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Report for June 1943

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

C 6/2/38

Government of India.

Labour Legislation Programme before July 1943
Session of the Central Assembly. ✓

It is understood that at the forthcoming July session of the Central Assembly, five new labour Bills will be introduced by the Labour Member, Government of India. Of these three seek to amend the Payment of Wages Act, the Trade Disputes Act and the Factories Act respectively. There are two new Bills, one relating to holidays with pay and the other to recognition of trade unions.

~~I. Trade Disputes.~~
Professor D. T. Jack, Labour Adviser to the Government of India, is reported to have made the following recommendations:-

Trade Disputes to be Central Subject.- At the appropriate time consideration should be given to the desirability of transferring legislation of this type from the concurrent to the federal list and to the desirability of transferring all appropriate executive authority from the Provincial Governments to the Central Government. Meantime, under the existing constitutional framework, new trade dispute legislation should require employers to inform Labour Commissioners of the existence of (a) disputes with their workpeople, and (b) stoppages of work consequent upon such disputes. A revised definition of the term "workpeople" is suggested. Political strikes should have no protection in law. Sections 16-18 of the existing Act should be retained.

Restraint on Stoppages of Work.- Stoppages of work in certain specified industries being industries which vitally affect the life of the community, should be made illegal, but effective measures, including a reference, where necessary, to compulsory arbitration, should be provided for dealing with disputes in these industries. The provisions of Chapter V of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, should, as far as possible, be copied. Stoppages of work should be made illegal where they occur without due notice of the dispute being given to the other party and without due time, to be specified, for the consideration of the claims made. Stoppages of work which take place during the course of statutory conciliation or arbitration proceedings should also be illegal.

Conciliation Machinery.- The appointment of Government Labour Officers, as in Bombay, to cater for the needs of unorganised workpeople should be authorised. Provision should be made to protect workpeople against victimisation for participation in any legal dispute or stoppage of work. Where, in any industry, machinery exists for dealing with a matter which is in dispute, the Labour Commissioner's function should be to refer the matter to the appropriate machinery. Where no such machinery exists, the Labour Commissioner should initiate conciliation proceedings. In cases where it is deemed desirable, an independent Board of Conciliation may be substituted for the conciliation proceedings initiated by the Labour Commissioner. In certain cases, provision should be made for compulsory arbitration. In other cases where the method of conciliation fails, resort to voluntary arbitration should be encouraged. Conciliators should not act as arbitrators except at the joint request of the parties, freely exercised.

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Industrial Courts - Provision should be made for the constitution of industrial Courts - including one for disputes affecting Central Government undertakings, these Courts to act as Courts of Arbitration and of Enquiry. Industrial Courts should be assisted by assessors, two of whom should represent employers and workpeople respectively, but not employers and workpeople directly connected with the case under consideration by the Courts, and - under certain conditions - one being the person who acted as conciliator during the earlier consideration of the dispute. Power should also be taken to appoint single arbitrators or ad hoc boards of arbitration or enquiring for cases where the use of an Industrial Court would be less satisfactory.

Recognition of Unions. - Questions of trade union recognition should be dealt with in the light of experience of the Bombay Labour Officer as regards the working of Chapter II of the Act of 1938.

Provisions of Amendment Bill. - The main features of the Amendment Bill are as follows:-

The provisions of section 15 of the Act which now apply only to public utility services will henceforth be made applicable generally. Not only participation in a strike (as now under Section 15(1)) but organisation of a strike is made punishable in certain circumstances. If the appropriate Government appoints a Board of Conciliation or Court of Inquiry during the period of 14 days' notice, the organisation of or participation in a strike within two months from such appointment is made punishable. Employers will be required to in case of industrial disputes to give the appropriate Government or an authority appointed by Government information regarding conditions of labour in their concerns. Employers will be required to observe for a certain period, terms and conditions of employment as may be determined by the appropriate Government or an authority appointed by them in this behalf. The responsibility of the Central Government is specified in more detail and the existing provisions under sections 3, 18A, 19 and 17(2) are brought into line with the new provisions.

II. Holidays with Pay. - The main features of the Holidays with Pay Bill are:-

The provisions extend only to non-seasonal factories. The minimum number of paid holidays is 7 and they must run in one block. The holidays cannot be accumulated. The qualifying service is one year. Half the wages due for the holiday period are required to be paid at its commencement. Workers are prohibited from undertaking remunerative work during the holidays. "Compensatory" holidays are provided for workers deprived of the weekly holidays as a result of exemption of a factory from the provisions of section 35 of the Factories Act. No provision has been made for the continuance or otherwise of local and other customary holidays at present given by individual employers; the matter has been left for mutual adjustment between the employers and the employees.

III. Amendment of Payment of Wages Act. - The amendment to the Payment of Wages Act was the subject of discussion by the Third Labour Ministers' Conference. It was then agreed that if the Act did not already cover clerical workers and other staff they should be expressly brought under the Act. Commercial Travellers and casual labour would not, however, be subject to the Act. It was agreed that "employer" should be defined on the lines of "occupier" under the Factories Act.

It was also agreed that the revised definition of "Wages" should be so framed as to refer only to earned wages which would include the bonuses dependent solely on the worker himself such as regular attendance, etc. It will also include piece-work wages, dear food allowance, sums earned by overtime and increased production. The point that wages should not include dearness allowances proper, but such allowances should be payable within the same periods as ordinary wages should be included in the revised definition. Liability for payment of wages should be put ~~am~~ concurrently on the manager and the employer.

The bill should cover contract and sub-contract labour (other than on Railways which was already governed by the existing Act). Although immediate payment may continue to be made by the contractor, the ultimate liability for the payment of wages should be placed on the employer subject to his right to get indemnified by the contractor as on the lines of the provision in the Workmen's Compensation Act. Substitute labour should be paid by the management. The period within which payment is to be made should be uniform and as 7 days might be too short in some cases it must therefore be 10 days.

A specific provision for the establishment of a fines fund should be included, instead of such an establishment being recognised only by implication. Undue accumulation of fines should be prevented and interest on investment of the fund should be required to be credited in the fund itself.

(Issues of "Capital", Calcutta, dated
1 and 8-7-1943). ✓ +

Ajmer-Merwara

The Draft Weekly Holidays (Ajmer-Merwara) Rules, 1942. ✓

The Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, has, in exercise of the powers conferred by Sec. 10 (1) of the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, gazetted on 2-6-1943 the draft Weekly Holidays (Ajmer-Merwara) Rules, 1942, for the information of the public and for eliciting suggestions and objections. The draft is to be taken up for consideration by 19-7-1943.

(Notification No. A/17-1, dated 2-6-1943,
The Gazette of India Part II-A dated
12-6-1943, pp. 184-185.) +

Assam

The Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940. Passed by Legislative Council on 27-3-1943.

Reference was made at page 2 of our March, 1941, report to the passing of the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940, by the Provincial Legislative Assembly on 27-3-1941.

The Bill was passed by the Assam Legislative Council on 13-3-1943.

(Official Report of the Debates of 12 and
13-3-1943: Assam Legislative Council
Debates, Vol. VII, No. 2, p. 191.) +

BengalThe Bengal Factories (Exemption) Rules, 1943.

The Government of Bengal has, in exercise of powers conferred by Sec. 43 of the Factories Act, 1934, promulgated on 29-5-1943, the Bengal Factories (Exemption) Rules, 1943. The rules relate mostly to certain exemptions of ~~the~~ adult male workers from the hours of work provisions of the Factories Act, 1934 (sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40) in rice mills, tea factories, sugar factories, mustard oil mills, tanneries and flour mills.

(The Calcutta Gazette dated 24-6-1943, pages 1117-1120.)

BengalCalcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act I of 1943).

Reference was made at pages 2 to 3 of our August 1941 report to the Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1941, which aims to improve conditions in seamen's lodging houses in Calcutta by controlling ^{also} lodging houses where food is not supplied to inmates, ~~also~~. The Bill was passed by the Bengal Council on 2-9-1941.

The Bill, as passed by the Legislature, ^{has} received the assent of the Governor and is published at page 3 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette dated 15-4-1943.

North-West Frontier ProvinceWeekly Holidays for Trade Employees:
N.-W.F.P. to Introduce Bill.

It is understood that the Government of the North-West Frontier Province has agreed to enforce a weekly holiday for all trade employees in all cities and cantonments in the province. A Bill to this effect on the lines of the Punjab Trade Employees Act will be introduced in the Assembly session to be held by the end of July, 1943.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 16-6-1943.)

Orissa.-Orissa Draft Rules Re. Persons holding Positions of Supervision and Management and Confidential Posts.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Sec. 43 of the Factories Act, 1934, the Government of Orissa has on 9-6-1943 gazetted the draft rules in supersession of the existing rules regarding persons holding positions of supervision and management and those employed in confidential posts. The draft will be taken up for consideration after 14-9-1943.

(The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated 18-6-1943, pp. 176-179.)

PunjabThe Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill, 1942:
Introduced and referred to Select Committee on 26-3-1943.

Reference was made at page 2 of our December, 1942, report to the draft Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill, 1942, gazetted by the Government of the Punjab. The Bill was introduced in the provincial

Legislative Assembly by the Finance Minister on 26-3-1943, and referred to a Select Committee on the same date.

(Official Report of the Debates in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, Vol. XXI, No. 12, dated 26-3-1943.)

The Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill, 1942:
Introduced and Referred to Select Committee on 26-3-1943.

Reference was made at page 2 of our December, 1942, report to the draft Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill, 1942, gazetted by the Punjab Government. The Bill was introduced in the provincial Legislative Assembly by the Finance Minister on 26-3-1943, and referred to a Select Committee on the same date.

(Official Report of the Debates in Punjab Legislative Assembly, Vol. XXI, No. 12 dated 26-3-1943.)

Mysore State

The Mysore Industrial Statistics Bill:
Principles Accepted by Legislative Council.

The Mysore Legislative Council, on 3-6-1943, accepted the general principles of the Industrial Statistics Bill ~~introduced~~ modelled on the Industrial Statistics Act of the Government of India. The Bill provides for a fuller compilation of industrial statistics in Mysore State, and empowers Government to frame rules for the purpose. It also provides for the collection of statistics relating to factories, welfare of labour, prices of commodities, living conditions, indebtedness, wages and earnings, provident and other funds provided for labour benefits and amenities for labour, hours of work, unemployment and industrial and labour disputes.

In the course of the consideration of the Bill, a suggestion was made to the effect that a committee consisting of representatives of labour, employers of labour and the Government statistician, ~~proposed to be appointed under the Act~~ and other interests concerned, be appointed to frame rules to work the Act.

