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Industrial and Labour Developments in June 1944

C 6/2/50

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

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Assam:

The Draft Assam Maternity Benefit Rules, 1944.

Draft Rules under the Assam Maternity Benefit Act, 1944 (vide page 1 of our report for January, 1944) have been Gazetted by the Assam Government on 13-6-1944 (see pages 567-575 of Part II of the Assam Gazette dated 21-6-1944). The Rules are intended for the general administration of the Act. They are to be taken up for consideration after 4-8-1944.

Madras:

Rules re: Working Hours of Tram Car Drivers in Madras City.

The Government of Madras has adopted a rule restricting the working hours of drivers of tram-cars in the City. The rule restricts the hours to ten a day or not more than 70 in a continuous period of eight days. It is provided however that the period may be exceeded to the extent necessary in cases where the tram-car which is being run by a driver, or any other tram-car in the same route, is involved in an accident, and where there is a break-down caused by the failure of machinery or electric current not foreseeable by the exercise of reasonable care and diligence. It is also provided that the Commissioner of Police, Madras, may in any emergency (of which he shall be the sole judge), or in special circumstances, permit all or any of the drivers to work in excess of the limit prescribed.

The penalty for breach of the rule is fine which may extend to Rs. 200.

(G.O. MS. No. 1252, L.A. dated 6-6-1944,  
Rules Supplement to Part I-A of the Fort  
St. George Gazette, dated 13-6-1944,  
Part I).

Hyderabad State:

New Factories Act adopted by Hyderabad Government.

According to a report published in the Vanguard dated 18-6-1944, the Government of the Hyderabad State has gazetted a new Hyderabad Factories Regulation under which working hours in non-seasonal factories in the State have been reduced from 60 to 54 per week. Overtime work will be paid at a higher rate, and a new class of workers between the ages of 15 and 17 has been created with a view to safeguard the interests of children. These regulations will come into force from 10-8-1944.

(The Vanguard, dated 18-6-1944).

# CONDITIONS OF WORK.

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## Hours.

### Working Time in Bengal Jute Mills: Agreement Extended for 5 Years.

At a special meeting of the members of the Indian Jute Mills Association held on 13-6-1944, resolutions were unanimously passed whereby the working time agreement has been made effective for a further 5 years' period from the 12th December, 1944, when the existing one expires. Under this agreement, member mills of the Indian Jute Mills Association which covers almost the entire jute mill industry of this country can work only such hours as the Committee may determine.

No change has been made in the existing hours which are 54 hours per week for all mills other than those with 220 looms and under which work 72<sup>hours</sup>. The hours under the new agreement will be determined closer to the time of effective operation viz. in December of this year.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated  
14-6-1944 ).

## Industrial Disputes

### Industrial Disputes in British India during Quarter ending 30-6-1943

According to the statistics published by the Government of India of industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 30-6-1943, the total number of stoppages of work during the quarter (including 7 in progress at the close of the quarter) was 223 and the number of workers involved, 106,791 as against 128 stoppages involving 117,332 workers for the same quarter of the previous year; the total number of working days lost was 516,400 as compared with 821,341. There were 3 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers. 10,000 or more working days were lost in 7 stoppages.

Provincial Distribution.- The largest number of disputes occurred in the Province of Bombay where 90 disputes involving 25,047 workers were responsible for the loss of 137,342 working days. In Bengal there were 68 disputes involving 44,055 workers and entailing a loss of 158,710 working days, followed by Madras with 22 disputes involving 3,004 workers and entailing a loss of 13,746 working days. In C.P. and Berar there were 15 disputes involving 16,106 workers and entailing a loss of 22,585 working days; in U.P., 12 disputes involving 8,042 workers and entailing a loss of 50,730 working days; in the Punjab 5 disputes involving 2,780 workers and entailing a loss of 4,957 working days; in Bihar 3 disputes involving 1,670 workers and entailing a loss of 8,050 working days; in Orissa 3 disputes involving 1,035 workers and entailing a loss of 3,833 working days; in Delhi 2 disputes involving 410 workers and entailing a loss of 1,640 working days; in Ajmer-Merwara one dispute involving 5,317 workers and entailing a loss of 112,851 working days; in Assam one dispute involving 1,329 workers and entailing a loss of 1,956 working days; and in Sind one dispute involving 16 workers, the number of working days lost being not known.

Classification by Industries.- The largest number of disputes occurred in the textile industry, that is, cotton, woollen, silk and jute mills which together accounted for 86 disputes. 71 of these occurred in cotton, woollen and silk mills involving 46,797 workers and entailing a loss of 278,397 working days and 15 occurred in jute mills involving 26,787 workers and entailing a loss of 103,299 working days. There were 35 disputes in engineering workshops involving 12,230 workers and entailing a loss of 45,749 working days; two disputes in mines involving 77 workers and entailing a loss of 92 working days; one dispute in railways including railway workshops involving 200 workers and entailing a loss of 600 working days; and 99 disputes in other industries involving in all 20,700 workers and entailing a loss of 88,263 working days. The number of days in respect of one dispute is not known.

Causes and Results of Disputes.- Of the 223 disputes, 137 were in respect of wages and bonus, 23 on questions of personnel and 63 were on other grounds. 37 were completely successful, 75 partially successful and 94 unsuccessful. Indefinite decisions were obtained in respect of 10. 7 disputes were still in progress at the end of the quarter.

(From statistics issued on 7-6-1944 by the Labour Department,  
Government of India.)

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General.

Factories Administration in British  
India during 1942.

The following report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in British India during the year 1942 is taken from the June, 1944, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. In this, part A covers the whole of British India, while part B refers only to Bombay, Bengal, Madras, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Sind, Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi.

Part A.

**Number of Factories.**— The number of factories actually working increased from 11,868 in 1941 to 12,527 in 1942. The increases were found only among perennial factories; seasonal factories, on the other hand, registered a small decrease—from 3,693 to 3,681. Among the provinces that shared the increases the most prominent were Madras (424), Bombay (98) and the Punjab (92); Bengal recorded a decrease of 109 factories. The proportion of notified factories increased from 31.0 per cent in 1941 to 32.2 per cent in 1942 in the case of perennial factories, and from 8.5 per cent to 10.4 per cent in the case of seasonal factories. The figures were:

Category	Perennial		Seasonal	
	1941	1942	1941	1942
Factories as defined under section 2 (j) ....	6,242	6,690	3,405	3,332
Factories notified under section 5 (1) ....	1,933	2,156	288	349

As regards perennial factories, the proportion of notified factories was largest in the case of Bombay (74.4 per cent) followed by C.P. & Berar (44.4 per cent), Assam (39.8 per cent), Sind (31.1 per cent) and Madras (29.0 per cent). In the case of seasonal factories also Bombay took the leading place, the proportion of notified factories being 22.6 per cent.

**Statistics of Employees.**— An analysis of the statistics of industrial employees in British India during 1942 has already been reported at pages 34-36 of our report for February 1944.

**Women, adolescents and children.**— There was a decrease in the number of women employed; the number of adolescents, on the other hand, showed a slight increase, so also children, although in the latter case the increase was more appreciable. The figures were:

Age and sex group	1941	1942	per cent increase or decrease.
Women .. .. .	262,132	261,704	-0.16
Adolescents .. .. .	26,163	26,330	+0.63
Children .. .. .	10,376	11,804	+13.76

The percentage of women to the total factory population was 11.4.

**Convictions.**— The number of convictions secured under the Act was, 1,806 in 1942 as compared with 1,874 in 1941.

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**Inspections.**— The number of factories inspected during the year was ~~10,160~~ 10,160 out of a total of 12,527; that is, about 81.1 per cent of the factories were inspected.

#### Part B.

**Wages.**— There was a general increase in the wages of workers. Dearness Allowance, bonus, overtime work, all contributed to the increased earnings during the year. In Bombay, in the smaller concerns such as ginning, brick, bidi and gun factories, increases from 25 to 30 per cent were reported. Benefits in kind, such as grains at concessional rates, also assisted the workers substantially. In Bengal the workers in the jute mills suffered a reduction in income due to diminished working hours. The increased rates of dearness allowance, cheap grain facilities, etc., however, tended to compensate for this loss. In the Punjab, the wages of all classes of labour were reported to have advanced by 25 to 30 per cent as compared with the previous year.

**Accidents.**— The total number of accidents in factories in British India ~~increased~~ from 48,736 in 1941 to 54,174 in 1942. Fatal accidents increased from 271 to 323, and serious accidents from 8,573 to 9,111. The average per 100,000 operatives was 2,374 in 1942, the corresponding figure for the previous year being 2,360. The ~~unusually~~ <sup>unusually</sup> increased number of accidents is generally attributed to increased employment, longer working hours, employment of semi-trained and sometimes untrained personnel.

**Safety.**— The question of fencing dangerous machinery and adopting other safety devices ~~seem~~ generally to have received the attention of employers. Shortage of materials, iron bars in particular, prevented any large scale safety construction during the year. Apart from this, it is stated that the need to concentrate on the production of war materials with the staff available, prevented diversion of maintenance workers to undertake fencing repairs and construction even when a certain amount of material was available for the purpose. This was especially true of Bengal where the situation was such that priority had to be given to urgent increased production in practically all industries. However, in spite of these adverse conditions, a great deal of fencing was carried out either voluntarily or by order. In other provinces safety construction was undertaken to the extent possible under conditions of shortage. No special efforts were made to encourage safety-habits among labourers; more than one province commented on this feature.

**Welfare.**— Welfare work in factories continued to progress in spite of war difficulties. In Bombay, out of 130 creches functioning in factories, reports were received from 118. It is stated that, despite very satisfactory efforts of lady inspectors and the managements of many mills, the attendance was most disappointing. As regards mill dispensaries, due to continued prosperity of industry during this period, substantial improvement could be effected. Cheap grain shops were a very popular feature. In Bengal, on account of the rising cost of essential feedstuffs, and to meet possible shortages, the majority of the larger factories, <sup>were running</sup> reserved and cheap feed grain shops. The establishment of workers' canteens, however, made little progress; this is partly attributed to the workers living in the immediate vicinity of the factories, and consequently having their mid-day meals at their own homes. In Madras and U.P. the employers continued to pay their best attention towards existing schemes of welfare such as recreation, educational and medical facilities, etc.; arrangements were also made to supply feedstuffs at concessional rates and open canteens.

(Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1944).



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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Steps to Control Mica Industry of India.

To deal with immediate problems of India's mica industry, the Central Government has amended the Mica Control Order, 1940. The objects of the amendment are to prevent thieving and illicit trade in stolen mica, to improve the administrative machinery and to vest provincial Governments with a certain amount of discretionary authority in granting dealers' and miners' licences.

