 in the previous year. The number of factories in actual operation under the Factories Act was 148 as against 140 in the previous year. Out of these, 45 were perennial and 103 seasonal as compared with 38 perennial and 102 seasonal in the previous year. Out of 45 perennial working factories 21 worked on night shift almost throughout the year as against 13 factories during the previous year. Some of the seasonal factories worked on night shift during some part of the season.

Number of workers. - The number of operatives employed in all industries during the year was 41,104 as against 37,143 in the previous year. Of the 41,104 workers, 34,708 or 84.4 per cent. were men, 6,075 or 14.8 per cent. were women and 321 or 0.8 per cent. adolescents. The respective numbers for the previous year were 31,039; 5,789 and 315.

Inspection. - Out of 45 perennial working factories, 38 were inspected more than once while 7 were inspected once only. Out of the 112 seasonal factories only 103 worked this season. Out of these 96 were inspected, while 7 were not inspected because they worked only for a very short time.

Prosecution. - Prosecutions were instituted against 2 factories and both of them resulted in convictions during the year. 35 warnings were given to various factory managers for breaches of factory regulations.

Revision of Factories Rules. - The draft rules under the revised Factory Act, Act XX of 1940, were being prepared during the year. Thus, throughout the year, inspection was based on the rules under the Act of 1930.

Payment of wages Rules. - In 1940, the Indian Payment of Wages Act, 1936, was extended to Baroda with necessary modifications. To administer the Act, the Bombay Payment of Wages rules, 1937, have been applied to the State with necessary modifications.

Working of the Trade Unions Act. - The four trade unions, registered in 1940 functioned during the year with a membership of 5,359 on 31-7-1941 as against 5,447 on 31-7-1940.

Labour Disputes. - <sup>Towards</sup> ~~During~~ the end of July 1940, there were strikes in 10 mills on the question of dearness allowance due to the war. The employers and the workers finally agreed to submit the dispute for settlement by an independent arbitrator. ~~Mr.~~ <sup>Mr.</sup> R. M. C. Desai who was appointed by the Government gave his award on 20-1-1941. The dispute was however amicably settled between employers and employees. Under the guidance of the arbitrator the final award was given on 10-2-1941.

Apprentice scheme. - With a view to supply trained labourers to textile mills and also minimise unemployment among the educated backward class people, an apprentice scheme was introduced in 1940. Only a few students have taken advantage of the scheme and the results were discouraging. In 1941 only 13 students were deputed for training at Baroda, Billimora, Petlad and Navsari.

Survey of Economic Conditions. - A detailed economic inquiry of the ~~textile mills in Navsari, Billimora, Petlad, Vad and Sidpur was~~

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\*Annual Report of the Department of Industries and Labour, Baroda State, for the year ending 31st July, 1941. Baroda State Press. 1943. Price Re. 0-11-0. Pp. 69.



carried out under Government instructions by Mr. B.S. Desai, the Assistant Director of Labour, during the year under report.

Workmen's Compensation.- One application for workmen's compensation was received during the year. Compensation amounting to Rs. 6,509-1-5 was paid to workers in case of accidents which occurred in industrial concerns as against 6,403-11-6 paid in the previous year.

Maternity Benefits.- Total amount of maternity benefit paid to factory female operatives during the year was Rs. 3,036-0-0 as against Rs. 2,567-10-0 paid in the previous year. The number of women who claimed benefits was 175.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONSCriticism of Reserve Bank's Proposals for Stricter Control of Banking.

Reference was made at pages 7-8 of our April, 1943, report to the proposals made by the Reserve Bank to the Government of India to undertake legislation for stricter control of banking in the country. The Reserve Bank's proposals to amend ~~Section 277/1~~ of the Indian Companies Act regulating banking in India were circulated by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on 15-3-1943 and banks and commercial and trade organizations were asked to express their opinion on the proposals by 15-5-1943. Some of the views expressed on the subject are briefly summarised below:-

Views of Bharat Bank Ltd.- One of the newly formed banks, The Bharat Bank Ltd., while recognising that the Reserve Bank is actuated by high motives and that some of the suggestions made are essential for the healthy growth of banking in India, does not think that a convincing case has been made out for the type of drastic legislation proposed by the Reserve Bank. It says that in no part of the world are there such restrictions on the capital structure of banking companies as are suggested by the Reserve Bank, and that the concern of the legislatures in other countries has been to secure reasonable and adequate capitalization of banks rather than to fix any arbitrary ratio between the subscribed and paid-up capital of banks.

In India under-capitalization has been the general cause of banking weakness. The post-war period promises tremendous scope for India's increased import and export trade and vast industrialization of the country. For this it will be fair to assume that there is a special advantage not only to the banks but to their depositors and shareholders to have a large subscribed capital and a paid-up capital reasonably large enough to afford adequate protection to the depositors and in a certain proportion to the working capital.

Summarizing its lengthy argument, the Bharat Bank states that any changes in banking legislation in India should be based on the following:-

1. In the interests of the investing public, banks should have the option to have various kinds of shares to attract the largest possible number of investors.
2. Interests of depositors should be safeguarded by regulating the voting powers of shareholders according to the type of investments and their proportionate risks.
3. The capital structure should be flexible and adjustable. To safeguard the interests of the depositors and to have an adequate paid-up capital, a minimum limit for the same may be fixed and there should be a fixed minimum ratio between the paid-up capital and deposits.

Finally, reference is made to the Reserve Bank's proposal to give retrospective effect to the proposed changes in regard to banks situated after the outbreak of war. The Bharat Bank holds the view that "if as it is found that certain principles and policies are wrong, then there is no reason why older banks should not be made to modify their constitutions," that "the working of each and every flotation should be considered on individual merits" and that "it is the duty of the legislature to avoid disturbing the interests and acquired rights of existing arrangements."

Views of Dr. L.C. Jain.- The views expressed by Dr. L.C. Jain, ex-President of the Indian Economic Association, in a statement to the

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press in the first week of May 1943 are also of interest in this context. In his statement, he urged the appointment of a superintendent of banking, assisted by bank inspectors, for the purpose of exercising some healthy control over banking in practice, by the Reserve Bank or the Government of India.

He criticised "the indiscriminate manner in which new banks have been opened in India during the last year or so" and said: "It seems to be no one's responsibility to see that banks are opened only in places where they are needed in the interests of the country and more especially that their capital structure is sound and stable." He considers that the tendency of business magnates having too many irons in the fire and the opening of banking institutions on the top of other business is not, having regard to post-war economic reconstruction, in the best interests of the country and should be regulated by the Reserve Bank of India, if necessary, by suitable legislation.

Emphasizing the need of better statistical and intelligence service, he said that a periodical publication of banking statistics and a critical and unbiased review of banking operations can be a great aid in the development of banking on sound lines and can check to some extent unhealthy tendencies.

(The Statesman, 8-5-1943.  
The Hindustan Times, 6-5-1943.)

Plea to Industrialists to subsidise Scientific Research:  
Sir S.S. Bhatnagar's address at Annual Meeting of  
Indian Chamber of Commerce.

A plea for the encouragement of scientific and industrial research by Chambers of Commerce in India was made by Sir S.S. Bhatnagar, Director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, addressing the annual general meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Punjab, held at Lahore on 30-4-1943. He said that industry without scientific research was not worth much and closer contact between Indian scientists and the business community was essential for industrial progress. He appealed to the business community to subsidise research work at the Punjab University.

Chancellor P.S. Sodhbans, President of the Chamber, urged the establishment of a national government in the Centre and said that without such a government economic progress would not be possible. He criticized the system of price control, the activities of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation, the accumulation of sterling balances and the inflation policy of the Government. Concluding, he made an appeal for Rs. 200,000 for a building for the Chamber and for the establishment of a well-equipped library and a research bureau.

(The Statesman, 3-5-1943.)

Review of the working of Government Industrial Concerns in  
Mysore State during 1941-42

Reviewing the report on the working of the Government Industrial concerns in the state during the year 1941-42, the Government of Mysore observes that the working of the ten industrial concerns under Government control continued to be ~~satisfactory~~ satisfactory and the production, sales and profits further increased in all the concerns during the year, while several new investigations and schemes of

of expansion were undertaken in many of them. Owing to restrictions on imports of raw materials due to lack of supply and also control of essential commodities in foreign countries - adequacy of internal transport, increasing difficulties were experienced in getting essential machinery and raw materials, and in moving finished products. During the year under review, the Department continued to supply handloom blankets, carbonised coconut shell and buttons to the Supply Department of the Government of India.

Help for Handloom Weavers.- In order to give relief to the handloom weaving industry which was badly hit owing to competition from mills, Government opened 30 yarn depots for supplying yarn at cost price to weavers, at important weaving centres, and eight depots for the selling of the finished products. A dye-house was started for the supply of dyed yarn to handloom weavers. Handloom products were granted exemption from payment of octroi duties. The Badamal Spinning centre and other khadi centres sold yarn valued at Rs. 93,000. There were ten industrial schools working under the control of the Industries Department.

(The Hindu dated 3-5-1943.)

Anti-Inflation Measures in the United Provinces;  
Government Scheme to encourage Individual Savings  
and Raise Collective Subscriptions for Post-War  
Rural Development.

Action is being taken throughout the country to immobilize surplus purchasing power. The measures recently announced by the Central Government and (vide pages 276 29 of this report) will rope ~~the~~ in the urban population and the provincial Governments will influence largely the rural classes. While no target has been fixed, it may well be that the drive will result in immobilizing Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 millions and this should prove a strong check on inflation, provided Government expenditure is reduced to what is unavoidable.

The U.P. Scheme.- With a view to immobilize to some extent the surplus purchasing power that war inflation has put into the hands of rural ~~producer~~ producers, the Government of the United Provinces is introducing a scheme under which villagers may utilise the surplus money in their hands in either of two ways: make regular deposits into the Post Office Defence Savings Banks, or contribute to a collective fund that is being built up by the Government. In the first case, deposits in Post Office Savings Banks, the minimum is fixed at Rs. 2 and the maximum at Rs. 10,000. Deposits are returnable with interest one year after the war. Responsible postal officials have been appointed in each village to collect these deposits.

But the more important feature of the scheme is that of collective subscriptions by zamindars, tenants, banias and other inhabitants of villages. The aggregate sum so raised from each village will be invested in war bonds and war loans for the duration of the war, after which it will be utilised for some purpose beneficial to the whole village as indicated by the subscribers. The type of works envisaged are hospitals, dispensaries, wells, schools, inter-village communications, bridges and new roads.

Estimate of Collection.- Government is also expected shortly to announce measures of direct and indirect taxation, which will enhance the existing fees, duties, cesses and taxes, not because the Government wants more money for public expenditure, but because the Government does not want surplus money to be in the hands of the public. It is estimated that it would be possible in the U.P. to immobilize by taxation and by subscriptions about Rs. 60 to 70 millions in the year, and if other provinces act similarly, it may be possible for the provinces to immobilize Rs. 500 million of

Surplus purchasing power.

