

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH
- - - - -

Industrial and Labour Development in January, 1949.

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

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CHAPTER 1. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

INDIA - JANUARY 1949.

11. Political Situation and Administrative Action.

Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference,
New Delhi, 17 and 18 January 1949.

A conference of Labour Ministers of provinces and States was held at New Delhi on 17 and 18 January 1949 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Minister, Government of India.

The meeting, among other matters, considered a memorandum prepared by the Central Government on labour policy and administration; and another regarding an enquiry into the conditions of agricultural labour. It also discussed proposals for the amendment of the Indian Trade Unions Act, ~~1947~~ 1926, and the Indian Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and the International Labour Convention (No. 87) concerning freedom of association and protection of the right to organise.

Labour Minister's address.- Inaugurating the meeting, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Labour Minister, Government of India, said that the memoranda prepared by the Labour Ministry only gave broad outlines of policy, and once policy was decided upon details would have to be settled. Referring to the principles of industrial relations, the Labour Minister said that it was essential that in any legislation dealing with industrial relations, there should be a maximum measure of uniformity. Otherwise, it lead to a number of complications which confused not only the authorities who had to administer those laws, but also the workers

who in most parts in India were not so much educated as to understand their implications.

As regards conditions of agricultural labour, the question had two very important aspects. Firstly, it was necessary to improve the lot of that section of the working classes which had been so long neglected. Secondly, if India had to be self-sufficient in the supply of food grains, it was essential that agricultural workers were assured of at least a basic minimum wage.

Industrial housing: provinces to proceed with own schemes.- The meeting considered the memorandum of labour policy and administration for the period ended 30 June 1948. As regards industrial housing, it was agreed that pending clarification of the Central Government's policy, the provinces should proceed with their own schemes.

On the question of training of labour officers and labour welfare officers, it was felt that the Central Government should undertake more responsibility.

Administration of employment exchanges.- Regarding control of employment exchanges, representatives of provinces and States unanimously urged that while their Governments ~~was~~ were prepared ultimately to take over the administrative control of the employment exchanges, they were not in a position to undertake the entire financial liability. It was agreed that the present arrangement of the Central Government contributing 60 per cent of the expenditure should continue.

Submission of provincial labour returns.- The conference agreed that there should be timely submission of provincial labour returns and in order to avoid delay, the Labour Commissioners and Chief Inspectors of Factories, who are directly concerned with the compilation of statistics were requested to forward a copy of the reports ~~direct~~ direct to the Director, Labour Bureau.

Condition of agricultural labour: Survey to be undertaken.- The conference, after discussing the memorandum on agricultural labour enquiry, felt that there was urgent need for such an enquiry. It was decided that a survey be conducted in about 1,200 villages in provinces including Chief Commissioners' provinces and in 600 villages in the Indian States.

Industrial relations: amendment of Trade Unions Act and Industrial Disputes Act.- The conference then proceeded to a consideration of the amendment of the enactments dealing with industrial relations, namely, the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, as amended by the Indian Trade Unions Amendment Act, 1947 and the Industrial Disputes Act. The important amendments were in regard to compulsory recognition when there are two or more unions dealing with the establishment or industry and

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the inclusion of outsiders in the management of the union. As regards the former, it was decided that an employer could not be compelled to recognise more than one union and that he should be compelled to recognise only the one representative union as determined by the Labour Court. It ~~was~~ was also contended that any union which did not resort to strike during the period of industrial truce should be recognised. Regarding inclusion of outsiders in the management of unions, it was recommended that the present provision in the Act which restricted outsiders to one-half of the total number of officers of a registered trade union should be amended to one fourth or four whichever is less.

Setting up of welfare trust funds.- The conference agreed ~~that~~ that in view of the indifferent attitude taken by employers in regard to the organisation of welfare trusts funds, Government should take steps to introduce legislation for the setting up of welfare trusts funds.

I.L. Convention on freedom of association.- During discussion of the International Labour Convention concerning freedom of association and the right to organise, Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, explaining the genesis of the Convention, ~~xx~~ said that freedom of association was regarded as one of the fundamental human rights and complaints were made to the UNESCO as well as to the I.L.O. charging the Government of India and, particularly its provincial Governments, with suppression of trade union rights and indiscriminate arrests of labour leaders. He thought that the Convention could be ratified safely as it ~~look~~ took into consideration contingencies arising out of any emergency.

