

International Labour Office
Bureau International du Travail

Date Recd. JUL 10 1945

File No. Industrial and Labour Developments in April, 1945.

File No. N.B. Each section of this Report may be taken out separately.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

Government of India:

International Labour Office
Bureau International du Travail

X
Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1945: Women
Not to be employed underground during Ten Weeks
Preceding and Twenty Six Weeks Following Confinement.

The Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, as reported by the Select Committee, (vide page 2 of our report for March, 1945) was passed by the Central Legislative Assembly on 11-4-1945. The main change introduced by the Select Committee is an extension of the prohibition of the employment of women underground from 4 weeks to 26 weeks after confinement. Thus, including the 10 weeks' prohibition before confinement, the total period of prohibition on account of confinement is 36 weeks. Also, for a further a period of ten weeks, the woman cannot be employed underground for more than four hours in a day unless a creche is provided at the mine, and, in any case, for more than four hours at a time. Other changes made by the Committee are the provisions for the examination of women miners by women doctors and for an increase in the amount of benefit from 8 annas to 12 annas a day for all women miners and from 8 annas a day to Rs. 6 a week for women working underground. Further, women working underground are to be given maternity benefit at the above rate for the ten weeks immediately preceding and the six weeks following delivery.

The Bill was passed by the Council of State on 14-4-1945; it received the assent of the Governor General on 16-4-1945, and was published in the Gazette of India on 21-4-1945 as Act No. X of 1945.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-4-1945; The Gazette of India dated 21-4-1945, Part IV, pages 20-22). ✓

Factories (Amendment) Act, 1945: Ten Holidays with
pay for Factory Workers.

As stated at page 2 of our report for March 1945, the Central Legislative Assembly passed on 2-4-1945, the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1945. An amendment moved by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, which raised the number of holidays with pay to ten days in a year, was accepted on behalf of government by the Labour Member, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

During the course of the debate, Mr. Ranga urged the Government of India to lay down minimum standards so that provincial governments which might be willing to help the workers to a greater extent should be free to do so. Mr. N.M. Joshi asked that the provisions of the Bill be made applicable to all organised industries including mines and plantations and not only to factories. Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, favouring uniformity among provinces, said that the absence of such uniformity would result in differences in industries from British India to Indian States and from one Province to another.

The Bill was passed by the Council of State on 11-4-1945; it received the assent of the Governor General on 16-4-1945, and was published in the Gazette of India on 21-4-1945 as Act No. III of 1945. The Act is to

into force on 1-1-1946.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 30-3-1945 and 3-4-1945; Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13-4-1945; The Gazette of India dated 21-4-1945, Part IV, pages 5-7).+

Segregation Leave with pay for Industrial Workers under Government of India.

According to a recent decision of the Government of India, daily and monthly rated workers, including piece workers and personnel paid on a monthly basis, in the employment of the Central Government, will be granted, subject to certain conditions, segregation leave with pay upto a maximum of two weeks in any one year, when the worker or a member of his family is suffering from an infectious disease or when the worker undergoes anti-rabic treatment. This decision will remain in force for the duration of the war and is not applicable to employees under the control of the Railway Board and to employees to whom the Army Instruction(India) No. 408 of 1943 applies.

(Indian Labour Gazette, April, 1945).+

Bihar:

Collection of Statistics relating to Factories under Industrial Statistics Act: Bihar Government's Draft Rules gazetted.

Draft Rules regarding the collection of statistics relating to factories in Bihar under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, were gazetted by the Provincial Government on 7-3-1945. These rules are on lines similar to the rules already gazetted by the Sind and the Punjab Governments. (Vide pages 4-5 of our report for March, 1945).

(The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary, dated 8-3-1945).+

U.P.:

Provisions of Factories Act and Rules thereunder extended to certain Glass Bangle Factories in U.P.

The U.P. Government issued a notification on 6-10-1944 to the effect that the provisions of the Factories Act, 1934, and the rules thereunder shall apply to all such places in the U.P. where the process of manufacturing glass bangles or any process incidental or connected therewith is being carried on or is ordinarily carried on without the use of power, and whereon and within the precincts whereof fifty or more workers are working or have worked on any one day of the twelve months immediately preceeding.

(The U.P. Labour Bulletin, October-December, 1944).+

Kashmir State:

Bill to prevent the Pledging of Child Labour.

In certain parts of the Kashmir State people take advance payments pledging the labour of their children. With a view to ending this system the Kashmir Government intends to introduce in the State Assembly a Bill to prohibit the pledging of the labour of children.

(The Statesman, 6-4-1945).+

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

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Wages.

Clarification of Certain Points in Payment of Wages Act: "Wages" and "Deductions for Absence".

A circular clarifying the exact meaning of certain points in the Payment of Wages Act was issued by the Chief Inspector of Factories, U.P., on 7-10-1944. According to the circular, "wages", as defined in the Payment of Wages Act (IV of 1936), refers to "wages earned" and not "potential wages". A bonus for good attendance or good production, therefore, only be and shall form part of, wages when the bonus is earned. The amount whereby a worker who is absent on a Saturday or Monday or any other day prior or subsequent to the regular weekly holiday loses his day's pay is illegal. Deduction of pay is permissible only for the working day on which the worker is absent. It is also illegal to have two payments of pay, one for good work, and another for bad or indifferent work.

(The U.P. Labour Bulletin, Oct.-Dec., 1944).✓

Trade Disputes.

Chief Labour Commissioner and Assistant Labour Welfare Advisers appointed Conciliation Officers in Central Government Undertakings.

The Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) (vide page 6 of our report of January 1945) and the Assistant Labour Welfare Advisers, Delhi, Lucknow, Calcutta, Jamshedpur, Cawnpore, Jabalpur, Madras, Bombay and Lahore have been appointed by the Government of India as Conciliation Officers in respect of all Federal Railways and all industries, businesses and undertakings carried on by, or under the authority of, the Central Government.

(Notification No. LR-12(3), dated 20-4-1945,
The Gazette of India, dated 20-4-1945,

Welfare.

Welfare Measures for Port-Labour in India.

The following account of some of the more important welfare measures introduced by the major port authorities in India for their employees is based on the April, 1945, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette.

Housing.- An appreciable percentage of the total number of labourers employed by the Bombay Port Trust is accommodated in quarters provided by it. The quarters which consist of semi-detached, single storied two room cottages, or chawls of single-room units, are either rent free, or allotted at concession rents rising upto Rs. 7-8-0 per month. The accommodation provided is popular among the men, and utilised to the full. Water supply is free. At Cochin Port, accommodation is being provided for some dock labourers. The Karachi Port Trust also has built a number of quarters for its employees, free quarters being allotted to workers whose presence near the works is considered essential. Some rent free quarters are provided by the Calcutta Port Commissioners.

Medical Facilities.- The Madras Port Trust provides free medical treatment for its employees, and for others on payment. The dispensaries of the Bombay Port Trust attend to cases of sickness and injury and supply ordinary medicines free of charge to the employees. A scale of charges, based practically on cost price, has been fixed for all medicines supplied to employees' families except in one locality where supplies are free. A maternity home and an infant welfare centre are also maintained. A port dispensary, in charge of an Assistant Surgeon and other qualified staff to attend to the medical requirements of labour, is run at Cochin. The Karachi Port Trust has five dispensaries, in charge of qualified medical practitioners, situated at convenient centres where the Port Trust employees are treated free of charge. There is also a free maternity home for the employees' wives. The Calcutta Port Commissioners have two fully equipped hospitals and one dispensary close to the employees' place of work. Families of workers also receive attention from the Commissioners' Medical Officer in their quarters.

Canteens.- The Government of Cochin has opened a restaurant to cater to the needs of labourers employed on constructional works, and arrangements for opening another for those in the mechanical section are under way. At a workshop under the Karachi Port Trust a canteen is run by labour, and here tea and refreshments are sold to ~~some~~ workers at cheap rates. A radio set is also provided in the canteen. At Madras, a canteen started by the Port Trust staff in 1933 is supplying light refreshments to about 300 persons daily during working hours. In addition, there are two stalls run by contractors. Towards the end of 1943, the Calcutta Port Commissioners tried the experiment of supplying gruel, and, as it proved successful, arrangements were made in the beginning of 1944 for supplementing it with parched gram and sutto. From February 1944 cooked food like chapatis and dal was supplied to men in the main workshop and at jetties during the mid-day rest interval. Sales of cooked food were stopped early in April, 1944, owing to difficulties of supply. Shortly afterwards, with the permission of the rationing authorities, cooked food supply was resumed for the shore staff.

Food Supply.- The Vizagapatam Port authorities are maintaining a fair price food shop for harbour labour. The Bombay Port Trust is running 14 grain shops, at which all members of the staff, irrespective of pay, are allowed to buy certain essential commodities ~~at~~ at concession prices.

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ranging from 25 to 50 per cent below these fixed for the public. From October, 1944, the Madras Port Trust has been distributing food stuffs to its employees at concession prices through the Triplicane Urban Cooperative Society. The maximum amount of concession is limited to 25 per cent on a total purchase of Rs. 20 per month. At Cochin, rice, wheat, pulses, ~~sugar~~ sugar and tea are distributed to 1,300 daily rated ~~labourers~~ labourers through a static and a mobile grain shop at prices 20 per cent less than those that prevailed in February, 1943. Certain other articles also sold at cost price. 50 per cent extra rations are given to all port labourers in addition to what they get by way of basic rations at their place of residence (in the Cochin State). 50 per cent supplementary rations over and above the extra rations are given to those labourers who are engaged on arduous manual work. Soon after the outbreak of war, the Calcutta Port Commissioners opened a welfare shop for the sale of foodstuffs like rice, atta, dal, mustard oil, sugar, etc, with the object of saving middle-man's profit by retailing commodities at wholesale prices, the Commissioners bearing all the overhead expenses. As demand increased, a number of additional shops was opened and sale of certain articles of food arranged at reduced prices. It is hoped to make these shops the basis of future cooperative stores to be run by the workers themselves under the supervision of the Welfare Officer. When rates of dearness allowance were increased from 1-5-1944, ~~the sale of foodstuffs at concession rates was stopped.~~ But from 1-10-1944 rice and atta are ~~not~~ being sold to certain employees, so as to give a total benefit of Rs. 4 per mensem to each man. The Karachi Port Trust has opened six fair price shops at convenient centres where essential articles of food are sold to the employees and their dependents at reduced rates.

Welfare officers. - In 1937 the Calcutta Port Commissioners set up an organisation through which their employees could ventilate their grievances without fear of being victimised. Individual grievances are reported in the first place to the Welfare Officer and only matters relating to general questions ~~of~~ or affecting a large section of the staff are referred by the trade unions to the administration. The Labour Welfare Officer of the Karachi Port Trust deals with all complaints in connection with questions arising out of employment of labour and looks after all matters pertaining to the welfare of the workers. All labourers have access to him directly or through the respective trade unions. The Officer manages the canteens, fair price shops, etc, and has to see that the amenities provided by the management are taken advantage of. The Port Trust has recently created the post of an Assistant Labour Welfare Officer. The Bombay Port Trust and Cochin Port have also Labour Welfare Officers.

Among ~~the~~ the other facilities available to dock labour may be mentioned a free primary school, a Marathi vernacular school, and anglo-vernacular school, adult literary classes at night for male labourers and afternoon classes for ~~the~~ female residents, run by the Bombay Port Trust, a free primary school for the children of the workers and free night ~~schools~~ schools for workmen maintained by the Karachi Port Trust, and the provision of provident fund benefits and leave facilities at almost all major ports.

(Indian Labour Gazette, April, 1945). ✓

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Government Labour Welfare Centres in U.P.

The U.P. Government established labour welfare centres for the first time in 1937. By 1939, 9 centres were established (Cawnpore 5, Lucknow, Firozabad, Hathras and Allahabad 1 each). Early in 1944, a revised scheme was approved and sanctioned. At present there are 24 centres run in accordance with the new scheme. They are distributed as shown below:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Centres</u>		
	A	B	C
Cawnpore	3	4	5
Agra	1	..	..
Bareilly . . . . .	..	1	1
Firozabad . . . . .	..	1	1
Hathras . . . . .	..	1	1
Saharanpur . . . . .	..	1	1
Aligarh . . . . .	..	1	1
Mirzapur . . . . .	..	1	..
Total	4	10	10

In 1937-38, Government allotted Rs. 10,000 for the purpose. This amount was steadily increased in subsequent years. The allotment for 1944-45 is Rs. 136,800. The scheme was initially on a temporary basis. With the approval of the new scheme it has been made permanent.

Activities.— Activities in 'A' type of centres may be divided into four ~~main~~ groups: (a) Health: Medical aid (allopathic), milk distribution to children certified by doctor to be in need of milk, physical culture and outdoor games; (b) Educational: Adult night schools, libraries, reading rooms, grand debating halls; (c) Recreation: Indoor games, music parties, special radio programmes, cinema shows, ~~mushairas~~ and kavi ~~samailans~~ ~~samailans~~; (d) Women's and children's section: Child and maternity welfare centres, sewing classes, and adult educational facilities. 'B' type centres conduct all the above activities, except sewing classes; and instead of an allopathic dispensary, a homeopathic dispensary is attached to every such centre. 'C' type centres only provide music, outdoor and indoor games, reading rooms and libraries.

The equipment provided at 'A' and 'B' type centres includes a radio set, indoor games like carrom, chess, etc., outdoor games outfit, musical ~~instruments~~ instruments and cradles. Working class children who come to the centres are massaged and given a bath, oil, soap and towels being provided free of ~~any~~ cost. Baby shows are organised from time to time. Indoor and outdoor games, tournaments and sports meetings are held annually. Teams from all the centres and various factories participate in these activities. A portable talkie cinema apparatus fitted to a motor van gives cinema shows at all centres and also in labour residential areas from time to time.

Staff.— The staff at 'A' and 'B' type centres includes a whole-time organiser, an assistant organiser, a doctor, a compounder, a midwife and a sewing instructress (at 'A' type centres only). At 'C' type centres there is an organiser. In addition to the staff at the centres, there are a Lady Welfare Superintendent to organise and coordinate work with special reference to women and children, two Welfare Superintendents, a Games Supervisor, musicians and cinema operators. The activities at the centres are supervised by the Labour Welfare Officer. The medical officers visit workers at their residence and offer free treatment in case the patient is unable to go to the dispensary.

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Statistics.- The following figures relating to 1943 will give some idea regarding the work done by the centres during day year:

~~489,762~~ 489,762 patients were treated and 2,106 maternity cases attended to; 298,040 persons visited the reading rooms; 200,000 persons witnessed the cinema shows and 60,000 persons attended the music parties; 230,074 persons participated in indoor games; and 148,499 persons participated in outdoor games.

~~Announcing~~ Proposals are under consideration by the Post-War Reconstruction Board for further extension of the work after the war.

(Indian Labour Gazette, April, 1945).

General.

Conditions of Work in Indian Railways during 1943-44: Annual Report by Railway Board.

The following information regarding the conditions of work of railway employees in India during 1943-44 is taken from Annual Report for 1943-44 (Volume I) on Indian railways issued by the Railway Board, (Period 1-4-1943 to 31-3-1944).