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(The Statesman, 23-5-43)

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Control of Capital Issues: New Defence of India Rule.

On 17-5-1943, the Government of India added a new Rule (No. 94-A) in the Defence of India Rules: the new rule prohibits (1) without the prior consent of the Central Government: (a) an issue of capital in British India (b) any public offer of securities for sale in British India, (c) the renewal of repayment of any security maturing for payment in British India; (2) without the prior consent of the Central Government an issue of capital anywhere, whether within or without British India, by any company incorporated in British India; (3) the issue in British India of any prospectus or other documents offering for subscription or ~~public~~ publicly offering for sale any security which does not include a statement that the consent of the Central Government has been obtained to the issue or offer of the security; (4) subscription for any securities issued by a company in respect of any issue of capital made in British India or elsewhere unless such issue has been made with the consent of the Central Government. Applications which are made to the Central Government in pursuance of the provisions of this rule will be considered by a departmental committee on which representatives of the Commerce and Industries and Supply Departments will be associated with the Finance Department. The Reserve Bank of India will be consulted in regard to applications involving the issue of capital for proposed financial enterprises, including banks, investment and finance and insurance companies.

The object of the rule is to prevent in the present circumstances the growth of mushroom companies which stand little chance of survival in the post-war period, and other undesirable practices, such as the reconstitution or recapitalization of concerns on the basis of their present abnormal profits to the detriment of an indiscriminating investing public. There is no intention, Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, declared at a Press Conference, of handicapping or retarding sound and legitimate industrial development, or expansion calculated to promote the war effort of the country or to increase production to meet the <sup>current</sup> rich requirements of the country at present or in the near future, in which cases the application for sanction will encounter no difficulty.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 17-5-1943, pages 343 to 344 and the Statesman dated 18-5-1943).

Comments of the Hindu.- The Hindu, Madras, in its issue dated 19-5-1943 makes the following editorial comments on the Ordinance:-

The object of the new Defence Act Rule banning flotations not approved by the Central Government is said to be to prevent the growth of mushroom companies. There is no doubt that of late especially, there have been flotations with a capital structure based on the existing inflated level of profits, which, once the war is over, cannot be realised and which therefore ought to be discouraged; but it cannot be maintained that this market has been unduly active in India. On the other hand, flotations have been remarkably ~~few~~ few all things considered. On general grounds, however, a case can be made out for the control of our capital market.

Such control should be exercised not ~~merely~~ merely to prevent the growth of mushroom concerns, but also to encourage the rise of sound ones. It is a pity that the Rule is not based on any careful study of our capital market and possibilities of industrial development in the recent past with a view to encouraging the flow of capital into every desirable industry.

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The machinery proposed to exercise controls is also unhappy. If the Government really desire not to check industrial development, control over flotations should be vested, not in routine clerks in the Finance Department, but in a body like National Investment Board. Such an organisation should go into every application on merits and, when approval is withheld, the full reasons should be stated. Investors, as the Macmillan Committee showed, require guidance, but not unwise handicaps. Above all, it should be borne in mind that the discouragement of flotations will deny scope for enterprise, limit the supply of securities, tend artificially to swell the prices of the existing securities and thus add to the inflationary forces already at work.

Views of Southern India Chamber of Commerce  
on Government's Proposed Sickness Insurance Scheme.

At a meeting of the Labour Subcommittee of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras, on 19-5-1943, Prof. Adarkar, Special Officer appointed by Government of India for drafting a scheme of sickness insurance for workers, explained the proposed scheme in outline and said that the idea behind the Government's scheme was to bring in cotton, jute, heavy engineering, mineral and metal factories under its operation and that the question of bringing in seasonal factories also was under consideration. No Governmental contribution to the sickness fund was proposed. Both employers and workers were expected to contribute, the workers contributing a day's wage each month. Medical relief would be given to all workers alike but only workers who had been in employment for six months or more would be entitled to join the scheme for securing cash benefits. The administration of the fund would be in the hands of the Central Government, but there would be provincial boards with representatives of employers and employees and local committees in important industrial centres.

Giving its views on the proposals, the Chamber emphasised that the Government should contribute equally with employers and employees to the fund and that factories, mines or plantations in which employment led to certain specific diseases should alone be included, to start with, in the scheme. Plantations should be among the first to be brought under the scheme. It added that the piecemeal tackling of labour welfare schemes was undesirable and suggested that any fund which might be started should be utilised for all welfare purposes such as unemployment insurance, housing facilities, children's and adult education and retirement benefits. It also suggested that medical relief should not be merely allopathic but should include the administering of medicines known to other systems favoured by the workers.

(The Hindu, dated 20-5-1943).

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(The Hindu, dated 20-5-1943).

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Higher Training for Nurses:  
School of Nursing Administration opened at Delhi.

A School of Nursing Administration, the first institution of its kind in India, for giving organised higher training to selected nurses to fit them for administrative duties in hospitals and for training new nurses, was opened at Delhi on 20-4-1943, by Lady Linlithgow.

Sir Jogendra Singh, Member, Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, surveying the present condition of civil nursing in the country, said that it was far from satisfactory and that it was still not generally recognised that in the practice of medicine, the nurse was hardly less important than the doctor. Past prejudices, he said, were rapidly disappearing, and there would be no dearth of candidates if reasonable conditions of employment, good treatment and proper facilities for training were provided. In the post-war India, he said, replanning of health services must take a prominent place and an important item in the programme of reconstruction must be the organization of nursing services, in which he included, not only nursing staffs in hospitals, but also nurses in preventive health work services.

Declaring the School open, Lady Linlithgow pointed out that one of the chief reasons for the "calamitous" situation as regards nursing services in India, was the paucity of institutions for training and the even greater dearth of specially trained instructresses, known as sister tutors. Only eight of the training schools in India, or less than one per cent. possess such instructresses, and all of them have been trained in Europe or America. Consequently the products of Indian training schools, though they may be adequate beside nurses, are very insufficiently equipped for undertaking any responsible post, such as matron. She endorsed the view expressed by Sir Jogendra Singh about bad quarters, overcrowding and inadequacy of nursing staff in many of the civil hospitals and said that in her opinion the housing, welfare and happiness of the nursing staff are of paramount importance to the efficiency of hospitals and well-being of patients.

The new school has begun classes with 12 students, 6 sent by the War Department and six sent by Provincial Governments.

(The Statesman, 21-4-1943).



MIGRATION.

Judicial Commission to Inquire into Conditions of  
Indians in Natal: Early Announcement of Personnel.

In the course of a statement issued during his visit to Natal, about the middle of May 1943, Mr. Lawrence, Minister for Interior, Union of South Africa, is reported to have pointed out that he hoped shortly to announce the personnel and terms of reference of the judicial commission which is to be appointed to enquire into and report on matters affecting the Indian community in Natal. Among the subjects that will draw special attention from the Commission are the housing, health needs, civic amenities and adequate residential and educational facilities provided for Indian residents in the area.

It is also understood that questions affecting the place of the Indians in the South African Community, his status and the opportunities for his productive employment were referred to by a small group of members of the Institute of Race Relations which met Mr. Lawrence at Durban during his visit. The group discussed the terms of reference proposed for the Judicial Commission and raised a number of points likely to have a bearing upon the evidence to be presented. Points relating to the present temporary standstill position brought about by the "Pegging" Act were also discussed.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated 22-5-1943).

Welfare of Indian Seamen in Britain:  
200 per cent. Increase in Wages.

The London Correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle, Bombay, ~~has~~ briefly reports<sup>in</sup> a cabled message dated 11-5-1943, the action taken by the British Government for the welfare of Indian seamen in Britain. The war has brought to the fore a number of problems in connection with the Indian seamen serving in the Mercantile Marine, the most important of them being their general welfare both on shore and while on the high seas, and it is pointed out that the British Government, in taking this action, is acting in the spirit of the I.L. Conference's recommendations on the subject of welfare of seamen.

At present there are three agencies directly and mainly responsible for looking after Indian seamen in Britain. The first is the Ministry of Transport which looks after seamen on the seas. The second is the Ministry of Labour which is responsible when they are ashore. The third agency is under Indian control and Indian direction, because it is realised that there are special problems arising from language and other difficulties so far as Indian seamen are concerned. In 1940, with the approval of the Government of India, the High Commissioner for India in London appointed three Welfare Officers - all of them Indians conversant with the Indian languages - who were stationed in London, Liverpool and Glasgow. They were charged with the special duty of watching the welfare of Indian seamen and assisting them. They were also expected to assist and advise the local Port Welfare Committees and the Welfare Officers. These three Indians maintain a close and constant touch with the Indian crews arriving in Britain.

200 per cent. Increase in Wages. - As a result of repeated representations, the Indian seamen are now getting a rise of 200 per cent. over their basic pre-war rate of wage plus another hundred per cent. of war bonus. ~~But this by no means meets the situation and Indian seamen cannot be said to be satisfied with their wartime pay.~~ The correspondent points out that these additions to earnings do not, however, serve to meet the increased cost of living and that Indian seamen are still dissatisfied with their wages, and says: "It is still a long way to fulfil one of the recommendations of the International Labour Office which laid down that wages of coloured seamen should not be less than those of other seamen."

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-5-1943.)

Club for Indian Seamen opened in New York

The first British club for Indian merchant seamen in the U.S.A., named after Sir G.S. Bajpai was opened at New York on 14-5-1943. The Bajpai Club will provide curry and rice for seamen, native musical instruments, a curtained room for prayers, a roof garden and a games room.

(The Statesman dated 17-5-1943.)

Professional Workers, Salaried Employees and Public Servants.

Draft Notification re. Revised Scales of Pay for  
Bombay Local Boards Primary School Teachers.

According to a draft Notification dated 10-5-1943, issued by the Government of Bombay, it is proposed to revise the scales of pay of primary school teachers employed by local authorities (District Boards, etc.). The minimum and maximum salaries of an unqualified teacher or a temporary qualified assistant teacher are fixed at Rs.15 and Rs.20 per mensem respectively. The initial or minimum pay of a permanent qualified assistant teacher is not, without the sanction of Government, to be less than Rs. 18 per mensem or more than Rs.25 per mensem and his final or maximum pay is not to be more than Rs.30 per mensem.

For a trained teacher the limits of pay will, except as otherwise sanctioned by Government, be as follows:-

	<u>Initial or minimum pay.</u>	<u>Final or maximum pay.</u>
1st year <sup>trained</sup>	Rs. 20 - Rs. 25	Rs. 30 - Rs. 40
2nd year	Rs. 25 - Rs. 30	Rs. 40 - Rs. 50
3rd year	Rs. <del>25</del> x 30 - Rs. 40.	Rs. 50 - Rs. 60

The scales of pay shall be so framed that a teacher may rise to the final or maximum pay in not more than 25 years. In addition to the pay specified above, personal pay in lieu of Head Masters' and First Assistants' allowances as sanctioned by Government may be paid after making a regulation in this behalf.

The draft is to be taken into consideration <sup>after</sup> before 14-7-1943.