The amendments, as published in the Gazette of India dated 3-6-1944, provide for the appointment by the Bihar Government of a Mica Controller, who will take over all duties now performed by the District Magistrate in connexion with the mica industry in Bihar. The provincial Government will appoint a committee to advise the Controller on all matters connected with the administration of the Control Order. Under these amendments the sale or transfer of crude or block mica, which has not been sorted into certain prescribed sizes mentioned in the amending Order, has been prohibited. It is hoped that this step will enable the Government to overcome one of the major obstacles in the healthy development of India's mica industry i.e. the problem of theft resulting in illicit trade in mica.

The amendments further provide for raising the initial fees and the renewal fees for licences and certificates payable under the existing Order. The object of this provision is to prevent the growth of small dealers who cannot be expected to have any substantial stake in the industry and who may directly or indirectly encourage thieving and other predatory habits. The multiplicity of the licensees' agents is another difficulty in the way of efficient control of the mica trade today. It is felt that many agents, who have no long-term interest in the mica trade, is a menace to the industry. The amending Order empowers the Mica Controller to verify that all operations under a proprietor's certificate or under a miner's and dealer's licence are carried on, bona fide, on behalf of, and for account of the proprietor or licensee concerned."

The Provincial Government, who had so far no effective control over the licensee or the certificate holder, have now been vested with discretionary authority to cancel a miner's or a dealer's licence. ~~Similarly~~ It is provided in the amendments that, before cancelling any licence, the provincial Government will give an opportunity to the licensee or the proprietor to show cause why his licence should not be cancelled.

(The Gazette of India, dated 3-6-1944, Part I, section 1, pages 744-746 and the Statesman, dated 4-6-1944 ).

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Central Sugarcane Committee Set up  
by Government of India.

The main responsibility for guiding sugarcane research in India and advising the Central and Provincial Governments on matters relating to the improvement and development of the industry connected with sugarcane and its products has hitherto rested mainly with a Sugar Committee appointed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The proceeds of the Sugar Excise Fund, to which funds are credited at the rate of one anna per cwt. of white sugar produced in British India, out of the excise duty levied thereon, are, however, available only in part for co-ordinated schemes of sugarcane research and cognate activities; the rest of the fund is administered directly by the Government of India, partly for maintaining the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology and partly for giving grants to Provincial Governments for expenditure on schemes ancillary to schemes sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. It is becoming increasingly obvious that all this work is inter-related and can best be tackled by one central organisation.

Taking into account the expansion of its own work and envisaging considerable further developments in the near future and the need for post-war re-adjustments, the Sugar Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in October 1941, recommended that a Central Sugar Committee should now be constituted on the lines of the Indian Central Cotton Committee and with somewhat similar powers and functions. This resolution was endorsed by the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in July 1942. The Government of India agreeing with the Sugar Committee and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has accepted this recommendation in principle and has decided to set up a Central Sugarcane Committee, which will be a body corporate registered as a Society under the Registration of Societies Act (XXI of 1909), with headquarters at Delhi or such other place as the Committee may decide.

The functions of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee will be to undertake the improvement and development of the growing marketing and manufacture of sugarcane and its products in India and of all matters incidental thereto. This includes items such as agricultural, technological and economic research on sugarcane, gur, sugar and their by-products, the improvement of crop forecasting and statistics, the production and testing of improved varieties, the adoption of improved cultural practices, enquiries and recommendations relating to banking and transport facilities and transport routes, the maintenance of an Institute of Sugar Technology and other similar matters. The control over the Institute of Sugar Technology will vest in the Committee along the lines indicated later. The Committee will also advise the Central and Provincial Governments concerned on any points which may be referred to it by them, provided the subject matter of the reference falls within the prescribed functions of the Committee.

It is considered desirable that the growers, the manufacturers and the traders should be fairly represented on the Committee. Subject to a reserve power of nomination by the Governor General in Council so as to permit of appointments to the Committee to meet requirements that may vary from time to time, the Committee will be constituted as follows:-

(1) The Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, who shall be ex-officio President of the Committee. (2) The Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India. (3) The Director, Imperial ~~XXXXX~~ Agricultural Research Institute. (4) The Director, Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology. (5) The Agricultural Marketing Adviser to

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the Government of India. (6) The Imperial Sugarcane Expert. (7) 10 representatives of Provincial Governments. (8) 14 representatives of Sugar Mills' Organisation. (9) 8 non-officials representing agricultural interests. (10) 3 representatives of Sugar trade. (11) 3 representatives of Consumers. (12) 1 representative of Sugar technologists.

The ~~same~~ tenure of appointment of the members of the Committee, ~~who~~ other than those who are appointed by reason of the office or appointment they held will be three years with effect from the 1st April of the year in which they are appointed or such lesser period as may be specified in the notification.

The Committee will continue to maintain the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology both as a teaching and as a research institution and will be responsible for the maintenance of sugar standards. Returns under the Sugar Production Rules, the maintenance of sugar trade information services and any special work that may be required by the Central or by any Provincial Government will be directly under the control of the Director of <sup>the</sup> Institute of Sugar Technology.

The Government of India will finance the Committee by placing at its disposal the entire proceeds of the Sugar Excise Fund; the amount so credited will continue to be one anna per cwt. of white sugar produced in British India out of the excise duty levied ~~on~~ on it. The question of increasing this amount will be considered after the war. If the amount placed in the Fund in any year falls short of the needs of the Committee, the Government of India will automatically grant a loan free of interest to cover the deficit and enable the Committee to incur expenditure up to a limit of Rs. 1,175,000 in the year subject to the condition that the first charge on any surplus ~~arising~~ occurring thereafter will be the repayment of this loan.

(Resolution No. P.41-24/43-A dated 6-6-1944: The Gazette of India, dated 17-6-1944, Part I, section 1, pages 803-804).

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Textile Industry.

Development of Sericulture in Bombay:  
Scheme Accepted by Government of Bombay.

According to a recent press note issued by the Government of Bombay, experiments carried out at the Belgaum Silk Farm having shown that there is scope for the development of sericulture on a commercial basis, the Government of Bombay has agreed to take part in a scheme submitted by the Shri Rama Silk Mills, Ltd., of Bangalore, to develop silkworm-rearing as a cottage industry in Belgaum and Dharwar Districts and to link it up with an organisation for the production of silk on a commercial basis.

As a result of the setting up in 1940 of an experimental farm at Belgaum it is found that sericulture industry can be established in Bombay.

Under the scheme proposed by Shri Rama Silk Mills, Bangalore, the Department of Industries will organise the agricultural or the cottage industries section so as to ensure the minimum production of cocoons to feed an economic filature unit of 100 basins to start with, and the commercial section will be organised by the Shri Rama Silk Mills, Ltd., by promoting a joint stock company which would undertake to buy all cocoons produced. The Government of Bombay has undertaken to render necessary help for floating the company and to give it a sort of monopoly in the province. These facilities are granted to the company provided the promoters agree to render necessary assistance to the Director of Industries in securing trained men for appointment as demonstrators and propagandists, and to secure mulberry cuttings and sapplings and disease-free eggs for the grainages to be organised as part of the cottage industries section of the scheme.

Each family of agriculturists which undertakes to rear silkworms and take part in the scheme will be given an interest-free tagai loan of Rs. 150 for mulberry cultivation. If a family brings under mulberry cultivation, a minimum area of three acres of land within two years, one-third of the loan will be remitted. The grant of tagai loans will be limited to 1,000 families. As a further concession to encourage mulberry cultivation each agriculturist family will be given a subsidy for two years equal to the assessment of the land brought under mulberry cultivation within one year of the grant of tagai loan.

(The Times of India, 26-6-1944).

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SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act,  
1923, in British India during 1942.

The following account of the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in British India during 1942 is based on a note published in the Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1944. According to the note the ~~following~~ working of the Act in the provinces during the year was reported to be generally satisfactory.

Amendments to the Act.- The Act was amended by the enactment by the Central Legislature of the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1942, with a view to extend the principle that no compensation shall be paid under the Act to persons in respect of any injury for which payments of gratuity, allowances and pensions could be obtained under any wartime legislations. Among the provinces, the Bengal Government enacted the Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1942, with a view to permit the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation to refer cases to a medical referee on application of either party, but the Commissioner is given some discretion in the matter. Also, though ordinarily the report of the medical referee will be treated as conclusive proof, under certain circumstances the Commissioner can ~~take steps~~ take steps to collect further evidence. The plucking of coconuts was brought in the scope of the Act by the Madras Government.

Statistics of Accidents and Compensation.- Returns received from ~~employers~~ employers on the number of accidents and the amount of compensation paid by each during the year were not complete as all employers were not required to submit returns and some of those who were so required ~~failed~~ failed to submit them or furnished incomplete ones. In Bombay forms of returns were sent to 2,630 employers of whom 2,398 or 91 per cent responded. Defaulters were high among the Municipalities and Local District Boards, and also the Cinema Film Producing Companies; only about 58 per cent of these responded. In Madras returns were called from 3,027 establishments of whom 2,906 or 96 per cent responded. The Madras Government carefully scrutinised the cases of defaulters with a view to obtain better response from the employers.

The number of accidents during the year for which compensation was paid was 42,582 among adult workers and 21 among miners as against 37,159 among adults and 22 among miners during 1941. Of these 923 were cases of death including death of 2 miners as against 794 in 1941 (no <sup>cases</sup> death of involving minors); 2,187 were cases of permanent disablement as against 2,203 such including those of 2 miners in 1941, and 39,493 were cases of temporary dis-ablement including those of 19 miners as against 34,184 such cases including those of 20 miners in 1941.

The amount of compensation paid was Rs. 765,819 and Rs. 400 for the death of the adults and minors respectively as against Rs. 581,008 for the death of adults in 1941; Rs. 587,006 for permanent disablements as against Rs. 552,125 paid in 1941, including Rs. 807 to the minors, and Rs. 466,280 for temporary dis-ablements including Rs. 61 to the minors as against Rs. 418,935 paid in 1941, including Rs. 95 to the minors.

Thus, Compensation was paid in 42,603 cases in 1942 as against 37,181 cases in 1941, representing a rise of about 14.6 per cent. The amount of compensation paid in 1942 was Rs. 1,319,505 as against Rs. 1,552,068 in 1941, representing an increase of about 17.2 per cent. From the point of view of the compensation paid and the number of accidents, Bombay was leading. The number of accidents in Bombay was reported to be about 13,500 in 1942 as against about 12,600 in the previous year. The amount

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of compensation paid also increased by about Rs. 100,000, amounting to Rs. 461,287 in 1942. The number of accidents in Bengal increased from 4,677 in 1941 to 5,553 in 1942 whereas in the corresponding period the amount of compensation paid declined by about Rs. 3,000. In Bihar also the number of accidents in 1942 increased slightly to about 5,500 whereas the amount of compensation paid decreased by about Rs. 23,000 to just over Rs. 200,000. The number of accidents and compensation paid in Madras increased slightly in 1942. The average sum paid per case during the year 1942 was Rs. 42.5 as against Rs. 40.7 per case in 1941.