Reaction of War-Strain on Railways: Coal Shortage: Staff on deputation. The progressive expansion of India as a major base for operations against Japan during the year under review resulted in greatly increased demands for movements by rail. The strain on railways increased to an extent that taxed all their resources, and the creation of the South-East Asia Command made it necessary to plan for even heavier rail movements in the future. It was necessary to take in hand projects for increasing the capacity of certain lines and to make arrangements to utilise indigenous productive capacity for rolling stock to the utmost. To meet the growing military demands it was also necessary to make arrangements with the United Kingdom and the United States of America for supply of locomotives and wagons in appreciable numbers. The increased demand for coal by all consumers made it essential to consider all possible steps to increase production, and until the schemes undertaken in this connection could be completed, it was necessary to introduce every possible measure to effect fuel economy. The intensification of all forms of railway working made it essential to have a larger staff for supervision work, especially in officers' grades, and efforts were accordingly made to obtain the release of officers from the armed forces and the other departments of the Government. About one hundred railway officers were released for civil employment on their parent railways from the armed forces and ten from civil departments. This, however, still left approximately 150 railway officers on deputation. The offer of American supervision for a portion of the metre gauge section of the Bengal and Assam Railway was gratefully accepted and was of considerable assistance in carrying the heavy load over the section. On the whole, there was some deterioration in meeting civilian needs for rail transport as it was unavoidable that, with capacity over-taxed, military needs should get priority.

Number of Employees: General Increase.- The total number of employees (permanent and temporary) on all Indian Railways and in the office of the Railway Board and other offices subordinate thereto (excluding staff employed on construction) at the end of the year 1943-44 was 889,056 as compared with 827,244 at the end of 1942-43. The total route mileage at the end of the year was 40,512. The following table shows the number of employees by communities on 31-3-1943 and 31-3-1944.

* Government of India Railway Department (Railway Board); Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1943-44 Volume I: Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi; Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Simla, 1945; pages 38; Price Rs.2 or 3s.

31st March 1943*

31st March 1944

Europeans	1,823	1,761
Hindus other than Depressed Classes.	464,645	498,198
Depressed Classes.	123,280	131,582
Muslims.	190,916	209,190
Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans.	12,270	12,262
Sikhs.	9,442	9,397
Indian Christians.	20,872	22,212
Parsis.	1,570	1,579
Other communities.	2,426	2,925
Total	827,244	889,056

Note.- These figures exclude staff on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

* Revised figures due to changes made by the railway administrations in the figures published last year.

The total strength of the staff employed on the open lines of State and Company-managed Railways increased by 61,343 during the year, the strength of the construction staff increased by 5,957 and the number of employees on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service increased by 2. The total cost of staff, including that of the staff on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, increased by Rs. 37,429,267. Increases were recorded both in the strength and the cost of the staff on State-owned Railways. The general increase in numbers was due to employment of additional staff to cope with the increased traffic and the rise in cost was due to the grant of enhanced dearness allowance and the payment of compensatory and ration allowances to staff enrolled in Defence of India Military Units in certain areas.

Progress in Indianisation of Staff.- 57 appointments, were made to the Superior Railway Services by direct recruitment. All the recruits were Indians. The non-recruitment of Europeans was due to the suspension of recruitment in the United Kingdom for the duration of the war. 14 officers were promoted from the Lower Gazetted Service to the Superior Services during the year; of these, 2 were Europeans, 6 Hindus and 6 Anglo-Indian or Domiciled Europeans. 19 promotions were made to the Lower Gazetted Service in the various Departments. Of these, 4 were Europeans and 15 Indians. Of the latter, 8 were Hindus, 1 Muslim and 6 Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans. In Company-managed Railways 11 recruitments were made to the Superior Services. Of these, 1 was a European, 7 Hindus other than Depressed Classes, 1 a member of the Depressed Classes and 3 Muslims. 15 Officers were promoted from lower ranks to the Superior Services. These comprised 7 Anglo-Indians or Domiciled Europeans, 7 Hindus and 1 European. The percentages of Indians directly recruited to the Superior Railway Services on the State and Company-managed Railways, taken together, were as follows:-

Percent .

Hindus: other than Depressed Classes-.....	66.2
Depressed classes -	1.5
Muslims-	23.5
Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans- ...	2.9
Sikhs-	1.5
Indian Christians-	4.4

The Indian element in the Superior Services during the year was 64.48 per cent on State-managed and 64.08 per cent on Company-managed Railways. The respective percentages for subordinate staff drawing salary up to Rs. 250 per mensem in the old scales of pay and up to Rs.200 per mensem in the new scales of pay were 90.82 and 94.39.

Representation of Minority Communities in Subordinate Services.- The percentage of Muslims in the combined figures of permanent and temporary recruitment for subordinate services was 24.9 while their percentage in the permanent cadre was 25.7. Thus while they just failed to obtain their quota in the combined figure, they obtained more than the prescribed percentage of permanent posts. The Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European community, on the other hand, failed more markedly to obtain their quota. In both these cases, the shortage in recruitment was due to the poor response received to advertised vacancies.

In August 1943, the Government of India issued orders reserving 8 2/3 per cent of all vacancies in the Superior Services to be filled by direct recruitment for the Scheduled Castes, provided candidates possessing the minimum qualifications prescribed were available. These orders also provided that the maximum age prescribed for recruitment might be increased by three years in favour of these candidates and examination or selection fees reduced to 1/4th of the normal fee. In subordinate services in State Railways have been reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates. But separate percentages have been fixed for the different Railways taking into consideration population ratio of the Scheduled Castes in the area served by a railway. These vary from 13 on the O and T. Railway to 3 on the N.W. Railway. The reservation applies to both permanent and temporary vacancies. Detailed instructions were issued in February, 1944.

Anti-Corruption Drive.- The drive against bribery and corruption on the railways was continued with a considerable measure of success, taking into account the many opportunities which war time conditions afford for malpractices both on the part of the public and of the railway servants. Special police aided by railway staff detected a number of cases which were investigated and sent up for trial. While the drive was against all delinquents in general, endeavours were specially made to detect senior officials who were guilty of malpractices.

Meetings with A.I.R.F.- A special meeting was held between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation on 26-3-1943 at which the questions of revision of dearness allowance and Government's policy regarding grain shops were discussed. Two meetings were held during the year under review, a special meeting on 26-4-1943 and the 22nd half yearly meeting on 3-12-1943. The same questions were again discussed at these meetings, in addition to the following subjects: (a) Extension of Provident Fund benefits, (b) Scales of pay for draftsmen of the East Indian Railway, (c) Weekly rest days for permanent-way staff, (d) Application of the Hours of Employment Regulations to running staff, (e) Conversion of daily-rated staff into monthly-rated staff and (f) Reservation of a percentage of vacancies for the sons of Railway employees.

Grain Shops.- The necessity for stabilizing the cost of essential commodities and pegging dearness allowance, prompted the Railway Board to fix the ~~new~~ selling prices of commodities sold at railway grain shops at a level approximate to the prices ruling in August, 1942. Orders to this effect were issued in May, 1943. Efforts were later on made to increase the range of commodities which were classified into 18 groups. They included such miscellaneous articles as standard cloth, soap, fuel and matches. In August 1943, following the decision of the Government of India to introduce rationing in urban areas, steps were taken to correlate the railway grain shop scheme with the civil rationing organizations, and detailed instructions in this behalf were issued in October, 1943. Milk for young children and vegetables were also added to the list of commodities.

At the close of the year under review, the number of grain shops on railways rose to nearly 600, including the 156 mobile vans; the number of ration card holders rose to 805,000 with a monthly average of 695,582 for the year. The shops sold 10,256,400 maunds (1 md.=82 lbs.) commodities during the year that is an average of ~~801,000~~ maunds per month or 1.23 maunds per ration card holder. The value of the sales totalled about Rs. 130 million, rising from 3.3 million in April 1943 to Rs. 18 million in March, 1944, giving an average sale of about Rs. 8.1 million per month or Rs. 11.73 per ration card holder per month. The cost of all the commodities sold amounted to about Rs. 177 million, while the cash realized by sales to employees at the concession prices was Rs. 98 million so that the loss incurred by affording relief in kind was approximately Rs. 79 million. The relief afforded measured in terms of the difference between the ~~railway selling prices and the local market prices was over Rs. 88 million~~ with an average relief per ration card holder per month of Rs. 10.53, the lowest figure being Rs. 6.14 in March, 1944 and the highest ~~Rs. 14.1 in August 1943.~~ Added to this was the relief afforded through the supply of a number of essential commodities which were often not available locally at any reasonable price, owing to the conditions which prevailed in the country during the year. The relief arrangements were such that the man with the larger family who was harder hit owing to the rise in prices received greater benefit than the man with fewer dependents. During the close of the year under review, the question of opening cost-price grocery shops to provide the more varied necessities of life for higher paid railwaymen was taken under consideration.

Dearness Allowance.- The scales of dearness allowance remained the same ~~as in 1942-43~~ until March, 1944, when the continued rise in the cost of living necessitated their further review. They were, therefore, revised with effect from 1-3-1944, as below:-

	Pay limit.	Allowance.		
		Rs.	As.	P.
(A) Bombay, Calcutta, and Cawnpore and such of their suburbs as have remained previously been included in them for purposes of dearness allowance.	Rs. 250 p.m.	16	0	0
(B) Areas other than those specified in A above in towns of net less than than 250,000 inhabitants according to the census of 1941.	Rs. 200 p.m.	14	0	0
(C) Areas other than those specified in (A) and (B) above in towns of not less than 50,000 inhabitants according to the census of 1941.	Rs. 175 p.m.	11	0	0
(D) Areas not included in (A) to (C) above.	Rs. 150 p.m.	9	0	0

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Before the revision the pay limit in respect of (A), (B), (C) and (D) were respectively, Rs. 200, Rs. 175, Rs. 125 and Rs. 90. The rates of allowance were retained except in the case of (D) where it was raised from Rs. 8 to Rs. 9. The benefit of this revised scale was extended also to persons enrolled in the Railway Defence Services.

Defence of India Corps (Railways). - Railway staff was organised into Military Railway Units (Defence of India) in certain parts of the country in 1942-43. During 1943-44 these units were removed from the Corps of Indian Engineers and, together with the enrolled members of the staff of certain other Departments of the Government, formed into a separate Corps designated the Defence of India Corps. In view of improvement in the military situation, further recruitment of staff to the Defence of India Corps (Railways) was stopped with effect from 1-5-1943, though recruitment of freshly appointed staff continued to be permitted. The Bengal and Assam Railway, however, owing to the great demand for additional staff for construction and operational purposes, were allowed to recruit additional Units.

Railway Staff and the War. - During the year under review, the more important concessions to Railway employees, such as family allotments and the war injuries compensation scheme, continued to remain in force. The War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943, passed during the year, provides for the grant of relief for war injuries to workmen on a scale more or less equal to the scale of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. It also imposes a statutory liability on employers, including contractors engaging labour for more than one month, to join a compulsory scheme of insurance which provides for the grant of relief to workmen for war injuries. This Act applies to Railways but Federal Railways are exempted from the liability to join the insurance scheme.

War production undertaken in Railway workshops continued during the period under review, and the number of railway staff solely engaged on this work on 31-3-1944 was nearly 18,000. Owing to the increased traffic on Railways, it was, however, found necessary to call back the technical personnel previously lent to the Defence and other Departments. The scheme of training staff for Railway Military Units continued to function, and over 34,000 men had completed training by the end of March, 1944. The scheme for training skilled artisans on behalf of the Labour Department was also continued, and the total number training in February, 1944, was 3,756.

Industrial Relations in Bengal in 1944: More Strikes, Greater Unrest and Defective Adjudication Machinery.

The following information regarding industrial relations during 1944 in Bengal with special reference to labour employed by member firms of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, is taken from a survey published in the annual report for 1944 of the Committee of the Chamber.

Food Rationing and Labour Unrest. - Rationing was introduced in the Calcutta industrial area early in January 1944 and this resulted in a considerable improvement in the regularity of the supply of food for the industrial population and a considerable improvement in the price situation. There was reason, therefore, to anticipate that relations with labour would improve, but, in fact, the reverse was the case. In several important industries the experience of employers was that labour relations

were more disturbed and disputes more frequent than during the previous year when the food shortage had been most acute. It soon became evident that a sustained labour agitation was being carried on, particularly in the engineering industry, and that attempts were being made to utilise the provisions of the Defence of India Rules to obtain substantial concessions from employers. The introduction of rationing was the cause of a good deal of labour unrest, and a certain number of strikes occurred. In most cases, such strikes took place without the notice required under the Defence of India Rules, and early in the year, the Chamber ~~of Commerce~~ received representations from industrial interests, urging that the Government should take action in such cases and should enforce the requirements of the Rules which make strikes without 14 days' notice illegal. No improvement in this position was effected, and sporadic labour unrest continued throughout the year. But in these places where labour was better organised appropriate notices were usually given for intended strikes, coupled with the request that the points at issue should be sent for adjudication under the provisions of the Defence of India Rules. In these instances the cases were sent up for adjudication by the Government of Bengal.

"unsatisfactory" Awards of Adjudicators.- The awards made by the Adjudicator and the general machinery for adjudication were unsatisfactory, and instead of preventing labour trouble, it was being encouraged. The tendency was for awards made by the Adjudicator to improve conditions of service without adequate consideration being given to the general terms of employment enjoyed in similar industrial undertakings and for the terms of the award to be regarded as standards for which labour in other concerns could argue ~~with justification~~. It was also found that the Labour Commissioner's department adopted a similar procedure and the result was that during the year employers were constantly receiving demands for improvements not only in dearness allowance, but in other aspects of conditions of service such as basic pay, bonuses, Provident Funds, etc.

New Measures Suggested.- So unsatisfactory did the situation become that it was necessary to make direct contacts with the Government of Bengal and Government were pressed to define their policy on questions of terms of service of labour, dearness allowance etc.; to improve the ~~standard~~ standard of adjudication by associating with the Adjudicator Panels of Advisers drawn from the industrial community; and to improve the administration of the Labour Commissioner's department. Government agreed to make the question of dearness allowance and the principles to be followed by the Adjudicator in making awards on it the subject of study by a special official committee. They also accepted the proposal that the Adjudicator should be assisted by unofficial Panels. The question of re-organisation of the Labour Commissioner's department was understood to be engaging attention.

(Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chambers of Commerce for the Year 1944). *

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Special Safeguards for British Commercial Interests in India: Central Assembly demands Removal. +

The Central Legislative Assembly passed without a division, on 4-4-1945, a resolution moved by Mr. Manu Subedar asking that early action be taken for the removal of Sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935. These Sections contain special safeguards for the protection of British commercial interests in India.

In support of his resolution, Mr. Manu Subedar argued that these sections were derogatory to the dignity and self-respect of the people and the Government and sought to restrict the legislative power of the Indian Legislature. They might have had some justification at the time of their introduction when England had lent large sums to India and had to ensure their repayment, but now that India has repaid to England all her loans and in addition had lent huge sums to England they were no longer necessary. Under the protection of these safeguards, non-Indian firms were establishing themselves in India and forcing Indian companies into liquidation.

Indicating the views of the Government of India on the subject, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member, said that under these ~~six~~ clauses, it was open to any British company with a hundred per cent British capital and British directorate to establish itself in India and ~~control such industries. More important still, it was possible for~~ powerful combines and cartels with international ramifications to do the same. The chances of Indian industrialists competing on equal terms with such combines and companies with their vast experience and resources were very poor. As the Act stands at present, it ~~was not~~ possible for the Government of India to take any measures to help the indigenous industry against such competition. Of course, according to a statement made by Mr. Amery in the House of Commons in July 1942 in connection with the Cripps offer, His Majesty's Government was committed to settle the position of British commercial interests in India by negotiation with the future Government of India. But planning for the economic development of India had already commenced and was going ahead. It cannot wait till a new constitution is finally settled and becomes the law of the land. It was necessary, therefore, according to Sir Ardeshir Dalal, to arrive at some kind of convention or agreement with the United Kingdom now without waiting for a complete constitutional settlement, so that the industrial development of ~~that~~ the country may not be hampered. Government, Sir A.R. Dalal reiterated, were fully aware of the situation. The result of the present discussion in the House would be reported to the Secretary of State and discussion would be entered into with H.M.G.; and the House would be apprised of the ~~entire~~ situation as it developed after that discussion.