(The Times of India, dated 5-6-1943.) ✓

CONDITIONS OF WORK

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General ✓

Labour Conditions in Ceylon: Report of Major Orde Browne on Ceylon, Mauritius and Malaya.

Indian Migration to Ceylon.- Major Orde Browne, Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State for Colonies, United Kingdom, in his report on labour conditions in Ceylon, Mauritius and Malaya which was issued on 11-6-1943, makes a reference to Indo-Ceylon relations and states: "A solution of the disagreement is much to be desired, not only for the avoidance of economic difficulties and individual hardship, but also for the elimination of a cause of serious friction among the various elements of the population of the island". Dealing with future immigration, Major Orde Browne states that the logic of utilising a labour force near at hand rather than one imported from a distance is so obvious that it would seem certain to prevail. The employment of a greater proportion of village labour would, to that degree, relieve estates of the heavy burden of maintenance of labourers and their families.

Provision for Peaceful Pickets in Ceylon.- The comment is made that ^{an} omission in trade union legislation is that no provision is made for peaceful picketing. Some such measure was most desirable in a country such as Ceylon where crowds were apt to be easily excited.

Housing in Ceylon.- Major Orde Browne considers the standard of housing in Ceylon, for a tropical country, high. The standard of accommodation for the agricultural community, he thinks, is higher than that obtaining in almost any other part of the British Colonial Empire. Urban sanitation is better than might be expected and Ceylon is, in this matter, superior to many of the towns of India, Africa and the East Indies.. Housing conditions on plantations, states the report, vary greatly, all degrees from quite good to very bad existing. The matter has been receiving increasing attention of late years and the Planters' Association had stated that its members had spent Rs. 50 millions on housing during the last five years. A general improvement has, however, been going on and the accommodation provided on many plantations is in advance of the regulation requirements. Sanitation on estates is generally good.

Medical Facilities.- The medical requirements of the Island are well provided for; and is, from the point of the manual worker, decidedly in advance of most tropical countries. In practice, inspection of medical conditions on estates was not taking place quite as often as might be desired. Examination of records at the Labour Department indicated that the period between inspections might be two years or more, while instances were found where it was as much as four.

(The Hindu, 18-6-1943.) ✓

Improvement of Road Transport:
plea by President of the Western India Automobile Association. ✓

In his address at the annual meeting at Bombay, on 21-6-1943, of the Western India ~~Automobile~~ Automobile Association, Mr. S.N.C. Patuck, President of the Association, pointed out that one of the main causes of the present widespread congestion in rail transport and resultant dislocation in communications, trade and ~~communications~~ commerce, is the policy of discrimination followed by the Government of India in favouring railways as against roads. He observed that Government has all the while been "throttling down" road transport under a variety of restrictions. "Had there been a properly organised road transport system supplementing the railways, it would have come in very handy at this time, enabling the railways to serve military needs, leaving the road transport system to look after civilian requirements. But the shortsighted policy so far pursued in encouraging the railways at the expense of the other types of transport has now led to a serious situation when the railways find it impossible to meet the enormous demands that are made on them. Nor is road transport properly developed or encouraged to enable it to carry its share of traffic." He urged that the Government of India should arrange for a number of motor vehicles to be obtained for the civilian market and consider very seriously the establishment of an automobile industry in India and offer every facility for the erection of the needed factories, etc. to industrialists who may be prepared to finance the scheme.

(The Times of India, 23-6-1943.) ✓

All India Central Coconut Board set up by Government of India ✓

The Government of India, it is understood, has decided to constitute an All-India Central Coconut Board on the lines of the Coffee Control Board, for placing the Indian coconut industry on a sound basis. The Board is to be financed by a levy of a cess of Rs. 3-2 per ton of copra, crushed in the power mills in India. The Government estimated that about 163,000 tons of copra are crushed every year in India, of which Travancore consumes 75,000 and Cochin State 27,000 tons respectively.

The Board will consist of 16 members, with one representative each of the Governments of Madras, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin, seven representing coconut growers (two representatives each nominated by the Governments of Madras and Travancore, one representative each nominated by the Governments of Mysore and Cochin and one nominated by the Government of India from a panel of names recommended by the Governments of Bombay, Bengal and Orissa) and five representatives of the milling and coir industry to be nominated respectively by the Travancore Chamber of Commerce, the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Merchants' Association, Bombay, and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and the Calicut Chamber of Commerce, Calicut.

The Cochin State Oil Millers' Association has represented that the coir industry should also be made to pay for the upkeep of the Board and that a portion of the import duty on coconut products should be given to the Board so that the burden on the crushers might be lighter.

(The Hindu, 20-6-1943.) ✓

Sugarcane Industry:
Sir T.S. Venkataraman Appointed to study Conditions. ✓

In order to make a comprehensive study of the Indian sugarcane industry and to make recommendations for its improvement, Sir T.S. Venkataraman, ex-Principal, Agricultural College, Coimbatore, has recently been appointed special officer by the Government of India. The inquiry will take stock of the research work already done in respect of sugar and find out the most profitable lines of applying ~~various~~ scientific methods in the production of sugar. In this connection, a comprehensive questionnaire has already been addressed to Provincial Governments, factory owners and others interested in the sugar industry.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 24-6-1943.) ✓

Indian Industrialists Protest against Government's Export Trade Policy: Encouraging Foreign Firms to detriment of Indian Exporters' Interests. ✓

The apprehension that the handicaps under which Indian exporters have been placed as a result of the measures introduced in the country and abroad on account of the war might result in their being eliminated from the export trade is expressed by the committees of the Bengal, Chamber, Indian, Chamber, Muslim, Chamber and Marwari Chambers of Commerce and the Marwari Association in a joint communication addressed to the Government of India, in the third week of June, 1943.

Restrictions Imposed from Outside.- The committees state that in the ~~pre-war years Indian exporters enjoyed a large share of the total export trade of India, particularly in tea, cotton textiles, mica, hemp, rice, jute and steel, but this position has changed since the start of the war. While allocation of shipping freight was previously made in Calcutta, quota allotments now come from London as a measure of centralization. The ~~firm~~ freight allocation authority in London encourage old British and American exporting firms, although such firms had previously hardly any exports from India as compared with Indian exporters. Indian exporters have also been denied the opportunities of trade on account of the activities of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation and other similar non-Indian monopolistic organisations enjoying the patronage of their Governments in regard to quotas and other facilities. Referring to the "consistent policy" followed by the Government of India in making Indian goods available to the U.K. and the U.S.A. at much lower than the prevalent market rates, it is pointed out that the Committees are strongly opposed to this policy as it aims at obliging foreign consumers at the cost of Indian workers. Another objection raised is that, while introducing measures relating to import and export control, the Government of India did not take the Indian commercial community into confidence, nor did it seriously examine the likely effects on Indian traders of the orders issued.~~

Appeal to Government.- The Committees have pointed out to the Government the fact that the present policy of making goods produced in India available to foreign consumers at ~~low~~ low prices, control of freight by the U.K. and the U.S.A. and the complicated system of licences, coupled with the concessions and privileges granted to non-Indian monopolistic concerns, have all worked in a manner extremely prejudicial to Indian producers and traders and are inimical to their future prospects of participation in foreign trade. They, therefore, appealed to the Government to revise the present policy with a view to making it less harmful to Indian interests.

(The Statesman, dated 29-6-1943.) ✓

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Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for
various Centres in India during January 1943.

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

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>December 1942</u>	<u>January 1943</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	188	203
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	149	173
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	147	147
Nagpur	August 1939	208	212
Ludhiana	1931-35	388	355
Cawnpore	August 1939	224	225
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914.	222	243
Jamshedpur	Ditto	226	248
Jharia	Ditto	248	242
Madras	Year ending June 1936	158	161
Madura	Ditto	167	170
Coimbatore	Ditto	174	178

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

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Textile Industry

Textile Trade between India and East Africa:
Agreement between East African Governments' Delegation and African
Shippers' Association, Bombay. ✓

The members of ~~the~~ East African Government's delegation and the representatives of the African Shippers' Association, Bombay, met recently in Bombay in order to come to an agreement in the matter of textile imports from India into East Africa.

Points under Discussion.- After a lengthy discussion the following emerged as the crucial points on the subject, viz., (1) What was the attitude of the various East African Governments towards the trade in Indian manufacture of cotton piecegoods between India and the East African Colonies. (2) How best to secure the export from India of cotton piecegoods to the East African colonies so as to bring about an equitable distribution of these goods into the various East African colonies at an average, reasonable price-level consistently with war conditions. (3) What was the attitude of the members of the Africa Shippers' Association, Bombay, who constitute an overwhelming majority of exporters of cotton piecegoods to East Africa towards securing the maximum outflow of piecegoods to East Africa so as to secure the achievement of as low a landed cost in East African ports as was possible under war conditions.

Attitude of East African Governments.- The President of the ~~Africa Shippers' Association~~ made it clear that, while the members of the Association were entirely at one with the members of the East African delegation on the question of securing for the East African colonies a continuous supply of cotton piecegoods at as cheap a price level as possible, they were entirely averse to any steps that may result in disturbing the normal and existing channels of trade, and that, barring such drastic action as were at one time contemplated by the East African Governments, the members of the Association were willing to render all co-operation for securing the object stated above.

The East African delegation, on the other hand, assured the representatives of the Association that there was not, and never had been, any intention on the part of the East African Governments or on the part of the European merchants of East Africa to elbow out of existence the Indian traders in the piecegoods trade between East Africa and India or to introduce any racial discrimination in trade. They said that, after having heard and seen in India the view point of the Indian merchants trading with East Africa and the conditions of trade and conditions of manufacture existing in India, they have come to the conclusion that other means might be found than the creation of a corporation or an association in East Africa to control the piecegoods trade or the bulk purchase in India of such goods. In this connection, the suggestion made by the representatives of the Association was adopted by the delegation, viz., that there should be formed in East Africa one or more panels of recognised and bona fide merchants dealing in piecegoods of the various territories. It was agreed that after these panels had worked for some time, it would be possible for the East African authorities to fix the minimum number of types and varieties of cotton piecegoods to which the imports should be confined, consistently with the availability of those qualities and types in the Indian market.