Progress of Accident Insurance.- In Bombay the insurance companies co-operated in the speedy disposal of cases, and the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, was also actively helping the workers. Through the assistance of this Association increasing amounts of compensation were secured for the workers during the year. The Association handled 174 claims during the year (as against 138 claims handled in 1941) of which 139 cases (as against 95 in 1941) were successful. The amount of compensation secured during the year was Rs. 28,462 as against Rs. 16,817 in the previous year.

Appeals.- Twelve appeals against the orders of the Commissioners were pending in the beginning of the year, and seven appeals were filed, bringing the total number of appeals for disposal in the year to nineteen. Of these five were reported to have been disposed of during the year leaving fourteen pending at the close. It was reported from Madras that by the time of the submission of the report five more appeals were disposed of.

Remarks.- Experience of some of the provinces indicates that there were relatively more accidents among the workers of lower wage categories. The note points out that it is important that the safety of the workers should receive keen interest from the employers. Moreover, there should be conducted more extensive propaganda and instruction amongst the workers to make them 'accident conscious'.

(Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1944).

New Ordinance to Substitute the withdrawn Natal PEGGING Act.

Reference was made at page 11 of our April, 1944 report to the withdrawal of the Natal PEGGING Act and to the announcement that an Ordinance to achieve the objective would be promulgated instead. The draft Ordinance which is to substitute the PEGGING Act was published on 2-6-1944. The Ordinance provides for the establishment of an Occupation Control Board of five members in Durban and in any other borough in Natal which the Administrator considers necessary. The Board will be appointed for three years and its functions will be, firstly, to consider the relative needs of each racial group in any borough or township; secondly, housing needs; thirdly, civic amenities, including educational and recreational facilities.

A petition has been sponsored by the Durban Combined Wards' Association, protesting to the Administrator of Natal against the Occupation Control Draft Ordinance. The petition says that the Draft Ordinance fails to control either the acquisition of property by Indians from Europeans and Europeans from Indians, or to prevent occupation by one race of business premises at present held by the other. This, says the petition, must inevitably be detrimental to the character of Durban as a European city and will do untold harm to the relations between the European and Indian communities.

The Draft Ordinance has been referred to a Select Committee.

(The HINDUSTAN TIMES, 4-6-1944, the LEADER, dated 15-6-1944 and the TIMES OF INDIA dated 24-6-1944).

Diverting Indian War Labour to Estates in Ceylon: Government of India's Protest.

It is understood that the Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India has protested against the manner in which labourers sent from India to Ceylon for some important and urgent works connected with the prosecution of the war are being diverted for work in the rubber and tea plantations. The strategic importance of Ceylon in the war against Japan and the establishment of the South-East Asia Command in Kandy seem to have created a demand for a large number of labourers for employment in the war works, and the Ceylon Government seems to have been unable to meet the demand. The military authorities in Ceylon requested the Government of India to supply the necessary labourers and about 4,000 were sent during the last three or four months.

It is said that the Commonwealth Relations Department made it clear that all these workers must be returned to India after completing the specific job for which they were taken. But information has been received here that these workers, after completing their work, were not sent back to India, but were being drafted for work in plantations.

Now it is felt that in the name of war effort, Ceylon was trying to obtain all her requirements in food, clothing and also labourers through the military authorities and avoiding a settlement of the question of political status of Indians in the island, whilst at the same time, trying to settle the future constitution of Ceylon with the Colonial Office Department without reference to Indians. It is expected that the Commonwealth Relations Department will take a strong attitude in regard

to the matter.

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(The Hindu, 7-6-1944).

Efforts to Centralise Control of Emigration  
Problems.

It is understood that the Government of India has decided to centralise the administration of affairs relating to emigration and Haj pilgrim traffic from October 1944. At present, there are Protectors of Emigrants, appointed by the Provincial Governments—Madras, Bombay, Bengal and Sind are the only provinces mainly concerned with the subject of Indian emigration—who administer the Indian Emigration Act and deal with all questions relating to emigrants. It is now proposed that the Commonwealth Relations Department will deal with this subject directly and an officer of the Government of India will be placed in charge.

(The Hindu, 10-6-1944).



AGRICULTURE.

U.K. Mission to advise India on  
Manufacture of Artificial Fertilisers.

Reference was made at page 12 of our May 1944 report to the Government of India's scheme for the manufacture of artificial fertilisers and to a technical mission from the United Kingdom to advise the Government on the subject. A mission headed by Mr. G.S. Gowing, of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., together with one other member of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., and one of the Power-Gas Corporation Ltd., (the latter representing the Association of British Chemical Plant Manufacturers), is now on a visit to India to advise on the production of artificial fertilisers for increasing food supplies. The Mission, acting for the Government of India, will undertake the following:

(i) Investigate and report to the Government of India on the technical problems involved in the manufacture of Sulphate of Ammonia in British India in quantities up to 350,000 tons per annum; (ii) Recommend, in the light of the raw materials and power available in India, the most economic method of manufacture; (iii) Indicate the approximate capital cost of the plant or plants to be installed, and calculate the approximate cost of operations and production of finished Sulphate of Ammonia; (iv) Recommend the most suitable site or sites for the erection of the plants concerned, taking into account the raw materials available and the most economic distribution of the finished products; (v) Estimate the amount and approximate value of plant which it will be necessary to import from outside India making the fullest possible use of materials and labour available in India; (vi) If, for any reason, it should appear that nitrogenous fertilizer, in a form other than Sulphate of Ammonia, can be more satisfactorily manufactured under Indian conditions generally or locally, consider and recommend from a technical point of view, the most economic method of manufacture of such alternative fertilizer; (vii) Estimate the capital and operating cost of manufacture of such alternative nitrogenous fertilizer.

To receive the Technical Mission the Government of India appointed a Committee with Sir James Pitkeathly, Officer on Special Duty, Department of Supply, as Chairman. After preliminary discussions with the Committee and examination of the statistics and information, which have been collected in advance by the Departments of Government, the Mission will proceed on tour, and will visit those areas and sites, which may be considered suitable for the erection of plants and the economic manufacture and distribution of artificial fertilizers. The Provinces will be associated with the Mission through their selected representatives, who will deal with all enquiries and tours, and will prepare and submit any suggestions and information desired to be placed before the Mission.

(The Indian information, dated  
1-7-1944).

Production of Indigenous Manure to  
Raise Agricultural Out-put.

Production of indigenous manure, it is understood, is being encouraged by the Agriculture Section of the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Government of India. It has been suggested to Provincial Governments to promote green manuring for irrigated areas and those with a rainfall of more than 50 inches a year. For ~~the~~ other areas, a scheme to procure oilcakes and ensure their proper distribution has been suggested. Production of green manure crop is to be encouraged without decreasing the area under kharif food grains. The Provincial Governments, it is learned, have been asked to prepare plans and ~~indicated~~ indicate approximately what acreage is proposed to be green manured and areas proposed to be ~~green~~ manured with oilcakes. The Government of India will give financial assistance for increasing acreages to be manured with oilcakes or green manure.

(The Times of India, 30-6-1944).

Draft Bombay Irrigated Crops Regulation  
Bill, 1944.

Following the promulgation of the Bombay Growth of Foodcrops Act ~~of~~ for the purpose of bringing lands growing non-food crops under food crops (vide page 35 of our May, 1944 report), it is now proposed to promulgate a Bombay Irrigated Crops Regulation Act, to ~~make~~ secure the cultivation of irrigated crops, particularly food crops, in land under the command of irrigation works. Whereas small tanks under the Revenue Department are subject to a combined crop and water assessment, no provision exists to force cultivators to take water from canals and tanks under the Public Works Department. The result is that in many cases cultivators prefer to gamble in rain and an appreciable area of land under the command of such irrigation works, particularly in the kharif season in the case of canals and in the case of tanks generally, is not irrigated.

This was an administrative problem in the past and it has now become of the greatest importance at a time when it is necessary to secure, not only the maximum cultivation of food crops but also the maximum yield and in this respect the difference in the yield between irrigated and nonirrigated land under food crops is as high as 100 per cent. The Government has in the past expended vast sums in providing these irrigation works; a comprehensive programme of providing further emergency irrigation works during the next three years at a cost of Rs. 5.8 ~~in~~ ~~under~~ million is under execution; and the provision of further large irrigation works will form part of the programme of post-war Reconsutraction. It is, therefore, desirable from every aspect that all the water so provided should be fully used.

The Act, which will secure the double purpose of compelling the use of water and of prescribing the portion of ~~irrigation~~ irrigable land in which food crops must be grown, will provide for the preparation of "schemes" for each such irrigation work ~~for~~ or part of it. Each scheme will show the survey ~~numbers~~ numbers under command, the survey numbers in which non-food crops may be grown, the remaining area in which food crops must be grown, the date by which water should be

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taken from the irrigation work for the cultivation of food crops, and the date by which food crops should be shown in the areas specified under the scheme.

After the scheme has been approved by the Divisional Commissioner, a general notice will be given to the owners of the lands included in the scheme, specifying the survey numbers affected and directing them to begin to take water before a particular date and to sow food crops in the areas specified in the scheme. Any owner who fails either to take water from an irrigation work by the appointed date or to grow food crops in the areas specified under the scheme by the appointed date, will be liable to prosecution; and on conviction his lands included in the scheme, together with standing crops if any, can be forfeited to the Government. Owners will include both superior and inferior holders, i.e., tenants.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 14-6-1944, Part V, pages 15-18 and the Times of India, dated 22-6-1944 ).

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NAVIGATION.

Viceroy's Grant for Seamen's Welfare  
in Indian Ports.

His Excellency the Viceroy has made a grant from the War Purposes Fund of Rs. 100,000 for the provision of amenities for Indian seamen in Indian ports and an equal amount for the provision of amenities for British and Allied seamen.

Although amenities for seamen like seamen's homes and sailors' clubs exist in some of the major ports where amusements and residential accommodation are provided, the Government of India feels that public and private activities in this connection require co-ordination and extension. A post of Special Officer for amenities for seamen in India has, therefore, been created to which Captain O.G. Rowland Jones, an officer of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., has been appointed. This officer, who is already in Delhi will shortly commence work. The Government has also, and under consideration, the creation of a special post for looking exclusively after the welfare and amenities of Indian seamen. The Government has already appointed an Indian welfare officer for seamen in Calcutta, which is the largest recruiting centre for Indian seamen. The main duties of this officer are to look after the boarding and lodging of Indian seamen in Calcutta, arrange for their medical attendance, establish contact with the families of seamen who are prisoners of war, secure regular transmission of news to them from their families in this country, and generally to look after the working conditions of Indian seamen.