The Bombay Government Gazette,  
Part IV-B, dated 13-5-1943, p.192.

HousingThe Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provisions Shops Bill, 1943.

With a view to provide for opening of provision shops for and regulating the housing and sanitary conditions of non-agricultural labour in areas outside municipal and cantonment limits, the Government of Bombay has drafted a Bill called the Bombay Non-Urban Labour Housing, Sanitation and Provision Shops Bill, 1943 (the bill is published at pages 959-961 of Part I of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 13-5-1943 and any objections or suggestions in respect of the Bill have to be sent in by 30-6-1943.).

In a press note dated 6-5-1943, explaining the subjects of the Bill, it is pointed out that epidemics of cholera in the Province which caused a large number of deaths were found to have originated in congregations of labourers employed in canal areas in connection with the crushing, etc., of sugarcane. Labourers' housing conditions in these areas, including those of some sugar factories, are incompatible with decent sanitation. The temporary huts often consist of brush-wood, thatch or bamboo matting without any plinth, and with no windows or other means of ventilation except an opening ~~with~~ which serves as a door. Inside the huts no person can stand upright. Often, no adequate provision is made for supply of drinking water. Too frequently, it is obtained from the nearest mulla or irrigation channel or stagnant pool of percolation water, all of which sources are normally polluted by human and animal excreta and by manures from crops which are washed down into the water. Latrines are seldom provided, and the banks of irrigation channels and of other water supplies are resorted to for the purposes of nature. It is obvious that such conditions afford an ideal field for the rapid extension of cholera and similar diseases. At the present time, the War Department has to erect a large number of camps, stores, and other constructions for purposes in connection with the war, and large bodies of labour are collected by contractors for such works, and in the past season cholera appeared in at least one such camp. Though conditions in these camps, largely owing to lack of water, are not normally so dangerous as in the sugarcane areas, they constitute centres of infection which may at any time, by reason of an epidemic breaking out, affect the general public, quite apart from the loss of life among the labourers themselves. During the past season, the cholera epidemic has, between the months of April to August, caused 5,861 deaths in the Province. During the same period, plague caused 86 deaths and there are indications that during the next cold weather plague is likely to spread very considerably at least in the southern part of the Province.

The press note adds that it is impossible for the Government of Bombay now to neglect the potential danger of assemblies of labourers under conditions which are peculiarly liable to endanger the health of the Province. In municipal areas, such assemblies can be controlled under the municipal sanitary and building by-laws and rules. But in non-urban areas there is no proper authority for enforcing sanitary regulations. The Government, therefore, finds it desirable to take powers to control such labour housing and sanitation in areas outside municipal and cantonment limits, and to make orders which will ensure that employers of labour provide reasonable sanitary conditions and open provision shops for their labour in such areas.

The draft bill provides for the better housing and feeding of non-agricultural workers in non-urban areas in the Province for the purpose of the Bill. Work connected with the cultivation of sugarcane or the

preparation of gur or sugar from sugarcane shall not be deemed to be agricultural work.

The subjects on which Government may under the Bill issue regulations from time to time are: (a) provision of plinths for and adequate ventilation and lighting in quarters, (b) adequate open space round quarters, (c) prevention of overcrowding in quarters, (d) provision of adequate floor area, (e) proper drainage and sanitary conveniences; maintenance of sanitary staff; (f) adequate and wholesome supply of water; (g) the provision of grain and grocery shops; (h) the prevention of the use or fouling of any source of water, and the disinfection thereof; (i) medical aid and first aid attention; (j) lighting, and (k) segregation of persons suspected to be suffering from infectious and contagious disease. A controlling officer will be appointed to enforce these regulations. Contravention of any order made under these regulations by employers is punishable with a fine of Rs. 100.

No person is to keep an eating-house without a licence granted by the Controlling Officer.

In the event of an outbreak of epidemic diseases in any area, the controlling officer may by order require that no employer in the area may retain in his employment any person if that person or any of the members of his household is not inoculated, vaccinated or revaccinated against the disease within twelve days of the date of the order made by the controlling officer or within twelve days from the date of employment of such person whichever is later. Managers of eating houses are to report cases among their customers as soon as possible.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated  
13-5-1943.)

Workers' Organisations

Labour Member's Appeal for United Labour Party;  
Affiliation with Political Parties Deplord.

The formation of a solid Indian Labour Party whose ambition and aim should be the establishment of a Labour Government in this country was suggested by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, speaking at a party given in his honour by the Bombay Presidency Committee of the Indian Labour Federation at Bombay on 10-5-1943.

Dr. Ambedkar deplorded the splits and factions among labour leaders and pleaded for a united approach. Certain sections of the working class leaders all over the country, for one reason or other, had started separate organisations. Declaring that it was a most ~~un~~ unfortunate development, Dr. Ambedkar said: "To my mind one of the saddest things about the Indian labour movement is its thorough hollowness. The labour movement in this country today is the most superficial I have ever seen. There are leaders with no followers and it is time that labour leaders turned inwards to find out the defects of their organisation and strengthen it." His own opinion was that the working class movement ought to aim at the establishment of a Labour Government, even as the Labour Party in England. So long as capital remained what it was in this country, the lot of labour could not be much improved and hence labour should strive to run the government.

Pleading for unity among working class leaders, Dr. Ambedkar said that the movement today was composed of heterogeneous elements. The Trade Union Congress had its president in a proclaimed Communist, and its general secretary was a Moderate; besides, there were in its Congress Socialists, Congressmen and all sorts of people. What was wanted was a strong and united Labour Party composed of men with a common aim. The sooner labour leaders composed their differences, broke away from other political organisations and refused to be tied to their apron strings and the sooner they became a separate and independent labour organisation, the better for the working class.

(The Statesman, dated 12-5-1943.)

1st All-India Congress of Communist Party of India,  
Bombay, 23-5-1943 to 1-6-1943.

After a lapse of eight years, the Communist Party of India held its first All-India Congress at Bombay from 23-5-1943 to 1-6-1943. About 25,000 workers attended, including 300 delegates from the provinces, of whom about 30 were women. Fraternal messages received from the U.S.A. Chile, Canada, Great Britain and South Africa were read at the session.

Mr. S.A. Dange's Address: Policy of Communist Party.- In his opening address, Mr. S.A. Dange, founder-member of the party, explaining the significance of the ~~5th~~ Party Congress declared that the Communist Party which started with five members fifteen years ago had today over 25,000 members, besides vast numbers of workers who followed its lead. (According to a statement issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party Office, the Party has been organised on an All-India basis and had on its rolls more than 18,000 members in 2,000 "cells". Besides, the Party claimed the backing of 240 trade unions).

Mr. P.C. Joshi's speech.- Mr. P.C. Joshi, General Secretary of the Party, then presented the report on the activities of the Party and its present policies and programmes.

Pleading for unreserved support of the war effort, Mr. Joshi said that if the Indian people looked upon the war as the war of British imperialists, they would pass helplessly from British imperialists to Japanese Fascists. The path to freedom lay through successful defence of India, which demanded uniting of her people in an alliance with the peoples of the world to fight this war as a patriotic war for all. He criticised the Government's action in arresting the Congress leaders, and said that this threw many patriots into the arms of the fifth column and destroyed people's morale.

Reviewing the growth of the Communist Party, he said that, from a hunted underground organisation, it had grown to be one of the major political parties of India and now controlled about 2 lakhs of workers, 3 lakhs of kisans, 50,000 women workers, 35,000 Red Guards and thousands of students. (1 lakh = 100,000).

Sixth New Members of the Central Committee.- At the session held on 1-6-1943, the Congress elected the following as members of the Central Committee of the Party:- Messrs. P.C. Joshi (General Secretary); G. Adhikari, B.T. Ranadive, A.K. Ghosh, S.V. Ghate, S.A. Dange, N.K. Krishnan, P. Sundarayya, E.M.S. Namboodripad, Somnath Lahiri, D.S. Valdia, Biswanath Mukerjee, Sajjad Zaheer, Ranen Sen, Bhowani Sen, Iqbal Singh, S.S. Batlivala Arun Bose, Mansar Rizvi, and Mohan Kumarmangalam.

(The Times of India and Bombay Chronicle,  
24 - 27-5-1943).

20th Session of the A.I.T.U.C., Nagpur, 1 and 2-5-1943:  
Report of General Secretary and Resolutions.

Reference was made at page 24 of the April 1943 report to the holding of the 20th session of the All India Trade Union Congress at Nagpur on 1 and 2-5-1943. Below are given summaries of the General Secretary's Report on the working of the Congress from February 1942 to 15-4-1943, submitted to the Conference and the more important resolutions adopted by the Conference.

Annual Report: Affiliations and Disaffiliations.- During the 1942 session at Cawnpore, the General Council sanctioned the affiliation of 44 new unions. Affiliation of 10 of these new unions lapsed, as they failed to pay the affiliation fees. Names of 9 unions were struck off during the Cawnpore session as those unions had become defunct. During the year 1942 the General Council sanctioned the affiliation of 38 new unions. 10 unions were struck off as they ceased to function. Applications from 57 new unions have been received at the close of the period under review. 52 affiliated unions were given notices in September 1942 that the names will be struck off as they had failed to pay affiliation fees for a long period.

Strength of the A.I.T.U.C.- The strength of the A.I.T.U.C. at the close of the period under review consisted of 191 unions, with a membership of 269,803. Of these 40 were textile unions with a membership of 66,508; 20 unions in engineering and allied trades and industries with a membership of 21,754; 15 railway unions with a membership of 49,703; 14 shipping unions with a membership of 18,200; 13 transport (other than railways and shipping) unions with a membership of 14,120; 11 unions each of jute and municipal workers with memberships of 25,367 and 16,197 respectively; 10 printing and paper workers' unions with a membership of 9,890; 8 distributive workers' unions with a membership of 6,733; 8 non-manual workers' unions with a membership of 3,494; 2 unions each of

workers in mining and quarrying and agriculture with memberships of 1,975 and 873 respectively; and 39 general unions with a membership of 34,989.

Of the 191 unions, 61 are in Bengal, 35 in Bombay, 25 in Madras, 14 in U.P., 11 each in C.P. and the Punjab, 10 in Sind, 8 in Bihar, 7 in Indian States, 3 in Delhi and 4 in Assam.

Consultations by Government and Collaboration in Tripartite Labour Conference.- During the period under report, the Department of Labour of the Government of India consulted the A.I.T.U.C. on various matters, regarding both labour policy and labour legislation. The invitation of the Government to send representatives to the Tripartite Labour Conference was accepted by the Working Committee of the Congress on 15-7-1942. The A.I.T.U.C. was accorded representation in the Tripartite Conference and the Standing Labour Committee created by it.