It was resolved that in the case of essential services of the State, conditions should be provided as to make strikes unnecessary by the institution of machinery for resolving disputes by way of collective bargaining, conciliation and adjudication. In the case of employees belonging to the non-essential services they should be treated on a par with workers in private undertakings. Regarding essential services under private ownership, it was recommended that they should be treated in the same way as essential services under the Industrial Disputes Act. Civil servants were conceded the right to associate or organise but had ~~the~~ no right to strike and they should be treated differently from other employees in matter of dispute.

(Note: Copies of documents and proceedings of the Conference could not be obtained as these are treated as confidential and intended for official use only).

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11th Session of Standing Labour Committee,
New Delhi, 19 and 20 January 1949 .

The Standing Committee of the Indian Labour Conference met at New Delhi on 19 and 20 January 1949 under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Government of India.

Agenda.- The agenda of the session included the following:- (I) Implementation of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, for collection of labour statistics; (II) Amendments to the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, with a view to securing greater control over the working of registered trade unions; (III) Disposal of the unexpended accumulation under the War Injuries Compensation Insurance Scheme; (IV) The scheme for decasualisation of dock labour at Bombay; and (V) Constitution of welfare trust funds for industrial workers. A copy each of the memoranda on the subjects of the agenda prepared by the Government of India as a basis for discussion is enclosed with the annexure to this report (Annexure III).

Implementation of Industrial Statistics Act.- As regards the implementation of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, it was felt that statistics of industrial disputes should also be collected and the costs of production should be obtained in each industry.

Amendments to the Indian Trade Unions Act.- The Committee considered various amendments sought to be made to the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, other than those connected with the recognition of trade unions and included in the Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 1947. These proposals related generally to the maintenance by trade unions of proper accounts and records and periodical inspection by Government agencies. One of the amendments, which related to the elimination of outsiders from holding office in a trade union, was opposed by the representatives of workers, who contended that the counsel of outsiders was essential to the workers in this country who were yet in a state of backwardness. They however, agreed to limiting the number of outsiders to one-third.

Disposal of War Injuries Compensation Insurance scheme accumulations.- The committee accepted the suggestion of the Government to dispose of the unexpanded accumulation under the war injuries compensation insurance scheme by awarding scholarships to skilled workers for further training and providing welfare facilities for industrial workers. During the war every employer was required to take out a policy of insurance from the Central Government and that policy insured him until the termination of hostilities or until the termination of hostilities or until the date he ceased to be an employer, whichever was earlier. The fund consisted of sums received by way of insurance

premia or payments made on composition of funds or expenses or compensation awarded by the court out of any fine under the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943. The fund was utilised to pay sums required for payment of compensation to workmen, for the remuneration or expenses of agents employed for the insurance scheme and for payment of the cost of administering the scheme. The war ~~injuries~~ injuries scheme has since been closed, leaving an approximate balance of 400,000 rupees. Out of this sum 200,000 rupees has been earmarked for the award of scholarships to skilled labour for further training and another 200,000 rupees for providing welfare facilities like libraries and recreational amenities for workers.

Decasualisation of Bombay dock labour.- The committee considered a scheme for decasualisation of dock labour at Bombay.

Briefly, the scheme provides for the establishment of a Board called the Bombay Dock Labour Board consisting of representatives of employers, workers and Government, which will have its own staff including an Administrative Body responsible for the day to day administration of the scheme. The funds of the Board will be derived from contributions from the registered employers on the basis of a percentage levy on the wages paid to their ~~workers~~ workers. The Board will maintain registers of employers and of dock workers. Only registered employers will be allowed to engage dock workers who will also ordinarily have to be registered as such. A registered worker who reports himself for work on any day but is not allotted any work will be entitled to some wages to be fixed from time to time by the Board.