Control of Price.- In order to ensure an even trend of average landed cost of cotton piecegoods in the various East African ports,

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a suggestion was mooted, which was agreed to by the delegation, that, while continuing the issue as at present of licences to piecegoods merchants according to their past records of imports, a further stipulation may be made by the licensing authority that within a prescribed time the importer to whom the licence had been issued should notify and get registered with the licensing authority the prices on which the deals were closed in Bombay so as to enable the various Import Trade Controllers in the East African ports to check up the landed cost of the goods when they arrive in the East African ports. While the validity of licences so issued would be, as usual, for six months, the importer would be bound within the prescribed time, which would not be later than three weeks from the date of the licence, to register with the Import Trade Controller in the East African ports the confirmation received by him from his Indian agent and the prices at which the deal was closed.

The above-mentioned procedure will enable the price control authorities in the colonies to fix, from time to time, on the basis of the data available to them, the highest ceiling of wholesale or retail prices in the different territories of the colonies, thereby bringing about an effective average in the prices and the control thereof. At the same time this procedure will create an incentive on the part of the importers in Africa and their agents in India to buy in the cheapest market.

Government of India satisfied at Agreement. - The Government of India have been gratified to learn that the African Shippers' Association has been able to bring the dispute to a satisfactory conclusion. This agreement creates a wholesome precedent in that this is the first time that an agreement has been arrived at through round table discussions between a commercial representative association on the one hand and a Colonial Government delegation on the other. Thus a problem that threatened to create a rift between two Empire countries has become amenable to the spirit of reason and compromise.

(The Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, June 1943 issue.) ✓

Locational Trends in Indian Cotton Mill Industry, 1920-1940:
Article in Indian Textile Journal ✓

Attention is directed to pages 272 to 273 of the June 1943 issue of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, where is published an article under the caption: "Locational Trends in Indian Cotton Mill Industry in the period 1920-40" contributed by Mr. S. Ganapati Rao. ✓

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SOCIAL INSURANCE

Sickness Insurance Scheme:
Reply to Questionnaire by Bombay Chamber of Commerce

Reference was made at page 16 of our April 1943 report to the questionnaire circulated among industrial interests by Professor B.P. Adarkar, who has been appointed by the Government to draw up a sickness insurance scheme. (A copy of the questionnaire was sent to Kongreel with this Office's minute B.1/361/43 dated 19-4-1943.)

The Bombay Chamber of Commerce, while approving the principle of sickness insurance, made the following comments in reply to the questionnaire:-

(a) Such a scheme should be applied throughout the whole of India in order that industry established in British India should not suffer from the cost of this measure to their detriment, while competitors in Indian States were free of such a burden. It was realised that this proviso might entail postponement of the scheme for several years, but the point was considered of such importance that postponement would be justified. (b) The scheme should be arranged on a contributory basis by the State, employers and employees. (c) The question of holidays with pay was bound up so closely with that of sickness insurance that legislation on this latter subject should combine schemes for both. (d) At the outset, the scheme should be confined to that class of labour which was sufficiently stable to remain in the same employment for a number of years and sufficiently responsible to contribute towards such benefits as they might receive. (e) Inasmuch as a number of employers had already introduced ~~schemes~~ schemes which provided sickness benefits for employees, such schemes should be allowed to continue at the option of employers provided the details of their individual schemes were approved by Government.

(Excerpts from the proceedings of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during May 1943.)

"Pegging Act" Condemned:Resolutions of the South African Indian Congress on Government's Anti-Indian Measures. ✓

The 16th session of the South African Indian Congress was held at Johannesburg on 26, 27 and 29, June 1943. In his inaugural address, *Sir* Shafaat Ahmed Khan, High Commissioner for India in South Africa, pointed out ~~that~~ the various handicaps to which Indians in South Africa are subject, notwithstanding the Union Government's indebtedness to the Indian community in the economic development of the Union. He said he could find no justification for 'Pegging' Act as there would have been no appreciable encroachment by Indians ~~in~~ European areas had proper provision been made for the housing of Indians. Promises in this regard in the past 20 years were not fulfilled.

Resolutions.- Severance of Diplomatic Relations with South Africa by India Urged.- The Congress adopted a resolution demanding that the Government of India should sever diplomatic relations with the Government of the Union and recall the High Commissioner. The motion declared that the Pegging Act was a violation of the uplift clauses of the ~~the~~ Capetown Agreement.

Demand for Social and Political Rights.- By another resolution, adopted unanimously, it was decided to prepare and submit to Field Marshall Smuts a "Charter of Indian Rights" demanding recognition of Indians as citizens with parliamentary and provincial civic franchise, repeal of all legislation adversely affecting Indians, inclusion of Indians in old-age pensions and other existing social legislation, removal of all obstacles on Indian employment in industry, trade and agriculture, free primary education and admission of Indians to universities and technical colleges. In the event of these requests not being granted, steps were to be taken to enlighten opinion in India, America and Britain, on the disabilities of South African Indians, and to contact Allied leaders at the Peace Conference, after the war, to place before them the discriminatory treatment of the Indian minority in South Africa.

(The Hindu, 27, 29 and 30-6-1943.) ✓

AGRICULTURE

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The Sind Rat-Pest ^{Bill} Act, 1943 ✓

In order to completely eradicate the menace to crops from ~~rats~~ rats, the Government of Sind has drawn up a bill called the Sind Rat-Pest Act, 1943. The Act, which will come into operation on a date to be notified later, will remain in force for a period of five years thereafter, and ~~provides~~ provides for creating officials authorised to enter upon "notified areas" and adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the destruction of rats. It is also proposed to impose a tax at the rate of 3 annas per acre of cultivated land in areas in which rat-killing operations are carried out. In an explanatory statement appended to the bill, it is pointed out that rat-killing operations have all along been carried out by the Agricultural Department of the Government without any substantial help from the Zamindars of the affected areas. Government now proposes to carry out these operations on such a scale as will extirpate the pest altogether. This, it is expected, will take about five years and the duration of the Act is restricted to this period. The operations will be carried out both in waste and occupied lands. The rats breed in waste lands and cause damage to cultivation in occupied lands. The estimated cost of these operations is Rs. 125,000.

(The Sind Government Gazette, Part IV,
dated 17-6-1943, pp. 211-212). ✓

Research in Agriculture:

Review of work of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute
for the five years ended 30-6-~~1941~~ 1941. ✓

The report of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, for the five years ended 30-6-1941, recently published, reviews the progress made by the Institute; the salient features of the review are given below:-

The scientific work at the Institute has a programme of agricultural research based on the need for greater production having regard to the requirements of the consumer and a safe margin for the producer. It is also realised that the degree of economic success of the cultivator depends on the proportion in which the different branches of agriculture are blended into a harmonious whole. An example is the research in progress on the theory and practice of mixed farming; valuable results have been reported. Plant breeding has now reached a stage at which the potentialities for further development are limited by the fertility of the soil. Work on plant breeding and production of new and high yielding varieties of crops capable of resisting drought and disease was continued and maintained at a high level.

Investigations on soils, carried on by the Institute, had for their object an understanding of the comparative development and behaviour of soils under different conditions of rainfall, evaporation and temperature. An important line of work likely to be helpful in crop planning enterprise is the preparation of a soil map of India and the associated crops. Another interesting line of study is the relationship between soil and its manurial treatment and the nutritive value of the crops grown. This is vitally concerned with national nutrition and the health of a large section of subsistence farmers, who consume the food crops grown on their lands. Considerable attention was paid to the study of insects and fungi, their mode of development and of causing damage to crops, and control of locusts.

(The Times of India, 1-6-1943.) ✓

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PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS

Pay, Allowances, Leave and other Service Conditions of Bombay Primary Schools Staff; Government's Draft Notification.

(Certain amendments to the Bombay Primary Education Rules, 1924, regulating the pay, allowances, leave and other conditions of service of the administrative, supervising, teaching and clerical staff of primary schools in Bombay have been gazetted by the Government of Bombay on 1-6-1943.)

The amendments provide that the grant of leave and the fixing of leave allowances to the administrative staff not including the clerical staff, and in the absence of regulations which may with the sanction of Government be framed in this behalf by local authorities, the grant of leave and the fixing of leave allowances ~~will~~ to the clerical, teaching and supervising staff will be determined - (i) in the case of employees appointed before ~~the~~ 1-3-1937, in accordance with the leave rules in the Bombay Civil Service Rules; and (ii) in the case of employees appointed on or after 1-3-1937, in accordance with the Revised Leave Rules, 1935. Also that the grant of joining time pay, officiating pay and travelling and other allowances to the administrative staff, not including the clerical staff and in the absence of previous regulations, to the three other categories too, will be made in accordance with the rules prescribed from time to time by Government for similar classes of its employees. The conditions for retirement, extension of service, pensions and gratuities ~~also will be on the same lines as of conditions for other Government employees of a similar class.~~ Local authorities are empowered to make provision, with the approval of Government, for pensions and provident funds for the supervising, clerical, teaching and inferior staff.

The draft will be taken up for consideration after 9-8-1943.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-B
dated 3-6-1943, pp. 240-241). ✓

Punjab Working Journalists Association set up on 24-5-1943

An organisation called the Punjab Working Journalists' Association was formed at a meeting held at Lahore on 24-5-1943. Mr. F.W. Bustin, Editor, "Civil and Military Gazette", and Mr. Jung Bahadur Singh, Senior Assistant Editor of the "Tribune", Lahore, were provisionally elected President and General Secretary, respectively, and a sub-committee was set up to frame the constitution. The meeting decided to raise a fund of Rs. 100,000 to be administered by a trust for the purpose of affording relief to journalists in distress.

(The Statesman, 25-5-1943.)

Earlier on the same day, the 2nd Annual Conference of the Department of Journalism of the Punjab University was held at Lahore, Mr. Hothan Joseph, Editor, "Dawn", Delhi, presiding. In his presidential address, Mr. Joseph urged Government intervention for the economic uplift of journalists in India and for saving them from exploitation by newspaper proprietors. He pointed out that in the large majority of Indian newspaper offices, there were no fixed rules about leave facilities and that the salary scales were very poor.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 27-5-1943.) ✓

16

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Aid to Small-scale Industries:
Grants by Punjab Government. ✓

To relieve unemployment and help industrial developments, the Industries Department of the Punjab Government has set apart Rs. 20,000 for grants to trained young men to start small industries. The grants will in particular, be given for the following purposes: for purchase of tools, implements and appliances and machinery, including the cost of erection; to enable the recipient to tide over early stages of manufacture on a commercial scale; to help him to meet losses due to poor production in the beginning; as working capital in special cases; and for such other objects as may be approved by the Government.