It is understood that proposals are under examination by the Government of India to increase the pay of Indian seamen and to set up a tripartite labour conference for seamen alone. At present the pay of Indian seamen is only Rs. 12-0 as compared with £ 15 of the Chinese seamen and £ 22 of the British seamen. Hostel accommodation in the Colonies and the Dominions is also of very poor character and efforts are being made to secure a better type of hostels in countries outside India.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 2-6-1944 and  
the Leader, dated 2-6-1944 ).

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Scheme to help Handloom Weavers in Bengal.

A scheme estimated to cost of Rs. 5 million for the development of the handloom weaving industry of Bengal is understood to be under the consideration of the Government of Bengal.

In the first stage, the scheme proposes to organise professional weavers. Later it will provide for the training in weaving of agriculturists, so that a large number of men may adopt weaving as a subsidiary occupation. The plan envisages the establishment of a chain of depots throughout the province whose functions will include the preparation of a census of weavers, the collection of information relating to the count, type and quality of yarn used by each weaver, the monthly consumption of yarn and the monthly output of woven goods per head.

About 200,000 weavers are expected to be benefited by the scheme.

(The Hindu, dated 5-6-1944).

Meeting of Madras Handloom Weavers.

The Working Committee of the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers' Association at a meeting held at Pezwada on 5-6-1944 under the chairmanship of Mr. Ramakanta Rao, president of the Association, considered the draft proposals of the Government of India for the formation of an All-India Handloom Board (vide page 16 of our report for May, 1944). As regards the functions of the Board the committee proposed that its main function should be the protection of the handloom industry besides advising the Government to define spheres of production between mills and handlooms and fixing of quotas. In ~~respect~~ respect of representation to the Board, the Committee suggested that, of the total strength, two-thirds should be nominated from the representatives of weavers' associations in consultation with them and that the province of Madras should have at least one-fifth of the said two-thirds from among the weavers' representative associations. It was further suggested that the mills should have only one seat on the All-India Handloom Board.

(The Hindu, dated 8-6-1944).

Nutrition.

Government Scheme to supply Cheap Milk to Children in Bombay City.

Reference was made at page 17 of our April, 1944 report and page 23 of our March, 1944 report to certain Bombay schemes for the supply of cheap milk to certain classes of children in the Bombay City. The Government of Bombay has now formulated a scheme to supply cheap, pure milk to children under two years in the city. The scheme which will cost Rs. 1.7 million in the first year will be administered by the Bombay Municipal Corporation. Those who wish to take advantage of the scheme will have to register their children's names with the municipality and ration cards will be issued to them. Milk distributing centres will be opened by the municipality where half a pound of milk per day per child will be sold at half the market rate, the other half being contributed by the Government.

With the enormous increase in the population of the city there has not been a corresponding increase in the number of cows and buffaloes. Consequently there has been a milk shortage, and the price of milk soared to nearly a rupee a seer (1 seer = nearly 2 lb.). The Government of Bombay has taken several steps to improve the available supply of milk. Cattle owners have been allowed to send their dry cattle upcountry, before this facility was granted, owners used to send such cattle to the slaughterhouse because it was more paying. The Government is also controlling the import of milch buffaloes into the city and permits will be given only to those who are prepared to send them back to farms upcountry. Government is also rationing fodder and other cattle feed at cheap rates. There are 50,000 milk-yielding cattle in Bombay now.

In order to conserve available stocks of milk the provincial Government has issued an order on 5-6-1944 banning the use of milk cream or curds except in tea, coffee and buttermilk. No sweets or pudding containing milk can be sold in future. There is already a ban on the making of ice cream.

(The Statesman, dated 6-6-1944).

Increased Supply of Protective Foods:  
Bombay Conference's Plea:

A conference to consider the situation arising out of the inadequate supply of protective foods in the province of Bombay and to suggest ways and means to increase their production and regulate distribution was convened at Bombay on 8-6-1944 by the Peoples' Provincial Food Council, the Bombay Presidency Women's Council and certain other organisations interested in problems of health and food; Sir Homi Nody presided.

Sir Homi in his presidential address contrasted the conditions prevailing in this country with those in England in regard to the supply of protective foods and observed that the present exorbitant prices of protective foods and particularly of milk in India, gave room for great anxiety from the point of view of the health of the rising generation. He gave figures of the production of milk and vegetables in the country, and showed how inadequate the per capita supply of these essential articles was, compared to international standards. The figures showed that the quantity of milk available for consumption was less than 50 ounces, as compared with the standard laid down at the Hot Springs

Conference of 210 ounces, and as regards vegetables, the position was equally unsatisfactory. He also referred to the abundance of the fishery wealth in this country and to the failure to exploit these resources adequately. He pointed out that even in normal times the Indian people were under-fed. Taking a long-range view, he foresaw a serious situation developing in the country if adequate and timely steps were not taken to increase the food resources of the country.

**Resolutions.**- The Conference adopted several resolutions suggesting means for increased production and fairer distribution of nutritive foods. Summaries of the more important resolutions are given below:

**Increased Production of Protective Food.**- ~~IN VIEW~~ In view of the fact that ~~protective or nutritive foods~~, like milk and its products, vegetables, fruits, eggs, poultry and fish are essential supplements to food-grains and are therefore, vitally necessary for the diet of the people, ~~this~~ conference ~~stressed~~ stressed that it was the duty of the authorities to maintain adequate supplies of protective foods particularly during war time, as was done in Great Britain and other countries. It further stressed that the increased production of protective foods will not only lessen the dependence of the people on food grains, but will also result in considerable improvement in their diet and health. It therefore urged that the Government should recognise the necessity for assigning a very important place to the production and supply of these foods, utilising adequate funds for the purpose.

In another resolution it recommended the following measures to increase production of protective foods: (1) Steps to make, as far as possible, every district self-sufficient as regards milk and vegetables; ~~an~~ increased irrigation water supply in villages and towns for this purpose; (2) encouragement of landowners to cultivate open spaces with vegetables; (3) advice and other assistance including financial grants to owners of poultry farms; (4) subsidies and other facilities to fishermen as regards fishing boats, wooden poles or stacks, twine for fishing nets, and the like; and facilities for curing, storage and transport of fish and encouragement of the fish liver oil industry so as to enable it to supply vitamin concentrates to patients, nursing mothers and children.

**Increasing Milk Supply.**- In view of the acute shortage of milk throughout the province and particularly in the large cities, the ~~summarised~~ conference urged the following measures for the immediate attention of the Government:-

(a) stringent enforcement of the order prohibiting the slaughter of milch cattle under 10 years; (b) stoppage of the slaughter of other cattle for at least three days in a week; (c) preservation of dry cattle by giving subsidies to owners of dairies and farmers for maintaining them and the provision of necessary facilities for the transport of cattle between villages and cities; (d) import more milch cattle into the Province and giving them out at concession rates to dairy owners and farmers; (e) more increase in supply and better distribution of cattle fodder, including oil cakes, pulses, chani and bran; (f) control of the price of milk on a regional basis and introduction of milk rationing, to begin with, in large cities; (g) drastic reduction in the supply of fresh milk to hotels, restaurants, canteens and clubs and prohibition of its use at marriage or social parties; and (h) prohibition of the preparation and sale of sweet-meats, cream, milk shakes, etc., from fresh milk.

~~It was~~ Another resolution suggested that eggs and meat also should be rationed, as supplies were insufficient. The commodities should be supplied at reasonable rates and preference should always be given to expectant mothers and children, to whom they should be made available at

special lower prices.

Financial Assistance to Schemes.- It was of opinion that in regard to all measures for furthering the production of protective foods, Government should be ready to render financial assistance. It urged the Government of India to declare forthwith that it was Government's policy to maintain adequate supplies not only of food-grains but also of protective foods. The resolution further suggested that early steps should be taken to give effect to the resolution on the establishment of a National Nutrition Organisation adopted by the Hot Springs Conference.

(The Hind, dated 9-6-1944 and the Bombay Chronicle, 10-6-1944).

Iron Co.  
Nutrition Scheme for Tata/Steel Workers.

A nutrition scheme organised and operated by the local Rotary Club will soon be introduced in Jamshedpur for the benefit of the workers of the Tata Iron and Steel Company; the company has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 8,000 to the club towards the cost of the scheme.

(Times Review, June, 1944).

Milk Shortage in India.

..... contributed anonymously  
Attention is directed to an anonymous article in the 'Eastern Economist' New Delhi, dated 23-6-1944, dealing with the problem of milk shortage in India. Chief among the causes that have contributed to the prevailing scarcity of milk in rural and urban areas, according to the writer, is the extensive slaughter of cattle for the Defence Forces. Other causes are: rise in the price of fodder due to the general rise in prices and also transport difficulties, difficulty of importing milch cattle into urban areas like Calcutta and Bombay, large demand for milk for the army, influx of refugees and war workers into urban areas and the growing habit of tea and coffee-drinking by larger sections of the population, especially in view of the rise in their money incomes. The methods suggested for action by the Government for overcoming the shortage are: prohibition of slaughter of prime cattle, import of meat for the forces, control of the prices of the more important articles of cattle food, interprovincial exchange of cattles, reduction of municipal taxes and rents on cattle stalls, import of milk products from abroad, subsidised supply of milk to children and nursing mothers, etc.

(The 'Eastern Economist', dated 23-6-1944).



Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unions in Madras during 1942-1943.

Number of Registered Unions.— According to the annual report of the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Madras during the year ending 31-3-1943, the number of Unions registered during the year was 17 while the registration of five unions was cancelled for failure to submit the prescribed annual return for the year 1941-42. The total number of trade unions registered since the commencement of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, up to 31st March 1943 was 211 of which 143 were actually on the register at the end of the year under report. 52 of these 143 unions did not submit the prescribed returns. The Government proposes to furnish to trade unions a brief statement summarising the duties and obligation under the Act.

Membership of Unions.— There were four unions and a federation of 14 Unions (three were of the employees of railways including railway workshops and other transport excluding tramways) whose objects were not confined to the province. The membership of these Unions went up from 25,097 to 43,464, while the membership of Unions whose objects were confined to the province rose from 48,005 to 49,451. The increases were highest in railways including railway workshops and other transport excluding tramways (from 25,075 to 43,452), followed by dock and port trusts (from 1,121 to 3,040), engineering (from 1,502 to 2,105) and miscellaneous (from 10,065 to 16,555). Most of the other industries recorded decline, as for example, textiles (from 29,449 to 25,432), printing presses (from 2,256 to 1,501), and tramways (from 1,903 to 1,896).