As already stated, the resolution was passed by the House without a division.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-4-1945 and 5-4-1945) ✓

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Problems of Coal Mining Industry: Annual
Meeting of the Indian Mines Association,
Calcutta, April, 1945.

The present and the post-war problems of the coal mining industry in India were reviewed by Mr. E. Latimer, Vice-Chairman, the Indian Mining Association, in his address to the general annual meeting of the Association held at Calcutta in the first week of April 1945.

Coal-Control.- The objects of the coal control set up by Government, and of the enactments designed to carry it out, have been to enable the owner and miner between them to increase production and to ensure that such production is properly distributed in the best interests of the country at reasonable prices. Mr. Latimer felt that these objects had not yet been fully achieved and he was afraid the owner and the miner were still waiting for most of the improvements which had been dangled before them. The coal-cutting machinery was yet to be received and the ~~housing~~ housing schemes and the hospitals promised to the miner existed still only on paper. He felt that under the present circumstances as much good coal as possible should be raised and available resources must not be expended on raising the poorer classes of coal which might be utilized in raising the better class. Nor was Mr. Latimer in favour of grandiose schemes of open-cast mining as there were bound to draw labour away from existing undertakings, both great and small. Mr. Latimer suggested it would be helpful if Government's ban on coal statistics were lifted, as it had been in the United Kingdom.

Coal and Post-War Reconstruction.- Turning to post-war reconstruction, Mr. Latimer emphasized that coal must keep ahead of other industrial ~~development~~ development, because with industrial development more coal is likely to be needed. He felt that the Government might set up in the near future a Committee of Inquiry to study and report on the future development of the coal industry, ~~and~~ and, if such a Committee were set up, he wanted the industry to be strongly represented upon it. Pleading for unity in the ~~main~~ ranks of coal mine owners, Mr. Latimer announced that negotiations were in progress between the three Associations at present representing mine-owners, viz., the Indian Mining Association, the Indian Mining Federation and the Indian Collieries Owners Association, and these might soon bear fruit in the shape of a Joint Working Committee.

Labour in Coal Mines.- As regards labour in the collieries, Mr. Latimer felt that the ultimate improvement of the standard of living of the miner and the establishment of a settled labour force were essentially a long term affair dependent in the last analysis on education, and that they were to be rushed without defeating their own object. For many years to come, Mr. Latimer thought, the Indian miner will insist on returning to his village and to his plot of land and this was not altogether a bad thing. In ~~fact~~ fact, he often felt that there ~~were~~ would probably be much less unrest amongst coal miners in the United Kingdom if they could exchange for a period of the year the rigours of coal mining for the peaceful and soothing labours of the agriculturist.

Referring ^{to} women in mines, Mr. Latimer emphasized that none of the colliery owners liked women to work underground, but their withdrawal now would mean a drop of 20 per cent in output, because men were not available to take their place. No compulsion whatever was being exercised, women were receiving the same pay as men and they did underground the same work they did on the surface, viz., carrying coal in ~~baskets~~ baskets or loading it into tubs. Also, in the Indian coalfields, it was often cooler and pleasanter down below than it was on top and in any case working in the thick Indian seams with ample headroom bore no comparison with the arduous conditions in other parts of the world. (The Statesman, 3-4-1945).+

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Industrial
Manufacture of Raw Films in India: Inquiry
panel to be set up.

Replying to a question in the Central Legislative Assembly, Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, announced on 2-4-1945 that an Industrial panel is being set up to investigate into, and report on, the possibilities of the manufacture of raw films in India after the war.

(The Statesman, 3-4-1945).+

Inquiry into Management of Insurance Companies:
Government of India sets up Committee.

The Government of India has decided to set up a committee to enquire into and recommend measures to check certain trends and undesirable features in the management of insurance companies. The committee will consist of: Sir Cowasji Jehangir, (Chairman), Mr. Wajahat Hussain, Sir Alan Lloyd, Mr. J.K. Mitter, Sir George Morten, Mr. K.R.P. Shroff and Mr. L.S. Vaidyanathan (Secretary).

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 23-4-1945).+

Committee to Plan Film Research set up by
Independent Film Producers' Association.

A Committee to formulate plans for the establishment of a central training institute and a research laboratory for the film industry was set up by the Independent Film Producers' Association towards the middle of April, 1945 (vide page 22 of our report for March, 1945). The Committee consists of Sir Homi Mehta (Chairman), Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, M.L.A. (Central), Dr. K.A. Hamid (Bombay), Dr. Nazir Ahmed (Bombay), Dr. Megh Nath Saha (Calcutta), Dr. K.S. Krishnan (Allahabad), and Prof. B.B. Deshpande (Bombay).

(The Hindustan Times, 23-4-1945).+

Government of India sets up Indian Central Tobacco
Committee.

The importance of tobacco as a valuable commercial crop, the variety and complexity of the problems relating to its production, processing and marketing and the pressing need of adopting well-co-ordinated measures for the improvement and development of all aspects of the production and marketing of the different varieties of tobacco have led the Government of India to decide that steps should be taken immediately to set up a Central Tobacco Committee. This Committee will be a body corporate registered as a society under the Registration of Societies Act (XXI of 1860).

with headquarters at such place as the Committee may decide.

The functions of the Committee will be to assist in the improvement and development of the production and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products and all matters incidental thereto by — (i) undertaking, assisting or encouraging agricultural, industrial, technological and economic research; (ii) producing, testing and distributing improved varieties of seed; (iii) encouraging and assisting the adoption of improved methods of cultivation so as to increase yield and improve quality; (iv) assisting in the control of parasitic and insect pests and fungal diseases which affect tobacco in the field, in storage or during transit; (v) assisting in the improvement of the marketing of tobacco including the setting up and adoption of grade standards for tobacco and its products and the maintenance of an efficient Marketing Intelligence Service; (vi) adopting any other measures ~~or performing any other duties which may be required by the Central Government to adopt or perform or which the Committee may consider necessary or advisable in order to carry out the purposes for which it is constituted.~~

The Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, will be the Ex-Officio President of the Committee which will consist of representatives of the various interests connected with the cultivation, manufacture, trade and consumption of tobacco and the Central Provincial and State Governments concerned.

(Resolution No. F.40-26/44-A, dated 10-4-1945, The Gazette of India, dated 14-4-1945, Part I, Sec. 1, Pages 447-448). ✓

Banking Bill referred to Select Committee.

The Central Legislative Assembly passed on 11-4-1945 the Finance Member's motion to refer to a Select Committee, Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies in India (vide pages 26-27 of our report for February 1945).

(The Hindu, 12-4-1945). ✓

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,
in U.P. during 1943.

According to the annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in the U.P. during the year 1943, 196 (191)* cases under the Act were disposed of during the year and 90 (85) left pending at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 62 were cases of award under section 10, and 134 of deposits under section 8 of the Act. The majority of cases of award were of workers in the lowest wage-groups (i.e. those getting not more than Rs. 24 per mensem). Within this group, the second lowest class, namely workers getting between Rs. 10 and Rs. 15 per month, accounted for the largest number of cases.

There were 4,709 (3,774) accidents during the year in the 856 (840) registered factories in the Province employing 254,839 (232,524) workers. The total number of cases in which compensation was paid was 2,579 (1966) and the total amount paid was Rs. 184,547 (Rs. 163,890). Of these cases, 126 (96) were fatal, 183 (163) resulted in permanent disablement and 2,270 (1,707) in temporary disablement; and the compensations paid were Rs. 109,967 (Rs. 92,086), Rs. 51,755 (Rs. 53,307) and Rs. 22,825 (Rs. 18,497) respectively. With an increase in wages owing to the grant of dearness allowance in most industries, and increase of basic wages in some, the amount of compensation per case increased. But this increase did not keep pace with the increase in the average annual earnings of factory workers. Thus while average annual earnings increased by 234.7 per cent and the cost of living in Cawnpore by 206 per cent, the increase in the average amount of compensation per case in registered factories ~~was~~ increased only by 18.3 per cent.

Of the 158 applications for registration of agreements, 137 were disposed of during the year, and the rest remained pending. There was no case of payment of compensation for occupational diseases.

(The U.P. Labour Bulletin,
October-December, 1944). ✓

*Figures within brackets are those for the previous year.

Compulsory Insurance for Industrial Labour:
Resolution adopted by All India Provident
Insurance Companies Conference.

A resolution appealing to the Government of India to introduce legislation making insurance compulsory for all industrial and factory labourers was adopted by the All-India Provident Insurance Companies Conference at its session held at Calcutta on 22-4-1945, Mr. S.M. Bhattacharjee presiding. The Conference also appointed a sub-committee to draw up a comprehensive scheme of labour insurance to be submitted to the Government of India.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24-4-1945). ✓

MIGRATION.Protection of Emigrant Labour: Council of State
Announces definite Policy.

On 6-4-1945, the Council of State passed without a division a resolution by Mr. P.N. Saprú recommending to the Governor General to evolve and announce a policy regarding the conditions under which emigration of labour to Empire colonies, such as Burma and Malaya, shall be permitted in future.

Mr. Saprú referred to Section 10 of the Emigration Act of 1922, where the policy regarding control of emigration is laid down. He suggested that that policy should be consistently followed in the future. He pointed out that, after reoccupation, both Burma and Malaya would have to be rehabilitated. India should profit by her experience and should protect her interests from now on. He referred to the hardship experienced by the two million Indian evacuees who were not provided with facilities for evacuation, while the Europeans had been fully provided. In framing its future policy, government should therefore take into consideration the question of assurance of adequate citizenship rights for its nationals abroad. Emphasizing that India did not want to be regarded as ~~the~~ a country for supply of coolies to other countries, Mr. Saprú urged that there should be ~~precise agreement as to the wages of emigrant labourers; their rights should be properly safeguarded, and there should be provision regarding~~ the welfare of labour. Mr. Saprú suggested that the High Commissioner for Burma should be asked to act as High Commissioner for Malaya also and look after the interests of Indians in Malaya.

Replying on behalf of the Government of India, Mr. P.N. Bannerjee, Commonwealth Relations Secretary, said that the Government was pledged to such a policy ever since the Emigration Act was passed in 1922. The Government was alive to the situation and to its responsibilities in the matter and on all important matters it was already consulting the Standing Committee of Emigration on which members of both the Houses of the Legislature were represented.

As stated above, the resolution was put to vote, and passed without a division.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-4-1945). +

Indians in Natal in 1943:
Incidence of Unemployment Lowered. +

According to the annual report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Natal, Union of South Africa, for the year 1943, the total Indian population in Natal during the year was 210,107 as compared with 203,050 in the previous year. No Indians returned to India during the year.

Of the 42,528 adult male Indians in the province, approximately 26,000 were employed and a number of others were engaged in farming on their own account or carrying on other trades. The incidence of unemployment during the year showed a slight improvement over the previous year. The majority of those employed were working in the sugar industry. The total number of Indians employed and residing on coal mines and allied industries was only 1,901, including 368 women and 1,037 children.

The total number of children attending Government and Government-aided schools was 30,878 out of the total child~~ren~~ population of 134,951. There were many Indian children who were receiving no education owing to lack of accommodation in the schools. The health of ^{the} Indian population was good. The death rate, however, increased from 12.19 in 1942 to 16.71. No complaints were received regarding treatment of Indian labour on the estates, but housing accommodation on many estates was still very poor.

("Indian Information", 1-4-1945),

Indo-Ceylon Problems: Negotiations to be re-opened.

According to a statement issued on 9-4-1945 by Sir T.B. Panabokke, Representative of the Government of Ceylon in India, the question of reopening negotiations between the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon with a view to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the outstanding matters on which there has been difference of opinion is now being considered by the two Governments. Certain agreed conclusions on the Indo-Ceylon problem were reached by representatives of the two governments in 1941. ~~But this agreement was not approved of by the Government of India. It would appear that further consideration of the matter was deferred, at the request of the Government of India, for the duration of the war. Recently the Government of India has intimated the Government of Ceylon that the time was now opportune for reopening negotiations and the subject is now under correspondence between the two Governments.~~

(The Hindustan Times, 10-4-1945).

Natal Provincial Council Housing and Other Ordinances declared Ultra Vires: Union Government to introduce New Legislation.

That the Union Government of South Africa could not officially sanction the Natal Provincial Council Housing and other Ordinances as the Government's Law Advisers had reported some of them to be ultra vires was revealed by Field Marshal Smuts, Prime Minister, in the Union Assembly on 14-4-1945. To meet the difficulty, the Union Government hoped during the present Parliamentary session to introduce legislation, amending the South Africa Housing Act, to enable the Government to exercise the expropriation powers contemplated in the Provincial Ordinances. Field Marshal Smuts, ~~Prime~~ said that this would enable the plan for ~~setting~~ ^{making} aside separate residential areas to be carried through. The scheme would apply only to residential areas and not to business premises. Difficulties in Natal had arisen because of the growth of mixed residential areas, owing to the failure of the municipal authorities to provide separate localities and housing for Indians. After ~~the parties~~ all the discussion he had held with the parties concerned, he believed that if Indians were enabled to

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live in their own localities respectably, and Europeans in theirs, a practicable and satisfactory solution of the problem would be found.

(The Statesman, 15-4-1945).+

Employment of Indian Clerks and Artisans in Natal:
Natal Indian Congress's Representation. +

Representations urging the employment of Indian clerks in Post Offices in predominantly Indian areas and Indian artisans in Government works and housing schemes, particularly ~~the~~ in those intended for Indians, were made by a deputation of Natal Indian Congress to the Post Master General and the Secretary of Labour respectively, of the South African Government. The deputation was led by Mr. A.L. Kaje.

In the memorandum to the Post Master General, the deputation pointed out that the practice of employing Indians in the postal and telegraph services was established in Johannesburg and Pretoria in the time of the old South African Republic, but no extension of this practice to other areas had taken place since the advent of British rule. The Indian population in Natal almost equalled the European population in numbers, and it was only equitable that a community contributing on such a considerable scale to the revenue of the Postal Department should have some opportunity of enjoying a share of the employments available in the Department.

In the memorandum to the Secretary of Labour, the deputation stated that since shortage of building artisans had been advanced as a reason for the delay on the part of the Government and local authorities to provide houses for Indians, the obvious solution was to employ Indians in the building industry. Refusal to employ Indians in Government and municipal housing schemes would only further defer the provision of houses so urgently needed by the Indian community. This would also suggest another form of racial discrimination. The memorandum further urges that apprenticeship ~~should~~ should be opened for Indian youths on a voluntary basis. To facilitate this, the standard required of Indian employers should be so relaxed during the early and interim periods as to enable Indian employers engaged in the building industry to employ Indian apprentices.

Lack of facilities for technical training for Indians was a matter that should receive the immediate attention of the Government. It was unreasonable for the Department of Labour to expect Indians to comply with the requirements of the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' laid down in the Capetown Agreement, and yet not to provide the facilities that would equip them to meet the requirements of modern industry.

(The National Call, 22-4-1945 and
The Leader, dated 23-4-1945).+✓

AGRICULTURE.

Government of India sets up Central Water-ways
Irrigation and Navigation Commission .

The Government of India has decided to constitute a Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. The Commission will act as a central fact-finding, planning and co-ordinating organisation. It will be available to advise the Central, Provincial and State Governments in regard to Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation problems throughout the country. The Commission will be a strong technical organisation designed to conduct surveys and investigation with a view to secure planned utilization of the water resources of the country as a whole and, in consultation with the Provincial and State governments throughout the country, to co-ordinate and press forward schemes for the conservation, control and regulation of water and waterways.