(The Statesman dated 24-5-1943.) ✓

The North Orissa Salt (Village Manufacture and Storage) Rules, 1943. ✓

The Government of India has, on 5-6-1943, issued the North Orissa Salt (Village Manufacture and Storage) Rules, 1943, for regulating the manufacture and storage of salt in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri in North Orissa. Under the rules, no person may manufacture salt unless he ordinarily resides in an area in which these rules are for the time being in force, and unless he carries on the manufacture as a cottage industry; and no such manufacturer may sell or otherwise dispose of salt so manufactured except to a contractor appointed by the Government of Orissa.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section I,
dated 5-6-1943, pages 592-594). ✓

LIVING CONDITIONS

Housing

Housing Conditions of Ahmedabad Workers ✓

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According to the Special Correspondent of the Times of India, the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, has issued an appeal to mill operatives to join in large numbers the co-operative societies which some of the mills have been recently starting. It states that the co-operative movement is as essential for the economic uplift of the workers as the trade union movement is for safeguarding their rights and privileges in their struggles with their employers. Thirty co-operative societies have been started during the last three years, of which about half a dozen were started during 1943. These societies are chiefly supply societies, but credit societies are now being started. Five housing societies for workers were started some years ago through the efforts of Mr. Pritanrai Desai, founder of the housing societies in Ahmedabad, but their growth, along with the growth of other housing societies, has been arrested for want of comprehensive planning. Labour areas have been practically neglected and they are the worst parts of the city. The work of suburban drainage has been suspended during the war for want of materials. After the war when materials are available housing societies for workers will have to be started to improve the slums of the city.

The correspondent points out that the Municipality has been trying to demolish some of the worst types of houses by declaring them unfit for human habitation, but the people are reluctant to leave them and occupy better ones where they have to pay higher rents. In Ahmedabad a novel type of housing has developed. People hire open land and cover it with tin sheds or dig pits and live there. The Municipality has to file suits against tenants in some cases for occupying houses unfit for human habitation. Unless the sense of the people for better housing is cultivated, there is little prospect of housing societies being started or better houses for labourers being built in large numbers.

(The Times of India, dated 13-6-1943.) ✓

Wages

Coal Mining Boards to be set up: Proposal of the Government of India. ✓

The Government of India has under active consideration various problems connected with coal-mining labour. The main proposals under examination are:

(a) A Coal Mining Wages Board (or Boards) to be set up for the purpose of determining, subject to the approval of the Minister responsible, minimum wage-rates and conditions of employment.

(b) Statutory machinery to be set up for the fixation of minimum selling prices and the regulation of output.

(c) Local Welfare Officers to be appointed to further the welfare of the workers, both at their places of employment and in the areas where they live. These Labour Welfare Officers are to be subject to the direction, either of Mines Boards of Health, or of the Chief Inspector of Mines, under whom a special Welfare Board should be organised.

(d) A Coal-Mining Conciliation Officer to be appointed by the Central Government, at least for the Jharia and the Raniganj coalfields, for the purpose of dealing with disputes, actual and apprehended. This officer should have effective liaison with the Labour Welfare Officers.

~~(*)~~ Incidental recommendations concern (1) the collection of more adequate statistical data relating to wages and earnings, (2) the further examination of the proposal that the State should acquire all mineral rights where that has not already been done, (3) the further development of hospital facilities, and (4) the development of educational facilities for the children of miners.

It is anticipated that full opportunity will be provided to all interests concerned to express their views before any final decision is reached.

Capital, Calcutta, 24-6-1943. ✓

Further Increase in Dearness Allowance for Low Paid Government Servants in U.P. ✓

The revised scale of dearness allowance granted by the Government of the United Provinces to its low paid employees in January, 1943, was reported on page 29 of our January, 1943 report. A further increase in the allowance was announced in a U.P. Government communique dated 4-6-1943. The increments, which take effect from 1-5-1943, are Rs. 3 per mensem in the larger towns and Rs. 2 per mensem in other areas. The pay-limits up to which the allowance is admissible have also been raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 in larger towns and Rs. 70 to Rs. 90 in other areas. With the present increase, allowances granted are Rs. 9-8-0 and Rs. 12 for those Government employees in the larger towns drawing up to Rs. 40 and between Rs. 40 and Rs. 125 respectively, and Rs. 7 and Rs. 9-8-0 for those drawing below Rs. 40 and between Rs. 40 and Rs. 90 respectively in other areas.

(The Leader dated 7-6-1943.) ✓

Further Increase in Dearness Allowance for Government Servants in the Central Provinces. ✓

The C.P. and Berar Government has sanctioned a revised compensatory

cost of living allowance to its employees, with effect from July, 1943. (The earlier grant was made in August, 1942; vide page 21 of our August 1942 report). The new rates are: in Nagpur and Jabulpore, Rs. 6-8-0 for those drawing below Rs. 40 per month, and Rs. 9 for those drawing between Rs. 40 and Rs. 100 per month, and in other places, Rs. 5 for those drawing below Rs. 40, and Rs. 7-8-0 for those drawing between Rs. 40 and Rs. 70.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 1-6-1943.)

Special War Allowance for Textile Mill Clerks in Indore State ✓

As the result of a settlement reached between Indore millowners and the Clerks' Association, Indore State, clerks in textile mills are to be given a special war allowance, with effect from 1-4-1943, for a period of 18 months. The rates of the allowance fixed are: 30 per cent. of the pay for those drawing up to Rs. 50 per month and 20 per cent. for those drawing up to Rs. 250 per month. They will also be entitled to the same dearness allowance - based on the cost of living index number - as the workers, who are at present getting Rs. 22. per month.

(The Times of India dated 16-6-1943.) ✓

Railwaymen's Dispute with Government re. Dearness Allowance: Government's Refusal to Appoint Adjudicator: Decision of A.I.R. Committee to take Strike Ballot. ✓

The Committee of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation met at Bombay on 13 and 14-6-1943 and considered the Government of India's refusal to appoint an Adjudicator in the dispute between the Railway Board and the Railwaymen's Federation on the question of the adequacy of the dearness allowance granted, and adopted a resolution stating that the Committee felt bound to consider the question of taking a strike ballot. Before directing the unions to start work on taking the ballot, however, the Committee wished to elicit from the Railway Board the following information: (1) particulars of the listed articles of necessaries of life; (2) the number of workers who are in actual receipt of the benefit of the cheap grain shops; (3) savings in cash accruing to the workers as a result of the shops separately on different railways and the time within which the full scheme will be in operation on all railways. The Committee requested that the information should ~~may~~ be made available to the Federation as quickly as possible and not later than a fortnight. Criticising the Government of India's reply to the Federation's demand for the appointment of an Adjudicator as "ill-informed and disappointing", the resolution stated that the Labour Department seemed to have overlooked the fact that the cost of living since September 1939 had risen by 150 per cent. and that the grant of dearness allowance by the Railway Board to the railway workers was hopelessly inadequate at each successive stage. The Committee deplored that the loyal and hard work of the railwaymen during the last four years in support of the war efforts had not been appreciated. The Committee requested the President, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, and the Secretary of the Federation to call the annual Convention of the Federation at an early date to consider the situation in the light of the reply received.

(The Hindu, 15-6-1943.) ✓

Further Increase in Dearness Allowance for Lower-paid Bombay Government Employees. ✓

In view of ~~the~~ a further rise in the cost of living, the Government of Bombay has decided to liberalise its existing scheme of dearness

allowance by raising the pay limits up to which the allowance is admissible and by increasing the rates.

The pay limit for allowance has been ~~xxxxxx~~ increased for Government servants serving in Bombay from Rs. 120 to Rs. 150 a month and the allowance raised from Rs. 9 to Rs. 11 for those getting below Rs. 40 a month and from Rs. 11 to Rs. 14 for those getting between Rs. 40 and Rs. 150. The pay limit for those serving in the mofussil has been increased by Rs. 30 to Rs. 120 and the allowance has been raised to Rs. 8 for those getting below Rs. 40 and Rs. 10 for those getting more, against the present allowance of Rs. 7 and Rs. 9 respectively. Marginal allowance will be given to persons drawing more than Rs. 150 in Bombay City and Rs. 120 in the mofussil to ensure that they do not receive less than Rs. 164 and Rs. 130 a month respectively.

These orders take effect from May 1, 1943. All whole-time Government servants are eligible for the allowance and similar increases have also been ordered in the case of whole-time daily rated staff.

(For details of previous increase in the dearness allowance granted to lower-paid employees of the Government of Bombay, see page 27 of our February 1943 report.)

(The Times of India, 26-6-1943.) ✓

Further Increase in Dearness Allowance for Lower-paid Central Government Servants. ✓

In view of the further increase in the cost of living, the Government of India has, on 15-6-1943, granted another increase in the rates of dearness allowance for lower-paid employees, other than those in Railways. (The last increase was notified on 19-1-1943, and was reported on page 28 of our January 1943 report). The new rates are:-

	<u>Pay</u>	<u>Rate of Allowance per month</u>
Area A	Below Rs. 40 per mensem	Rs. 11
	From Rs. 40 up to Rs. 150 per mensem	Rs. 14
Area B	Below Rs. 40 per mensem	Rs. 8/8/-
	From Rs. 40 up to Rs. 125 per mensem	Rs. 11
Area C	Below Rs. 40 per xxxxxx mensem	Rs. 6/8/-
	From Rs. 40 up to Rs. 90 per mensem.	Rs. 9

Persons drawing more than Rs. 150 but not more than Rs. 164 in Area A; more than Rs. 125 but not more than Rs. 136 in Area B; more than Rs. 90 but not more than Rs. 99 in Area C will receive such allowance as would bring their total emoluments up to Rs. 164, Rs. 136 and Rs. 99 in the respective areas.

The modified rates have come into force from 1-6-1943.

The Government may exclude from the scope of these orders any Government servant for whom it has made arrangements for the regular supply of essential food commodities at a concessional price. In such cases allowances will be continued on the original scale.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec. I dated 19-6-1943, pp. 653-654.) ✓

Textile Industry

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Textile Control Board Inaugurated on 28-6-1943. ✓

Reference was made at pages 34 to 38 of our May 1943 report to the proposal of the Government to set up a Textile Control Board. The Board was formally inaugurated in Bombay on 28-6-1943 by Mr. M.S.A. Hydari, Secretary of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India. This Board will exercise control over the Indian cotton textile industry with the object of making cloth available to the consumer in India at reasonable prices. Details of the working of the control over the industry were discussed in all its aspects at the inaugural meeting of the Board, Mr. Krishnaraj M.D. Thackersey presiding. The Board set up eight Committees to examine the various aspects of the problem. While the Board may meet once in two months, these Committees and the sub-Committees to be formed hereafter will meet very often to tackle the problems within their respective spheres. The Committee will start working with effect from 29-6-1943 and their first conclusion will come up for discussion before the Board soon.