The Scheme also confers on a registered worker a right of appeal to a Tribunal against orders of removal of his name from the register, termination of his employment, refusal of minimum pay for the days on which he was not allotted work, etc. A registered employer can also appeal against removal of his name from the register, but his appeal will be to the appropriate Government which will make necessary provision for its determination.

The Committee was informed that the delay in operating the scheme was due to the absence of legislation and the necessary bill was being brought in the coming session of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) to have the scheme started.

Constitution of Welfare trust funds for workers.-The proposal to constitute welfare trust funds for industrial employees and introduce legislation for the purpose was welcomed by both representatives of workers and employers, but consideration of details of such a scheme was postponed to the next meeting of the committee.

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(The 10th Session of the Standing Labour Committee was reported at paragraph 11, page 11 of the report of this Office for May 1948).

(Memoranda prepared by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, for the 11th Session of the Standing Labour Committee of the Indian Labour Conference. (Annexure No.111);

The Statesman, dated 21-1-1949; -
The Hindustan Times, 21-1-1949).

India: Government of India (Amendment) Act, 1949 (Constituent Assembly Act No.1 of 1949).

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The Government of India (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (vide paragraph 11, page 3 of the report of this Office for December 1948) was passed by the Constituent Assembly of India on 5 January 1949, authenticated by the President of the Assembly on 10 January 1949 and has been gazetted on 12 January 1949 ~~XXXXXX~~ as the Government of India (Amendment) Act, 1949 (Constituent Assembly Act No.1 of 1949). The Act came into force on 15 January 1949.

Clause 2 of the Bill (vide page 67 of the report of this Office for December 1948) vested authority in the Centre to undertake executive action in regard to any subject falling within the Concurrent List. During the debate in the House various representatives of the provinces pointed out that the power proposed to be given to the Dominion Legislature to make laws for a province with respect to any matter was too general and drastic. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee, Minister for Industry and Supply moved an amendment limiting the power of the Centre to legislate and exercise executive authority in respect of certain subjects which demanded urgent attention and could not be dealt with under the existing Constitution. These subjects were specifically defined as ~~from~~ four in number, namely, industrial and labour disputes; trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of, products of industries, the development of which is declared by Dominion Law as to be expedient in public interest; the sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition; and inquiries and statistics for the purpose of any of the matters in the Concurrent Legislative List. The Assembly passed clause 2 of the Bill with amendments moved by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee and Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari. (Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari's amendment related to a minor matter, namely the application of the Interpretation Act, 1889 for the interpretation of the amending Act).

of amendments to

As regards clause 7 of the Bill relating to Central regulation and control of industries (vide page 33 of the report of this Office for December 1948), ~~to the clause 7~~ were accepted by the House. The clause, as amended and passed, vests the Centre with power for the regulation and control of such industries whose development the Dominion would wish to control in the public interest and obtain concurrent jurisdiction in regard to trade and commerce, production, supply and distribution of products of such industries. A new item 31A has now been added to the Concurrent List and item 34 of the Federal Legislative List and items 27 and 29 of the Provincial Legislative List have been amended accordingly.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 12 January 1949, pages 29-31; The Hindu, dated 11 January 1949).

Congress Attitude towards Labour Organisations defined: Working Committee's Resolution.

The Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, at a meeting held at New Delhi on 9 and 10 January 1949, passed a resolution defining the principles which should govern the attitude of the Congress towards labour organisations. The Committee further urged all constituent bodies of the Congress and individual Congressmen to secure public co-operation for the Government's anti-inflationary measures and promote popular efforts to implement the economic programme drawn up at the Jaipur Session, of the Indian National Congress (vide paragraph 11, pages 1-2 of the report of this Office for December 1948).

Congress not to interfere with administration of trade unions.- The ~~para~~ resolution on labour ~~states~~ states: (1) the basis of Congress work in the labour field would be ~~that~~ that the Congress does not seek to control or interfere with the administration of ~~the~~ any trade union but expects to be able to shape the trends and influence the ~~body~~ tone of the movement through a large body of Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak workers taking part in trade union activity in all parts of the country; (2) the Congress recognises the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh as a specialized organisation for work in the labour field; (3) in respect of their labour activities, the workers of the Sangh should work in harmony with the Provincial Congress Committees which should not set up support or recognise any labour committee or organisation working independently of the Sangh; and (4) Congressmen who offer labour work as a qualification for becoming effective members should be assigned to the Sangh for the performance of their duties in this field.