(Resolution No. DW 101(2), dated
5-4-1945, the Gazette of India, dated
7-4-1945, Part I, Sec.1, pages 414-415).✓

Increased Facilities for Agricultural Training:
Imperial Agricultural Research Institute to admit
More Students.

The Government of India have decided to expand the facilities for post-graduate training in agriculture and to admit 50 students a year from April, 1945, onward at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, with a view to meeting the growing demand for the training of higher agricultural staff at the Centre and in the Provinces and States. So far the Institute has been admitting on the average 16 students per year for training in five sections. There will now be added two more sections, i.e., Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Economics and Statistics.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-4-1945).✓

PROFESSIONAL, WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES, AND
PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Revised Scales of Pay for lower grade Employees in
U.P. Government Service.

The U.P. Government has sanctioned a revised scale of pay for lower grade employees in the subordinate offices and establishments under the various Government departments. The revised scales, which are slightly higher than the existing scales, came into force from 1-4-1945.

(The Leader, 25-4-1945).+

'Bad Climate' Allowance for Primary Teachers
sanctioned by Bombay Government.

The Government of Bombay have decided that all primary teachers stationed at places where the climate is so unhealthy that it is likely to cause illness or impair vitality should be given a 'bad climate' allowance. The Government have, therefore, permitted the local authorities to pay the allowance to teachers stationed at ~~the~~ places where the climate is deemed to be unhealthy.

(The Times of India, 28-4-1945).+

LIVING CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

Free Supply of Fresh Milk for Children and
Expectant Mothers in Madras City: Proposal
accepted by City Health Committee.

The Health Committee of the Madras City Council has approved a proposal of the Commissioner for the free distribution of about 800 measures of milk per day for children under two years of age and expectant mothers, the supply being restricted to families with income of not more than Rs.50 a month. The cost of the milk would be about Rs. 18,000 a month, of which the Government may be expected to contribute about 75 per cent.

(The Hindu, 8-4-1945).+

Housing.

New Quarters for Central Government Servants in
New Delhi: Rs. 30 Million Construction Scheme
Completed: Welfare Arrangements for Labour Employed.

A new Rs. 30 million colony to provide accommodation for 2,468 employees of the Central Government - mostly clerks - has been constructed by the Central Public Works Department in New Delhi. These quarters will be ready for occupation by June 1945. It will be a self contained colony with a dispensary, health centre and maternity centres, boys' and girls' schools, a shopping centre, and tonga stands. The layout also provides for a cinema hall, a library, a park and a playground.

Welfare Arrangements for Labour Employed.- Including work on quarries, transport and other allied items, the project has offered employment to about 47,000 labourers per day on a daily wage of Rs. 1-4, in the case of the unskilled worker, and Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 4 in the case of the skilled worker. Labour was imported mostly from Rajputana and Central India States. The artisans—masons, carpenters and blacksmiths—came from the Eastern Punjab and U.P., and Pathans from N.W.F.P., were employed on earth work. In the vicinity of the works has been built a simple hatted colony accommodating about 34,000 labourers, mostly those imported from outside. The building material for the huts was provided free of cost by the contractors. Arrangements have been made for drinking water from the filtered water mains of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. Each block of the labour camp has its own water stand posts and hydrants. ~~Special~~ Special sanitary inspectors have been appointed to look after conservancy arrangements. The colony has several shops for supplying rationed and non-rationed articles. A cafeteria supplies mid-day meals to workers at ~~the~~ cheap rates. The workers' health is looked after by a qualified doctor in charge of a temporary dispensary.

(Dawn, dated 17-4-1945)..

New Housing and Welfare Schemes for Coal Miners
in Raniganj and Jharia: Coal Mines Welfare Fund
Advisory Committee's Recommendations.

The immediate construction of colonies for coal miners in the Raniganj and Jharia coal fields at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.7 million and Rs. 3 million respectively was recommended by the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Advisory Committee at its meeting held at Dhanbad on 19-4-1945, Mr. H.C. Prior, Secretary, Department of Labour, Government of India, presiding. The Jharia colony will consist of about 1,000 two-roomed tenements with kitchens and courtyards attached. It will have its own school, dispensary, dairy, playgrounds, recreation halls and welfare staff. The site will be selected at some distance from the mines. The Raniganj colony also will consist of two-roomed tenements, Educational, Medical and recreational facilities will be provided as in Jharia. The Committee was of the view that one fifth of its total income should be

expended on housing schemes. An exhaustive survey should be undertaken of housing conditions in coal mines and its findings taken up for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee also sanctioned the provision of two hospitals, one in the Panch Valley coalfield and the other in the Chanda District, both in the Central Provinces, at a cost of Rs. 150,000 and Rs. 75,000 respectively, as also the opening of two labour welfare centres in the two places. It recommended that provincial Governments should be asked to look after welfare activities in Orissa and Baluchistan on behalf of the Fund and that experimental farms should be organized for supplying cheap vegetables to miners. Grants were sanctioned for hospital and maternity and child welfare centres in the Central Provinces. It was also decided to impose a statutory liability on colliery owners to pay annas eight per worker for the provision of medical facilities. The representatives of mine-owners associations accepted the responsibility of developing creches and bathing arrangements.

The Lady Welfare Inspector made a statement on the progress of labour welfare work among women miners. Explaining the activities of the anti-malaria units, Major Boprai said that their campaign had protected an area of 83 square miles in the Raniganj fields, covering a labour force of 122,000 and an area of 70 square miles in the Jharia fields, covering a labour force of 87,000. There was noticeable decrease in the incidence of malaria.

A deputation of the All India Colliery Mazdoor Union which waited on Mr. Prior requested him to take immediate steps in matters of increment in wages, extension of the Payment of Wages Act to the coal mining industry, introduction of profit-sharing and production bonuses, creation of mining settlements and establishment of a conciliation machinery for coalmines. It also urged the reimposition of the ban on the employment of women labour in underground mines and withdrawal of the Labour Recruitment Control Order, 1944.

(The Statesman, 21-4-1945;
The Hindu, 22-4-1945 and
The Hindustan Times and Dawn, 23-4-1945).+ ✓

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

1st General Meeting of Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, 19 and 20-4-1945 . .

The aims and objects of the newly formed Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industry were explained by Sir Adamjee Hajee Dawood presiding over the first general meeting of the Federation held at New Delhi on 19 and 20-4-1945. The Federation will co-ordinate the efforts now being made in every province to organise Muslim mercantile interests, act as a medium for the expression of their opinion on commercial subjects, and ~~assist~~ assist in the organisation and development of the industries in which they are specially interested. Muslim trading interests in India, although great in volume, have hitherto had little potential power in framing policies that contribute to national prosperity. Their opinion has scarcely found expression in an organised form. There were problems to be solved, plans to be made and privileges to be defended, and yet a central organisation which could give a lead to its constituents in matters like these did not exist. A number of Muslim trade associations and Chambers of Commerce have recently been organised in different parts of the country. Their efforts had to be ~~co-ordinated~~ and given the right direction.

The immediate period ahead is likely to be very trying and arduous for Muslim merchants and industrialists. The end of the war will bring India face to face with a new order and changed conditions of life. Human relationship and economic values will undergo great changes and the big task that awaits every one is correctly to estimate these changes and assess their influence on the national life. The economic structure of the present will have to admit radical changes, and war time measures like controls, regulation of ~~goods~~ goods movements, fixation of quotas and ~~fixing~~ licensing will have to be replaced by more scientific methods of production and distribution. This will require a thorough examination of the problems of ~~currency~~ currency, finance, exchange, and ~~international~~ international trade agreements. The Muslim mercantile community in India has to be made to realise the urgent need of making its contribution to the postwar adjustments when decisions on these vital questions are taken.

These ~~are~~ ^{above} are some of the objects with which the Federation has been formed.

Resolutions.- A number of resolutions, mainly bearing on the development of industries ~~is~~ in the post war period, were adopted by the Federation. The Federation is of opinion that in any scheme of industrialisation and reconstruction in India, the fixation of industries and the distribution of state-aid should be made on a basis which contributes to the raising of the living standard in all parts of the country and provides work for people every where. A delegation of Muslim merchants and industrialists should be sent to the Middle East to study the possibilities of expanding commercial relations between India and the Middle Eastern Countries. Representation should be made to the Government of India for appointing a fair percentage of Muslims on their industrial panels. Government should also be requested to include an adequate number of Muslim candidates among those to be sent abroad for technical training.

Office-bearers.- The following Office-bearers were elected:
~~President-~~ Sir Adamjee Hajee Dawood; and Vice-Presidents- Mr. Habib
Ibrahim Rahimtoola, (Bombay), and Mr. M.A.H. Ispahani, (Calcutta).
The Office of the ~~Karnat~~ Federation is situated at 268, Mohd. Hussain
Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi.

(From a Copy of the Presidential Address
and the Resolutions forwarded to this
Office by the Secretary of the
Federation). +

Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unions in U.P. during 1943-1944.

According to the annual report on the working of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the U.P. during 1943-44, there were 33(43)* unions in the province in the beginning of the year. 23 (11) new unions were registered during the year, bringing the total to 56(54). Of these, the registration of ~~19(21)~~ 19(21) trade unions was cancelled either for failure to amend their constitutions according to the requirements of law, or for failure to ~~submit~~ submit the annual returns within time.

There were 7 (7) unions of railway and transport workers with a membership of 3,131 (2,701), 6 (6) unions of textile workers with a membership of 19,377 (12,592), 2 (3) unions of engineering workers with a membership of 926 (1,321), 1 (2) union of printing press workers with a membership of 625 (755) and 21 (14) unions of workers in miscellaneous industries with a membership of 11,964 (6,134). The total number of workers in registered trade unions was 36,023 (23,628).

As before, Cawnpore had the largest number of unions, namely 10 (12) with a total membership of 21,202. Female membership stood at 692 (295) the highest recorded so far, registering an increase of 134.6 per cent over the previous year. Female membership was, however, confined only to 7 trade unions.

Of ~~all~~ the ~~37~~ trade unions, the financial position of only 10 could be said to be ~~satisfactory~~ satisfactory. A large number of the unions were short-lived.

(The U.P. Labour Bulletin, Oct.-Dec., 1944). +

1st Madras Toddy-Tappers Provincial Conference:
Demands for Compensation for Injury and Death and
Compulsory Insurance. +

Resolutions demanding compensation for the injury and death to the families and dependents of toddy-tappers, compulsory insurance, facilities for education of their children and establishment of co-operative societies exclusively for them for distribution of rationed articles were adopted at ~~the~~ the first Madras Provincial Toddy-tappers' Conference held at Karur, Madras Presidency, on 2-4-1945. Over 600 delegates from all over Tamil Nad attended the conference. Mr. S. Meenakshisundaram Pillay of Sankaran-koil presided. Among those present were Dr. K.S. Gopalaswami and Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu.

(The Hindu, dated 5-4-1945). +

* Figures in brackets are those for the previous year.

9th All-India Kisan (Peasants) Conference, Netrakona,
8 to 11-4-1945.

The 9th annual Conference of the All-India Kisan (Peasants) Sabha was held at Netrakona, Bengal, in the second week of April 1945, Mr. Mazaffar Ahmed presiding. About 700 delegates from practically all provinces of India attended, including Punjab, U.P., Bengal, Malabar, Andhra, Tamilnad, Gujerat, Maharashtra, Gwalior, Sind, Berar, Assam, and Orissa. Among messages of greeting received, was one from Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, President, All India Trade Union Congress.

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Mr. Mazaffar Ahmed demanded the immediate formation of a national Government, the release of political prisoners and unfettered civil liberties in the country. He emphasized that unity between the Congress and the Muslim League must be achieved and the Kisan Sabha would have to carry on a ceaseless campaign for the purpose.

Declaring that the Kisan Sabha was opposed neither to the Congress nor to the League, Mr. Ahmed said that members of the Kisan Sabha could enrol themselves in both the organizations.

Referring to the plight of kisans, he said that in the past three years the kisans and village artisans had been ~~led~~ bled to death. The task before the Kisan Sabha, therefore, was to bring back life where death and disease prevailed. Due to famine and the epidemics, land had gone out of kisans' hands. The Kisan Sabha would have to struggle to get it back.

~~Resolutions adopted at the Conference~~

Resolutions.- The more important resolutions adopted at the Session, are briefly noticed below:

A comprehensive resolution on the food situation in the country urged the introduction of rationing in urban and rural areas throughout the country and payment of fair prices to Kisans for foodgrains. As a first step in that direction, the Kisan Sabha advocated that Government should procure directly at least part of the surplus foodgrains and sell the same through cheap grain shops for the benefit of the people, particularly in the rural areas. In order to make it ~~as~~ a success, the Conference called upon all Kisans to ~~not~~ sell their surplus grains only to official grain purchasers at controlled prices.

By another resolution, the Conference characterised the disciplinary action taken recently by Swami Sahajananda, President, All-India Kisan Sabha, last year, in suspending all provincial Kisan Sabhas except Bihar, the General Secretary and the Central Kisan Council as unconstitutional and uncalled for. The Conference denied that it was Communist-dominated and emphasised that they had never used their majority to pass resolutions which would not be supported by Kisan-loving Congressmen and Muslim ~~League~~ Leaguers. The accusation that Communists had made the Sabha anti-Congress and used the Sabha platform for propagating Pakistan were equally untrue.

(The Statesman, 9 to 11-4-1945;
The Hindu, 9-4-1945).+

Biennial Convention of All India Railwaymen's Federation, Secunderabad, 23-4-1945.

Abolition of the present inadequate scales of pay of railwaymen and grant of increased dearness allowance were the two major demands made by the All India Railwaymen's Federation at its biennial convention held at Secunderabad on 23-4-1945.

Mr. V.V. Giri, Ex-labour Minister of Madras, in inaugurating the Convention cautioned the Government of India against retrenchment after the war when work on railways would become less, and said that Government should have a plan for the absorption of all workers. Retrenchment on railways could be avoided by strengthening the transport services ~~and~~ road, rail and air. He said railwaymen were not satisfied with the increases in dearness allowance recently announced.

Mr. N. Ramachandra Rao (Nizam's State Railway) who was elected President of the Convention stated that the meagre rates of dearness allowance granted to railwaymen had not adequately neutralized the rise in the cost of living. The Federation, therefore, should not rest content unless dearness allowance on the basis of actual cost of living index figures was paid to them.

It was high time the Railway Board abolished the new scales of pay or revised them. This need not wait until the war was over. Its abolition was more urgent while the war was on as the cost of living had gone up enormously and workers under the revised scales of pay were not able to cope with the standards they had to maintain.

Mr. S. Guruswami, General Secretary of the Federation, presenting the report said that there were more than 22 units affiliated to the Federation and half as many were pressing for affiliation. He expressed concern regarding the 150,000 employees now treated as temporary, of whom only 3 per cent would be ~~absorbed~~ absorbed in permanent vacancies.

Resolutions.- The main resolution of the General Council of the Federation stated that the adamant attitude of the Railway Board against the immediate abolition of the adverse new scales of 1931 and revision of the basic rates constituted an unreasonable rejection of the demands of the Federation as formulated by the Moghal Serai Convention (vide page 29 of our report for November 1944). The resolution further ~~directed~~ directed the president and the General Secretary of the Federation to file an application to the Government of India demanding adjudication of the dispute arising out of the railwaymen's demands and its settlement before 1-7-1945. The resolution also stated that the Railway Board had not met the reasonable demands of the Federation of the question of dearness allowance, especially about the necessity of immediate abolition of the arbitrary zonal classification and unfair discrimination against the low-paid staff. Pending the result of the effort at settlement, the Convention called upon the affiliated unions to prepare themselves immediately for all eventualities and mobilise popular opinion in support of the reasonable ~~stand~~ stand taken by the Federation.