The Industries Committee will be the Executive Committee of the Board to deal with questions relating to fixation of prices, production, standardisation, yarn and sewing thread, among others. It consists of 15 members of the Board representing the manufacturing interests. It will appoint a standing sub-committee to deal with questions relating to war supplies and standard cloth. The Exports Committee has been assigned the work of dealing with the control of exports of cloth and yarn and raw cotton. This Committee consists of Sir Ness Wadia, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Sir Purshotandas Thakurdas, Mr. T.V. Baddeley, Mr. N.M. Joshi, Mr. Devidas Madhowji Thackersey, Mr. Hossain Imam, and two co-opted members, of whom one will be the Export Trade Controller, Bombay. Questions regarding the distribution of cloth and yarn and administration of the anti-hoarding order have been entrusted to the Distribution Committee, of which the Chairman of the Board will be the Chairman. Since the efficient distribution of cloth depends on transport, a separate Committee has been constituted for that purpose. This Committee will tackle the problem of transport of finished goods so as to ensure their steady flow to the consumer, as well as that of all materials, excepting raw cotton, required by the mills for manufacturing cloth.

Two items which bear an important influence on the cost of manufacture are mill stores and raw cotton. These will be dealt with by three Committees. ~~Out~~ Out of these three, two, namely, the Mill Stores and Priority Assistance Committee and the Cotton Movements Panel are already in existence, while the third Committee - the Cotton Committee - will be a new body placed in charge of questions relating to raw cotton, excepting its movement, and its prices. A separate Committee has been formed to deal with problems affecting the handloom weaving industry in the country.

Drive against Hoarding. - It is learnt that one of the questions brought before the Board was the anti-hoarding orders issued by certain provincial Governments prior to the constitution of the Board. Since the Board has been vested with full powers to take measures against hoarders, it is thought that the powers assumed by the Provincial Governments should be withdrawn or their orders be rescinded. It is likely that the Chairman of the Board will draw the attention of the provincial Governments to the multiplication of agencies administering the control and request them to withdraw their orders so that the Board can be the only authority exercising full control over distribution.

According to the Times of India, the control foreshadows a reduction in prices of cloth to the extent of at least 25 per cent from the rates prevailing during May and April, 1943. If the main objective of control, namely, supply of cloth at prices the masses can pay, is not achieved, the Board may proceed to institute complete control over the industry and take other measures to succeed in its mission.

(The Times of India, 30-6-1943.) ✓

Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943:
Advisory Board Formed. ✓

Reference was made at pages 34 to 38 of our May 1943 report to the new scheme for controlling prices and production of textile goods in India, which was agreed on between the Government of India and the Indian Textile industry at the meeting held at Bombay on 1 and 3-6-1943. On 17-6-1943, the Government of India issued the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943, setting forth measures to control the prices, production and sale of cotton cloth and yarn and to prevent hoarding by manufacturers and consumers. The Order gives effect to the agreement.

Textile Control Board set up. - The Order sets up a Textile Control Board consisting of 25 members with a non-official chairman to be designated by the Central Government, through the Textile Commissioner in declaring and defining classes and specifications of cloth and yarn which may be manufactured by mills; fixing maximum prices both ex-factory and retail, and prescribing the ~~marketing~~ markings which ~~manufacturers shall make~~ upon the cloth manufactured by them.

Disposal of Existing Stocks. - The Order ~~is~~ calls upon manufacturers and dealers to declare not later than August 15, 1943, stocks of cloth and yarn held by them on July 31 and requires them to dispose of such stocks before October 31. All cloth manufactured after July 31 and bearing the specially prescribed markings is to be disposed of by retail sale within six months of the date of packing by the mills. No manufacturer is allowed to hold stocks equivalent to more than three months' production of cloth and not more than two months' production of yarn. No person other than a dealer or manufacturer is at any time to have in his possession cloth or yarn in excess of his normal requirements; but no prosecution for contravention of this provision can be made without the provincial Government's previous sanction. Power is given to the Textile Commissioner to order inspection of books and entry into and search of premises and the furnishing of necessary information. Courts are given power in addition to any sentence to order the forfeiture of stocks. Indian States are being invited to issue similar orders.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 17-6-1943, pages 407 to 408.) ✓

Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Forward Contracts Prohibition) Order, 1943 ✓

On 25-6-1943 the Government of India issued the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Forward Contracts Prohibition) Order which prohibits persons from entering into forward contracts in ~~respect~~ respect of cotton cloth and yarn.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 25-6-1943, pages 417 to 418.) ✓

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Cloth Control
Criticism of Order by All India Yarn and Cloth Merchants'
Conference.

At the All India Yarn and Cloth Merchants' Conference held at Bombay on 3 and 4-7-1943 under the presidentship of Mr. Gordhandas G. Morarji, the Cotton and Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order was criticised and the Conference demanded several modifications in it. In the course of the presidential speech, Mr. Morarji dealt with the vicissitudes of the cotton textile industry in war-time and referred to the various reasons for shortage of cloth in the country in spite of increased production of mills. The chief causes of the resulting situation were the utterly inadequate internal transport facilities and the vast exports of textile goods to outside countries.

The Conference adopted a resolution welcoming the spirit and the declared intentions of the Control Order and offering the support of the interest to any "practicable and workable scheme which might be devised for the purpose of achieving that object". But the Conference viewed with great concern the recent order for the control of the cloth and yarn trade, in its present form, as some of its provisions "are impracticable and ill-conceived and have already created complications and confusions in the trade." After pointing out that it was not possible for merchants to open out all the bales of cloth and yarn in their stock, as required by clause 14 (1) of the order, as the goods could not be sold or disposed of by retail sales before the stipulated time and would get damaged and spoiled before reaching the consumers, besides involving the merchants in considerable loss, the conference requested the Government and the Control Board to consider their decision and make necessary amendments in the order, so as not to compel merchants to open out their entire stock of bales. From the previous experience of the merchants extending over years, the conference resolved that it was absolutely impracticable for all the wholesale and retail cloth and yarn merchants in the country to dispose of their entire stock within the time limit prescribed in the order. It, therefore, requested Government not to insist upon the time limit for wholesale or retail sales. If, however, Government insisted on the time limit, the conference requested that no time limit should be prescribed for the sale of stock held by dealers up to July 31, 1943. Further, the time limit prescribed should be sufficiently long so as to enable merchants to sell their remaining goods of outstanding contracts of which deliveries were to be taken. The conference also requested Government to "declare their intentions about dealing with stocks remaining in balance on stipulated dates so as to clear doubts, misunderstandings and apprehensions from the minds of merchants and restore their confidence." In view of the impracticable nature of the various clauses of the Order, it might not be possible for merchants, especially small dealers, to understand their proper implications and to comply with them. In such cases, the conference wished that the merchants should not be considered guilty of contravention of the Order and their goods should not be forfeited. The conference considered the punishment of forfeiture of goods as "too drastic". As submission of returns of various kinds of cloth and yarn by small dealers was very "inconvenient and difficult", the conference requested Government to exempt small dealers from compliance with the provision in the Order which compelled them to do so.

To deal with all questions arising out of the promulgation of the order, the conference decided to appoint a Standing Committee, consisting of about 40 members, representing yarn and cloth interests all over the country, with power to co-opt, and empowered the committee to take necessary steps to safeguard their interests. With a view to getting the difficulties of yarn and cloth merchants removed, the conference

authorised a deputation of not more than eight representatives (to be nominated by the President on particular occasions) to meet the members of the Textile Board and the Millowners' Associations and to place before them constructive suggestions so as to improve the present situation. The deputation will work until the Working Committee of the Standing Committee is formed. The conference further resolved to constitute itself into the Federation of Cloth and Yarn Merchants' Associations in India, with its constituent associations as the first constituent members. It empowered the Standing Committee to frame the constitution of the Federation and to take necessary steps to enable the Federation to start functioning.

(The Times of India, 6-7-1943.) ✓

The Madras Mill-made Standard Cloth (Control of Distribution and Sales) Order, 1943. ✓

The Government of Madras has, on 21-6-1943, promulgated under the Defence of India Rules the Madras Mill-made Standard Cloth (Control of Distribution and Sales) Order, 1943, under which no person is to sell or offer for sale any mill-made standard cloth unless he has been granted a licence under the order. It also fixes the quantity of standard cloth to which a buyer is entitled and provides that the price will vary in accordance with the rates fixed by the Central Government from time to time.

(Rules Supplement to Fort St. George Gazette dated 22-6-1943.) ✓

The Madras Handloom Standard Cloth Control Order, 1943. ✓

The Madras Government has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 24-5-1943, the Madras Handloom Standard Cloth Control Order, 1943, ~~under which the handloom standard cloth is to be manufactured in accordance with the specifications approved by the Yarn Commissioner.~~ Trade in handloom cloth may be carried on only with the permission of, and at prices fixed by, the Commissioner from time to time. For the purpose of the Order, "handloom standard cloth" means cotton piecegoods woven or processed and finished in accordance with the specifications approved by the Yarn Commissioner. Under the Order, handloom standard cloth may be woven, processed or finished only by persons authorized by the Provincial Yarn Commissioner, Madras.

(Rules Supplement to Part I, Fort St. George Gazette, dated 1-6-1943.) ✓

Plight of Bengal Handloom Weavers:
Wide Discrepancy in Prices of Yarn and Cloth. ✓

The conditions of the handloom weavers of Bengal due to the exorbitant rise in the price of yarn with no corresponding increase in the price of handloom products is described in a statement issued by Mr. B. Haralalka, Secretary, All-Bengal Weavers' Association. Comparing the current prices to the pre-war level, he pointed out that the prices of yarn have increased from 600 to 700 per cent. while the prices of handloom production have enhanced by only 200 to 250 per cent. As a result the small capital the weavers had, ~~has~~ has been completely exhausted and most of the looms are closed down. On the model of the Madras Government, the Association manufactured standard handloom cloth and distributed it to the poor people. But in Bengal, unlike as in Madras, there is no arrangement made by Government to supply yarn at controlled price.