(The Statesman, dated 11-1-1949).

CHAPTER 3. PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

INDIA - JANUARY 1949.

31. Workers' Trade Union Movements.

Meeting of Working Committee of All-India
Railwaymen's Federation: General Council
to be convened to consider Strike Decision.

Reference was made at paragraph 31, page 9 of the report of this Office for December 1948 to the decision of the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to organise a strike ballot in all its affiliated unions. Meanwhile, Mr. Jai Prakash Narain, President of the Federation, discussed the main points of the dispute with Mr. N. Gopaldaswamy Iyengar, Minister for Railways, at Bombay on 3 and 4 January. According to a joint press note issued after the discussions the points discussed were dearness allowance, grainshops, matters relating to the application of the Pay Commission recommendations, and the creation of a machinery for the examination of the Pay Commission anomalies. Further talks were ^{held} continued at New Delhi on 17 and 18 January 1949.

The Working Committee of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, meeting at Delhi on 21 January 1949, with Mr. Jai Prakash Narain, President of the Federation in the chair, decided to refer the strike decision to a meeting of the General Council of the Federation to be called on 16 February 1949. This decision was taken by the meeting after considering the Government's announcement regarding increase in dearness allowance (vide paragraph ~~114~~ 114, pages 103-104 of this report) and the report of the President's discussion with the Railway Minister.

It is understood the majority of Unions had voted in favour of a strike.

(The Times of India, 5-1-1949;
The Hindustan Times, 19 and 22-1-1949).

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India: Post and Telegraph Workers to strike
from 9 March 1949: Demand for Revision of Pay
Scales and Dearness Allowance according to Pay
Commission Recommendations.

During January 1949 strike ballots were organised by various unions of post and telegraph workers following the non-acceptance of minimum demands placed before the Prime Minister on 10 December 1948 by a deputation of the Posts and Telegraphs Workers Union, Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union and the Federation of Posts and Telegraphs Unions led by Mr. Jai Prakash Narain.

On 1 February 1949, the Union of Post and Telegraph Workers, which claims to have a membership of 40,000 served a strike notice on the Postal authorities. It is understood that 28,000 workers out of 33,044 had voted for a strike. The strike is to commence from 9 March 1949.

The strike notice, demands an increase of 30 rupees in dearness allowance, which is the amount recommended by the Pay Commission. The Government's offer to increase dearness allowance by 10 rupees has been rejected (vide paragraph 114, pages 103-104 of this report). Union leaders also demand shorter working hours and confirmation of those who, over a year ago, were employed on a temporary basis. Since 1942, it was pointed out, no one in the non-gazetted grades had been confirmed.

A meeting of the All-India Postmen and Lower-Grade Staff Union, which claims to represent 25,000 employees has been convened on 23 February 1949 to consider the result of its strike ballot.

(The Statesman, 8 January and
2 February 1949).

Meeting of Executive Committee of
Indian National Railway Workers'
Federation, New Delhi, 19 and 20
January 1949: Adjudication of
Railwaymen's Dispute suggested.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian National Railway Workers' Federation at New Delhi on 19 and 20 January 1949, a resolution was passed ~~demanding~~ reaffirming the resolutions passed by its General Council in Bombay on 30 November 1948, with regard to the anomalies arising out of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, grainships and the payment of dearness allowance (vide paragraph 31, pages 9-11 of the report of this Office for December 1948).

The Committee suggested that the anomalies arising out of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and the question of dearness allowance should be referred for adjudication under the Industrial Disputes Act.

(The Statesman, 21-1-1949).

11

Hyderabad: Convention of Hyderabad State
Mazdoor Sangh, 15 and 16 January 1949:
Fixation of Statutory Minimum Wage on
All-India Basis demanded.