Grievances of Workers in War Zones.- ~~xxxxxxperisixxxxxx~~  
~~that~~ In spite of efforts made by Trade Unionists to encourage the worker to continue in duty during periods of emergency, workers in essential services were compelled to discontinue work, because of neglect by Government and the employer, of their primary necessities. Employees of the Calcutta Corporation, Tramwaymen in Calcutta, Calcutta Electric Workers, Calcutta Steel Workers, Bengal-Assam Railway Workers and B.N. Railwaymen have all been protesting that their primary needs were not satisfied and many of these were forced to resort to direct action even during the period of air raids to get their grievances redressed. One special reason for labour discontent was mass unemployment due to shortage of wagons for coal. In India, for various reasons, the scope for the workers' movement is very much limited. The energies of affiliated unions have been mostly exhausted in putting forward the workers' demands for adequate dearness allowance and supply of food. With respect to this demand of the workers, the argument has been advanced by employers and the Government that increased dearness allowance would lead to inflation in the country. Trade unionists urged at the Tripartite Meeting and on other occasions that this is not a sound argument, as the industrial wages' bill in India is an insignificant fraction of the national expenditure, which is almost entirely controlled by Government and the capitalists of the country.

Working of War Ordinances.- Under the National Service Technical Personnel Ordinance, the workers' right to improve his prospect, by leaving one job to take a more lucrative one is taken away without being adequately compensated by being given <sup>work</sup> sufficiently improved conditions than he was previously getting. A suggestion made to Government to appoint Advisory Committees to National Service Tribunals has not been brought into operation. In industries, covered by the Essential Service Ordinance, under which the Government has taken powers to regulate conditions on their own initiative, no steps have generally been taken to provide proper conditions unless the workers had gone on strikes or threatened strikes. Regarding the provision of compulsory adjudication of a trade dispute under Rule 81A of the Defence of India Act, Government has generally shown reluctance to take action, unless a strike has actually taken place. Regarding the actual working of these various ordinances, it has been found that the procedure is so dilatory that it does not provide prompt satisfaction to provide workers a fair deal. The adjudication machinery, for which the procedure of conciliation as prescribed, has actually come into operation in the manner prevalent in ordinary legal disputes, has been found unsuitable to the solution of deadlocks in industry. Lastly, in prosecutions under the Essential Services Ordinance, while employers have been able to take action on workers for leaving their jobs without a reasonable cause, workers have not been able to prosecute employers for peremptory dismissals, because lack of adequate procedure.



Resolutions.- The A.I.T.U.C. adopted in all 26 resolutions; a summary of the more important of them are given below:-

1. Indians in South Africa.- The A.I.T.U.C. condemned the action of the South African Government in introducing legislation of a racially discriminating character against Indians settled in that country; as also the restrictions on the trading and occupational rights of Indians and the ignoring of the representations of the Government and the people of India.

2. Dearness Allowance.- The Congress viewed with grave concern the rapid rise in the cost of living which has enormously depressed real wages and the workers' standard of living to the point of starvation, and strongly protested against the failure of employers, including Government, to fully compensate the workers against the increased cost of living. The dearness allowance, whenever it was sanctioned, was without exception totally inadequate. Large sections of workers still get no dearness allowance whatsoever. In almost all cases, the dearness allowance was secured only after a strike or strong pressure, both the employer and Government failing to do justice to the workers of their own accord. The Congress therefore urged upon the Government to take requisite steps to secure to workers in all industries dearness allowance which will at least cover the actual rise in the cost of living since the outbreak of the War, that in the policy of determining the scale of dearness allowance the pre-war level of real wages, which in itself was very low, should not be allowed to deteriorate and that the scale of dearness allowance should be made automatically adjustable to price fluctuations from month to month and should be paid in cash.

Rationing.- The A.I.T.U.C. while it fully supported rationing, especially in big cities, and demanded its immediate introduction, and strongly objected to Government's rationing principles which, it declared, will defeat the main object of rationing, namely, securing even distribution of food for all, irrespective of their social status, and the minimum quantity necessary for work and production. Fixing of arbitrary quantities as rations, without regard to the needs of health and efficiency in work will only mean legalised starvation and lead to breakdown of rationing. Rationing without control of prices and without bringing down present high prices will be reduced to a farce; the poorer sections will not be able to buy even the rationed quantity. The price must be such as to bring at least the ration quantity within easy reach of people. There is much room for corruption in rationing and unless people's co-operation is secured, any rationing scheme might fall through sheer corruption, after inflicting starvation on hundreds. The Congress is strongly of the opinion that the main distribution agency should be the small retail shopkeeper. The A.I.T.U.C. therefore demanded (1) that quantities of rationed articles be fixed after taking into consideration the minimum physical needs of the people; (2) that reasonable prices bringing food within easy reach of everybody should be established and prices of food grains be pegged at this level; (3) that people's food committees should be recognised by Government to exercise supervision over rationing; and (4) that the small trader with fixed number of customers be made the main distributive agency. As regards the food situation, the A.I.T.U.C. demanded (1) control on the movement and the distribution of stocks through people's Food Committees which can prevent hoarding; (2) assurance of reasonable price to the peasants; (3) scaling down of present excessive prices to bring food within easy reach of the people, and (4) a categorical declaration about pegging of food prices.

4. Railway Workers' Grievances.- The A.I.T.U.C. brought to the notice of the Government of India and the Railway Board the growing discontent amongst railway workers as a result of the policy of the Government of India in refusing to make good the lag between the rise in the cost of living and the real wages by means of inadequate dearness allowance. Where an allowance of Rs.30/- per month would have just compensated for the increased cost of living a meagre allowance ranging from Rs.8 to Rs.16 per month was all that was granted. This policy has already led to spontaneous strikes in a number of railway workshops.

The Congress also strongly condemned the dismissal of thousands of workers on the E.I.R., B.& A.R. and B.N.R., on the charge of their alleged deserting from their posts at the time of ~~the~~ bombings of Calcutta and other places. The A.I.T.U.C. drew the attention of the Government and the employers to the fact that their failure to provide adequate A.R.P. shelter and food supply to the workers and, above all, their failure generally to secure the confidence and co-operation of the people of the country were mainly responsible for the panic and exodus resulting in temporary absence from duties.

5. Textile Workers' Grievances.- The Congress drew the attention of the employers and the Government to the serious discontent prevailing among the textile workers throughout the country, due to the failure of the employers to give adequate dearness allowance, to give bonus payment commensurate with the boom profits enjoyed by the industry, and to provide supplies of cheap foodstuffs to the workers, and their families. Government's acquiescence in the policy of the employers has added to the gravity of the situation.

The fall in the standard of living of the workers, due to rise in prices, insufficient dearness allowance and inadequate supplies of foodstuffs, is further accentuated by the severe fall in the earnings of the great mass of piece-workers due to the character of production having undergone a change from fine to coarser spinning and weaving, and due to the fall in production as a result of want of good and sufficient stores and materials.

In places where Government has imposed conciliation and adjudication machineries to solve deadlocks in the industry, (as for example the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act), it has failed to see that it functions speedily and impartially. Three years of the working of the Act has proved that it is fully weighted in favour of the employers and gives the workers no relief, and is nothing but an attack on their freedom of action and a hindrance to the growth of trade unions and collective bargaining. The A.I.T.U.C. demands that measure like the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act must be immediately withdrawn or thoroughly overhauled.

The A.I.T.U.C. protested against the continued failure of the government of various provinces to give effect to the recommendations of Inquiry Committees appointed by them where such recommendations tend to improve conditions of work and wages. Under the threat of lockouts from the employers, the Bombay Government has failed to implement the recommendations of the Divatia Committee. The G.P. Government has failed to see that the Jayaratnam Report in the matter of full restoration of wage-cuts is acted upon by the employers.

The A.I.T.U.C. fully supports the demand of the textile workers in the matter of full dearness allowance and bonus payments in cash, adequate and cheap supplies of food, and A.R.P. shelters, an impartial and speedy machinery for settlement of disputes through collective bargaining, 25%

rise in basic wages, protection from victimisation and recognition of trade unions. It calls upon the Governments, Central and Provincial, to prohibit deferment of bonus payments and to give immediate effect to the recommendations of the inquiry committees, improving conditions of work and wages in the industry.

6. Seamen's Grievances.- The A.I.T.U.C. drew the attention of the Government of India to the very unsatisfactory conditions of service of Indian seamen and urged that the following more important demands among others be immediately granted:- (1) that employment should be by strict rotation with a view to eliminating bribery and with a view to ensuring that every seaman gets employment at specific intervals; (2) that a comprehensive scheme of social insurance, especially unemployment insurance, be instituted; (3) that the inordinate delays caused at present in the payment of compensation for war injuries should be eliminated and that immediate steps for early payment be taken; and (4) that proper A.R.P. measures be taken on board ships as well as in the harbours.

The attention of the Government of India was drawn to the fact that questions regarding Indian seamen, who constitute an important section of the Indian working class, are entrusted to the Commerce Department of the Government of India, as a result of which, problems concerning seamen are not included in the agenda for the meetings of the Tripartite Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee which are convened by the Labour Department. Thus questions pertaining to seamen were very much neglected and the representatives of labour are denied the opportunity of discussing these problems with the Government of India. The A.I.T.U.C. therefore strongly urged upon the Government of India the necessity of including questions regarding Indian seamen on the agenda of the meetings of the Tripartite Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee and was of the opinion that this should be done without any further delay, in view of the fact that a number of new problems concerning seamen have arisen as a result of the outbreak of the war.

7. Grievances of Jute Workers.- The Congress expressed dissatisfaction with the inadequacy of ~~seamen~~ dearness allowance to jute workers of B Bengal and declared that the prevailing scheme of Rs. 5/- dearness allowance per mensem and 5 seers of cheap rice per head per week is quite inadequate to compensate for the increased cost of living. Such conditions find no parallel in any other major industry and can only undermine the workers' morale and capacity to carry on production.

8. Grievances of Khewra Salt Miners.- The Congress urged upon the Government to concede the following demands of the Khewra Salt Miners:- (1) that the rate of wages be doubled, (2) that all necessary stores such as nails, magazines, powder, etc. be provided by the authorities in sufficient quantity, (3) that proper weightment of miners' production on which he is paid be ensured, (4) that dearness allowance to meet the full rise in the cost of living be given and that immediately the miners be put at least on the same level as the railway workers, in the matter of dearness allowance rates, and (5) that the advances made to the miners for rebuilding of their quarters in New Khewra be written off.

9. Grievances of Tea Plantation Workers.- The Congress drew the attention of the Government to the miserable condition under which about a million of tea garden labourers of Assam and other parts of India are living. The average monthly earning of a tea garden labourer in Assam is not more than Rs. 6/- with no adequate provision to meet the rise in the cost of living which has gone up enormously, in an area where bombing

raids are taking place, and hundreds of workers have been killed. Food scarcity also is very acute in the area, and no adequate arrangement has been made for supply of food to the workers. The A.I.T.U.C. condemned the policy of the Assam Government and the India Tea Association which are imposing severe restrictions on the workers' rights of organisation, free association and all other normal trade union rights. Membership of trade unions is being punished by the planters who expel the labourers for joining their union and thus forcing the tea garden workers to live in abject conditions of slave labour. The session therefore demanded (1) full right of the workers to hold meetings and organise themselves in their own unions and removal of restrictions upon trade union workers; (2) adequate increment in basic wages and dearness allowance to cover the cost of living; and (3) cheap supply of food. The A.I.T.U.C. urged the Government to appoint a committee to inquire into conditions of life and work in plantations in Assam and other parts of India.