(The National Call, dated 22-6-1943.) ✓

The Madras Essential Articles Restricted Acquisition
Order, 1943. ✓

The Government of Madras has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 14-6-1943, the Essential Articles Restricted Acquisition Order, 1943, under which no person is to acquire, except under licence, any "essential article" if by so doing the quantity thereof in his possession or under his control will exceed the normal quantity required by him. The restriction does not apply to the acquisition in the ordinary course of his business of any essential article by a person carrying on the business of a producer; dealer, manufacturer, carrier, or warehouse man. Normal quantity, as defined in the order, is such quantity as would be required for use and consumption in the household or establishment or of the animals in the custody of a person during a period of one month or such longer period as may, by notification in the Official Gazette, be declared by the Provincial Government. "Essential Articles" means rice, maize, cumbu and ragi. In Madras city the Order comes into force on 15-6-1943.

(Rules Supplement to Part I of the Fort
St. George Gazette dated 15-6-1943.) ✓

The Madras Rationing (Preparatory Measures) Order, 1943. ✓

The Government of Madras has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 14-6-1943, the Madras Rationing (Preparatory Measures) Order, 1943, under which Government may appoint Enquiry Officers for the ~~different areas in the province~~ for the purpose of collecting information and statistics relating to the rationing of essential commodities.

In Madras City, the Order comes into force on 15-6-1943.

(Rules Supplement to Part I of the Fort
St. George Gazette dated 15-6-1943.) ✓

Cheap Food Supply to Lower paid Bihar Government Servants
and Poor People. ✓

With a view to giving relief to Government employees and to the poor, the Government of Bihar has decided to open two kinds of shops, namely, (1) Departmental Shops, which will serve essential services and Government employees, and (2) Government Fair Price Shops for the benefit of the poorer classes of the community. At these shops certain essential commodities will be sold at fair prices - in particular, rice and other essential foodgrains.

It is proposed that these ^{Departmental} shops will cater for Government servants drawing Rs. 150 a month or less and their direct dependants. Government Fair Price Shops for the poor will be organised by District Magistrates and it is understood for the time being one shop in each Mohalla will be opened from where people belonging to the poor class will be entitled to receive their supplies. All other sections of the community will have to rely on the movement of goods secured by private trade through normal channels.

The Government is making large scale purchases of foodgrains and has succeeded in buying considerable stocks. In course of time, it is proposed to take over the distribution of other essential commodities in addition to foodgrains, namely, kerosene, sugar, standard cloth, washing soda, mustard oil and ghee.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated
23-6-1943.) ✓

The Governor of Bengal issued on 4-6-1943 the Bengal Foodgrains Enquiries and Control Order, which extends to the whole of Bengal and comes into force immediately. Under the order, any person, who is an adult, on a demand made by an authorised officer or a committee, shall furnish full and true information of the stocks of all foodgrains in his or her possession, together with such other information as may be required. If the stock of any foodgrains, other than seeds of paddy, in the possession of any person, exceeds the quantity of such foodgrains actually required for the use of its owner and his dependants, including servants, up to 31-12-1943, or if the stock of seeds or paddy in possession of any person exceeds the quantity of such seeds actually required for the growing of paddy on the lands of the owner during the next agricultural season, the authorised officer may, by a notice, require the owner or the person in possession of such foodgrains or seeds not to dispose in any way any amount of such excess without the permission in writing of the Regional Controller of Civil Supplies of Calcutta and the industrial areas in the case of Calcutta, or the sub-divisional magistrate elsewhere, until any further order is issued by the Controller or sub-divisional magistrate regarding the amount of such excess. The Governor of Bengal has ordered that any matter intended or likely to incite opposition to, or non-participation in, measures to be taken in Bengal to prevent, detect or deal with hoarding and hoarders of foodgrains shall, before publication, be submitted for scrutiny to the press advisers.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary,
Part I, dated 4-6-1943, pages 5512
95-96 and Times of India dated 7-6-43.) ✓

Rice Supply Depots in Madras City ✓

Owing to scarcity, rationing and other measures are being adopted in various places in the Madras Presidency to ensure equitable distribution of rice. In Madras City, 38 "fair price depots" have been opened at various centres, where boiled rice is being sold at the instance of the Government. Some of these depots are for women only. Each person is provided with a rupee's worth of rice at a time. The authorities propose to increase the number of depots to 80. To prevent 'panicky buying' and the same persons going from depot to depot, and hoarding rice, the Collector of Madras has decided to introduce a system of identification cards for buyers with provision for entries of purchases made.

(The Times of India, dated 12-6-1943.) ✓

Bengal Trade Union Congress's Resolution on Food Crisis ✓

At the annual General Meeting of the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress (attended by representatives of 81 unions with a membership of about 82,000) held at Calcutta on 13-6-1943, a resolution was adopted on the acute food situation prevailing in the country. The resolution deplored the failure of the Government of India to adopt a sound food policy to increase production to meet the food deficit, and urged upon the Government to set up a competent central machinery, with popular representatives and Government experts, with full powers to complete within a fortnight a comprehensive survey of all available food stocks and secure all necessary information in order to control food stuffs at their source. It demanded opening of controlled shops, one for every 500 persons, abolition of the

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stockists' license and issue of sale licenses only for individual requirements, and supply to all workers under all conditions of uniform quantities at uniform rates.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 23-6-1943.) ✓

The Foodgrains Movement and Control Order (Eastern Region), 1943

The Regional Commissioner, Eastern Region, has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 24-5-1943, the Food Grains Movement and Control Order, 1943, under which, as from the date of the order, no person is to export food grains from the Eastern Region (comprising the provinces of Assam, Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa) except under and in accordance with a permit issued on that behalf by the Regional Commissioner, Eastern Region.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec. 1, dated 12-6-1943, pp. 621-622.) ✓

Review of Indian Steel Production:
Better Co-ordination suggested by Anglo-American Steel Mission.

The Anglo-American Steel Mission visiting the U.S.A. and certain countries of the British Empire (Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) for studying problems connected with the production of steel, completed its tour of India towards the middle of June, 1943. The mission included Sir John Duncanson, British Controller of Iron and Steel Supplies, and Mr. Emerson, President of the American Rolling Mill Company.

At a press interview at New Delhi on 14-6-1943, Sir John and Mr. Emerson expressed the view that they were very pleased with steel production in India and were glad that their suggestions for co-ordination had been welcomed by the authorities. They said that the Mission had visited the main steel plants and was gratified at the contribution India was making to the United Nations' steel resources. Taking into account all factors, they thought that Indian production could stand comparison with production in other parts of the world. Fundamentally, India was working on the right principles and what was needed was co-ordination. They added: "We wish to see each of the United Nations help itself as much as it can with its own production as part of the whole scheme. We have suggested schemes for that, which, we hope, will develop." They, however, stressed the need for closer ~~mutual~~ co-ordination of the industry.

On the completion of the tour the Mission will submit a report to their respective Governments.

(The Statesman, dated 16-6-1943.)

Scheme for Expansion of India's Machine Tool Industry.

The Supply Department's plans for establishing a first line machine tool industry in India have advanced another step forward by the arrival of two senior technical experts from Great Britain. They are Mr. S. Oldfield, who first came out to India as a Technical Adviser to the Roger Mission and who, prior to his departure for India, was connected with the Machine Tool Control in the U.K., and Mr. Trubshaw who was for many years Planning and Production Engineer and later organising machine tool manufacture for a well-known firm of British machine tool makers.

Details of Scheme.- The scheme contemplates the expansion of the machine tool production of five of the leading firms in India and the concentration of these firms on the manufacture of machines of high quality and first class accuracy. In order to assist this aim, Messrs. Oldfield and Trubshaw have been assured of the goodwill of the British Government and supply by it of drawings, fixtures and manufacturing information on the main types of machines. The buildings and extensions to workshops needed are almost complete and will be ready by the time the bulk of the plant arrives. Parts of the new plant are now arriving in a continuous flow and it is estimated that the major portion will be received and installed by August, 1943. The scheme envisages a production of 100 to 125 high class machine tools per month from the five firms alone. The target for the whole of India is 500 machines per month, which will be made up of first, second and third grade tools. India's present production - a war industry - is some 275 machines a month. The increased production will be obtained by rationalisation of both manufacturing firms and the types and numbers of types manufactured by each firm. This rationalisation, based on surveys of the industry made by the Technical Advisers and officers of the Machine Tool Control, will be more or less on lines similar to the rationalisation carried out in the U.K. and U.S.A.

Three objects of the scheme are:- (1) to increase India's contribution towards the war effort; (2) to reduce the necessity of importation and thus save valuable shipping space; and (3) to establish on a firm foundation, a machine tool industry for peace-time India.

("Indian Information", 1-6-1943.) ✓

Employment

Reservation of Civilian Posts for Servicemen after War: Madras Government's Instructions re. War-time Recruitment. ✓

The Government of Madras has issued instructions for filling vacancies in public services temporarily during war by direct recruitment. After the war the services of the candidates so appointed, will, except as provided below, be terminated once for all if war service candidates are available to replace them. Candidates whose services have been so terminated will have no further claim to be reappointed in subsequent vacancies to fill which fresh recruitment will be made by the normal method. But if a ~~suffi~~ sufficient number of war service candidates are not available to fill all the reserved vacancies, then the vacancies remaining after absorbing such candidates would be filled in the following order: 1. By persons who completed their probation before 1-1-1943. 2. By persons who were appointed before 1-1-1943 but who complete their probation on or after that date, ~~and~~ 3. By persons who were appointed on or after 1-1-1943.

(The Hindu, 14-5-1943.) ✓

Measures to improve Efficiency of Technical Trainees. ✓

Higher standards of efficiency to be attained by the technical trainees, irrespective of the period of training, will be the main object of the Government of India with regard to the Technical Training Scheme during the year 1943-44. During the last two years the demand for turning out the largest number of trainees in the shortest possible time has met with considerable success, and the number of seats available at Training Centres is now sufficient to meet all foreseeable future demands. By the end of February, 1943, there were about 380 Training Centres under the Technical Training Scheme imparting training in more than 40 different trades, and capable of turning out from 60,000 to 90,000 technicians in one year. Up to February, 1943, 37,275 men had actually passed out and are now employed in the various technical branches of the Defence Services, Ordnance factories, shipyards and civil industry.

Period of Training.- Now that the initial urgent demands for trained technicians have been met, it will be possible to lay more and more emphasis on the standard of efficiency irrespective of the period of training. Although every trainee will be expected to pass out well within the maximum limit of 12 months, the standard of efficiency attained by him will be the sole criterion in testing whether he is fit to leave the Training Centre or not. As a first practical step to achieve this aim a course of basic training will be introduced for all new entrants destined for Metal Working Trades. According to the programme laid down for the year 1943-44 lecture classes will be introduced for the instructors, and improvement in the salaries and prospects of the instructional staff is contemplated. Steps are also being taken to improve the arrangements for trade testing, to issue revised syllabuses of training, containing detailed graded exercises, and to introduce a quarterly competition among Training Centres with shields and certificates of merit for the winners.