The annual convention of the Hyderabad State Mazdoor Sangh was held at Hyderabad on 15 and 16 January 1949. The meeting, which was presided over by Mr. Asoka Mehta, was inaugurated by Mr. N.M. Joshi. The meeting passed a number of resolutions on the labour and industrial policies of the Government and on minimum wages. Pending the fixation of minimum wages on an all-India basis, the convention demanded immediate interim relief and urged the Government to fix scales of dearness allowances in industrial undertakings after consultation with labour unions.

The convention further adopted a manifesto which, inter alia, emphasised ^{that} in view of the recent political situation in the State, trade unions could not forswear political responsibility. The political wing of the labour movement was as important as the trade union wing.

Pattern of trade union development in India:
Mr. Joshi's criticism.- Addressing the convention, Mr. Joshi deplored the unplanned manner in which trade unionism was developing in ~~which~~ India which consisted of small unions established on factory basis. The best arrangement to suit Indian conditions would be to develop unitary national unions for centrally controlled industries and a federation of provincial unions for provincially controlled industries. In Hyderabad, although some industrial development had taken place side by side, with the feudal agricultural system, on account of the "reactionary and autocratic nature" of its Government, the condition of the industrial workers of the State was not only not satisfactory but even worse than their counter-parts in India, with less wages and less freedom of organisation.

He pointed out that in the whole of India including the States there was no clear-cut division between industrial proletariat and agricultural workers with the result that the backward agricultural system had an evil influence on the life of industrial workers. One of the first ~~tasks~~ tasks of the Sangh, therefore, should be to abolish this system and enable the kisan to live and work as a self-respecting person and not as the victim of exploitation by his feudal masters.

Office-bearers.- The Convention elected Mr. B.S. Mahadevsingh as President, Hyderabad State Mazdoor Sangh and Mr. K. Somayajulu, General Secretary.
(The Hindu, 16 and 17-1-1949;
The Hindustan Times 17-1-1949)

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Hyderabad: Convention of Hyderabad State
Mazdoor Sangh, 15 and 16 January 1949:
Fixation of Statutory Minimum Wage on
All-India Basis demanded.

The annual convention of the Hyderabad State Mazdoor Sangh was held at Hyderabad on 15 and 16 January 1949. The meeting, which was presided over by Mr. Asoka Mehta, was inaugurated by Mr. N.M. Joshi. The meeting passed a number of resolutions on the labour and industrial policies of the Government and on minimum wages. Pending the fixation of minimum wages on an all-India basis, the convention demanded immediate interim relief and urged the Government to fix scales of dearness allowances in industrial undertakings after consultation with labour unions.

The convention further adopted a manifesto which, inter alia, emphasised in view of the recent political situation in the State, trade unions could not forswear political responsibility. The political wing of the labour movement was as important as the trade union wing.

Pattern of trade union development in India:
Mr. Joshi's criticism.- Addressing the convention, Mr. Joshi deplored the unplanned manner in which trade unionism was developing in ~~which~~ India which consisted of small unions established on factory basis. The best arrangement to suit Indian conditions would be to develop unitary national unions for centrally controlled industries and a federation of provincial unions for provincially controlled industries. In Hyderabad, although some industrial development had taken place side by side, with the feudal agricultural system, on account of the "reactionary and autocratic nature" of its Government, the condition of the industrial workers of the State was not only not satisfactory but even worse than their counter-parts in India, with less wages and less freedom of organisation.

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(The Hindu, 16 and 17-1-1949;
The Hindustan Times 17-1-1949)

Move to form All-India Peasants Organisation
by Socialist Party: Meeting to be convened
in February 1949.

The National Executive of the Socialist Party at a meeting held in Lucknow on 29 - 31 December 1948, discussed among other matters, the question of forming an All-India Kisan Organisation on non-communist lines, ~~came up for discussion.~~

According to ~~that~~ a spokesman of the party, it was decided that all kisan leaders should be invited during the convention of the party to be held in February 1949 to consider this question.

(The Hindu, dated 3-1-1949).

Burma: Working of Trade Unions Act during
period January 1947 - September 1948.

The following information on the working of the Burma Trade Unions Act during the ^{period January 1947 -} ~~year ended~~ September 1948 is taken from an extract from the Report of the Trade Union Section of the Directorate reproduced in the December 1948 issue of the Burma Labour Gazette. The report covers the period 1 January 1947 to 30 September 1948.