Office bearers for 1945.- Mr. V.V. Giri, was elected President and Mr. S. Guruswami, General Secretary, for 1945.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-4-1945; ✓
The Hindu, 25 and 29-4-1945). ✓

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Bombay Beggars Bill, 1944.

The Government of Bombay on 7-4-1945 gazetted ~~the~~ draft Bombay Beggars Bill, 1944. The statement ~~of~~ attached to the Bill points out: ~~that~~
"The problem of beggary has been considered frequently in the past. It is now realised that it cannot be effectively and systematically tackled without a full-fledged Beggars' Act".

"This legislation provides for the detention of beggars in suitable institutions after commitment by a Magistrate. It is intended to be reformatory so far as indigent and helpless beggars are concerned, and provides for their training and equipment for gainful employment after the expiry of the period of detention. It is penal only so far as exploitation of beggars and contumacious vagrancy are concerned. Children coming under this law are proposed to be dealt with under the Bombay Children Act, 1921, except that children up to 5 years of age who are beggars or dependants of beggars will be dealt with under this legislation."

"The legislation extends to the whole Province but will come into force in particular areas of the Province on such dates as may be notified by Government. The legislation depends for its working on the provision of adequate and varied institutional accommodation and it is intended to be brought into force as and when such accommodation becomes available in particular areas".

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated 10-4-1945, Part V, pages 32 to 43).+

The Sind Vagrancy Bill, (Bill No. XIV of 1945)
Gazetted.

The Sind Government on 6-3-1945 gazetted the Sind vagrancy Bill (Bill No. XIV of 1945) to make provision for the establishment of beggars' homes where beggars can be kept and those among them who are fit to do manual work taught some useful trade or occupation. The homes will provide medical treatment for the sick and infirm, work for the able bodied and education for children and also for such adults as would benefit from it.

(The Sind Government Gazette, dated 8-3-1945, Part IV, pages 84 to 91)..+

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.Wages.Factory Wages in British India in 1943: 50 per cent
Increase in Workers and 83 per cent Increase in Wages
over 1939.

Attention is drawn to pages 41 to 42 of our December, 1943, report and page 25 of our May, 1944, report where are reviewed the fluctuations in Factory wages in British India during 1939 and 1940 and 1941 respectively. The following information regarding the average annual earnings of wage earners in perennial factories in British India during 1943 is drawn from a note on the subject published in the April, 1945, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. It is pointed out that figures for 1942 ~~were not published~~ were not published because in that year a number of employers commenced paying dearness allowances and incurred losses by giving concessions in kind, although in the returns under the Payment of Wages Act it was not always indicated whether these items were included. The data are, therefore not comparable.

The following table gives the figures of the average annual earnings of workers in the year 1943 compared with those for the year 1939. They are compiled from the returns under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, from all the provinces except Assam.

Industry.	1939		1943	
	Average No. of workers in hundreds	Average wage in rupees.	Average No. of workers in hundreds	Average wage in rupees.
Textiles	7,957	293.6	10,157	571.2
Engineering.....	1,050	312.1	2,354	529.0
Minerals & Metals..	599	462.8	974	502.7
Chemicals & Dyes..	512	246.2	810	398.8
Paper & Printing..	513	332.6	614	413.4
Wood, Stone & Glass.	412	193.8	525	303.0
Skins & Hides.....	118	290.3	385	410.7
Ordnance Factories.	266	361.9	1,253	527.4
Mints.....	18	367.4	68	574.4
Miscellaneous.....	203	282.8	731	392.0

It is seen from the table that there has been, in 1943, an increase of about 50 per cent in the average number of wage earners, working in the factories under consideration, over the corresponding figure for 1939, while the average earnings per worker has risen by nearly 83 per cent over the amount earned in the base year.

As before, the textile industry comes ^{first} in the list in employment, with the next place occupied by the engineering group. Ordnance factories have displaced minerals and metals from the third place to the fourth. In the matter of average wages paid in the different industries, the first place is held by mints, textiles and engineering coming second and third respectively. Workers in ordnance factories draw, on an average, almost as much as those in the engineering industry, and the next place goes

to workers in minerals and metals. All the above industries pay more than Rs. 500 per annum on the average, and the least paid workers are those employed in wood, stone and glass manufactures. Wartime ~~index~~ increase in ~~the~~ wages appears most striking in the textile and engineering industries, and the increase is the least ~~in~~ minerals and metals. These variations in the averages are partly due to the differential basic ~~wages~~ wage rates and the differences in the amounts of dearness allowances and bonuses.

(Indian Labour Gazette, April, 1945).+ ✓

Higher War Allowances for Postal Employees:
Bombay Postal Inquiry Committee's Report
submitted to Government of India. +

It is learnt that the Bombay Postal Inquiry Committee (vide page 34 of our report for November, 1944) has submitted its report to the Posts and Air Department, Government of India. Its recommendations are being examined and an official announcement is likely to be made shortly. It is understood the measures contemplated will be given retrospective effect. ~~The committee was a fact-finding committee and was asked to investigate into certain claims made by the Bombay and Poona Postmen's Unions for increased dearness allowance. It may be recalled in this connection that Sir Gurunath Dower, Secretary, Posts and Air Department, speaking recently in the Central Assembly on the question of dearness allowance gave an assurance that Government would issue orders after examining the report, and that, even if there was some delay in issuing them, Government would see that the staff did not suffer on that account.~~

(The Statesman, 7-4-1945).+ ✓

Ahmedabad Textile Labour Associations' Demand for
Four Months' wages as Bonus for 1944: Dispute
referred for Arbitration. +

Reference was made at page 48 of our report for January, 1945, to the demand made by the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, to the Millowners' Association for four months' wages in 1944 as bonus for textile workers. All efforts at conciliation having failed, the Government of Bombay has referred the dispute for arbitration by the ~~India~~ Industrial Court.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 14-4-1945).+ ✓

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Increased Dearness Allowance for Employees of
Bombay, Sind and Madras Governments.

Increased dearness allowance approximately on the scales granted by the Government of India has been granted by the Bombay Government to their employees. (The Times of India, 30-4-1945).

The Sind Government has enhanced the scale of war allowance for officers and brought it in line with the new scales sanctioned for officers in the service of the Central Government. (Vanguard, 28-4-1945).

The Government of Madras also have decided to enhance the existing scale of dearness allowance for its employees. The revised scale, it is learnt, will approximately be on the same lines as the scale now fixed by the Government of India and will be given effect to as from 1-1-1945. It is further learnt that a new scheme for granting dearness allowance to village officers is also under the consideration of the Government.

(The Hindu, 24-4-1945). ✓

Increased War Allowance for Officers of Government
of India drawing up to Rs. 2,000 per month.

After a review of the existing scheme of war allowance and after consultation with Provincial Governments, the Secretary of State for India has decided that the present rate of the allowance should be increased and the limit upto which the allowance is at present admissible should also be enhanced. The Secretary of State has accordingly sanctioned to services and officers under his rule-making control war allowance on the following scale:

(1) Married Officers drawing pay upto Rs. 1,500/- per mensem will receive a war allowance equal to $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per mensem; (2) Married Officers on pay of more than Rs. 1,500 per mensem but not more than Rs. 2,000 per mensem will draw the allowance at the flat rate of Rs. 263/- per mensem with marginal adjustments up to Rs. 2,263 per mensem; (3) Single Officers drawing pay upto Rs. 1,000 per mensem will receive a war ~~allowance~~ allowance equal to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 30 per ~~month~~ mensem with marginal adjustments up to Rs. 1,075/- per mensem.

The Governor General in Council has also been pleased to extend the concession to services and officers under his rule-making control as follows :-

(a) Gazetted Officers of the Central Government will receive the same scale of relief as (1) and (2) above.

(b) Non-gazetted Officers of the Central Service (other than members of the Defence of India units) not entitled to dearness allowance, will receive a war allowance at $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of pay. Non-gazetted Officers who are members of Defence of India units will continue to receive war allowance at 10 per cent of pay subject to the minima at present applicable to them.

These orders will have effect from the 1-1-1945 (i.e. allowances at the above rates will be due on the pay for January 1945) and remain in force up to the end of the war.

(Notification No.F.1(31)-W11/45, dated 18-4-1945
of the Government of India, Finance Department). + ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance for Railway Employees.

The Central Government, on 18-4-1945, gazetted a notification enhancing the dearness allowance scales of employees in Indian State Railways. The new scales for Gazetted Officers are the same as the new scales for officers in Government of ~~India~~ India's other departments. Whole-time non-gazetted railway servants (other than those enrolled in Railway ~~Units~~ Units—Defence of India Corps) will be eligible for an allowance of 17½ per cent of pay, subject to the following minima:

Zone	Pay per month	Allowance
X	Rs. 40 and above	Rs. 20 per month
	Below Rs. 40	Rs. 19 per month
A	Rs. 40 and above	Rs. 19 per month
	Below Rs. 40	Rs. 17 per month
B	Rs. 40 and above	Rs. 16 per month
	Below Rs. 40	Rs. 14 per month
C	Rs. 40 and above	Rs. 14 per month
	Below Rs. 40	Rs. 12 per month

(For definition of Zones X, A, B and C vide pages 44-45 of our report for March, 1944). Whole-time non-gazetted railway servants in Railway Units (Defence of India Corps) will be eligible for an allowance of 10 per cent of pay, subject to the following minima:

Zone	Allowance
X	12 0 0 p.m.
A	12 0 0 p.m.
B	10 8 0 p.m.
C	9 0 0 p.m.

(Notification No. E.44 DA 11, Dated 18-4-1945, The Gazette of India, Dated 21-4-1945, Part I, Section 1, pages 485-486). ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance for lower-paid Central Government Servants.

The Government of India, on 18-4-1945, notified a further increase in the rates of dearness allowance for their lower-paid employees. The ~~following~~ allowance shall be admissible on the scale indicated in the following table, namely:

Area	Emoluments of Government servant	Rate of the allowance
A	Below Rs. 40 per mensem.	Rs. 20 per mensem.
	Rs. 40 to Rs. 250 inclusive.	Rs. 22 per mensem or 17½ per cent of pay, whichever is greater.
B	Below Rs. 40 per mensem.	Rs. 16 per mensem.
	Rs. 40 to Rs. 200 inclusive.	Rs. 18 per mensem or 17½ per cent of pay, whichever is greater.

Area	Emoluments of Government servant	Rate of the allowance.
C	Below Rs. 40 per mensem.	Rs. 14 per mensem.
	Rs. 40 to Rs. 150 inclusive.	Rs. 16 per mensem or 17 1/2 per cent of pay, whichever is greater.

(For definition of areas A, B, and C vide page 20 of our report for August, 1942). This order will take effect from 1-1-1945.

(Notification No. F 1(20) WII/45 dated 18-4-1945, The Gazette of India, dated 21-4-1945, Part I, Section 1, page 468).+

Deduction from Wages of Factory Workers in furtherance of War Savings Schemes: Bihar Government's Notification.

In pursuance of the provisions of clause (k) of sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 (IV of 1936), the Government of Bihar has approved all savings schemes which, in furtherance of war savings schemes, enable workmen in all the factories situated in the province to purchase (i) 3-year Interest-Free Bonds, (ii) 5-year Interest-Free Bonds and (iii) National Savings Certificates or to make deposits in the Post Office Defence Savings Bank. The Government has also authorised deductions to be made from the wages of factory workers in furtherance of the approved schemes provided the written authorisation thereto of the employee is obtained by the management of the respective factory.

(Notification Nos. 411 and 412—XL-108/45-L, dated 28-3-1945, The Bihar Gazette, 4-4-1945, Part II, page 174).+

Pay of Military Personnel.

Pay Scales of Indian Army Officers increased for duration of War. †

Substantial increases in the pay of Indian Officers serving in the Indian Army, especially those who are married and have children, will result from the revised rates announced by the Government of India on 7-4-1945. These rates are to take retrospective effect from 1-11-1944.

The pay of Indian and British Officers will now be the same, with the exception that the Indian Army allowance paid to British officers will not apply to Indians except when serving overseas. This means that the same allowance will be paid to Indian officers serving overseas as is admissible to British officers of the Indian Army serving in India.

The following examples show the effect of the new rates on the pay of Indian emergency commissioned officers :-

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Single</u>		<u>Married and living with his wife and two children</u>	
	Old rate	New rate	Old rate	New rate.
Second Lieut.	405	405	450	615
Lieutenant.	430	460	490	665
Captain.	500	590	640	765
Major	765	965	850	1,095
Lt. Col.	1,090	1,300	1,145	1,405
G.S.O.III.	700	740	830	915
G.S.O.II.	1,000	1,115	1,130	1,255
G.S.O. I.	1,350	1,600	1,510	1,705

The increased rates are for the duration of the war. They do not at present apply to the R.I.N. and the R.I.A.F.; the granting of special war pay to officers in those services is now being considered.

(The Statesman, 10-4-1945). †

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Production.

Import of Consumer Goods from Britain:
Hydari Mission's Agreement with H.M.G. ✓

Reference was made at page 55 of our Report for January 1945, to the Government of India's Official Mission to Britain led by Sir Akbar Hydari, Secretary, Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. The results of the mission which returned to India towards the end of March, 1945, are set forth in a communiqué dated 6-4-1945 issued by the Government. The following is a summary of the Communiqué:

Object of the Mission.- Since September, 1939, India has progressively given more and more from her civil economy to meet defence requirements. In addition, during 1941-44 imports have shrunk and there has been a shortage of consumer goods. The increase in the purchasing power of the people and in population and the paucity of civil supplies have aggravated the hardships which have been progressive in intensity; and the brunt of them has fallen on the poorer elements of the population. The Hydari Mission was sent to the United Kingdom with the object of effecting an improvement of the position during 1945 and a substantial improvement in 1946.

The Mission accordingly sought relief under the following heads:

- (1) Reduction in the demands of the defence services on Indian production, so as to make the commodities so released available for the civil consumer in India;
- (2) imports of such consumer goods as are at present either not produced at all in India, or are produced in insufficient quantities;
- (3) procurement of raw materials and working stores required for the manufacture of consumer goods in India; and
- (4) expediting the procurement and dispatch of equipment and stores ordered by the several Departments of the Government of India in aid of the war effort or the maintenance of civil economy.

Imports arranged for.- Considerable headway has been made in regard to the last mentioned item, viz., the procurement and dispatch of stores, equipment and machinery already ordered or about to be ordered, such as coal mining machinery, transportation stores, road rollers, cranes, telephone equipment, agricultural machinery, fertilizers, etc. As regards finished consumer goods and raw materials and working stores required for the manufacture of consumer goods in India, the results obtained are satisfactory. Increases under these heads from all sources over the 1944 figures should reach about Rs. 260 million in 1945, rising to Rs. 480 million in 1946. About half of the amounts mentioned represent the cost of raw materials and working stores required for the manufacture in India of consumer goods, viz., mill stores, dye stuffs, knitting wool, woollen yarn, tin plate, umbrella and bicycle components, industrial chemicals, etc. The finished consumer goods include such items as baby foods, vegetable seeds, bicycles, drugs and medicines, paper and stationery items, cotton sewing thread, sewing machines, toilet requisites of all kinds, hardware, glassware, electric household goods, etc.

Imports for Defence Requirements.- Of greater importance than these were the relief sought for and obtained under the first heading, viz., a reduction in the demands of the defence services so as to make available the capacity and the material so released for civil population. The mission had been directed to concentrate particularly on obtaining as large a measure of relief as possible for 1946, in view of the possible developments in the war against Germany and Japan. Of the several heads under which relief was sought, the more important were steel,

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leather, timber, woollens, cement and cotton textiles. The net result of the relief obtained under all these heads in 1945 is about Rs. 40 million and in 1946 about Rs. 700 million, and of these the most important single item under which relief has been obtained is cotton textiles.