10. Grievances of workers in Printing Industry.- A resolution was adopted urging early action to improve the paper situation in the country as a result of which a large number of workers in the printing industry are unemployed.

11. Reinstatement of Digboi Petroleum Workers.- One of the resolutions condemned the action taken by the Government to suppress a perfectly lawful strike in the Digboi Petroleum Works and expelled several thousands of workers by written or unwritten orders, while the long drawn dispute was still under Government enquiry. and the then Assam Ministry, was publicly committed to enforce the decision of the Conciliation Board upon the Assam Oil Company by immediate legislation. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

12. Grievances of "Bidi" workers.- The Congress noted the deterioration in the conditions of the Bidi and Tobacco workers all over the country, ever since the outbreak of the war. While the cost of living has been steeply rising, the bidi workers have secured almost no dearness allowance to compensate it, and where they have succeeded in getting some dearness allowance, such as in parts of Madras and Bombay Presidency, such dearness allowance, hardly amounting to 10%, has been inadequate to meet the increased cost of living. The employers on the other hand have taken advantage of the situation to increase their profits at the expense of the people and the workers. The A.I.T.U.C. welcomed the recent awakening among the bidi workers, and the formation of trade unions by them throughout the country. The resolution demanded that the Government should immediately apply the Factory Act to all bidi factories employing 10 or more ~~xxx~~ workers.

13. Conditions of Work of Primary School Teachers.- The A.I.T.U.C. deplored the attitude of the Government of India in not implementing the recommendations of the Sergeant Committee, appointed by the Central Government, regarding salaries and working conditions of Primary School Teachers, and urged that these recommendations should be implemented without further delay. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The opinion was also expressed that dearness allowance that is at present given to Primary teachers is totally inadequate. The attitude of those municipalities which have shown reluctance to sanction even that scale of dearness allowance which is recommended by Government was condemned. It was urged therefore that Government should make such recommendations binding on municipalities and Local Boards. The A.I.T.U.C. called upon all Primary School Teachers to organise themselves on trade union lines.

14. Condemnation of Baroda Trade Unions Act.- A resolution was adopted condemning the attack of the Baroda State Government on the fundamental right of the workers and their trade unions in the State to associate and unite with workers in other parts of the country, in as much as the State prohibits under its law trade unions seeking affiliation to the A.I.T.U.C. The A.I.T.U.C. also condemned the legislation of the State requiring six weeks' notice before the workers could resort to strike as clearly calculated to strengthen the employers' organisation against effective action of the workers in defence of their rights and for betterment of their conditions of work.

The repressive measures against trade unions and their leaders in Travancore and Cochin were also condemned.

15. Sickness Insurance.- The Congress considered the scope of the sickness insurance scheme which is being organised as extremely narrow, and suggested that the scheme should be made applicable to all industries in India, including the Indian States. The A.I.T.U.C. further suggested that along with employers and the workers, Government should also be a contributor to the insurance fund.

16. Tripartite Conference.- The Congress, while welcoming the establishment by the Government of India of the Tripartite Conference and the Standing Labour Committee, suggested to the Government of India that, instead of treating the decisions of the Conference and the Standing Labour Committee as merely advisory, the Government of India and the Provincial Governments should accept the obligation of taking steps towards giving effect to the decisions of these Bodies. The A.I.T.U.C. also urged upon the Provincial Governments to start immediately similar organisations in their respective provinces.

(Summarised from the advance copy of Report and text of resolutions sent to this Office by the General Secretary, AITUC).

29

General.  
Social Policy in Wartime:

Wages.

Revised Scheme of Dearness Allowance for  
Travancore Government Employees.

The Government of Travancore has sanctioned revision of the existing limit up to which dearness allowance is granted in the State so as to bring employees on somewhat higher pay also within its scope. Under the scheme which will be in force for the duration of the war, the scope of the dearness allowance has been extended to employees drawing pay or salary up to Rs. 50 per mensem, the existing rate of allowance being continued in the case of employees drawing Rs. 20 monthly and below and the rate being fixed at Rs. 3 per mensem in the case of employees drawing above Rs. 20 per mensem but not above Rs. 50. In the case of employees drawing pay or salary above Rs. 50 but not above Rs. 53 monthly, they may be granted such sum as allowance as would make the total emoluments equal to Rs. 53 per mensem.

The Indian Review, May 1943 issue.

Control Measures.

New Basis of Assessment of Excess Profit Tax:  
Ordinance issued by Government.

On 17-5-1943 the Governor General promulgated the Excess Profits Tax Ordinance, 1943, the main object of which is to draw into the Government coffers all except  $\frac{1}{3}$  of excess profits. The Ordinance, firstly, introduces a system of summary assessment of EPT. The idea is that as soon as an assessee's accounts are made up, the EPT authorities will approach him on a commonsense basis, and on the basis of his own published accounts will endeavour to agree with him on the extent of excess profits, leaving out all controversy about disputed items. On the agreed amount so determined a demand for EPT will issue and the amount will be collected. It is anticipated that this will lead to very large sums being immediately withdrawn from circulation, and brought into Government coffers. At present large amounts remain to be collected and in the last Assembly session an estimate was made that the amount of EPT outstanding in Bombay alone was Rs. 750 millions. That was not really an estimate of the amount due to Government at that time, because until the many processes of the EPT operations were completed, an assessee was not liable to make any payment. On the basis of the Bombay estimate Rs. 1000 millions for the whole of India is not considered an excessive estimate.

The summary assessment will be made by the income-tax officer to the best of his judgment, but in order to protect the assessee against an unduly high estimate, a safeguard has been provided. If, when the regular assessment is made, it is found that a refund is due to the assessee, not only the excess will be refunded, but also interest on it at 5% per annum which may be regarded as a penal rate against Government and therefore a guarantee to the assessee against the summary procedure being used to his disadvantage.

Compulsory Deposit. The second feature of the ordinance is a provision for compulsory deposit based on the existing optional system under which an assessee, if he so chooses, can, after he has been assessed to EPT, deposit a further sum not exceeding one-fifth of the EPT, and the

Government thereupon puts aside for his benefit a sum equal to one-tenth of the tax. Under the ordinance the deposit of a sum at the maximum rate of one-fifth will be compulsory for all EPT assesses. The present position is that  $66\frac{2}{3}$  per cent is levied as EPT and  $13\frac{1}{3}$  per cent as income-tax and ~~an~~ supertax. The State thus takes 80 per cent. of the profits. The object now is to immobilize as much as possible the remaining 20%. Under the Ordinance  $13\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. of this 20 per cent. will be compulsorily deposited with Government, leaving to the assessee  $6\frac{2}{3}$  per cent. excess profits to be used for distribution of dividends or current consumption. Of the  $93\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. which will thus be taken by Government 20 per cent will be held for the assessee's benefit,  $13\frac{1}{3}$  percent representing his own money which he will be able to withdraw within 12 months of the termination of hostilities or two years from the payment of the deposit whichever is later. On that money he gets 2% interest. He is in addition entitled to  $6\frac{2}{3}$  which Government is putting into the fund for ~~in~~ his benefit. That will be released in accordance with rules which have been framed in consultation with the reconstruction committee.

The purpose of these rules is that Government's contributions will be released within three years of the end of the war or earlier if the assessee is able to establish a claim for advantageous use of the money at an earlier stage.

Limiting Bonus.- Besides these two main features, the Ordinance contains two other provisions. It takes power to make rules to prescribe the amount of bonuses and commissions which will be admissible for income-tax purposes. At present, it is pointed out, distribution of ~~bonuses~~ bonuses takes place largely at the expense of the exchequer. It is important in the Finance Member's view, that some rational control of the distribution of bonuses and commissions should be established. It is intended that, before actually prescribing what those bonuses should be, commercial organisations and interests affected will be consulted.

Limit to stocks for purposes of Income tax.- The Ordinance also gives power to prescribe what stocks shall be deemed reasonable for income-tax purposes. At present it is possible for an assessee to hold very large stocks of raw materials or stores, and he actually derives an advantage in respect of tax by increasing the amount of his capital so invested. In normal times there is no necessity to attempt to control that, but at present there is the danger that even manufacturing concerns may hold such large stocks as would amount to hoarding and may ~~also~~ cause shortage and force up prices ~~as far~~ of these raw materials or stores. In so far as present taxation arrangements actually assist or encourage that process, ~~in~~ that assistance or encouragement will be withdrawn.

Object of Ordinance.- Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, explaining the reasons for issuing the Ordinance, said that the present situation in India called for emergency action, that the excess purchasing power including tax due to the Government which was now out, required to be reduced drastically as soon as possible, and that for administrative reasons, this was the time of the year when the income-tax department was most free to take on this additional work. The position of the Indian States in this connection was also under consideration. Explaining the beneficent effects of the Ordinance on the currency in circulation, Sir Jeremy said that ~~the extent~~ the extent that money came into Government's coffers, the amount of money that Government sent out into circulation would be reduced. If Rs. 1000 millions came in under the summary assessment proposal, Rs. 1000 million less of new money would need to be circulated.

Comments of the Hindu.- The Hindu, in its issue dated 19-5-1943,

made the following editorial comments on the Ordinance:-

One or two provisions of this Ordinance may perhaps be considered not open to serious exception. There can, for instance, be no hardship in the Government calling upon the assesseees to pay, before the assessment is completed, the tax due to the Government in any particular year according to the assesseees' own books and on the basis of accounts made up by them. Nor will impartial observers object to control over the amount of bonuses and commissions granted by business undertakings wherever they are found to be making not bona fide payments, but merely book adjustments calculated to ~~maximise~~ ~~the~~ deprive the Exchequer of what is properly due to it. We are glad to note that the rules governing such control are to be framed only after the interests affected have been duly consulted.

There is one real danger in such control. In the process of control, the authorities may arrogate to themselves the right to lay down what the quantum may be of the bonus or commission and to whom it may be given. Bonuses and commissions represent the value of the services rendered by the recipient to the business undertaking, and the only authority which can rightly evaluate the monetary worth of such service is the beneficiary thereof, namely, the management of the business, not the Income-tax Officer. Already there are complaints that income-tax authorities interpret even their existing powers virtually so as to determine the scale of salary appropriate in particular cases and the scale of promotions to be given.

The right which the Government have taken to control the level of stocks ~~in~~ a particular industry may hold is open to even more serious objection. This level must vary with different industries with the same industries in different localities, near to or away from sources of raw materials, with the ever changing conditions in transport facilities, the state of the markets and, not seldom, the degree and efficiency of cooperation extended by the Governmental authorities in respect of articles subject to Government control. Restrictions on stocks are calculated to result in manufacturers refusing to make firm offers concerning deliveries and prices and thereby adding to production costs and prices.