("Indian Information", New Delhi, 1-6-1943) ✓

Capitalising Sterling Pensions and Provident Funds in Britain:
Government of India's Tentative Decision.

The Government of India has been having under consideration a proposal for making advance provision for the requisite sterling remittance in London wherewith to meet future payments in respect of pensions, and provident funds for its refined employees in Great Britain. According to press reports in the last week of June, 1943, a tentative decision has been reached by the Government according to which the net capitalised value of the ~~pension~~ pensions and provident funds has been estimated to be £. 240 million to be paid in a lumpsum in place of the present system of recovering annual payments.

The arrangement will be merely financial and would amount to an investment of capital sum in return for which the Government of India, at stated intervals, will receive a stated sum of sterling with which it would be in a position to meet these sterling obligations. It is contemplated that the rights of no class of Government servants would be affected nor is it intended to transfer liability to pensioners from the Government of India.

Calcutta Indian Chamber's Protest. - The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, has addressed a telegram to the Government, expressing surprise that notwithstanding the strong opposition of the Indian commercial community to the proposal to capitalise pensions and funds, Government intends to proceed with it and allocate such a large sum for the purpose. The committee points out that there are more urgent items for which the accumulated sterling resources may be utilised to the permanent advantage of the country.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 29-6-1943. ✓)

Government of India's New Loan Programme. ✓

According to a new loan programme announced by the Government of India in a Communiqué issued ~~by the~~ on 25-6-1943, the Third Defence Loan (3 per cent, 1951-54) will be closed with effect from 1-7-1943, and two new loans, - one, a reissue of the 3 per cent. Loan, 1963-65, and the other, the Fourth Defence Loan (3 per cent., 1953-55) - will be opened with effect from 3-7-1943. The amount of the first loan is Rs. 150 millions; that of the other is to be announced later.

(The Statesman, 27-6-1943.) ✓

Post-War Reconstruction

Five-year Programme of Post-War Industrial Development:
Sir M. Visvesvaraya Outlines Scheme. ✓

The importance of having plans for the post-war industrial development of India ready at hand, and some of them already in execution when the war ends, was stressed by Sir M. Visvesvaraya, President, All-India Manufacturers Organisation, in the course of an address at a meeting of the Central Committee of the Organisation held at Bombay on 20-6-1943. (He had dealt with the same subject earlier at a meeting of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce at Bangalore, on 5-6-1943.)

Co-operation between Government and Industrialists. - Deploing the Government's industrial policy, he observed that the Government for its own reasons, had been opposing industrial expansion and, if prominent industrialists and businessmen also neglected the cause of

industries, one could expect no future for this country. Stressing the need for combined effort, he said that the All-India Manufacturers' ~~Association~~ Organisation is willing to co-operate with the Government in preparing the public mind for rapid industrial advance, but that the successful execution of a five-year plan as such even for industries cannot be attempted without the willing co-operation and support of the Government.

Reconstruction Programme.- He suggested the following measures for inclusion in any post-war reconstruction programme which may be under the consideration of the Government: A plan and programme should be drawn up and kept ready for the investment of about Rs. 10,000 million on basic industries, productive public works, and public utility undertakings in the first five years after the close of the war. Arrangements should be made to quicken production from industries and also from agriculture, with the object of doubling production from both in the course of five to seven years. Provinces and districts should be adequately equipped with banking facilities and with establishments for collecting and maintaining statistics of production, particularly under industries and manufactures. Before the commencement of each year a plan and budget should be prepared and published explaining the operations of the coming year. This should be accompanied by an approximate plan and programme for the ensuing five years. Provision should be made for adequate tariff protection and for facilities to private persons to import machinery for industries without harassing import duties. Technical and commercial education - higher, middle and lower - should be provided by a liberal allotment of State funds. Heavy industries, particularly automobile, aeroplane, locomotive, ship-building, defence machinery, machinery for the manufacture of industrial plants, tools, etc., should receive early attention, and preferential treatment.

Administrative Machinery.- To implement these proposals, he indicated that the following organisation, or other mechanism on parallel lines, would have to be set up by Government:- Industries should be constituted into a separate Department of the Government of India in charge of a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, who has had business experience. An Industrial (or Economic) Council or Development Commission, under the Chairmanship of a prominent industrialist, trusted by the people, is a fundamental necessity and should be established without delay.

The People's Role.- In his address at Bangalore, Sir Visvesvaraya emphasised the urgency for the people themselves forming an organisation to mobilise men and money to the service of industries, to stimulate self-help, initiative and business enterprise and to secure a higher and progressively rising standard of living.

Press Comments.- The Hindu, dated 25-6-1943, in the course of an editorial article commenting on Sir Visvesvaraya's speech and reviewing the condition of Indian industries in general, points out:- "Only 10 per cent. of the people of India are engaged in industrial pursuits and the efficiency of even these is poor, the average per capita working power of an Indian measured in terms of horse-power hours being 0.47 as against 6.65 of the Britisher and 13.38 of the American. In other countries, where, as in India, industrial production was lower in the pre-war years, advantage has been taken of the war to promote their industries, augment their national income and bring about a substantial rise in the standard of living." A direct result of the Government of India's unfavourable attitude towards starting heavy industries in the country, says the paper, is "that the Government have had to import at fanciful prices quantities of steel from the United States of America, motor trucks from Canada and ships and aeroplanes from Australia. What kind

of goods and how much of them ~~the~~ the Government has imported from elsewhere have not been revealed.... From such details as the Government has given, from the survey of business conditions, from the number of company flotations and from such unofficial indices of industrial production as are available, the conclusion is inescapable that there has been little improvement in industrial development. Since an increase in national income is dependent almost entirely on an increase in industrial output, it is easy to conclude that there has been little rise in national income in India with the result that prices having greatly risen, standards of living have suffered a ~~sharp~~ steep fall, national health is seriously endangered and a setback to national well-being threatened." ~~Referring to the...~~

The Hindustan Times.- Observations on similar lines were made in the course of an editorial article by the Hindustan Times dated 12-6-1943: "Before the war, various ingenious pleas used to be advanced by the Government's spokesmen in the Central Legislature to discourage proposals for locomotive construction, aircraft manufacture or other heavy industries. Time has proved the falsity of these pleas, but though the war has brought increased opportunities for establishing these very industries, the convenient excuse has now been trotted out that as they should concentrate on war work, all these schemes should be allowed to lie over until the war is over. Past neglect and the present policy of lethargy have made it impossible for the country to go forward with any large-scale industrial drive as other countries have done. If Canada has been able to double her national income during the first three years of the war by following a wise industrial policy, India can do the same, but there is no willingness yet on the part of the Government to think on these lines. As stated by Sir M. Visvesvaraya, past experience and the present attitude of the Government have certainly created a fear in the mind of the Indian public that the future of industries in this country is quite unsafe."

(The Hindu, ⁷ 23 and 25-6-1943,
The Hindustan Times, 12-6-1943.) ✓ +

Central Assembly Resolution to set up Committee to draw ^{up} schemes of Social Security for India. ✓

At the forthcoming session of the Central Assembly which commences ~~on~~ in the last week of July, Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto has given notice of a resolution recommending that a joint committee composed of 14 members of the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State, with a majority of non-officials elected by both Houses, be set up immediately to prepare a scheme for post-war social security in India on the lines of the Beveridge plan.

(The Statesman, 23-6-1943.) ✓ +

Post-War Rehabilitation of Sailors, Seamen, Soldiers, etc. in Bengal: Resolution in Bengal Legislative Council requesting Grant of Rs. 500 million from Government of India. ✓

Mr. Nur Ahmed moved in the Bengal Legislative Council on 12-3-1943 that an address be presented to the Governor of Bengal requesting him to make a strong representation to the Government of India to place at the disposal of the Government of Bengal at least a lumpsum of Rs. 500 million for improving the conditions of sailors, seamen, soldiers and other non-combatants actively participating in war efforts in Bengal and for the rehabilitation of the families compelled to evacuate their homes on military grounds.

Moving the resolution, Mr. Ahmed said: Post-war reconstruction plans are being drawn up in other countries and India also should draw up such schemes. In India, the Punjab is taking steps for post-war reconstruction. It has started two funds - "Peasants Welfare Fund" and "Development Fund". The Punjab Government has already approached the Government of India for placing Rs. 2000 million at its disposal for the rehabilitation of soldiers and other non-combatants who will be demobilized after the war. There is need for similar schemes in Bengal too. Bengal has contributed much in man-power to this war. According to some estimates, Bengal has supplied a large number of seamen, nearly 44,000 and according to others, nearly 50,000. From the district of Chittagong, every family has sent one, two and sometimes three sailors or sarangs to take part in the war services. Some have lost their lives, and some thousands are reported to have been missing. Some of them are prisoners in foreign lands. Thousands of non-combatants forming part of labour corps have been recruited from Bengal. There are other aspects also. Owing to military emergency, nearly 3.5 million of persons have been compelled to leave their homes and live in temporary accommodation. Nearly 35,000 families were removed from Chittagong alone and they are now in a very pitiable condition. The problem of rehabilitating all these ~~xxx~~ persons now and in post-war years has to be urgently taken up to minimise their hardship. Government should prepare a skeleton scheme of post-war reconstruction for the benefit of these seamen, sailors, soldiers and non-combatants who are taking an active part in the prosecution of the war and also for the rehabilitation of the persons evacuated on military grounds. The Government of India should be requested to place at the disposal of the Government of Bengal at least a ~~xx~~ lumpsum of Rs. 500 million for improving the conditions of these people.

The motion was adopted.

(Bengal Legislative Council Proceedings
of 12-3-1943.) ✓

Board of Post-War Planning and 12 Sub-Committees set up in
Hyderabad state.

The Government of Hyderabad State has recently sanctioned proposals to establish a Board of Post-War Planning, consisting of officials and non-officials, to study the problem of Post-War Reconstruction and development, embracing industries, agriculture, forests, communications, public health, technical education, finance, currency, banking, exchange and trade. Twelve committees, consisting of officials and non-officials, will be constituted to study these and allied problems. A new Secretariat, having 8 different sections, under a full-time Secretary to Government, is to be established. The organisation is estimated to cost Rs. 200,000 per year in the initial stage.