Agreement on Textile Goods Import.- In 1945 India is liable to supply up to 800 million yards of cotton textiles towards the requirements of the defence services and to export 600 million yards, making a total deduction from what is available out of the mill-made cloth to the Indian consumer of 1,400 million yards. As a result of the mission's discussions in London an agreement has been reached under which (1) H.M.G. will endeavour to make available to the Indian consumer about 600 to 800 million yards of Indian mill-made cloth in 1945 by reducing the demands for the military and for export (2) the Government of India will try to secure at least 200 million yards of the increased supplies to the Indian consumer from enhanced production, while H.M.G. will try to provide the necessary mill stores and other requirements (3) as to the remainder, for purposes of present planning the Government of India will proceed on the basis of military orders of 600 million yards and exports of 400 million yards in 1946 and (4) the position will be reviewed from time to time with a view to rendering further relief.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-4-1945). ✓

'Utility Cloth' Scheme: Government of India's
New Proposal to ease Cloth Scarcity. †

With a view to increasing the production of cloth and meeting the requirements and tastes of the consuming public in regard to counts, colour and design, the Government of India proposes to introduce shortly the 'utility cloth' scheme. Details of the scheme, for which the co-operation of the millowners is assured, are now being worked out, and when it comes into operation, the present scarcity in better varieties of cloth, particularly dhoties and sarees, is likely to be eased considerably. As a result of the 'utility cloth' scheme, competition among mills for the production of finer varieties of cloth, it is expected, will stop.

Explaining the reasons for the introduction of the new scheme, the Times of India of the 14-4-1945 points out:

The 'Utility Cloth' Scheme is being introduced to meet the demands for better cloth all over the country which has been in evidence for some time past owing to the increased purchasing power of the people. When the war extended to the Far East, it was apprehended that owing to the stoppage of imports, there would be scarcity in cloth, and to meet such an eventuality, the ~~standard cloth~~ 'standard cloth' scheme was introduced (vide pages 47 to 48 of our report for December, 1941). Government directed the mill industry to produce standard cloth, the specifications of which are simple and few, and further increase its production. The production has since been increased, and the industry supplied more standard cloth than some of the provinces could dispose of even though the price level fixed is very low, and the margin of profit to the industry small. In a country like India with many different communities living in different climatic conditions, a standard type of cloth for wear is considered impracticable, and as the prices of all varieties of

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cloth were lowered in pursuance of Government's policy, the demand for standard cloth slackened, except in provinces like Bihar where standard cloth or any kind of cloth is welcome. On the other hand, in producing centres like Bombay where the working classes earn better wages than before the war and ~~who~~ always prefer variety in cloth, the demand for standard cloth ~~has~~ fell, when the prices for other varieties began to compare favourably with that of standard cloth.

As a result, in recent months there has been a scarcity in the supply of better and finer cloth, and in many areas, including Bombay City, people are unable to get even their ordinary requirements like 'dhoties' and 'sarees'. The Industry's Committee and the Rationalisation and Standardisation Sub-Committee of the Textile Control Board, therefore, considered the question and certain drastic proposals were made to Government. According to these proposals, the number of varieties of cloth will be reduced by the mills which will utilise its maximum available capacity for manufacturing 'utility cloth'.

(The Times of India, 16-4-1945).+

Control Measures.

Cloth Rationing introduced in Karachi.

Rationing of cotton cloth was introduced in ~~xxxxxx~~ Karachi early in April, 1945. Special ration cards have been issued and ~~the~~ holders are entitled ~~to~~ as many units of cloth as the units of food grains to which they are entitled under the Food Grains Rationing Order. The cloth supplied is of superior quality costing 10 annas per yard. Karachi, it said, is probably the first city in India to introduce the rationing of cotton cloth.

(Dawn, dated 13-4-1945).+

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Textile Industry.

Stepping up Cloth Production: Proposals of Textile Control Board.

The causes of the present shortage of cloth in India and the methods by which production can be stepped up were discussed at a meeting of the Textile Control Board in Bombay on 10-4-1945. Sir Akbar Hydari, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, was also present and addressed the meeting.

Present Conditions.- Addressing the Board, Mr. Krishnaraj M.D. Thackersey, Chairman of the Board, observed that, since the outbreak of the war the industry had gradually increased its production, which was now over 4,800 million yards of cloth. Another 1,500 million yards was produced on small powerlooms and handlooms. If this entire cloth production was made available for consumption in the country it would enable a distribution of 15.75 yards per ~~man~~ capita per annum. But approximately 750 million yards of cloth was required for Defence Services, about 100 million yards were lost in the 23 million lbs. of yarn taken away by Government and about 600 million yards of cloth were liable to be exported out of the country. The industry had, time and again, pressed for a substantial reduction in the quantity of cloth exported, but Government had been unable to accept the suggestion. While ~~the~~ realised that exports to a number of countries on the list were necessary and justified, he was of the opinion that in view of the treatment meted out to Indians in South Africa, all exports to that country should be stopped. He also deprecated the despatch of cloth to Persia and Arabia as cloth costing 12 annas in India after export to those countries were sold at a price of Rs. 5 per yard. The cloth available for civilian consumption in the country was in the neighbourhood of 4,800 million yards, or approximately 12 yards per head per annum for India's population of 400 millions, as against the pre-war consumption of 15 to 16 yards per head. Due to increase in the purchasing power and the relative general prosperity there was now a demand for about 25 yards of cloth per head.

Reasons for Shortage.- The main reasons for the present shortage of cloth, despite increased production, ~~was~~ were the heavy demand for the Defence Services, the large quota allocated for export and serious failure of distribution machinery. The position would not have been so bad had some of the provincial and State Governments realised the need for ~~more~~ controlled distribution. The Distribution Committee of the Board, Mr. Thackersey announced, had recommended the Central Government to take up the question of organising in provinces and in States an effective and satisfactory system of cloth distribution.

Production to be stepped up by 400 Million Yards Per Year.- As regards the future, Mr. Thackersey emphasized, the industry realised the urgent need for increasing output. But the main ~~bottle-necks~~ were shortages of coal, labour and millstores, and with regard to each of these the industry was helpless. Government had been unable to provide sufficient coal even for full working of mills on their present working hours, and had consistently declined to provide building materials to house labour. Government considered cloth to be next in importance to food, they must give a very high priority to coal and to everything necessary to assist mills to produce more cloth.

The industry itself was seriously considering measures by which the output of cloth can be stepped up. "With this end in view, the rationalisation and the standardisation sub-committee of the Board had proposed:

(a) Drastic reduction in number of varieties of cloth and counts of yarn produced by mills; (b) utilisation of maximum available productive capacity for manufacturing "Utility Cloth"; (c) drastic reduction in the production of such qualities of cloth as are wasteful of yarn; ~~and~~ and (d) a substantial increase in the supplies of "dhotis" and "sarees". Government had agreed to the proposals in principle and it was expected thus to raise the production by 400 million yards annually. As a result of the efforts of the Hydari Mission, in 1946 the demand for Defence Services was expected to be reduced by 200 million yards and exports were to be reduced by a further 200 million yards. In addition, His Majesty's Government had promised to make every effort to supply to India additional mill stores and other requirements for increasing Indian production of cloth by at least 200 million yards over the present levels.

Resolutions.— The Industry's Committee of the Textile Control Board passed the following resolutions.

The Industry's Committee realising the situation arising out of the very heavy shortage of cloth in the country in spite of increased production urges every millowner to increase the production of cloth and of yarn to the utmost capacity and by all possible means such as, (a) working longer hours, (b) changing on as few occasions as possible the spinning preparations, and (c) reorganising their spinning sections.

It urges upon the Government to realise, (1) that, so far, the insuperable difficulty in the way of increased production is the supply of coal and/or electricity, ~~which~~ must be removed by the Government at all costs; ~~(2) that all facilities should be provided for (a) housing labour to enable them the industry to run longer hours; (b) quick transport of raw cotton and of manufactured goods from point of production to point of consumption; (c) adequate and regular supplies of necessary millstores, spare parts, etc., and (3) that the whole of the distributive machinery in the country should be under the direct control and supervision of the Textile Commissioner.~~

It resolves that: (i) Government must insist on Provincial and State Governments to control distribution properly and in accordance with the principles laid down by the Textile Control Board. (ii) The exports of cloth and yarn be completely stopped so long as the country's need are not met. (iii) The Supply Department must reduce their specifications and also their total demands and replace wherever possible other fibres in place of cotton. and (iv) No cloth of better quality than ~~that~~ that made in India should be imported.

(The Times of India, 12-4-1945; ✓
The Bombay Chronicle, 12-4-1945) .+

Food.

Schemes for increased Production of Fish
in India: Fishery Committee's Report.

The sub-committee appointed by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Mr. Fazal Rahimtoola to suggest measures to increase fish production in India has submitted its report to the Government. The committee after reviewing the present position of the fisheries and fish trade in India concludes that no material increase in fish production and improvement of the trade is possible unless a comprehensive programme of development based on an all-India policy is adopted and enforced at an early date. The programme should include a survey of fishery areas, initiation and co-ordination of research, conservation and development and exploitation of fisheries.

The committee also recommends the improvement of the socio-economic condition of fishermen, provision of more efficient and modern crafts and tackle and organization of co-operative sales societies for better marketing. The establishment of a central fishery research institute which will not only collate research work in the various provinces, but also constitute a training centre for turning out the necessary personnel for the provincial and state departments, the setting up of regional stations in the provinces and the States, and the opening of at least two marine stations and three inland stations are some of the important suggestions of the committee. These institutions are estimated to cost about Rs. 6 million.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-4-1945).

Advisory Panel on Processed Food set up by
Government of India.

To tender advice on the scientific, nutritional, hygienic and agricultural aspects of the processed food industry in India, the Food Department, Government of India, has established a panel of scientists with Sir S.S. Bhatnagar as Chairman and Dr. B.C. Guha as Secretary. The Panel will also help in the switch over of the industry from war to peace-time conditions and aid in its development in the interests both of better nutrition and agriculture.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-4-1945).

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War Risks Insurance

The War-Risks (Factories) Insurance Scheme extended up to 30-3-1946

The Central Government has decided to extend the War Risks (Factories) Insurance scheme by another year from April 1, 1945, states a press commaniqué issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India.

Accordingly, the period of all existing policies of insurance issued under the scheme, other than those in respect of inland vessels, shall be extended by one year from April 1, 1945. As regards inland vessels, fresh policies shall be issued covering a period of one year from April 1, 1945. The basis of insurable value will remain unaltered. The rate of premium payable in respect of the extended period shall be half per cent. of the insurable value of the property calculated to the nearest anna on each complete sum of Rs. 100. The premium will be payable in four equal instalments, on April 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, 1945.

("Indian Information", 1-4-1945), ✓

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Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Employment of Technical Trainees and Demobilised Personnel:
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Government's Plans.

The future of the technical personnel trained in India and abroad during the war was one of the topics discussed by the Labour Member, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, in his address to the chairmen of National Service Labour Tribunals assembled at Simla on 19-4-1945 to consider questions relating to the Technical Training Scheme, the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance and Employment Exchanges.

The Labour Tribunals, said Dr. Ambedkar, had directed nearly 15,000 technicians into national service and had also exercised effective control over the movement of technical personnel. The Government were suggesting, on the one hand, the tightening of control over the drift of labour, about which there were still serious complaints in Calcutta, and, on the other hand, requiring tribunals to give closer attention to the conditions of employment of workers who were directed into national service or prevented from leaving their employment. The War had imposed a very heavy strain on workers and if further sacrifice had to be imposed upon them on account of the war, the Government had to ensure that that was not done arbitrarily. Whatever the pressure from employers, Government could not allow labour conditions to deteriorate further in an emergency like the present. There should be greater ~~now~~ collaboration between employers and workers and a new spirit of co-operation had to be inculcated. Government aimed at achieving this by the exercise of control with firmness and justice.

Referring to Bevin trainees, Dr. Ambedkar said that most of them would undoubtedly be of great help in raising the standard of the skilled workers. They had also brought back with them the unique experience of a nation fully mobilized for total war.

New Organisation for Resettlement.- On the question of resettlement of demobilized personnel and workers in war industries, he said: Resettlement is a civil responsibility and the Government have decided that it will fall on the Labour Department. In the machinery that will be set up, the chairmen of the National Service Labour Tribunals will be called upon to play a very important part. The problem of resettlement is one which has to be tackled by the Centre and provinces in the closest co-operation. In the provinces the chairman will be the head of the regional organization. It would be their duty to maintain the closest contact with the organization at the Centre and with the Departments of the Provincial Governments. In addition to their assisting the demobilised personnel, the new organisations were expected to lay the foundation of an efficient employment service in the country. The important feature of such a service was a co-ordinated system of employment exchanges. A few of these had already been set up, and some had shown good results. But it was clear that the machinery should be organized on a sounder basis. Government required, above all, trained staff to run the exchanges, and were therefore, proposing to inaugurate very shortly a training scheme for managers and assistant managers. They hoped that the training would enable newer exchanges to be built up on right lines. The resettlement organisations would also have to concern itself with the training and reconditioning of demobilized personnel, their welfare and their interests in the new employment. Provision had also been made for publicity and canvassing.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-4-1945). +

Bombay Government's Resettlement Plans for
Demobilized Personnel.

With the end of the European war now in sight, the Government of Bombay are understood to have formulated plans for the resettlement of demobilized Indian soldiers. Schemes have been worked out for the formation of a Pioneer Labour Corps to carry out Government's post-war road, irrigation and land improvement programmes, and for opening co-operative workshops and recreational centres. The Provincial Rural Development Board is considering a scheme to give technical training and employ in industries those of the servicemen who will not be absorbed in work on land. Educational concessions contemplated for the children and dependants of soldiers include free tuition and stipends. For soldiers of "approved war service" the Government have reserved 50 per cent of the competitive service posts.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-4-1945). ✓

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Central Control Over Basic Industries: Government of India enunciates main principles of New Industrial Policy.

The Government of India has recently (third week of April 1945) issued a statement setting forth the main principles that will guide its industrial policy in the future. The more important features of the new policy are: assumption by the Central Government of control over the more important basic industries; the formulation of a tariff policy appropriate to post war needs and conditions; ensurance of fair conditions of labour in industries; nationalisation and State management of certain industries; fuller exploitation of mineral resources; initiation of a policy of actively assisting industries by such methods as making loans to or subscribing to shares of deserving enterprises, guaranteeing minimum dividend on capital, etc; rendering adequate financial aid to research organisations and provision of expert assistance; exercising greater control over industry through a system of licensing of industrial undertakings; and curbing of excessive profits. Dealing with the need for improvement of labour conditions, the Statement stresses that it will be one of the principal objects of Government's industrial policy "to secure for industrial workers a fair wage, decent conditions of work and living and a reasonable security of tenure. It is a fundamental objective of industrial development that it should enable the general standard of living to be raised. It would be a frustration of this objective if industrial workers do not get fair wages and decent working conditions. In the past, these matters were left largely to be settled between the employers and the workers, but it may be necessary for the State to intervene with statutory power. This question is engaging the earnest attention of Government and the necessary legislation will be undertaken from time to time".

This important pronouncement of Government is given fairly in full below:

Provisional Nature of Decisions: Need to consult Provincial and States Governments.— The Government of India have reached a stage in their planning of industrial development when they consider it would be in the public interest to make an announcement of the conclusions reached by them on various aspects of policy. There has not been time to consult either provincial Governments which are at present constitutionally responsible for industrial development in provinces or States between whom and British India a high degree of collaboration will be necessary if the maximum results are to be achieved from a vigorous industrial policy. Some of the proposals will eventually have to be placed before the Legislature for approval. Although, for these and other reasons, the conclusions reached are, to some extent, provisional, the Government of India consider that an announcement of their views may help to clear up the uncertainty which appears at present to be impeding plans of development by private industry.