Assets.— The assets of Unions not confined to the province rose up from Rs. 47,165 at the beginning of the year to Rs. 51,604 at the close; the receipts during the year were Rs. 26,189, while the assets of Unions confined to the province rose up from Rs. 34,615 at the beginning of the year to Rs. 45,131 at the end, the receipts being Rs. 54,415. 23 Unions availed themselves of free official audit arranged by the Registrar. The Madras Trade Unions Regulations were amended prescribing books and registers to be maintained by registered trade unions to facilitate audit.

( Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1944 ).

Progress of Trade Unions in Orissa during 1942-43.

No union or federation of unions was registered during 1943 in Orissa. There were only 3 unions functioning and these belonged to the 'Engineering', 'Printing Presses' and 'Miscellaneous' groups. The objects of the unions were confined to the province.

Only two of the unions submitted the prescribed returns. Their total membership fell from 327 at the beginning of the year to 322 at its close. The opening balance, income and closing balance for the year were Rs. 145-11-3, Rs. 87-12-0 and Rs. 132-7-3 respectively. None of the unions maintained a political fund.

(The Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1944).

Indo-British Trade Union Committee to  
be set up: I.F.L. Delegates' Proposal.

The proposal that there should be established a joint committee of British and Indian trade union movements on similar lines to the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee was made by delegates of the Indian Federation of Labour, now in Great Britain, at an interview with Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress in London on 8-6-1944. Such a committee would consider labour problems arising from time to time in India and secure the support of British workers for their solution.

The delegation also suggested that the British T.U.C. should send a delegation to India so that British trade union leaders should see for themselves conditions in India as affecting workers and peasants.

(The Hindustan Times, dated  
10-6-1944 ).

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Bill Banning Beggary Passed by Mysore  
Legislature.

The Mysore Legislature has adopted an official Bill for prohibition of beggary as a means of living all over the State. Religious mendicancy, it is pointed out, will be permitted under licence. The Bill follows closely a comprehensive report submitted by a committee appointed by the Government early in 1943. Under the Bill relief institutions will be established in different parts in the State where beggars will be taken and provided work. Such relief institutions might be work houses or settlement areas. The aim of the Bill is mainly to reform the beggars and it is to be made operative mainly in areas where relief is provided for beggars and imprisonment will not be awarded to offenders except as a last resort when they are found incorrigible.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-6-1944).

EDUCATION.

The Mysore Elementary Education Amendment Bill: Measure adopted by Representative Assembly.

The Mysore Representative Assembly adopted on 2-6-1944 the Mysore Elementary Education (Amendment) Bill. The Bill imposes a duty on the parent of every child who voluntarily joins an elementary school, to see that it attends school ~~it~~ till it completes the elementary education course, ~~prescribed for it~~, or until it completes its 12th year. There will be no compulsion in respect of attendance of religious classes. The Bill makes it an offence to employ, during school hours, any child who is required to attend an elementary school.

(The Statesman, dated 6-6-1944).

Educational Concession for Children of Indian Servicemen.

The extension of educational concessions granted to Indian servicemen's children and dependants, and revised rules governing the grant of the concessions are announced by the Bombay Government. The concessions are available to the children, boys and girls, and dependants of all servicemen, including men of the Indian States Forces and the Mercantile Marine, domiciled in Bombay Province (excluding the Indian States), who are on the active list and whose pay and allowances do not exceed Rs. 300 a month. Step-children and adopted children are eligible and the term "dependant" is taken to include the servicemen's wife, brothers and sisters dependant on him, and the children of a deceased brother or sister, if they are dependant on him.

The primary concessions are; Free education in the primary standards, together with an allowance up to Rs. 12 a year for books and slates; for pupils in secondary middle and high schools, the payment of a sum equivalent to all fees levied in these schools, including games fees, and an allowance of up to Rs. 24, or a free-studentship in a Government school; for Arts and Professional Colleges, including medical institutions and the College of Agriculture, the payment of an amount equivalent to all fees with a monthly scholarship up to Rs. 15 provided the student secures a certain percentage of marks in a qualifying examination, or a free-studentship in a Government institutions; for industrial technical institutions, the payment of an amount equivalent to the full fees and an annual allowance up to Rs. 12. In addition, students required to live in hostels will be given an allowance to cover the hostel charges, up to a maximum of Rs. 40 a month.

(The Times of India, 14-6-1944).

Employment.

Employment Exchange Started in Mysore.

The Mysore Government has started an employment exchange as an adjunct to the Labour Department. Its primary concern at present will be to discover sources of employment for labour thrown out of work temporarily as a result of the closing down of the Sivasamudram power station and the consequent stoppage of power supply to industrial concerns in the State.

(The Times of India, 26-6-1944).

Technical Training Scheme: Government Appoints Advisory Committee.

The Central Government has appointed an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the Railway, Supply and Labour Departments and Engineering employers to review the existing methods and syllabuses of training under the Technical Training Scheme and to advise how they should be adjusted to meet the present needs of the industry. The committee is presided over by the Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India. It will meet as required at important industrial centres and it is expected that the first meeting will be held towards the end of July or early in August, 1944.

(The Statesman, dated 23-6-1944).

Unskilled Labour Committee in Sind.

The Sind Government has in accordance with the decision of the Government of India, set up a provincial labour supply committee of 14 persons, consisting of officials and non-officials, with Mr. J.M. Sladen, Chief Secretary, as the Chairman, in order to co-ordinate the employment of unskilled labour in the province. The personnel of the committee includes representatives of the Sind Trade Union Congress and the Labour Federation. The functions of the committee will include the adoption of all measures necessary to secure an adequate labour force for essential works in Sind.

(The Times of India, 5-6-1944).

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Control of Recruitment and Employment of  
Labour: D.I.R. 81 made Applicable.

By Notification No. 5 DG(66)/44 dated 10-6-1944 of the Defence Department, Government of India, the following amendment has been made in the Defence of India Rules:

After clause (bc) of sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the said Rules, the following clause ~~is~~ inserted, namely:-

"(bd) for controlling the recruitment and employment of labour in such areas as ~~may~~ may be specified in the order, with a view to securing that sufficient workers are available for essential undertakings".

According to an A.P.I. message, this amendment will, in the first instance, enable the authorities to take ~~further~~ further steps to control the recruitment of colliery labour by contractors, and to maintain colliery labour in adequate numbers in the coalfields.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, section 1,  
dated 10-6-1944, page 775 and the  
Hindustan Times, dated 10-6-1944 ).

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Control Measures.

Conservation of Scrap in India: Economy  
Officer Appointed.

To advise on the conservation of raw materials and utilisation of scrap, the Government of India in the Supply Department has appointed Mr. Aftab Rai, as Materials Economy Officer. He will undertake extensive tours and visit both Government and contractors' factories. The main object of his visit will be to advise on matters of production and suggest ways and means to conserve raw materials to the maximum extent compatible with efficiency. He will also examine 'specifications', if need be, to ensure economy without detriment to quality. The Materials Economy Officer will also examine the reasons for heavy rejections and advise on methods to remedy the defects. He will, for the present, confine his investigations to the more important contracts.

(The Hindu, dated 6-6-1944).

Government Contractors' Material Control  
Order, 1944.

The Government of India issued on 20-6-1944 the Government Contractors' Material (Control) order, 1944, to make it obligatory on every Government Contractor to make proper and economic use of all material supplied by Government, whether free of cost or on payment, for utilisation in the execution of any Crown contract. The Materials Economy Officer of the Government of India may, with a view to securing compliance with the provisions of ~~the order~~, direct any Government contractor to produce such books, accounts and other documents, and furnish such information, ~~and~~ relating to his undertaking. The Economy Officer may enter upon and inspect any premises where work in connection with the execution of any Crown contract is carried on.

(Notification No. 770 dated  
20-6-1944: Gazette of India, Part I,  
section 1, dated 24-6-1944, page  
838).

The Foot Wear Control Order, 1944.

The Footwear Control Order, 1944, issued in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 29-6-1944, controls the prices of all men's and women's footwear sold in India except "made-to-measure" and imported footwear, the prices of which will continue to be regulated as at present under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance.

As it is not possible, owing to the scattered and unorganized nature of the Indian shoe industry, to limit production to certain specified types and to fix a controlled price for each type, maximum prices varying

from Rs. 18 to Rs. 2 have been fixed for 10 general categories covering the whole range of men's, women's and children's footwear. In effect, therefore, the Control Order fixes an overall maximum price of Rs.18 above which it is illegal to sell men's or women's footwear of any description apart from imported and "made-to-measure" footwear.

The maximum prices at which manufacturers, factors and wholesalers are to sell footwear have been fixed in addition to the retail prices. In order to safeguard the interests of cottage manufacturers who sell their products through factors, it has also been laid down that the cottage manufacturer must receive not less than 72 per cent of the retail price of the footwear.

Manufacturers are also required to mark each pair of footwear with their name or brand, the size, the quality according to the (A), (B) and (C) categories laid down in the order and the retail price. Retailers are required to display price lists showing the controlled maximum prices.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-6-1944).

The Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944,  
and the Paper Control (Distribution)  
Order, 1944.

The Government of India has on 12-6-1944 issued under the Defence of India Rules the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, for controlling the consumption of paper by news papers and for periodicals, directories, guide books, pamphlets, posters and advertising circulars, note books, and account books and for wrappers and packing cases. Another order, the Paper Control (Distribution) Order, 1944, issued by the Government of India, seeks to regulate transactions in paper by manufacturers, importers and stockists.

Notifications Nos. 300-P(1)/44 and 302 P(9)/44, dated 12-6-1944 of the Government of India, reproduced in the Calcutta Gazette dated 22-6-1944, Part I-A, pages 171-180 ).

The United Provinces Fish (Movement) Control  
Order, 1944.

The United Provinces Government has on 22-6-1944 issued under the Defence of India Rules the United Provinces Fish (Movement) Control Order, 1944, under which fish may not be transported out of the province in quantities exceeding five seers (1 seer = 2 lbs) except under a licence.

(Notification No. B-4198-C.S. dated 24-6-1944, the U.P. Gazette, dated 24-6-1944, Part I-A, page 194 ).

Food.

Famine Enquiry Commission Ordinance.

In pursuance of the undertaking given to the Central Legislature at the end of last November, the Government of India has promulgated an Ordinance providing for the constitution of a Commission to inquire into the famine in Bengal.

The Commission's terms of reference are: To investigate and report to the Governor-General-in-Council upon the causes of the food shortage and subsequent epidemics in India, and in particular in Bengal, in the year 1943, and to make recommendations as to prevention of their recurrence, with special reference to—(a) the possibility of improving the diet of the people and the quality and yield of food crops and (b) the possibility of improving the system of administration in respect of the supply and distribution of food, the provision of emergency medical relief, and the emergent arrangements for the control of epidemics in famine conditions in those areas in those aspects in which the present system may be found to have been unsatisfactory.