The provision calling for compulsory deposits of a portion of the excess profits now left with the assesseees can, as a borrowing device, be neither productive nor equitable. As a method of insisting on war industries laying by reserves, it is bound to prove woefully inadequate. It is no answer to the industry's claim such as the F.B.I. has made in Britain for greater consideration for reconstruction reserves. Have the Government exhausted all other and better methods of raising funds that they should resort to this expedient? However, once it is granted that the raising of discriminatory compulsory loans is justified, many may agree that it is better than resort to currency expansion.



Control MeasuresThe Bombay Foodgrains (Movement Control) Order, 1943

The Government of Bombay has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 12-5-1943, the Bombay Foodgrains (Movement Control) Order, 1943, prohibiting export, to any Indian province or State, of the following foodgrains and their products from the Province except with a permit issued by the Supply Commissioner: wheat, rice, jowar, kajri, gram, barley and maize.

(The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 12-5-1943.)

Madras Ban on Export of Fish Meal

The Government of Madras has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 13-4-1943, an order under which no person is to export fish meal, fish guano, bone super and bone meal from the province except in accordance with the terms of a permit issued by the Director of Agriculture, Madras.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated 18-5-1943, p. 532.)

The United Provinces Cotton Piecegoods (Futures and Options Prohibition) Order, 1943.

The Government of the United Provinces has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 18-5-1943, the United Provinces Cotton Piecegoods (Futures and Options Prohibition) Order, 1943, under which no person is to (a) enter into any "futures in cotton piecegoods" or pay or receive or agree to pay or receive any margin relating to any such futures; or (b) enter into any options in cotton piecegoods. Contraventions of the order are punishable with imprisonment for a term of three years, or fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000, or both.

(The United Provinces Gazette Extraordinary dated 18-5-1943.)

The Central Provinces Food Grains Export Restrictions Order, 1943.

The Government of the Central Provinces has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 20-5-1943, the Grains Export Restrictions Order, 1943, prohibiting, with certain exceptions, export from the province of rice, wheat, jowar, gram, pulses and barley and their products.

(The C.P. and Berar Gazette, Part I dated 28-5-1943, p.282.)

The Orissa Paper Control Order, 1943

The Government of Orissa has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 26-5-1943, the Orissa Paper Control Order, 1943, under which no person may carry on business as a dealer in paper except under the authority of and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of a licence issued by a licencing authority. Profiteers and those who have not been dealing in paper for at least one year on the date

er will not be entitled to licence. All transactions in  
will be controlled by District Magistrates.

(The Orissa Gazette, part III dated  
28-5-1943, page 165.)

The Punjab Sulphur and Chlorates Control Order, 1943

The Government of the Punjab has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 26-5-1943, the sulphur and chlorates Control Order, 1943, under which the purchase, stocking, sale and transport of ~~any~~ sulphur and chlorates (including sodium chlorate, potassium chlorate, other salts of chloric acid, etc.) are to be carried on only under licence.

(The Punjab Gazette dated 28-5-1943,  
part I, pp. 353-354.)

The Oil-seeds (Forward Contracts Prohibition) Order, 1943

The Government of India has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 29-5-1943, the Oil-seeds (Forward Contracts Prohibition) Order, 1943, under which no person may, after 31-5-1943, enter into any forward contract in oil seeds. Outstanding contracts will be settled at prices fixed by Government. The seeds covered by the Order are: groundnut, linseed, mustard seed and rapeseed.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary  
dated 29-5-1943, p. ~~360~~ 360.)

Prohibition of Forward Contracts and Options in Bullion

The Government of India has, on 29-5-1943, notified an amendment to the Defence of India Rules according to which no person may enter into any forward contract or option in gold and silver bullion. Any one contravening this provision is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or with fine or with both.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary  
dated 29-5-1943, p. 361).

The starch Control Order, 1943

The Government of India has, under the Defence of India Rules, promulgated, on 15-5-1943, the Starch Control Order, 1943, under which no person may use ~~starch~~<sup>wheat</sup> in any form for the manufacture of starch except with the permission in writing of the Starch Controller and in accordance with such terms as may be laid down by him in this behalf. The purchase and sale of starch also are controlled by the Controller.

(The Gazette of India, Part I,  
dated 15-5-1943, pages 489-490.)

The Ring Traveller Control Order, 1943

The Government of India has, under the Defence of India Rules, promulgated the Ring Traveller Control Order, 1943, under which the purchase, disposal and sale of all types of ring travellers used in the textile industry, other than jute and hemp, are to be brought under the control of the Deputy Director-General, Cotton Textiles, Bombay. (The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 22-5-1943, p. 542.)

## Employment

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### The Bevin Training Scheme: Higher Pay and other Advantages of Returned Trainees.

Higher Pay: 227 per cent. increase.- According to an unofficial note dated 25-5-1943 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, of the 354 men sent to England under the Bevin Training Scheme, 203 have returned to India and a large number of these men have secured employment in the various technical branches of civil and defence industries. Four Bevin Boys, whose previous salaries were Rs. 40 and Rs. 70 per month, are now commissioned officers in the corps of Indian Engineers on a starting salary of Rs. 445 per month. Of the returned trainees, 154 are holding supervisory jobs in ordnance factories or private industrial concerns, on salaries ranging from Rs. 75 to Rs. 385 per month. Fifteen technicians, trained under the Bevin Scheme, are employed as instructors in training centres under the ~~Training~~ Technical Training Scheme, while 16 hold technical posts in the army, and four have been absorbed in industry as skilled workers. It is pointed out that whereas some time back the figures for the average increase in the earnings of returned Bevin Boys stood at 165 per cent, at present they are earning, on an average, 227 per cent. more than what they were earning before going to England; and this percentage rises with the growing appreciation for the value of the men's training and with steady increments in their salaries after appointment.

Experience in Trade Unionism.- All these men are between the ages of 20 and 30 years. They are mostly drawn from the working classes of India for whose benefit the scheme was originally initiated by Mr. Bevin, the British Minister for Labour. As batches of Bevin Boys return to India from time to time, a new type of enlightened working class is coming into existence in the country. For these men, during their stay in England, not only received training in specialised engineering trades, but also acquired an appreciation of the principles of trade unionism and merits of industrial organisation. Side by side with the men trained under the Technical Training Scheme, the returned Bevin Boys are providing a nucleus of skilled workers who are furthering the war effort as well as the industrial progress of India.

Training period extended from 6 to 8 months.- The Bevin Boys who have so far returned to India had to undergo intensive training in the United Kingdom for a period of six months as was originally laid down in the Scheme. As a result of requests from returned trainees and certain employers, this training period has recently been extended from 6 to 8 months; and the new arrangement applies to the sixth and all subsequent batches of trainees.

(unofficial note dated 25-5-1943 issued  
by the Principal Information Officer,  
Government of India.)

Madras Joins Standard Cloth Scheme:  
Adequate Protection For Handloom Weavers Assured

Cancelling its previous decision not to join the all-India standard cloth scheme (reported at page 36 of our Report for December 1942), the Government of Madras has now ~~just~~ decided to join the scheme so as to meet the present shortage of cloth in the province. The per capita consumption of cloth in the province is 17 yards as against the nine yards available at present. The Government feels that if it stands out of the scheme it will be depriving the province of the cloth necessary to meet the present shortage. In view of the wide gap between the demand and supply, it is felt that the introduction of the scheme will not adversely affect the handloom weavers of the presidency. The Government, however, proposes to review the working of the scheme from time to time so as to ensure that the handloom weavers are not put out of work and that there is no repetition of the ~~occurrence~~ <sup>experience</sup> of 1941 when the Government had to undertake relief measures to enable the handloom weavers to tide over a period of acute depression.

Arrangements are under consideration for the distribution of the standard cloth. A provincial committee will be appointed to advise the Government on the question of ~~the~~ distribution and on all matters pertaining to the scheme. The quota of standard cloth allotted to the province for the quarter April-June, 1943, is 18,900,000 yards. It is expected to be put on the market about the middle of June, 1943.

Arrangements are also proceeding apace for production of cheap cloth through approved co-operative weaving organisations in the districts. There are already six organisations with 1,200 looms and six more with about the same number of looms are being brought into existence. Yarn will be supplied to them by the Government at panel prices; and the Yarn Commissioner expects to make various types of cheap cloth, dhoti, saree, shirting, etc., available for sale in a couple of weeks. These will bear distinguishing marks and steps will be taken under the Defence of India Rules to prevent abuse and profiteering. It is expected the price of textile goods will be stabilized with the introduction of cheap handloom cloth in the market.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-5-1943,  
and the Hindu dated 16-5-1943.)

The Cotton (Forward Contracts in Current Crops Prohibition)  
Order, 1943.

The Government of India has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued, on 19-5-1943, the Cotton (Forward Contracts in Current Crops Prohibition) Order, 1943, according to which no person may, after 20-5-1943, enter into any forward contract in respect of current crops. Every contract outstanding at the close of business on 20-5-1943 will be deemed to be closed out at such rate as the Central Government may fix by official notification.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary  
dated 19-5-1943, p. 347.)

Production.Cheap Cloth Scheme for Middle-Class Population of Bombay City: 36 yards Cloth Ration per Head.

A scheme for meeting the clothing requirements of the middle-class population of Bombay City at cheap prices will be given effect to by the Government of Bombay in co-operation with the Millowners' Association, Bombay, at an early date. It is learnt that everybody will be entitled to have about 36 yards of cloth for the year and will be issued a ration card for the purpose. The cloth will be slightly better in quality than standard cloth and will be priced at rates substantially lower than the prevailing market rates. The authorities are engaged in giving the finishing touches to the scheme.

The scheme will be in addition to the standard cloth scheme which caters to the need of the poorer sections of the population.

(Times of India, 19-5-1943).

Regulation of Production of Cloths  
Government's New Scheme discussed at Meeting of Standard Cloth Panel held on 1-6-1943.

A scheme for the regulation and rationalisation of production and distribution of cloth in the country, as contemplated by the Government of India, was placed by Mr. M.S.A. Hydari, Secretary, Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, at a meeting of the Standard Cloth Panel held at Bombay on 1-6-1943.

New Proposals.- The standard cloth scheme, Mr. Hydari pointed out, had so far failed to provide cloth either in substantial quantities or at constant and low price. The problem was to remove the hardship of the consumer and ensure the stability of the textile industry. It was proposed to arrange for the production of about 2,000 million yards of standard cloth within the next 12 months and to allocate it to the provinces and the Indian States on the basis of population, for being sold at a uniform price. Besides the standard cloth, other varieties and the maximum prices thereof would be fixed. Steps are to be taken to ensure that cloth and yarn placed on the market would keep moving and to prevent manufacturers and merchants from hoarding. All the measures contemplated under the scheme would be adopted with the utmost possible speed.