Industries — a Provincial subject in 1935 Constitution.— Under the Government of India Act, 1935, the development of industries is a provincial subject, but it is open to the Centre to declare by law that the development of certain industries under Central control is expedient in the public interest and, thereupon, the development of such industries becomes a Central subject. No such Act has in fact been passed by the Central Legislature with the consequence that the development of industries is at the moment wholly a provincial subject. In view of this, some explanation is necessary as to why the Government of India feel themselves called upon to issue a statement of their industrial policy.

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~~Need for greater Control by Centre.~~- The reasons are two-fold. In the first place, the general economic policy pursued by the Government of India under their own constitutional powers exercises a profound influence over industrial development. It is a matter of history, for example, that the cotton textile, the iron and steel and the sugar industries have made rapid strides in India largely as a result of the fiscal policy pursued by the Central Government.

In the second place, the progress of planning has made it abundantly clear that certain industries must be taken over under Central control in the interests of co-ordinated development. It was indeed contemplated by Parliament, when the Government of India Act was passed, that industries in which a common policy was desirable would be brought under Central control. Government consider that for achieving the foregoing object the following industries should be centralized, but before coming to a final decision they will consult the provinces and the leading Indian States :-

(i) Iron and Steel. (ii) Manufacture of Prime Movers. (iii) Automobiles and Tractors and Transport vehicles. (iv) Aircraft. (v) Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering. (vi) Electrical Machinery. (vii) Heavy Machinery, such as Textiles, Sugar, Paper, Mining, Cement and Chemical. (viii) Machine Tools. (ix) Heavy Chemicals and fine chemicals, chemical dyes, Fertilizers and Pharmaceutical Drugs. (x) Electro-chemical Industry. (xi) Cotton and Woollen Textiles. (xii) Cement. (xiii) Power Alcohol. (xiv) Sugar. (xv) Motor and Aviation Fuel. (xvi) Rubber Manufacture. (xvii) Non-ferrous Metals Industry. (xviii) Electric Power. (xix) Coal. (xx) Radio Engineering.

When the necessary legislation is passed by the Centre, the Government of India will have direct constitutional authority for shaping the progress of a number of industries of vital importance to the country's development.

It may be pointed out that this arrangement has no long-range constitutional implications. It is intended to be in operation for so long as the present constitution lasts, and to what extent it will survive beyond that period is a matter to be decided by the future.

~~Main Objectives of Industrial Development.~~- The policy to be pursued by Government ~~must be governed by what they consider to be the proper~~ objectives of industrial development and the steps that will be necessary, in the conditions in which India will find herself after the war, to enable these objectives to be achieved. Government consider that the fundamental objects of industrialization are three-fold:

~~Increase of National Wealth.~~- To increase the national ~~wealth~~ wealth by ~~the maximum exploitation of the country's resources.~~ It is well-known that there are considerable unused resources of manpower and material, and clearly Government policy must be directed towards stimulating their fullest and most effective utilization.

~~Better Preparedness for Defence.~~- To make the country better prepared for ~~defence.~~ The experience of two wars has demonstrated the dangers, both to India and to the rest of the Commonwealth, inherent in India's dependence on overseas supplies for vital commodities required for defence.

~~A High Level of Employment.~~- To provide a high and stable level of ~~employment.~~ At present, the volume of industrial employment is comparatively speaking small, but if the country's industrial employment, including employment in ancillary trades and professions, will considerably affect the volume of total employment in the country. Government consider that their industrial policy should be directed towards maintaining employment at the highest possible degree of stability and volume.

Abandonment of Laissez Faire Policy.- It is axiomatic in Government's policy that the national wealth created by industrial development should be distributed in a manner that may be regarded as socially suitable. Powers must be taken and consciously used to secure this purpose. The attitude of Government towards industry in the past was for many years one of 'laissez faire'. Till the war of 1914-18 this policy was maintained in the belief, which was in accordance with current economic doctrine, that industrial progress was best achieved by unregulated private enterprise. This attitude underwent some modification after the last war through the adoption of the policy of discriminating protection. The Secretary of State, Mr. Edwin Montagu, in a dispatch to the Government of India in 1919 on the Fiscal Commission report announced a new policy. He said: "I accept the two fundamental principles, underlying the recommendations of the Commission; first, that in future Government should play an active part in the industrial development of the country; secondly, that Government cannot undertake this work unless provided with adequate administrative equipment and forearmed with reliable scientific and technical advice".

Key note of New Policy - Greater State Control.

State action in Post-war Period.- The Government of India consider that the continuance of their existing policy in the conditions in which India will find herself after this war, will not meet the objectives of sound post-war development. Though industrially stronger than in 1939, India will find herself in a position of relative inferiority. In other countries technological advances have been immense and as a result of the nature of modern warfare, there has been a striking increase in the total volume of skilled industrial labour. If India has to make rapid headway and if the standard of living of the masses is to be effectively raised, a vigorous and sustained effort is necessary in which the State no less than private industry must take a part.

Importance of Heavy Industries.- Government have decided to take positive steps to encourage and promote the rapid industrialisation of the country to the fullest extent possible. They attach particular importance to the development of those industries which constitute the foundation of modern industrial life, such as the iron and steel industry, the heavy engineering industries, the machine tool industry, the heavy chemical industry and so on. But while the development of these industries must take high priority, it must form part of a balanced plan in which due place is given to consumption good industries. It is clear that if progress is to be achieved, the development of industry must be planned by Government in co-operation with industry and every effort made to make the plan effective.

Adoption of Tariff - Policies suited to Post-war Needs.- The formulation of a tariff policy appropriate to the post-war needs and conditions of the country is under active consideration. The subject, however, is one of great complexity and will require a little further time for the Government of India to determine its policy and devise the machinery for implementing it. In the meantime, the position of industries which have been established or developed in war-time requires consideration. Some of these are covered by the announcement made in 1940 in regard to the grant of an assurance of post-war protection to essential war-time industries. Outside the scope of this announcement however, lie a large number of industries which have helped to sustain the national economy during an exceptionally difficult period. The provision of assistance to or protection of such of these industries as have been established on sound lines is likely to assume a measure of urgency during the period of transition. Government propose to set up machinery without delay for

the investigation of the claims of such industries for assistance or protection. This is a short-term measure pending the formulation of long-term tariff policy and the establishment of permanent machinery for the purpose.

State Enterprise may take over Basic Industries.- A primary point in industrial policy is the extent to which the State will take part in industrial enterprise. In India, ordnance factories, public utilities and railways together forming a considerable proportion of the total industrial enterprise are already very largely State-owned and State-operated. This arrangement will naturally continue. Further, Government have recently decided that the bulk generation of electric power should, as far as possible, be a State concern. This decision falls within the existing pattern of State and private enterprise. Apart from ordnance factories, public utilities and railways, basic industries of national importance may be nationalized provided adequate private capital is not forthcoming and it is regarded as essential, in the national interests to promote such industries.

For the purpose of Government policy, basic industries can be defined as including aircraft, automobiles and tractors, chemicals and dyes, iron and steel, prime movers, transport vehicles, electrical machinery, machine tools, electro-chemical and non-ferrous metal industries. It is contemplated also that Government may take over certain industries in which the tax element is much more predominating than the profit element and it is necessary and convenient for the State to take over the industry. An example of such action in the past is "Salt Manufacture".

Private Enterprises: Varying degrees of State Control.- All other industries will be left to private enterprise under varying degrees of control. There may be no control except such as is required to ensure fair conditions for labour, in the case of such industries as those catering for ordinary consumers' demands and subject to free competition. While in the case of industries of a semi-monopolistic nature of which control scarce natural resources there may be a stricter control varying with the circumstances of each case.

A Further Statement to be issued.- The views expressed above regarding the scope of nationalization will be discussed with provinces and also with the more important Indian States and a further statement issued as to whether the scope should be enlarged at all, and if so to what extent. Within the field considered open for State enterprise, the question whether the existing units which are privately owned should be taken over by the State will be examined on the merits of each type of each case. The Reconstruction Committee of Council has decided in regard to Electricity undertakings that, as licences fall due, they will as far as possible be taken over by the State or quasi-State organization. The case of coal will be examined and dealt with separately.

Working of State Enterprises: Cases of Management through Private Agencies and Corporations.- Certain industries of national importance such as ship-building and the manufacture of locomotives and boilers will be run by the State as well as by private capitalists.

Normally State enterprises will be managed by the State. In special cases the possibility of management through private agency for a limited period may have to be explored.

In some cases, State enterprises may be operated through public corporations. In order to gain experience of management through public corporations, further experiments will be tried.

Action in respect of pre-requisites of Industrial Progress.-

(a) Development of Transport Facilities.- Government have a primary responsibility, which they propose to discharge without delay as soon as

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war conditions allow, for developing certain prerequisites of industrial progress. One of them is the development of transport facilities. This is a matter in which both Central and Provincial Governments as well as the Indian States are vitally interested and steps to ensure a co-ordinated policy have already been initiated and made considerable headway. Another pre-requisite is the development of power. The Government of India have made good progress in ensuring co-ordinated development in this field. In many cases, power schemes—particularly where they are combined with irrigation—are the primary responsibility of provinces, but where regional projects, which overrun provincial and State boundaries, are considered necessary, the Government of India are taking action for the development of resources on a regional basis.

(b) Development of Mineral Resources.— The survey of mineral resources is another field where the responsibility falls squarely on the Central Government. Steps are being taken to extend the Geological survey and to put it on a footing where it can be of the maximum service to the country. Another pre-requisite of industrial progress is scientific and industrial research; the Government of India have already devoted considerable attention to it and they propose to take all steps which their resources will allow for seeing that it is maintained at a high level. Technical education, particularly through high grade technological institutes and technical training of personnel required for skilled employment are also matters in which the Government of India have initiated action which will directly assist industrial progress.

~~Existence of private industry.~~
Assistance to Private Industry.— In addition to discharging their responsibility for laying the foundation of industrial progress, the Government of India are prepared to assist industry in one or more of the following ways:—

(a) Loans: Subscription to Shares.— Government will take part either by making loans or by subscribing a share of the capital, in industrial undertakings which are considered to be of importance to the country's development, but for which adequate private capital may not be forthcoming. Within this category might fall such industries as those manufacturing aircraft, automobiles and tractors, chemicals and dyes, iron and steel, prime movers, transport vehicles, electrical machinery, machine tools, electro-chemical and non-ferrous metal industries.

This list will be modified from time to time as circumstances warrant. Industries receiving this type of assistance will be subject to a greater degree of Government control than others. For example, Government might require representation on the Board of management and that their sanction should be obtained for incurring certain types of expenditure and for certain appointments. Government might provide in suitable cases capital equipment like buildings, services and or machinery on terms to be settled on the merits of each case. This might in certain cases take the form of bulk Government orders for capital goods which might then be allocated to industrialists on suitable terms.

(b) Guaranteeing Minimum Dividends.— In special cases, industrial enterprises will be encouraged by guaranteeing a minimum dividend on capital ~~subject~~ or undertaking to meet revenue losses, for a fixed number of years, subject to the condition that Government would have a voice in the management and that a ceiling will be fixed for the return on capital. Where this procedure is followed, profits in subsequent years over and above the ceiling will be appropriated towards returning the funds paid by Government and after this has been done, such excess profits as continue to accrue will be divided by the Government and the Company in agreed proportions.

(c) Helping Industrial Research.- Government will be prepared to give adequate financial support to Research organizations set up by Industrial Associations representing organised industries and to provide for grants to Universities for approved schemes of research. Such assistance would be in addition to direct Government organisation of research as for instance through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(d) Patronising Indian Goods: Setting up of Indian Investment Corporation.- Subject to reasonable safeguards to quality and price, Government will continue to encourage Indian industry by buying its products in preference to others. The Government of India are examining the question of the promotion of an Industrial Investment Corporation or a similar institution.

(e) Taxation Relief: Procurement of Capital Goods: Expert Advice.- Government will undertake to examine from time to time, the tax system with a view to ensuring that, while securing the ends of social justice and national budgetary interests, the taxation does not tend to act adversely on development. Government will assist in the procurement of capital goods required by industrialists. They propose to set up an organisation in the United Kingdom and the United States of America for this purpose. In certain branches of industry, the advice of experts is particularly essential. Government will help in making the services of such experts available to industry.

Control of Industry:

(A) Licensing of Industry

Regulation of India Concentration.- Government have come to the conclusion that they must take power to license industrial undertakings. They have at present no power except for emergency war-time controls, to regulate the growth of industry; normally a person may put up a factory wherever he likes and may manufacture in it whatever commodity he chooses. There are, of course, local laws which regulate the size of the buildings, the proportion of open space, public health needs and also forth and it is possible under these regulations to refuse permission to put up a factory building, but such refusal cannot be based on considerations of industrial development.

One effect of this unregulated freedom to promote industrial enterprise has been the concentration of industry in certain areas; for instance, the manufacture of cotton textiles has been concentrated in Bombay and Ahmedabad; sugar in the United Provinces and Bihar; paper in Bengal. In some cases, there are good grounds for the concentration of particular industries in particular areas, but in many cases, it has been the result of fortuitous and haphazard growth. There are vast areas in this country which though suitable for industrial development, have not been developed because industry has tended to flow in particular channels.

The effects of such concentration are economic, social as well as strategic. It seems unsound from the strategic point of view that so large a proportion of industry should be concentrated in a few cities which might well be vulnerable to attack. On the social side it is clear that concentration creates housing problems of a most acute type. Perhaps, an even more important consideration is that concentration deprives other areas of the country of the beneficent effects of diversified economy.

Measures for Dispersal.- It is not clear that concentration is necessarily economically sound. The markets for textiles, for instance, are situated all over India, and cotton, the main raw material, is also grown in various parts of India. From the point of view of the consumer, it would obviously be right to cut out unnecessary transportation costs and

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to locate manufacture where both the raw material and the market are situated. Even where concentration appears relatively cheap on the basis of financial costs of production and distribution, it would, in many cases be found, in the long run, both socially and economically cheaper to disperse industry, if regard is paid to the benefits of a widely spread industrial structure and its integration with agriculture.

Prevention of Unhealthy Competition.- Control over development would be necessary from another point of view. In an unregulated industrial economy there is likely to be a tendency for capitalists to go in for schemes which promise quick returns. This will lead to lopsided development—a scramble for some industries, with the danger of overproduction and excessive competition and inadequate attention to other industries which are equally necessary in the national interest. To overcome this difficulty it would be necessary to fix targets, to allocate them on a regional basis and to see that these targets are achieved.

As Government has no authority at present to do this, they will have to take powers by legislation. Government propose that they should take power to license the starting of new factories and the expansion of existing factories, for, without this power, planned industrial development will be quite impossible. At the same time in order to avoid unnecessary delays it is proposed to set a monetary limit to the plants or projects requiring license so that very small plants, moderate extension of existing plants or replacements which do not add to output, should not be subject licensing.

Advisory Board for Licensing System.- Details of this legislation are ~~not yet decided~~. ~~Some preliminary examination~~, it is manifest that the power proposed to be taken by Government must be used in a manner that will command general public confidence. It is equally clear that the administration of the licensing system must be such as to assure Indian States that their legitimate desire for industrial development is not overlooked. It is accordingly proposed that a Board should be constituted at a high level to advise the Central Government ~~in the~~ in the matter of granting licenses for industries. Details of the personnel of the Board, its function, and other connected matters will be decided later.