The Commission will, in the first instance, direct its inquiries to the case of Bengal and in advance of its final report make recommendations in relation to that province.

(The Statesman, dated 24-5-1944).

Central Government's Subvention to Bengal  
towards expenditure to combat 1943 famine.

According to the Associated Press of India the ~~grant~~ Central Government has decided to grant a subvention of Rs. 100 million to the Bengal Government. The grant is being made in view of the abnormal expenditure which the Bengal Government has had to incur in combating last year's famine ~~is~~ and in meeting other extraordinary charges.

(The Hindu, dated 17-6-1944).

New Central Food Advisory Council.

In order to associate public opinion as closely as possible with the Central Government's policy for food administration, the Government of India has re-constituted the Central Food Advisory Council to advise the Food, and Education, Health and Lands Departments on matters connected with the production, procurement and distribution of foodstuffs, including rationing and the nutritional aspect of food supply.

The following have already accepted invitations to serve on the new Council:-

Begam Shah Nawaz, Raja of Jehangirabad, Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya, Sir Manilal B. Nanavati, Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, Sir Parshottandas Thakurdas, Sir Datar Singh, Sir William Roberts, Major Janshed Ali Khan, Dr. L.C. Jain, Dr. W.R. Aykroyd, Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Homin, Messrs. Syed Aisaz Rasool, B. Ramachandra Reddy, Mukhtar Singh, Vivek Singh, Santosh Singh, J.C. Setalvad, Fozal I. Rahimtoola, M.H. Hasham Premji, G.W. Dougall, S.R. Jariwala, B.H. Zaidi, Yusuf Abdoela Haroon, Neville



Neville N. Wadia, H.N. Dunsra and Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee: The date of the first meeting is under consideration, but it is hoped that it will be possible to assemble the Council towards the latter half of July, 1944.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 5-6-1944).

Progress of Providing Storage Accommodation for Food Grains in India.

At the Budget session in March 1943, the Director General of Food, Government of India, stated in the Council of State that steps are being taken to arrange for storage and that lack of storage arrangements in some of the main supplying provinces proved a serious handicap in 1942 in procurement operations. Since then much progress has been made in the construction of accommodation for storage. Accommodation in the Government Storage Depot at Karachi has been doubled while new constructions contemplated in the Punjab, C.P., Orissa, Assam and the Eastern States will provide accommodation for nearly 200,000 tons. The cost of these new constructions is likely to be met by the Central and Provincial Governments in equal measure. It is also learnt that accommodation for another 60,000 tons has already been hired in the Punjab which will be increased up to 150,000 tons as and when necessary. It is pointed out that storage plays an important part in Government's plan of food procurement, as only through adequate storage accommodation will it be possible to preserve supplies in good condition, maintain an even flow of rail movement throughout the crop period, take full advantage of any extra transport facilities, which are offered from time to time, and permit the unimpeded continuance of procurement by eliminating checks on marketing and outward movement.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 16-6-1944).

Increasing Cereal Crop in Bombay: Central Government's Subsidy.

An immediate increase of 151,000 maunds (1 maund = 82 lbs) a year in Bombay's outturn of cereals is expected to result from a scheme for the construction of new wells and tanks and the improvement of existing ones, which is to be assisted by the Government of India. When the scheme is complete, the increase is estimated at 262,000 maunds a year. The scheme will cost altogether Rs. 2,575,480 over two years, of which Rs. 995,000 is to provide subsidies and Rs. 1,645,000 is for loans, which will be free of interest during the first year. The Government of India has agreed to assist the Bombay Government in financing the scheme with a loan of Rs. 1,645,000 which will be free of interest for the first year; Rs. 295,000 towards the cost of subsidies to cultivators; and a grant of Rs. 10,660 to meet one-third of the cost of the supervising staff.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-6-1944).

Seriousness of Food Situation in India:  
Indian Public Men's Joint Statement.

A joint statement drawing the attention of the British Parliament and public, and of the United Nations, to the food situation in India has been issued at Bombay towards the end of June, 1944, by 27 leading public men of India.

After criticising the delay shown by the Government of India in implementing the plans advocated by the Food Grains' Policy Committee (vide pages 31-35 of our report for September 1943), the statement points out, dealing with the prevailing situation: "The food situation in India still continues to be one of serious anxiety. Conditions are of acute scarcity and malnutrition exist in most of the deficit areas where the population lives on the margin of subsistence. The normal overall deficiency in food supplies ~~is~~ coupled with the large increase in the military demand, and the certainty of a poor wheat crop indicate the grim prospects for the country in the coming months. Any substantial deficiency in rains hereafter will mean repetition of a second famine in the Malabar and Kannad districts of Madras, in the refusal of the Bombay Presidency, and in some of the Deccan States. It may involve distress more or less throughout the country. The public in India has repeatedly warned the Government that large-scale import of ~~wheat~~ wheat from abroad alone will help to avert a repetition of the disasters of the past and to render secure the major base of Allied action in the East. In view of the assurances given by the Central ~~Government's~~ Government's spokesmen to the Central Legislature, the failure to ~~announce and to implement~~ announce and to implement a well-thought-out import programme must be due not to lack of effort on the part of Delhi, but to apathy on the part of Whitehall."

<sup>to the statement</sup>  
Their signatories include Mr. G.D. Birla, Sir Sultan Ghinay, Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, the Rt. Hon. Dr. M.R. Jayakar, Mr. N.M. Joshi, the Hon. Pandit H.N. Kumar, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. Hoesseinbhoj A. Laljee, Sir Rustom Masani, Mr. Jannadas H. Mehta, Sir Homi Mody, Mr. K.M. Munshi, Kusraraja Sir Mathiah Chettiar, Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. B.C. Roy, the Rt. Hon. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. N.R. Sarkar, the Rt. Hon. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri, and Sir Purnhotandas Thakardas.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-6-1944).

The Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed  
Relief Act, 1939, to be extended to  
Whole Province.

It is understood that as one of the Famine Relief measures, the Bengal Government has decided to enforce the Bengal Poor and Unemployed Relief Act 1939 (vide page 3 of our July 1939 report), throughout the ~~the~~ province with a view to providing relief to poor and destitutes. It has been decided that there should be a certain number of destitute homes in the province comprising work centres, Women's homes, temporary children's homes, disabled persons' homes, hospitals, etc.

(The National Call, 16-6-1944).

Intensive Training in Agriculture.

To help the "Grow More Food Campaign", a scheme of intensive short-term training of agricultural staff has been suggested to provincial Governments by the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Government of India. Needs of provinces are being ascertained and arrangements are in hand for starting training courses at the various agricultural colleges. The scheme will cover non-graduate, graduate and gazetted staff. Besides agricultural colleges, Government farms and well-managed private estates will be asked to train personnel. The trainees will receive practical instruction in all aspects of crop production and suitable treatment for each crop in particular areas to obtain the optimum outturn from the land. The employment of retired agricultural officers and release of trained men from the Army are also being considered.

(The Statesman, 18-6-1944).

Bengal Government's Scheme to Encourage  
Production of Compost Manure in Villages.

The Bengal Ministry of Agriculture have announced commenced the operation of a scheme involving a total cost of Rs. 275,000 for the continuous preparation of compost manure in villages with the assistance of a large number of demonstrators. The scheme provided for the selection and training of 200 demonstrators who will be sent to villages, one person to work roughly for a union or more correctly for a group of one or two villages within the union. The demonstrator will show the villagers how to prepare compost, more than one heap of compost being produced within a union. Each demonstrator will work in the union for a period of six months. Should a union or a group of villages within the control of a demonstrator produce compost totalling 6,000 maunds or more, that particular union or group of villages would be entitled to a reward of Rs. 500/-. This reward will not, however, be paid all at a time, but only one-third will be paid as a first instalment.

At the end of 6 months the demonstrator will take on a new unit for demonstration of compost-making and will work in this new area for another six months. If a unit which during the previous six months produced 6,000 maunds again makes another 6,000 maunds at the end of the subsequent six months, it will be given the second instalment of the reward of one-third of Rs. 500/-. Similarly for earning the balance of the reward the same unit will have to prepare another 6,000 maunds at the end of a 3rd period of 6 months. The basic scheme of payment of the reward is to encourage villages to continue making at least 6,000 maunds of compost during each period of six months.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-6-1944).

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Questionnaire Issued by Labour Investigation  
(Rogo) Committee.

References were made at page 67 of our December 1943 and page 46 of our February 1944 reports to the appointment and terms of reference respectively of the Labour Investigation Committee set up by the Government of India. Early in June 1944, the Committee issued a questionnaire intended to collect factual data for evolving ~~from~~ a plan of social security for India's industrial labour to various provincial Governments, Chief Commissioners, Labour Organisations, Universities and other educational institutions.

The questionnaire deals with the position in regard to existing labour legislation, wages and earnings, employment, working conditions, migration, indebtedness, age and ~~maternity~~ mortality statistics and welfare activities. It seeks to elicit official and non-official opinion on the risks of insecurity arising in the case of industrial labour, and on security measures such as health insurance, unemployment insurance, invalidity pensions, old-age pensions, widows' and orphans' pensions, industrial insurance and maternity insurance.

The Labour Investigation Committee has asked for information on surveys of labour conditions undertaken in various provinces or States, and has invited opinion on the working of the Factories Act, the Payment of Wages Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Maternity Benefits Acts.

Inquiries into wages and earnings have been framed to secure information regarding the basic wage rate for different types of workers, the changes that have taken place in these rates, the principles underlying the fixation of basic wages, the allowances paid in addition to the basic wages, the attempts made to standardize the wage rate and the effects of efficiency schemes on employment, wage rates, earnings, production and working conditions. Questions also deal with the problem of employment, the day-to-day relationship between employer and worker, modes of recruitment, labour turn-over and absenteeism.

( A copy of the Questionnaire was forwarded to Montreal with this Office's Minute D.1/724/44 dated 28-5-1944 ).

( Copy of Questionnaire forwarded to this Office by the Secretary, Labour Investigation Committee, and the Statesman dated 10-6-1944 ).

Setting up Chemical Fertilizer Industry  
as part of Post-war Development Plan in  
Bihar.

Bihar has initiated a scheme for manufacturing chemical fertilisers as part of the post-war development plan and a plant was expected to be set up for the purpose shortly in the coalfield area, according to the Development Commissioner, Mr. Dhan<sup>1/3</sup> have an outline of the activities of the various departments in post-war planning in the province and also in relation to the Government of India schemes and those of other provinces for post-war development. A number of major

schemes relating to post-war development, had already been undertaken and much ground had been covered in the completion of preliminary arrangements for putting them into operation. The Government was concentrating on such industries and agricultural development schemes.