Objects of Setting up Organisation: (1) Retransference of Labour.-
If Hyderabad is to launch a programme of economic reconstruction and development soon after the war, it should utilise the time, between now and the cessation of the hostilities, to prepare its plans and be ready with its "blue-prints". The problem of diverting production and man-power, both technical and non-technical, engaged in war work, to peacetime requirements would form a part of the proposed inquiry. The question of finding productive employment for Hyderabad soldiers and officers, who have not received any technical training, will be considered along with other problems. Work will also have to be found for technically trained men. The Board of Scientific and Industrial

Research, established during the war, will have to be retained permanently on a broad and firm basis. 34

(2) Improvement of Agriculture.- The question of improving the output and quality of agricultural products and the lot of the agricultural classes is proposed to be tackled under the following main heads: (1) Development of irrigation and electric power derived from water; (2) Development of communications; (3) Scientific research relating to agriculture; (4) Development of experimental farms; (5) Establishment of agricultural schools and a college; (6) Development of cottage and rural industries based on raw materials available in different localities; (7) New policy regarding forests and better utilisation of forest resources and of forest products; (8) Improvement of cattle and facilities for medical treatment, etc.; (9) Colonisation; and (10) special measures for backward classes and aboriginals.

Constitution of the Board.- A Board of Post-War Planning is to be constituted with the President of the Nizam's Executive Council as its chairman. This Board is to have as its members the Chairman of the various Committees which are to be appointed to tackle specific questions. It is also to have as its members selected officials and non-officials. The Secretary for the Planning Department, the creation of which is suggested, is to be the Secretary of the Board. The main function of the Board is study of problems of post-war reconstruction and development, embracing industries, agriculture and forests, man-power, scientific research, government works programme, communications, public health, technical education, etc. The Board is to lay down the broad policy and is to co-ordinate the work of the Committees appointed by it.

Appointment of Committees.- The Board would appoint Committees consisting of both officials and non-officials to tackle the following: (1) Irrigation and power, (2) Engineering Industries, (3) Small-scale industries, rural and cottage industries, (4) Industries other than those covered by the two preceding committees, (5) Government works and communications other than Railways, (6) Scientific and industrial research, (7) Education (with special reference to technical education including agriculture), (8) Mineral resources, (9) Rural Development. (In view of the vastness of the problem, two Committees may have to be appointed.), (10) Man-power, (11) Public Health, (12) Finance, Currency, Banking, Exchange and Trade. The members of these Committees would be appointed by the Board from suitable officials and non-officials and the Committees may consult eminent persons from outside Hyderabad or co-opt them as members.

Setting up of Secretariat.- The burden of the spade work would, however, fall on a Secretariat which it is suggested, should have sections dealing with the following: (1) Irrigation and power; (2) Government works and communications other than railways; (3) ~~Sci~~ Scientific and industrial research; (4) Technical education including agricultural education; ~~and~~ (5) Industrial surveys and investigations: this section should be divided into two, viz., (i) Small-scale cottage and rural industries; (ii) Large-scale industries; (6) Man-power; ~~and~~ (7) Agriculture, forests and veterinary; and (8) Mineral resources.

The planning Department would rank as a Department of Government and be allocated to the portfolio of a Member of Council, who would be the Vice-President of the Board. The Member-in-Charge will collect information from various departments on behalf of the Committees and establish contacts with technical, commercial and other circles outside Hyderabad for necessary advice and guidance. In view of the importance of this work and the scale on which it is proposed to undertake it, Hyderabad would be prepared to spend large sums of money. The immediate requirements would, however, be met in the initial stage, by spending about Rs.200,000 per year.

("Hyderabad Information", June 1943),

Plea for introduction of Social Insurance Schemes by State:
Presidential Address of Mr. S.C. Roy at 13th Meeting of Indian
Insurance Institute.

A plea for introducing a scheme of state insurance along the lines indicated by Beveridge Schemes, was made by Mr. S.C. Roy in the course of his Presidential Address at the Thirteenth annual General Meeting of the Indian Insurance Institute held at Calcutta on 23-5-1943. Dealing with the Beveridge scheme, he pointed out that it "covers the risks with which a man's life is attended from cradle to the grave". Though it was this scheme which had inspired him with the hope that something similar could be done for India, Mr. Roy did not propose to undertake anything so comprehensive in view of India's meagre resources. He said that a scheme of old age pensions will be the easiest to work and the least expensive to finance. People in India are a bit too prone to turn down schemes of social services on the ground of the expenses they might incur. Mr. Roy pointed out that India in the current year was spending on her defence about Rs. 1830 million, an amount more than double her pre-war revenue. If she could find resources for fighting the war, it would certainly be possible for her to find resources in order to fight poverty, sickness, disease and unemployment in her own land. Mr. Roy strongly urged that a start should be made without regard to the initial setbacks. He expected that the expenses entailed by the scheme, estimated at Rs. 350 millions, could be raised without great difficulty.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 30-5-1943.)

Safety Measures

Safety of Seamen: The Indian
Merchant Shipping (Emergency Life-Saving Appliances) Order, 1943.

The Government of India has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 26-6-1943, the Indian Merchant Shipping (Emergency Life-Saving Appliances) Order, 1943, supplementing the provisions made in the Indian Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) Rules, 1934. (These Rules were gazetted by the Government of India at pages 74-111 of the Gazette of India, Part I, dated 5-1-1935.) The present order makes provision for a larger number of life boats and other life saving apparatus to be carried on merchant ships, their better equipment and provision in them of emergency rations, etc.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec. I, dated 20-6-1943, pp. 676-670.)

Control Measures.

Electricity Control Order, 1943.

The Government of India has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 14-6-1943 an Order authorising licensees under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, to discontinue or reduce, after due notice, the supply of electrical energy to any consumer, other than a distributing licensee, who without the permission of the appropriate authority - (a) contravenes any direction given him by the Controlling authority, or (b) where no such direction has been given him, (i) exceeds or has exceeded in any month the maximum demand recorded in respect of him during the twelve months ending ~~the~~ 31-1-1943, or (ii) has connected load beyond that notified in writing to the licensee up to 31-1-1943 under the terms of this license.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, 14-6-1943, pp. 405-406.)

The Calcutta House Rent Control Order, 1943.

The Government of Bengal has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 25-6-1943, the Calcutta House Rent Control Order, 1943, under which landlords in Calcutta are prohibited from charging a rate of house rent which exceeds by more than 10 per cent. the rent charged on 1-12-1941. In the event of any disagreement about rent between a landlord and tenant, the House Rent Controller appointed by the Government is to decide the fair rent.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary dated 26-6-1943.)

Control of Exports of Handloom Piecegoods to Ceylon

The Government of Madras has issued ^{on 14-6-43} a press note on the export of handloom piecegoods to Ceylon. ~~on 14-6-1943~~. The note points out that owing to the loss of the Burmese and Malayan markets, the Government of India on a representation made by the Madras Government introduced a scheme in October 1942 under which exports of handloom piecegoods from the Province to Ceylon were licensed freely as and when consignments were actually ready for shipment. It was indicated at the time that if the exports became unduly large it might become necessary to review the position. The exports to Ceylon have become very large and, in view of the deterioration in the supply position of cotton piecegoods in the country, the Government of India has decided to restrict exports of piecegoods to Ceylon and has allocated quarterly quotas for such exports. The quota fixed for the quarter ending June 1943 is 4 million yards. ~~This was exhausted by the middle of May, 1943.~~ An additional quantity of one million yards for the remainder of the current quarter has been allotted, as a special case, to mitigate the hardship caused to the commercial community during the beginning of the quota system. The quota for the next quarter is likely to be 4 million yards only. The manufacturers and exporters of handloom piecegoods to Ceylon are warned against excessive production of piecegoods which find a market in Ceylon only and they are reminded that there is ample scope for the production of suitable types of cloth for sale in India.

(The Hindu, 15-6-1943.)

The United Provinces Cotton Piecegoods Control Order, 1943

The United Provinces Government has issued under the Defence of India Rules, on 26-5-1943, the United Provinces Cotton Piecegoods Control Order, 1943, prohibiting wholesale transactions in cotton piecegoods except among manufacturers, dealers, commission agents and retailers. Business in cotton piecegoods may be carried on only after registration with the Government, and in accordance with the direction of the District Magistrate. Cotton cloth will be date-stamped by the manufacturer, and no dealer or sales agent is to have in his possession for sale cloth more than three months after manufacture.

(The U.P. Gazette Extraordinary, dated 26-5-1943.)

Paper Control and Distribution Association

With a view to relieving, to the greatest extent possible, the position regarding the supply of paper for essential non-Government requirements, the Government of India has decided that the quantity of paper reserved for meeting Government requirements should be reduced from 90 to 70 per cent. of the Indian mill production of paper. Accordingly, 30 per cent. of the paper produced by Indian mills will now be available for non-Government users.

The Government of India has further agreed to the establishment of a joint organisation of Indian Paper Makers' Association and the Indian Paper Mills' Association under the title of the Paper Control and Distribution Association for the purpose of exercising general control over paper mills and their agents and distributors with the object of ensuring that an equitable distribution of the paper now released for non-Government requirements is effected among the different markets and that sales are made at controlled prices. The Paper Control and Distribution Association started functioning with effect from 1-5-1943; its ~~official~~ office is located at Allahabad Bank Buildings, 7, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta.

(Industrial Bulletin dated 14-5-1943 of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay.)

Mr. B.M. Birla's Criticism of Government's Paper Control Policy.

Presiding over the annual general meeting of the Indian Paper Mills' Association at Calcutta on 24-5-1943, Mr. B.M. Birla, President of the Association, made a strong plea that in view of the present shortage of paper in the country the Government should take every step for making available additional plant and machinery to the paper mills in order to increase their production to the maximum. He declared that the increase in the demand for paper in the country during the last year was far in excess of the total available supply in the country and that the increase was mainly due to the heavy requirements of the Government and the military which now took up nearly three-fourths of the total production. Mr. Birla emphasized that in order to meet ~~the minimum requirements~~ of the public at least 50 per cent. of the total production should be released by the Government for civilian consumption.

Control against the interests of Indian Mills. - He also referred to the control over paper prices instituted by the Government of India and pointed out the adverse effects such control had on Indian mills as compared to the bigger and older mills owned by non-Indian interests. While the latter had greatly strengthened their position as a result of the benefit of protection enjoyed by them for a long period, as also due to their bigger production units, the Indian section of the industry which comprised newer and smaller units, could, in face of the uneconomic competition of the older mills and from abroad, hardly establish their markets or build up any reserves so essential to meet the post-war conditions. He, therefore, emphasised the necessity for allowing Indian mills to strengthen their position in order to enable them to protect and develop their interests during the post-war years.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 26-5-1943.) +