(B) Other Measures of Control: Their Objects.- In a planned economy it is impossible to do without controls. Government consider that such controls should be the very minimum required. They propose that apart from licensing, control should be undertaken to achieve the following objects :-

(a) Maintenance of Balance between Agriculture and Industry.- To secure balanced investment in industry, agriculture and the social services it will be necessary, after the war, to ensure that the available capital resources are utilized on a balanced plan of agricultural, industrial and other development and that inside the field of industrial development, a balance is kept between the manufacture of capital and consumer goods.

Agricultural development will be undertaken almost wholly under the auspices of the State. This is because the bulk of the holders of land are poor and cannot themselves finance, at any rate, initially, improvements such as contour banding and irrigation by lift pumps. In many cases it will be possible to recover the cost ultimately, but the capital expenditure will have to be advanced by the State.

The State will also require to borrow heavy sums either directly for itself or on behalf of local authorities for financing road development, irrigation, electric power, public health and other social services. On any reasonable estimate, the capital resources required for these purposes will be heavy, and it will be necessary to ensure that the State

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is in a position to mobilize them from the country's savings. This will make it necessary to maintain control over capital issues; for, otherwise, capital may flow excessively in one direction and lead to lopsided development.

(b) Ensurance of Fair Labour Conditions.- To secure for industrial workers a fair wage, decent conditions of work and living and a reasonable security of tenure. It is a fundamental objective of industrial development that it should enable the general standard of living to be raised. It would be a frustration of this objective if industrial ~~xxxx~~ workers do not get fair wages and decent working conditions. In the past, these matters were left largely to be settled between the employers and the workers, but it may be necessary for the State to intervene with statutory powers. This question is engaging the earnest attention of Government and the necessary legislation will be undertaken from time to time.

(c) Curbing of Excessive Profits.- To prevent excessive profits to private capital. In the case of private undertakings, subject to free competition, it would be a mistake to discourage enterprise by undue restriction of profits. The risks of such enterprise are considerable and if industrialists are to bear the losses, they must also be permitted to reap the profits. In the normal course the tax system may be expected to prevent any excessive accumulation of profits. Where, however, conditions of free competition do not exist and as a consequence, ~~xxxx~~ excessive profits accrue, special steps would be necessary. These can only be considered on the facts of each case as it arises.

(d) Ensurance of Quality of Industrial Products.- To ensure the quality ~~of industrial products in the interest of both internal and external markets.~~ It is of the utmost importance to ensure good quality for the internal as well as the external markets. This involves standardization of products and administrative machinery to enforce standardization.

(e) Prevention of Unhealthy Concentration of Assets in Special Communities.- To ensure that unhealthy concentration of assets in the hands of a few persons of a special community would be avoided. This may be secured by a judicious exercise of controls, such as capital issues control and the licensing machinery for the regionalization of industry.

(f) Provision of Technical Training.- To ensure necessary technical training of personnel and to extend the benefit of such training to minorities and backward communities.

Further Consultation with Provinces and States.- The Government of India propose without delay to enter into discussions with provinces and with the Indian States in the light of the policy stated above and ~~are~~ are confident that it will be possible to evolve a machinery which will enable an agreed policy to be implemented in practice in a spirit of friendly co-operation on the part of all parties concerned.

(A Copy of the statement was sent to Karheal with our minute D-1/598/45 dated 26-4-1945)

Madras Government's Post War Development Plan for Rs. 1365 Million

A 5-year plan for the expansion of agriculture and irrigation and for power development, a 15-year plan for road construction and long-term programmes for the provision of increased facilities for education and the extension of public health services to rural areas are some of the major features of the post-war development plan drawn up by the Government of Madras. The plan is based on the recommendations of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee, involving an expenditure of 1365 million out of a total amount of Rs. 1425 million which is likely to be available to them, during the five-year period, including the Central Government's contribution of Rs. 500 million. Having regard to the fact that the Government of India will sanction grants-in-aid subject to certain conditions, the plan as a whole will be submitted to them for general approval. It may undergo modifications as the result of discussions with the Government of India. The main features of the plan are noticed below:

Special Priority Schemes: Training of Staff.- The 5-year development plan is divided into three parts. Part I consists of Special Priority schemes, some of which have, as their objective, the provision of trained staff, in the absence of which no large-scale activity is possible. They include provision for the opening of two new engineering colleges, a new medical college, another agricultural college, and polytechnical institutions, the re-opening of the Madras Forest College at Coimbatore and ~~extensions in the Veterinary College at Madras.~~ The men and women trained at these institutions will not, however, be of service until the quinquennium is over, and for the starting of the plan Government will have to rely on accelerated training courses at the existing institutions and on enlisting trained and semi-trained men returning from the services.

Agricultural Colonies and Workshops for Ex-soldiers.- Two of the Special Priority schemes are intended exclusively for ex-service men. The first provides for the establishment of 50 agricultural colonies scattered over the Province. The land in these colonies will not be granted to individual settlers but will be owned by a Co-operative Society of which the settlers will be members. The scheme is expected to provide for about 9,000 men. The other scheme intended exclusively for ex-soldiers is the establishment of 10 District Co-operative Workshops for the manufacture and sale of such articles as furniture, machine tools and leather goods. It is hoped to absorb through this scheme about 3,000 technicians. Some preliminary work has already been done on these two schemes, and the Government fully appreciate the need to have some at least of the colonies and workshops ready before demobilisation begins. In addition, Government are prepared to use on their programme of public works, roads, irrigation, public health and hydro-electric projects, labour units of discharged men whether organised on a co-operative basis or not.

All-Province and Particular Area Schemes.- Parts II and III of the plan consist of All-Province and Particular Area schemes. Particular areas have been selected for development generally on special grounds as, for example, in the case of irrigation schemes which have to be confined to particular areas. The Government have considered and rejected the suggestion that certain areas should be selected for concentrated activity. Where financial limitations or lack of trained staff prevent the complete development of a scheme within the quinquennium, e.g., the programme for medical relief, they propose to carry out part of the scheme in all districts, and where a selection has to be made, they will

select areas or places where the need is greatest. This criterion has also been adopted in the scheme for soil and water conservation.

The schemes for the improvement of the Province's agriculture, forests, live-stock and fisheries, will cost in all over Rs. 120 million. They provide among other things for a wide expansion of departmental activities, multiplication and distribution of seeds of improved strains, supply to farmers at concession prices of manures and agricultural implements, research demonstrations and propaganda, a wide extension of the existing agency for co-operative marketing, campaigns to combat erosion by means of contour bunding and trenching, and the opening of new live-stock farms.

Irrigation and Power Development Scheme.- During the five years beginning with 1945-46 the Government hope to put into execution seven major irrigation projects as well as several minor works, and to increase the yield in the existing deltas by improving their drainage systems. The major schemes are the Tungabhadra, Lower Bhavani, Gandikota Reservoir, Vaigai Reservoir, Upper Pennar, Malampuzha and Polavaram reservoir projects. The Polavaram reservoir when completed will be one of the biggest irrigation projects in India. It is expected to take 15 years to complete and will cost in all in the neighbourhood of 500 million. During the first quinquennium it is proposed to spend Rs. 275 million on irrigation works.

The future of industry in the province is to a large extent bound up with the provision of electric power at a reasonable price.. Considerable progress in this direction had been made in the pre-war years, but even so the per capita consumption of Madras is only 7.5 K.W.H. as against 49.5 K.W.H. in the neighbouring State of Mysore. Foremost among the schemes for power development now proposed are an extension to the Pykara plan which is the key plant in the Province, expansion of the Papanasam Hydro-electric power station, and provision of the ground work for the Tungabhadra and Machkund Hydro-Electric projects.

Development of Industries: Questions of Policy not decided.- The extent to which the State should participate in industry either as owner or operator is a matter to which very careful attention is being given. The Post-War Reconstruction Committee has recommended that the Government itself should take over and run the entire road transport system of the Province. It has also been suggested that the production and supply of artificial fertilizers should be taken out of private hands. On these matters which involve consultation and co-operation with the Central Government, no definite decision has as yet been reached. In drawing up their plan, however, the Government have taken into account the possibility of having to incur expenditure on such enterprises and have kept funds in reserve against the contingency. For the present the Government have confined themselves to drawing up plans for the development of small-scale and cottage industries and the promotion of polytechnical institutions and industrial schools. It is also proposed to start a Leather Research Institute and an Industrial Chemical Research Laboratory at Madras, an Oil Technological Institute at Calicut and a Sericultural Research Institute at Kollegal in Coimbatore district.

15-year Road Plan.- The provincial scheme for road development will take 15 years to complete. The scheme provides for the up-grading of over 27,000 miles of the existing roads to at least the standard, fixed by the Road Development Engineer for district roads, the improvement of 8,800 miles of village roads and the construction of nearly 20,000 miles of new roads of all classes and of over 1,000 bridges. The total cost is expected to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 750 million, of which Rs. 277.7 million will be spent during the first five years. Of this amount, it is estimated that about Rs. 70 million will be spent on

National Highways and it is hoped that the Government of India will bear the entire cost of this item. During the first two years of the operation of the scheme some attention will have to be paid to roads which have fallen into disrepair because of war conditions. Thereafter the scheme will develop according to a carefully planned system of priorities in which the opening up of interior tracts, access to markets, forests, and fishing villages and the probable demands of new industry have all been given due weight. To carry out the scheme, it is proposed to constitute a Highways Department which will absorb that part of the existing Public Works Department now engaged on road construction and maintenance. An accelerated course of study at the Engineering College to train 100 men per annum, including men returning from the services, will ensure a steady flow of recruits for the new department.

To reduce the cost of road maintenance it is proposed to provide facilities to bullock cart-owners either by way of subsidy or by granting loans on liberal terms to enable them to fit pneumatic tyres to their carts or to purchase carts already fitted with pneumatic tyres. During the quinquennium the scheme will be confined to municipal areas, as it is there that roads suffer most from cart traffic.

Development of Ports.- Most of the minor ports in the province stand in urgent need of repairs. During the first post-war quinquennium it is proposed to carry out a comprehensive programme of repair and improvement. This and the construction of the proposed canal for ships across the island of Rameswaram will together cost about Rs. 33.2 million.

Expansion of Educational Facilities.- The ultimate objective of the Government is to provide compulsory free education for both boys and girls throughout the Province up to the VIII standard. It is considered that this can be accomplished in a period of 20 years. The aim underlying the immediate post-war programme is to get the maximum number of children into school in the shortest possible time and to educate them up to the stage at which there is little or no danger of a lapse to illiteracy. This may require education up to the V standard. During the first quinquennium an addition of 1.35 million children will be made to the 3 million who now attend school. The Government intend to make no elaborate provision for school buildings. The existing buildings or rented buildings will be used wherever possible, and this applies also to the special Priority scheme for the training of the additional teachers who will be required to carry out the plan.

It is also intended to provide a free mid-day meal for every poor child attending an elementary school. This scheme will be introduced gradually during the first five years, preference being given to those localities where the need is greatest. By the end of the first five-year period nearly four million children will be receiving free mid-day meals and during the following five years it is hoped to extend the scheme to all elementary schools in the Province. The cost of the scheme during the period is estimated to be Rs. 125 million. It is also proposed to introduce a system of medical inspection of schools. Another scheme provides for a large increase in the number of physical instructors.

An essential preliminary to all educational schemes is the elevation of the status of the teaching profession which is now deplorably low. It is proposed to spend nearly Rs. 90 million in bringing the pay of all teachers, by whatever agency they are employed, up to the minimum scales recommended by the Central Advisory Board.

Extension of Medical Aid to Villages.- The Government's scheme for the extension of medical facilities may have to be modified in the light of the recommendations that may be made by the Health Survey and Development Committee. The present proposal is a twenty-year plan which will bring general medical aid and public health services within a reasonable distance of every village in the province. When the plan has been completed, no village will be more than five miles from the nearest rural dispensary, while in thickly populated areas there will be a health centre for every 10,000 to 12,000 people. The dispensaries will not be fully equipped hospitals but they will each contain eight beds, four for maternity cases, two for emergencies and two for cases which require isolation. The centres will be suitably staffed on both the Medical and Public Health side. There will also be taluk and district hospitals run on a proportionately larger scale. At all the centres, village, taluk and district, it is proposed to combine preventive with curative work.

On the public health side, special attention is to be given to the needs of industrial workers and their families. An Assistant Director of Public Health will make a detailed study of nutritional problems and devise and popularise better dietaries in each locality. Within a period of ten years the Government hope that every village in the Province will be provided with a protected supply of drinking water and that thereby the toll of preventible disease will be greatly reduced.

Cost of the schemes.- The total cost of the schemes is as follows:

<u>Subject of development</u>	<u>Approximate cost in thousands of rupees</u>
Resettlement and re-employment of demobilised soldiers	23,993
Industries and Industrial training	34,455
Roads	277,865
Road Transport (cost not worked out)	
Electrical Developments	111,036
Irrigation	275,589
Inland Waterways	5,365
Other Public Works - Ports	34,277
Agriculture	80,105
Veterinary and Livestock	16,687
Forests	16,170
Fisheries	9,255
Rural Uplift	3,749
Education	306,700
Public Health	47,948
Water Supply and Drainage	37,467
Medical	55,404
Housing and Town-Planning	325
Charges for servicing loans	37,760
Total	<u>1,364,130</u>

The sources from which money may be available to finance the scheme and the amounts expected from each of them are:

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	Million of rupees
(1) Revenue Reserve	250
(2) Revenue surplus during the five year of this plan	150
(3) Loans for remunerative purposes	150
(4) Loans for unremunerative purposes	300
(5) General Provincial Balances	75
(6) Contribution from the Government of India	500
Total	<u>1225</u>

(The Hindu, 27-4-1945)

Central Government's Plans to increase Production of Cement.

According to a Press note by the Government of India issued on 17-4-1945, the Government has decided to increase the production of cement by 3 million tons per annum by the year 1952. Plans so far received from the Associated Cement Companies, the Dalmias and others Cement Groups provide for an expansion of production by 1.85 million tons per annum. This leaves a balance of 1.15 million tons to be made up. Government considers that steps should be taken to prevent the emergence of monopolistic conditions in the industry and has therefore decided that in the allocation of this balance, firms other than the A.C.C. and the Dalmias should be given preference.

(The Hindu, dated 18-4-1945). *

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

Conditions of Work

Statistical Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1943-44, Vol. I and Vol. II-Statistics, Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1945. Price Vol. I- Rs. 2 or 3s., and Vol. II- Rs. 12-6 or 19s.

Economic Conditions

Statistical Bulletin No. 13 (1942-43). Indian Central Cotton Committee. Supply and Distribution of the Various Types of Indian Cotton during the season of 1942-43. Nov. 1944. Price, 12 annas. Obtainable from the Secretary Indian Central Cotton Committee, Post Box No. 1002, Bombay.

Agriculture

Statements of the Season and Crop Report in the North-West Frontier Province for the year 1943-44. Printed and Published by the Manager, Government Printing Stationery, N.W.F.P., Peshawar, 1945. Price Rs. 1-6.

Living Conditions

"Feeding the Worker" - Conditions in Industry No. 2 - March 1945. Issued by the Department of Food and the Department of Labour, Government of India, New Delhi.

Organisation, Congresses, Etc.

All-India Trade Union Congress, Report: Twenty-First Session, Madras, 1945. Model House, Flat A-4, Proctor Road, Girgaum, Bombay-4.

Social Conditions

Vakkals - The Aborigines of Kanara by Dinkar Desai. Servants of India Society, Sandhurst Road, Girgaon, Bombay, 1945.

Post-War Reconstruction

Statement of Government's Industrial Policy, 1945; Planning and Development Department, Printed by the Superintendent, Press of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, New Delhi, 1945.

Miscellaneous

Budget Estimate of Provincial Civil Works in the Province of Orissa for the year 1945-46. Superintendent, Orissa Government Press, Cuttack, 1945.