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

Central Government directs Enquiry into India's Industrial Needs.

*Reference was made at page 53 of our November 1943 report that*

~~It is understood~~ that the Government of India has directed an industrial enquiry with a view to ascertaining the requirements of industrial establishments in the country in the immediate post-war period. War has undoubtedly hampered the development of some industrial concerns and prevented modernisation of several other firms, and the object of the enquiry seems to be to find out their needs by way of plant and machinery and other essentials which may have to be imported from foreign countries. Mr. J.R. Venugopalar, Industrial Adviser to the Government of India, who is conducting the enquiry, recently visited Bombay and is now visiting Eastern Provinces. It is understood that, after all necessary material is collected, prominent industrialists will be invited by the Government to examine the material and advise which of the industries should be given priority for facilities for importing their requirements. This procedure, it is expected, will avoid unnecessary ~~unpleasant~~ competition and even confusion resulting in unco-ordinated developments.

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

Progress of the Road Reconstruction Plan.

*of our March 1944 report*

Reference was made at pages 54 to 56 to the Rs. 4,500 million post-war road reconstruction plans before the Government of India. In connection with these plans, it is understood ~~that~~ that the Government of India has asked Provincial Governments to send their plans and estimates. Tentative estimates have been called for by August 1944, but fuller details have been asked for by December this year. It is understood that a plant committee is being constituted to evolve a plan of plants and tools, etc., required for post-war road construction and for placing advance orders abroad to ensure early supplies.

The United Press learns that the communications branch of the Posts and Air Department, which deals with roads, will be transferred to the War Transport Department by August, 1944.

(The Times of India, 23-6-1944).

Madras Road Development Plans.

The broad outlines of the post-war road programme of the Madras Government are now available. Forming part of the Rs. 4,000 million national highway plan of the Government of India, the Madras scheme envisages the extension of the present mileage <sup>in the Province</sup> of 36,000 to 54,000. The ultimate aim is stated to be to connect all villages in the province having a population of over 1,000 ~~by~~ by a network of roads to the

existing and new highways which will interlink the industrial centres in the province. For the purpose of maintaining the roads at a specific high standard, Government may take over the administration of most of the important roads, ~~which~~ now under the control of local bodies, who can divert their funds and grants to the development of feeders. Estimated to cost Rs. 350 million, the whole scheme is planned to be completed within 10 or 15 years. Of ~~this~~ the total sum, about Rs. 250 million will be devoted to the improvement of existing roads and ~~approximately~~ Rs. 50 million each to the construction of new roads and bridges.

The preliminary report is expected to be sent to the Central Government by the beginning of August 1944 by the Madras engineers who are now working out details and rough estimates.

(The Times of India, 26-6-1944).

#### G.P. Post-War Reconstruction Plans.

The Government of the G.P. and Berar, it is understood, has a five-year plan for post-war industrial development. The timber, paper, textile and oil-seed industries, which have a vast scope in the province, will receive particular attention. It is also understood that researches for improving the quality of coal found in the province have been instituted. This would enable the setting up of iron and steel industries. There are also schemes for producing cheap ~~and~~ electrical power, which is essential for aluminium industries.

(The Times of India, 24-6-1944).

#### Social Security and Industrial Plans for Mysore.

A resolution recommending to the Government that an expert committee should be constituted to prepare a comprehensive scheme of social security for the citizens of the State somewhat on the lines of the Beveridge Plan and that steps be taken to implement the recommendations of such a committee as early as possible were adopted by the Mysore Representative Assembly on 10-6-1944.

By another resolution the Assembly recommended to the Government the appointment of a committee to draw up a post-war reconstruction scheme and the creation of a fund to finance such a scheme. In the course of his reply to the debate on the resolutions, the Government spokesman informed the House that a scheme modelled on the Bombay Industrialists' Plan was being evolved by the economic conference in Mysore which was revived recently with a view to providing a regular machinery for consulting informed non-official public opinion on matters of economic importance and for preparation of post-war reconstruction plans suited to the needs of the State.

~~The~~ A third resolution urging the introduction of compulsory education all over the State during the next five years was withdrawn by the mover after the Minister for Education had pointed out the practical difficulties at present in the way of the introduction of <sup>the</sup> element of compulsion in the primary stage of education which involved the opening of approximately 16,000 new primary schools and annual recurring expenditure of about ten million of Rupees. The Government accepted the

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principle underlying the resolution and <sup>promised to</sup> would do all in their power to <sup>its</sup> accelerate the progress of literacy in the State, he said.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 13-6-1944).

Proposals to Start Two Automobile  
Companies in India.

A company is to be registered shortly under the name of Premier Automobiles Ltd., with an authorised capital of Rs. 100,000,000 for the manufacture of automobiles in India. The industry will be started in Bombay because of transport facilities and the nearness to raw materials. In addition, the location of the industry in Bombay will facilitate the availability of a free market for skilled labour and also will make the problem of housing easier. The Government of India has sanctioned the raising of a share capital of Rs. 22,500,000 and the 225 shares will be underwritten by Devkaran Nanjee Investment Co., Ltd.; Mr. Walchand Hirachand is the chairman of the board of directors.

Another automobile company is also being floated shortly under the sponsorship of <sup>Mr.</sup> G.D. Birla.

(The Times of India, 26-6-1944).

Post-War Plans for Jaipur State:  
Special Committee's Report\*.

A post-war Reconstruction Committee was appointed by the Jaipur State Government in July 1943 to inquire into the problems relating to the economic and general reconstruction of the State after the war, with particular reference to the question of employment for demobilized soldiers.

Various measures to develop factory and cottage industries; improve and extend agriculture, <sup>and</sup> better health conditions, expand education and provide employment ~~are contained in the Report of the Committee submitted recently.~~ are contained in the Report of the Committee submitted recently.

Industrial Planning and Research.- The report lays special emphasis on the need to have a well-planned industrialization programme. It is desirable, the Committee points out, to have a small expert staff of economists and statisticians, continuously employed in the collection and analysis of information relating to industries, agriculture, marketing, labour, co-operation, industrial and rural finance, transport and every other branch of developmental work. It can maintain a regular statistical service available to private enterprise as well as to Government.

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\* Report of the Jaipur State Post-War Reconstruction Committee, Jaipur, 1943, Pages 74 + 31.

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**State Aid to Industries.**- For a short period after the war State aid will be needed for industrial expansion. There may be need for a public works policy to fight the depression. Dealing with long period industrial development the Committee suggests the setting up of a marketing board for organized marketing of the state's products, of fostering of urban co-operation for the development of cottage industries and the opening of consumers' and housing societies. The State should be prepared to assist in a policy of industrialization, but it should not undertake functions which can efficiently be discharged by private enterprise. Industrial undertakings should be given the widest measure of freedom. The State may interfere to ensure proper working conditions for the worker. New industries which can be profitably worked in the State have also been suggested in the report.

**Demobilisation Problems.**- The report recommends that a census of all soldiers enlisted from the State should be taken and that a tentative schedule should be prepared of suitable employments. Arrangements should be made to open various training classes for demobilized personnel. A large number could be absorbed in agriculture while others could be utilized in public works.

**Labour Legislation.**- The report suggests the appointment of a body of inspectors to enforce more strictly the provisions of the Jaipur Factories Act, 1940, and stresses the necessity to supplement the existing labour legislation with an enactment regulating labour conditions in mines, on the lines of British Indian legislation. It is recommended that as far as practicable, the standards of labour legislation ~~prevailing~~ prevalent in British India should be adopted. "At present the State is the largest employer of industrial labour, on its railway, and it can set an example to private employers by the standards adopted there. The Government of India in their Labour Department are working out a scheme for sickness insurance, and the scheme evolved might be considered for adoption in Jaipur—at least for the workers on the Jaipur State Railway. For all labour employed on the railways or in government factories (including permanent servants of the government) some form of provident fund scheme should be made compulsory. In the case of government servants the provident fund scheme may be offered as an alternative to the pension scheme which is at present in operation, besides being applied to those who are non-pensionable. We suggest also that commutation of a part of the pension, as in British India, may be made permissible."

**Agriculture.**- For the development of agriculture, the committee recommends the extension of irrigation facilities, encouragement of dry farming, extension of area under crops, improvement of tenancy conditions, crop planning designed to secure the maximum production and optimum distribution of area between food and non-food crops, introduction of quality seeds, improvement of live stock and a wider utilisation of co-operative facilities in rural transactions in general.

The report also contains recommendations for the development of education and improvement of health amenities in the post-war period.

*Minute* (A copy of the report was forwarded to the Montreal Office with an Office Memorandum No. D.1/660/44 dated 8-6-1944).



Rs. Ten Thousand Million Plan to Step Up  
AGRICULTURE.

A Rs. 10,000 million plan for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry with the immediate object of increasing production by 50 per cent in the next 10 years and by 100 per cent in 15 years as suggested in a memorandum prepared by a special committee for the consideration of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, was explained to press men at an interview at New Delhi on 29-6-1944 by Sir P.M. Kharegat, Additional Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India. Besides the capital expenditure of Rs. 10,000 million, the plan provides for a recurring annual expenditure of Rs. 200 million, that is, an average total expenditure of nine annas per acre per annum when all the cultivable area has been brought under cultivation.

Production Targets.- The plan aims at securing enough food of the right kind for every individual and improving the standard of living of the people. Production of cereals, it suggests, should be increased by 10 per cent, pulses by 20 per cent, fats and oils by 250 per cent, fruits by 50 per cent, vegetable by 100 per cent, and milk by 300 per cent. The immediate targets for animal feedstuffs are an increase in the production of oil cakes and other concentrates by 400 per cent and fodder by 25 per cent. There is no marked shortage of industrial crops so far as quantity is concerned. Higher production of cash crops of better quality and a proper balance between food and cash crops, however, is indicated.

Reclamation and Irrigation Schemes.- At present, out of 610 million acres of cultivable area in India, 250 million acres are uncultivated or fallow. The memorandum suggests a survey to find out what exactly prevents large blocks of land from being cultivated and the preparation of reclamation and anti-erosion schemes.

The memorandum suggests that besides irrigation by canals, water could be lifted by mechanical means, where irrigation by flow is not possible, more tube-wells and ordinary wells could be sunk, tanks already existing could be repaired and more built to conserve surplus rain water, and bands and drains constructed where necessary.

Manure.- Where water is available, production can be increased by suitable manuring. It is estimated that two-and-a-half million tons of nitrogen are required annually. This, according to the memorandum, can be made good from farmyard refuse, compost, green manure, oil cakes and inorganic fertilizers. Manure dumps should be dug for the proper preservation of cowdung, town waste converted into compost, green manure should be utilized wherever possible, oil seed production increased and oil cakes used as manure, and as a first step machinery should be imported for the manufacture of 350,000 tons of chemical fertilizers and the manure given at cheap rates to cultivators.