It is further proposed that standard cloth should be sold at a uniform price all over India. This price will, for the present, be arrived at by adding  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. to the ex-mill price of the cloth. Every province or State will receive standard cloth at the railway centres indicated by it at a uniform price, which will be made up of the ex-mill price plus  $1\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. To this the province or the State will add  $4\frac{1}{2}$ % of the ex-mill price in order to arrive at the retail selling price. The manner in which the  $4\frac{1}{2}$ % should be absorbed is a matter for the provincial or State Government to decide. It is proposed to stabilise the price of standard cloth at a reasonable level. In arriving at its conclusions in regard to standard cloth the Government of India was impressed by the fact that in present conditions it was not sufficient to stop at the provision of 2,000 million yards of standard cloth in 12 months; and that its proposals in regard to standard cloth would not by themselves provide a solution to the present unsatisfactory condition of affairs. In the

position in which both the industry and consumer find themselves today there is no escaping the conclusion that the only effective remedy lies in the establishment of control designed to regulate prices of cloth and yarn and to increase their production. The Government of India has therefore decided to establish such control as soon as it can set up the necessary machinery of control.

Control of Price.- The scheme of fixation of maximum selling prices involves the fixation of two sets of prices: maximum prices ex-mills and maximum prices for retail sales. To avoid the middleman and the retailer making undue profits, it has been decided to adopt a suggestion by the industry that the retail prices should be stamped on the cloth. The margin between the ex-mills and retail prices should be wide enough to provide adequate remuneration for such middlemen as actually perform the necessary function of linking the manufacturer with the retailer. The effect of thus pegging these prices will be to force the retailer to buy from the wholesale dealer only at a price which will enable him to make a reasonable margin of profit within the maximum retail price; the wholesale dealer will only buy from a mill at a price which will enable him to sell at a profit to the retailer; the mill will only buy cotton at a price that will enable it to show a reasonable margin of profit on the price realised from the wholesale dealer. With the complementary control of prices of yarn it will be necessary to regulate also the maximum selling prices for handloom products. Supplies of yarn at special low rates can only be procured if there is some assurance that handloom weavers will charge prices for their products which bear a reasonable relation to prices at which yarn is supplied to them. This is a question which is to be considered at an early date.

It is clearly important to ensure that the prices of raw cotton should not fluctuate violently. The indirect check imposed by the fixation of ceiling prices of cloth and yarn may perhaps not be decisive in itself; but it has already been supplemented by measures which have recently been introduced to control cotton trading in organised markets. In a communique recently issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies those concerned were warned against making their purchases of cotton on a basis exceeding the "Jarilla" contract price of Rs. 550. In order to ensure that the cultivator is treated fairly, Government will be prepared to buy up cotton on their own account if prices fall below a level which they consider to be fair. Similarly, Government, having warned the millowners against making purchases at prices which do not correspond to the Jarilla contract price of Rs. 550 and being determined to maintain prices of cloth required within the ceilings to be fixed, consider itself bound to ensure that millowners receive their requirements of cotton; and in order to secure this, it will be prepared, if necessary, to requisition cotton by whomsoever held at the maximum basic price of Rs. 550.

Textile Exports.- The proposed control, Mr. Hydari explained, will also help India to export appreciable quantities of cotton cloth of guaranteed qualities and at reasonable prices to her neighbours. There is at the present moment a great shortage of cotton piecegoods in most countries East and South of Suez. To the middlemen concerned with the export trade this is a golden opportunity, but while to him it is only a question of high profits, to the Indian cotton industry these operations are earning an unenviable reputation. This is the more unfortunate inasmuch as these markets continue to receive from the United Kingdom cloth of superior quality, although in small quantities at very much lower prices. From a long range point of view the problem connected with the retention, if not the extension, of the export market is of considerable importance to the Indian textile industry; and it is the Government's hope that the control

organisation

will take up this question at an early stage of its activities. The

Control Organisation.- The essentials of the scheme of control are:-  
 (1) Regulation and rationalisation of production and (2) Fixation of maximum ceiling prices for cloth and yarns. As a corollary to these, it is proposed to impose control over the prices and distribution of fuel and mill stores and also over cotton. The control organisation proposed will be under two officers styled the Textile Commissioner and the Additional Textile Commissioner. The Textile Commissioner and his colleagues will be assisted by an Advisory Board having on it representatives of the industry, of labour, of the East India Cotton Association, of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, of merchants, handloom interests and transport, up to a total not exceeding 20. The Textile Commissioner will act in consultation with this Advisory Board and in case of disagreement will refer the point at issue to the Government of India, in the Industries and Civil Supplies Department for decision. The Advisory Board will constitute from among its members committees of the Board to deal with specific matters, such as rationalisation and price control; Cloth and yarn movements, mill stores; fixation of prices and specification of standard cloth; for the supply of cloth yarn and sewing threads required to meet military demands; and to deal with the case of fine yarn mills.

Some Problems arising out of Control.- Mr. Hydari also referred to some of the problems arising from control. At present some of the mills are already working three shifts of 7½ hours and 7 days a week, some double shift for six days, and some less than a full double shift. It is desirable that as many mills as can possibly manage to do so should be organised to work three shifts of 7½ hours, 7 days a week, less, say, 25 mill holidays in a year. It will be necessary to examine very carefully the resources of each mill, so that the maximum capacity of each mill is utilised to the best advantage. It is realised, of course, that multiple shift working involves a heavy strain on machinery, and consideration will have to be given to the problem of making satisfactory provision in respect of depreciation rates to cover the greater wear and tear, and so to make possible rehabilitation after the war.

To increase the output of the industry from its available resources it will be necessary to introduce some degree of limitation of types of cloth which may be made. For this purpose it will be necessary to draw up ~~xxxxxx~~ schedules of counts which may be spun, from which each mill may select a limited number, and a schedule of cloths with maximum and minimum reed and pick, based on the yarn schedule, which mills will be permitted to weave.

Prevention of Hoarding.- Finally, steps are to be taken to ensure that cloth and yarn which are placed on the market keep moving and that no one whether manufacturer or merchant, is able to keep stocks beyond a reasonable limit for longer than a fixed period of time. As a check of this it is proposed to adopt another suggestion emanating from the industry that the date of manufacture be stamped on each piece of cloth. It follows that these steps will be supplemented by measures designed to bring on the retail market all existing stocks wherever held both of cloth and yarn immediately.

Reactions of Textile Industry to Government Scheme.- The reaction of the cotton mill industry to the Central Government's scheme is not, on the whole, favourable. It is inclined to think that the laudable objects will not be achieved by the scheme owing to practical difficulties. It is, for instance, pointed out that the mills cannot run three shifts owing to shortage of skilled labour, while practical difficulties connected with the supply of raw cotton and mill stores at controlled prices will interfere

with the normal output and encourage the growth of black markets all over the country. The general impression is that the Government of India intend to undertake great responsibility especially at a time when it has not been found possible to take full delivery of even the meagre quantity of standard cloth manufactured by the mills. The industry is also perplexed over Government's intention to regulate the prices of cloth meant for the overseas markets.

The Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, discussed the scheme on 1-6-1943 and decided to put forward its point of view before Mr. Hydari on the following day. The meeting was followed by a conference of representatives of the industry from all over India, including the States. At the end of the meeting the following statement was issued:-

"As early as September 1941, the industry advocated to the Government of India a ban on exports which were rising at a feverish speed in order that large quantities might be available for home consumption. Since then, in spite of several reminders and continued advocacy of a substantial reduction in exports, the Government of India not only failed to take any action but permitted still larger exports to the extent of 1,000 million yards compared with 100 million yards, pre-war excluding Burma.

"As early as October 1941, it was the unanimous view of the industry that then was the time to serve the public from whom they earned their living and whom they expected to serve in the future, with the object of bringing about a reduction in the prices of cloth. With that end in view, a scheme was submitted to the Government of India in December 1941, for standard cloth at cheap prices and Government were urged to take active measures in order that the prices may remain within control, but no action was taken by Government. When prices began to rise in June, 1942, a representative of the industry wrote to the Government of India pressing them to take action, but without avail. If prices have risen, the blame cannot now be laid at the door of the millowners of India; the fault lies rather on the large quantity of 1,000 million yards permitted to be exported in the year 1942, which, together with the large requirements of the Defence Services, left only 1,800 million yards for consumption in India. Fortunately, the position has changed in 1943. Production is expected to reach £ 4,800 million yards, and making allowances for the requirements of the Defence Services and exports, it is anticipated that 3,600 million yards will be left for local consumption, which is practically double the quantity that was available in 1942.

"The millowners of India are not only anxious to see prices reduced but they have constructive proposals, which, if adopted, by the Government of India, would result in substantial reductions both of cloth and yarn prices. Accordingly, it will be easily understood by the public that the millowners do not and never wanted to be in the position of tax gatherers for the Government of India because four-fifths of the assessable profits have to be surrendered to Government".

Decisions of Standard Cloth Panel.- The informal discussions that took place on 3-6-1943 between the representatives of the industry and Mr. M.S.A. Hydari, did not, it is gathered, prove helpful in finding a practical solution to the working of the scheme the Central Government have in mind. The view is being widely held that the scheme will be brought into effect by Government whether the industry likes it or not. It is understood that the Government spokesman did not commit Government during the discussion to anything that would alter the scheme materially. The only point on which the industry agreed with Government was that immediate orders should be issued to penalise the hoarding of stocks of cotton goods either by



manufacturers or traders, both in British India and the India. The spokesmen of the industry were unanimous in their opposition scheme sponsored by the Government of India.

A tangible decision of the meeting of the panel was to accelerate immediately the pace of production of standard cloth. Cotton mills will be shortly asked to deliver 1,000 million yards of cloth within a period of six months ending January 31, 1944, or the Indian textile industry will have to place about 40 per cent of its capacity at the disposal of the Standard Cloth Panel.

(The Times of India, 2, 2 and 4-6-1943).

Government's "Grow More Food" Campaign:  
Sir Jogendra Singh Reviews Progress.

The progress achieved by the Government of India's 'Grow More Food' campaign during 1942 and 1943 was reviewed by Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, at a press conference at New Delhi on 7-5-1943.

1942 Results Satisfactory: Nearly 4 Million Tons of Food grains Produced.- About the results of the campaign in 1942, he said that it was on the whole satisfactory. There was, compared to 1941-42, an increase in the kharif acreage by over 8.1 million and wheat acreage by 1.8 million. The additional food ~~required~~ produced was on a modest estimate 2.875 million tons of kharif crops and 1.04 million tons of wheat. Excepting for the shortage of rice, the statistical position of food grains was satisfactory.

Arrangements for 1943: Two specialists appointed.- Referring to the steps taken in 1943, he said that in the current year, Government is endeavouring to plan production on the basis of the requirements of the country as a whole, estimated by the Food Department. On that basis production targets have been fixed in respect of kharif crops and similar targets will be fixed for rabi crops in due course. Further, it has appointed a Director of Agricultural Production (Food), whose main function is to help the provinces and States to prepare and carry out schemes for all-out production of food crops in their respective areas and to assist them and the Central Government with technical advice. He has completed his first tour of the majority of the provinces and is now touring the Indian States, as a result of which greater attention is being given to the food production drive and many sound schemes are being taken up. The Government is obtaining the services of an irrigation expert, Sir William Stampe, a retired Chief Engineer of the United Provinces, as Irrigation Adviser to examine possibilities of increasing food production by undertaking minor works of irrigation and to advise the provinces in planning such works. He is expected to arrive very soon.