Supply of Quality Seeds.- Production can be increased by about 10 or 15 per cent by the use of better seed. A seed farm should be set up in every district to produce pedigree seed and to arrange for their multiplication, storage and distribution. This should be combined with sound cultural practices, including the best rotation of crops. Scope for tractor cultivation and other kinds of power implements should be investigated. This should be introduced where suitable together with consolidation of holdings and consolidated and co-operative farming.

Marketing of Produce.- For marketing, villages should be organized to act co-operatively and to sell the surplus produce jointly. The memorandum suggests that the Government should guarantee to cultivators an assured market at a reasonable price.

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**Fruit Productions.**— To increase fruit production the present low yielding inferior quality trees should be replaced by new ones producing a larger quantity of fruit of superior quality. A fruit technological institute should be set up along with regional stations to ensure that these products are prepared in hygienic conditions.

**Improving Live Stock.**— The problems connected with cattle improvement are feeding, breeding, management and disease control. The animals should be bred for qualities, such as disease resistance, economic feeding, longevity and productivity. A nutritious diet supplemented by special minerals such as calcium and phosphorus is suggested. The animals should be properly housed and groomed, and there should be proper salvage of cows and buffaloes when they go dry. They may be further helped by the adoption of both preventive and curative measures. The memorandum recommends that the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute and the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute should specialise in research of a fundamental nature. Their programmes should be co-ordinated with those of provincial departmental research institutes and universities. Commodity research stations with their own regional or provincial stations should be established for each major commodity. In addition there should be an experimental farm in each division. Improvement on the scale contemplated in the plan cannot be brought about without the necessary staff.

**Training of Village Staff.**— It is emphasized that the first priority of action must be given to the training of staff. Simultaneously surveys which are necessary before schemes for the reclamation of waste lands and for the maximum utilization of water resources can be drawn up should be taken in hand. In every tehsil and district an agricultural association should be set up. For every village there should be a village guide who will act as a link between technical experts and cultivators and will be the departmental correspondent for his village.

(The Statesman, dated 23-6-1944).

Meeting of Post-war Policy Committee on  
Agriculture, Simla, 26 to 29-6-1944.

A meeting of the Post-war Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries was held at Simla from 26 to 29-6-1944, Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, presiding.

**Viceroy's Message.**— In a message to the Committee the Viceroy observed: "Agriculture must take a high place—perhaps the highest, in the development of independent India after the war. Unless we succeed in raising substantially the standard of living in our villages, not only for the small farmer but for all who make their living on the land, India cannot become a wealthier, or a healthier, or a better-educated country."

**Methods of Improvement.**— "There are two ways in which we can make progress. We can bring more land under cultivation; and we can make better use of the land we cultivate already. The first of these methods is obviously important, and in considering it you will also doubtless remember the need for extending our forests and preserving and perhaps extending our grazing grounds. It is to the second method that I wish to draw particular attention because, although you are concerned principally with the post-war development, your advice on this method will have an important bearing on our war-time food problem. The use of

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all possible sources of irrigation, the supply of manure, the supply of improved seed, and protection against pests and diseases must be vital elements both in our short-term and in our long-term programmes..... I shall not be satisfied until we are organized both at the Centre and in the provinces so that there is an agricultural plan not only for each district but for each village or group of villages."

Training of Personnel.- "The crux of the problem is trained personnel. You may think that it is impossible to expand and reorganize the provincial agricultural departments thoroughly enough or quickly enough to get early results, but I suggest you consider what has been done in industry during the war. We cannot produce in a few months scores and hundreds of men with degrees and diplomas—we need them and must set about training them now—but we can surely produce for the immediate future improvised staffs of practical men who can get our agricultural drive going. I should like to see selected landowners—men of education and modern ideas about agriculture—taking part either as temporary officials, or as the trainers of the subordinate staff, and I am sure we need bold practical training schemes, with the courses simplified, so that we may make a real start in the field."

Sir Jogendra Singh's Presidential Address.- Stressing the need for providing ~~basic~~ nourishing food for all, Sir Jogendra Singh, in his presidential address, said: "A large proportion of our population is under ~~unhealthy~~ nourished and heavily in debt and is, therefore, incapable of taking full advantage of India's valuable resources. It is for the Committee to propose appropriate measures to increase the production of foods needed and to suggest how to distribute the same so that even the poorest and humblest worker gets what he needs and to work out a development programme on an all-India basis".

Referring to the economic side of the problem, Sir Jogendra said that a cultivator could not be expected to increase production if the increased production was to reduce the money value of his labour. That was a difficult problem but it had to be faced, not only in the interest of the general economy of the country. It was on the purchasing power of the bulk of the population, he continued, that the future expansion of industry and the raising of the living standard of both rural and urban population depended. It was on creating an effective and increased demand for goods that employment for nearly 68 million landless village labourers could be found. Dealing with the problem of equitable distribution of what was produced, Sir Jogendra stressed that the cost of transport was an important point in that connection. It had sometimes been suggested that transport should be treated as a service department rather than as a revenue-earning proposition and that the poor and needy should be subsidized.

Decisions of the Committee.- The Committee during its 4-day session recommended a comprehensive plan for more efficient means of production and the organisation required for research and development. It was laid down that these ~~xx~~ items of work should be taken up first which are likely to give the maximum amount of food in the minimum possible time. It has also proposed that the main functions of the Centre should be to help, guide and advise provinces so as to secure co-ordinated development and production.

Central co-ordination.- It was proposed that a Central Land Utilization Board should be set up to plan and co-ordinate work in respect of soil erosion, forestry, land reclamation, irrigation works and other forms of land improvement with necessary finance and staff. The extent of cultivable waste and the causes which prevent it from being cultivated should be ascertained and the requisite facilities provided for utilising such land to the best advantage. A sub-committee should be

appointed to suggest how the production of milk and fish may be increased.

**Research.**- On the research side it was recommended that a Central Department of Agriculture should be established, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research should become a Federal Council of Agriculture dealing with both research and development. Agricultural and animal husbandry research institutes should be strengthened and central commodity research stations should be established for the more important commodities. Staff should be appointed at the Centre to help and advise provinces on agriculture and the staff maintained by provinces should be strengthened. The Committee further recommended that the Central Government should provide and assured and steady source of income for the various Central organisations and activities proposed for agricultural development, such as might be secured by the proposal to reserve for the purpose one half of the profits of the Reserve Bank ~~annexing~~ accruing to the Government of India.

The items of work which the Committee recommended should be taken up first include training of staff, essential surveys, manufacture or import of machinery for cultivation, irrigation hydro-electric power and fertilizers. Other ~~items~~ items of improvement which provinces may ~~take~~ take up include irrigation, manure, land improvement, seed, cultural practices, grading cattle for milk and draught and the provisions of better marketing facilities.

**Forest Rehabilitation.**- The Committee considered the rehabilitation of ~~existing~~ existing forests, the establishment of new forests and the development of village plantations and proposed that each Province and State should aim at having not less than 20 per cent, ~~of its total area~~ ~~under forest~~ and if possible, 25 per cent of its ~~own~~ total area under forest and so distributed that the villager may be enabled to satisfy his requirements of agricultural timber and fuel ~~within~~ within a reasonable distance of his home. A classification should be undertaken forthwith of uncultivated land to determine the areas in which timber can be grown or forest management should be introduced. Soil conservation circles should be formed in each Province and State to deal with land management, the regulation of grazing with due regard to the needs of the cattle population and growing of trees whether as a protection against floods or erosion, or to supply the needs of the rural population. The Committee further recommended that steps should be taken for the development of industries for the utilisation of minor forest produce, which will provide avenues of employment for the growing population in forest tracts.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-6-1944 and the Hindn, dated 1-7-1944 ).

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Development of Certain New Industries  
in India.

According to a report in the Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore, included in the numerous applications received for grant of capital issue, there are some important schemes of industrial enterprise from the Punjab. A leading Lahore firm has secured the consent of the Government of India for the investment of capital issue in the manufacture of all parts and assembling of wireless sets. Another firm from Lahore has been permitted to invest a sum estimated at <sup>one</sup> million for the development of oil mining industry. The oil company will undertake an all-India geological survey to locate oil deposits. A Bombay firm has been granted permission to manufacture cameras.

(The Vanguard, 16-6-1944).

A 5-Year Plan of Post-war Development  
in Mysore State.

Details are being worked out by the Mysore Economic Conference for a tentative five-year plan of post-war development, according to a report issued by the Mysore Government on the progress of reconstruction planning in Mysore. Under the auspices of the Economic Conference, four Boards of Agriculture, Industries and Commerce, Education and Sericulture, have been set up. In addition to the work of these Boards, a number of problems relating to new lines of development with particular reference to post-war reconstruction are being examined.

Agricultural Development.— The issue of manure to all paddy-growers at 50 per cent of the cost, the starting of a bone-meal factory for supplying phosphatic manures, the resumption by Government of occupancy lands lying fallow for transfer to those who are ready to take them up for immediate cultivation, the development of lift irrigation, larger grants of takavi loans for well-sinking and the formation of a joint-stock company for the development of agriculture are among the suggestions of the Board of Agriculture for increasing food production.

Sericultural Development.— The Board of Sericulture has drawn up a programme of development which involves, in the aggregate, a capital cost of about Rs. one million and recurring expenditure of about Rs. 200,000 per annum. The programme includes the starting of 12 mulberry nurseries and two new hill stations for rearing foreign races, establishment of four fully equipped cocoon markets, ~~the starting of a sericultural school, the establishment of a research station at Channapatna and the development of an efficient sales organisation for securing for Mysore silk its due place in the world market.~~

Development of Industries and Commerce.— The Board of Industries and Commerce, which has been functioning continuously since 1934-35, has, according to the report, much solid work to its credit. The establishment of a joint-stock company for the manufacture of cement asbestos sheets at Hole-Narsipur is almost decided upon. The manufacture of electric motors and electrical accessories was considered by a sub-committee of the Board and a 5 H.P. electric motor has now been constructed as an experimental measure at the Government Electric Factory and has been put on trial. ~~Arrangements~~ Arrangements are being made to get the equipment required for the extension of the ammonia plant at the Mysore Chemicals and Fertilizers.

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The question of making good the deficiencies in locomotives and rolling stock and the conversion of the long mileage of narrow gauge lines into metre gauge to meet the need for rapid communications is being considered, as also the possibility of manufacturing locomotives and rolling-stock at Bhadravati.

A number of other problems relating to new lines of development, with particular reference to post-war reconstruction are also being examined. All these come within the framework of a tentative five-year plan of post-war development, details of which are being worked out.

(The Hindu, dated 23-6-1944).