Measures to help cultivators.- "Agriculture", he said, "does not permit of any innovations; so our efforts in achieving or exceeding the targets fixed have to be on traditional lines, such as bringing new lands under cultivation, introducing double-cropping in areas already under the plough, supplying improved seeds and manure at concession rates, constructing and repairing minor irrigation works, raising embankments to conserve moisture, deepening tanks which have silted up and sinking new wells wherever possible." To enable the provinces to carry out such measures, Government has offered them financial assistance and for grants alone, apart from loans, a sum of Rs. 5 million has been provided in the budget. The effort which is being made throughout India to increase production should not, he said, be judged by the assistance which is being given by the Central Government; the provinces are expected to finance all necessary measures themselves."

Cotton Lands brought under food crops.- "Of the increase in acreage under food crops, over 4.7 million acres came by transfer from short-staple cotton. It is essential in the interest of the 'Grow More Food' campaign that this increase should be maintained. Government has, therefore, asked the provinces and States to take such measures as local conditions permit to ensure that the area under short-staple cotton does not exceed that of the last season. Arrangements are made to give grants from the Cotton Fund to enable the

provinces and States to carry out any measures considered by them necessary to achieve the purpose.

Government to make purchases of crops to Prevent slump.- Sir Jogendra Singh referred to the assurance given by the Government of India in 1942 that, if necessary, it would step into the market and purchase foodgrains to prevent a slump in prices. The position has been re-examined by the Government this year, and after a careful consideration of all the issues involved, the assurance has been reiterated. Government trusts that this assurance coupled with other steps which are being taken will safeguard the cultivators' interest by securing for them a reasonable return for their labour.

Central Economic Policy Essential.- In ~~summary~~ conclusion, he pointed out how the food situation has brought the need of central direction in all-India matters to the fore. "India needs a central economic policy and power to enforce common action for common affairs and to prevent provincial competition, leading to economic warfare."

(The Statesman, 9-5-1943, and the Hindustan Times, 10-5-1943.)

Unrestricted Movement of Food Grains in Eastern Provinces:  
Control on Inter-provincial Trade Lifted.

A press communique dated 17-5-1943 issued by the Government of India points out that as the rice situation in North-east India shows little improvement, despite a sufficiency of domestic supplies, the Central Government has decided to remove all restrictions on the free trading of all food-grains and their products in Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and the Eastern States, except in respect of two minor areas. From 18-5-1943, traders will be free to move and to sell stocks throughout the area and no barriers to free trading will exist. Local administrations are taking parallel action to force stocks into consumption under the Food Grains Control Order.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 19-5-1943.)

Rationing introduced in Bombay City on 2-5-1943

References were made in our April 1943 and earlier reports (See Section "Social Policy in War Time"- Food Policy) to the decision of the Bombay Government to introduce rationing in Bombay City. The scheme as regards food grains such as rice, wheat, hajri and jowar was introduced on 2-5-1943. The total number of Government grain shops in the city is 171, while the number of private establishments authorised to sell the cereals is over 600. About 1,800,000 citizens are affected by the rationing scheme and approximately 514,000 families have received ration cards.

Visitors to Bombay will need no ration cards if they are staying in hotels which have been given supplies on the basis of the average number of customers and can, therefore, arrange to give meals to such persons. Visitors who, however, wish to stay in the city for more than a week have to apply to the rationing officer of the ward in which they intend to reside and they will be given, after due enquiry, temporary ration cards. Every holder of a ration card or member of his household must inform the Rationing Officer of the intended departure of any person included in the rationing card. This intimation need not, however, be given in respect of persons who will be away from Bombay for a period less than a week.

Rationing will also, it is understood, be introduced in most of the urban areas in Bombay province.

(The Times of India and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4-5-1943.)

Food Situation in Bengal:  
Civil Supplies Minister Explains Government Programme.

The outlines of a scheme to tackle the food problems of Bengal Province proposed by the Government of Bengal were explained by Mr. H.S. Surhawardy, Minister of Civil Supplies, at a meeting of prominent members of the Bengal Legislature at Calcutta on 17-5-1943.

The main principle of the programme outlined by Mr. Surhawardy consisted of (1) utilising the resources of the province to the fullest possible extent; (2) liquifying hoarded stock and stopping black-marketing and profiteering in food stocks and essential commodities; (3) ruthless confiscation of stocks in the hands of those who have been defying the law and evading the Food Grains Control Order, (4) equitable distribution of de-hoarded stock among rural and urban areas on some definite plan and (5) getting rid of the panic-complex with the help of and active cooperation of all parties.

It was announced at the conference that the Government of India had realised the seriousness of the situation in Bengal and agreed with immediate effect to withdraw the ban on interprovincial movement of food-grains in the eastern zone including Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Orissa, and some of the eastern States.

It was expected that as a result of this action of the Government of India large supplies from adjoining provinces would pour in and bring immediate relief to this province in respect of both supplies and prices.

Mr. Surhawardy also indicated that the Government intended to organise food supply units, each composed of one or two Union Boards in the rural areas and the wards in Municipal areas, each unit being in charge of one official who would be assisted by a number of villagers or towns-people.

These local food committees are to obtain an inventory of the average stock within the area and arrange their equitable distribution, and where the local stock is insufficient, supply from outside will be arranged on their requisition based on the requirements of each house-holder on a standard basis of consumption.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 19-5-43)

The Bengal Residential and Catering Establishments,  
Food and Fuel Enquiries Order, 1943.

The Government of Bengal has, under the Defence of India Rules, promulgated on 12-5-1943, the Bengal Residential and Catering Establishments Food and Fuel Enquiries Order, 1943, with a view to ascertaining the food and fuel requirements of residential and catering establishments. Under the Order, a residential establishment is one which provides residential accommodation and cooked food to boarders and includes such institutions as boarding houses, boarding schools, residential hostels, hospitals, orphanages and asylums, etc. Catering establishments is one which supplies cooked food to persons not residing therein and includes restaurants, eating houses and canteens as well as organisations for charitable distribution of food.

The Order requires proprietors and managers of residential and catering establishments to submit returns to the Food Executive Officer of each area within 15 days of the Order. The return should state the number of boarders in the residential establishments on the date of return and during the previous three months, the number of outsiders to whom cooked food was supplied by ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ catering establishments during each of the previous three months, and estimated weekly requirements of rice, flour, atta, bread, sugar, salt, pulses, mustard oil, coke and kerosene.

The Order comes into force in Calcutta and the industrial areas at once.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 14-5-1943)

Problems of Transport:  
The U.P. Industrialists' deputation to War Transport  
Member.

A deputation consisting of certain prominent members of the U.P. Chamber of Commerce met Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, Government of India, early in May 1943 to discuss the acute nature of problems of transport facing the country. The deputation emphasized the need for paying as much attention to the interests of industry in this respect, as to defence. Where industry was worst hit was in the absence of adequate arrangements for the movement of coal and cotton to the factories in Cawnpore. It was pointed out that the shortage is likely to impair the war effort to the extent mills and factories are precluded from giving their full quota of supplies. Supply of food grains in industrial cities also demanded urgent attention so as to accelerate the war effort and keep up morale.

Co-ordination of rail and road transport.- The deputation was of opinion that ~~rail and road transport should be~~ complementary to each other, and that as both railways and roads are national assets, they should both be developed equally in the nation's interest. What is needed is a very large number of feeder roads for this vast sub-continent leading to the main roads and to the railways, so that when peace comes military drives may be absorbed in road traffic. The Central Government should come forward with money to help the Provincial Governments for the construction of roads, which would be quite inadequate for the needs of the country, at the end of the war. But it is necessary that a start should be made for such post-war planning of road construction. Plans should be ready in hand from now, without of course, impairing the war efforts.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-5-1943.)

Country Craft Traffic on East Coast:  
Recommendations of Advisory Committee accepted by  
Madras Government.

According to a press note issued by the Government of Madras towards the middle of May, 1943, the Committee appointed recently by the Government to advise it on the steps to be taken to develop country craft traffic on the East Coast made the following recommendations: (a) The Presidency Port Officer, Madras, for the time being be vested with central control, and that he should be assisted by the local Port officers at the outposts and the traffic manager, Madras Port Trust, at Madras, acting as intelligence officers. The functions of the Intelligence Officers will be: to expedite the movement of craft from one port to another; to furnish information regarding movements of craft from the port with particulars of cargo shipped and date of sailing, etc., to the Port officer at destination and to the central control, to make available in his office similar reports received from other ports for perusal by registered boat-owners and merchants and to maintain a list of boat-owners and merchants engaged in country craft traffic, (b) A small Foreign Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives of boat-owners and merchants be formed at each port to prepare a schedule of suitable rates of freight for the various commodities shipped from the Port. (c) Restriction on the movements of grains by sea be removed. (d) The Railway Administrations of the South Indian Railway and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway be addressed if they are willing to co-operate and help the country craft traffic to the extent of withdrawing any special rates that might tend to keep the

traffic on the railway, (e) As building of new craft is not possible owing to the scarcity of the necessary materials and the difficulty in obtaining them, individual cases, requiring assistance for building new craft or repairing old ones, be considered by Government on the merits of each case as and when they arise. (f) For the purpose of insurance, an association of boatowners be formed at each port with the Port Officer as chairman so that the Marine Insurance Companies may accept risks in respect of country craft traffic and cargo carried therein. ~~xxxxxx~~

The Government has accepted all the recommendations made by the Committee except one regarding the removal of restrictions for the movements of grains by sea: it has, however, decided to issue permits for the transport of rice, etc., by sea. The port officers are being instructed to keep the grain purchase officers in their neighbourhood informed regarding boats available for taking cargo from time to time so that the grain purchasing officers may arrange to issue permits for transport by sea (combined, if necessary, with rail).

(The Hindu, 15-5-1943.)

List of the more important publications received in this Office during May 1943.

Conditions of Work.-

- (1) Statistics of Factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934 (XV of 1934) for the year ending December 31, 1940, together with a Note on the working of the Factories Act during the year. Published by Order of the Government of India. Printed by the Manager, of Government of India Press, Simla, 1940.

Education.-

- (1) Report on the Progress of Education in Bihar for the year 1939-40. Statistical Tables and Appendices. By the Director of Public Instruction, Bihar: Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1943.

Social Policy in War Time.-

- (1) New India Planning Series, Pamphlet: R 1. Freedom from Want. Is Industrialisation Desirable. New India Planning Groups.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Report on the Maritime Trade of Orissa for the year 1941-42. Superintendent, Orissa Government Press, Cuttack. 1942. Price Rs. 1-0-6