Growth of trade union movement.- The report points out that before the second world war very few labour organisations in Burma took heed of the existence of the Trade Unions Act and the number of unions registered with Government was negligible. Labour unrest and strikes were very few and leading political parties, at that time, took no interest in the working class struggle. In 1939 strikes by oilfields ~~part~~ workers in Yenangyaung, prompted the more dissatisfied sections of the various industrial establishments throughout Burma to draw up a memorial of demands for increase in wages, free housing accommodation, medical aid, etc., which eventually led Government to constitute an Industrial Labour Enquiry Committee to examine the conditions of labour. Due to the outbreak of the war, however, the Committee was dissolved in 1941 before it could submit its report. In 1946, there was an awakening of the labour movement; and under the wing of the Anti-Fascists' Peoples' Freedom League, the only mass political organisation in Burma, several labour unions were organised.

Number of registered unions.- During the period under review, the Labour Commissioner, Burma, as the Registrar of Trade Unions, was responsible for the proper working of the Trade Unions Act. The Directorate of Labour was entrusted with the task of re-organisation of Trade Unions and making contact with the existing union officials for registration under the Act. In the absence of relevant records, its post-war operations had to be resumed by means of fresh registrations rather than ~~th~~ by the revival of defunct trade unions.

During the period under review, 87 applications from various trade unions were received for registrations; of these 72 trade unions, with a total membership of 26,578 working in various trades and industries were registered. The registration of 20 trade unions with a total membership of 14,105 were cancelled due to their non-existence or failure to submit their annual returns in time.

Central organisations.- In the year 1947, the Trade Union Congress (Burma) had the overwhelming majority of registered unions under it, while only a few of the registered unions were under the All-Burma Trade Union Congress. Other unions had no dealing with either of the two rival labour organisations and preferred to remain neutral and independent.

No Federation of Trade Unions was registered under the Act during the period.

Employers' union.- An interesting feature of the period under report was the formation of an employers' union in the name of the "Rangoon Saw Millers Trade Union" with a total membership of 10, which is the first employers' union in the labour history of Burma. This Union was also registered under the Trade Unions Act.

Political fund.- All Registered Trade Unions have provided in their respective constitutions for the establishment of separate political funds, but none of them took advantage of the provisions, during the period under report.

Unregistered trade unions.- During the period under report there were several Government service organisations in existence duly recognised by the authorities concerned but not registered under the Trade Unions Act.

33. Employers' Professional Organisations.

India - January 1949.

Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, 27-12-1948:
President's Address.

The Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Bombay on 27 December 1948. Sir H.P. Mody, President of the Federation, presided.

Presidential address: call for fresh approach towards labour problem.- Sir Homi Mody, in the course of his presidential address, said the most urgent problem in the economic sphere was the continuing food shortage, which was not only sapping the health and vigour of the people, but also draining their resources at an alarming rate. Little, if anything, had been achieved in the matter of increased production of the necessities of life. What was needed was a resolute direction and a short-term programme to tide over the difficulties until the agricultural economy could be modernised. In the industrial field, hesitation and doubt still predominated. On the technical side, industry needed re-equipment and it would be years before India was in a position to obtain all she needed in the way of rehabilitation of her machine capacity. Shortages of raw materials and inadequacy of transport were also retarding efficiency of production.

As regards industrial relations, the position was far from healthy. According to Sir Homi an overwhelming number of large-scale employers had given proof of their anxiety to give a fair deal to labour, but to a certain extent their efforts had ~~met~~ met with a disappointing response. With a class whose ignorance and standard of life were still deplorably low, resentment and suspicion must die hard and the process of conversion to a new concept, somewhat slow. But the results would have been far more encouraging if the right labour leadership was there and sections of the working classes were not being exploited for political or personal ends.

Every conceivable category of worker was being sought to be pushed into a union and unrest was created

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where none existed before. This class of leadership was engendering perpetual ferment and neutralising the efforts of those who were working to establish peace in industry. The results would have been more encouraging if the right labour leadership was there and sections of the working classes were not exploited for political or personal ends. Emphasising the need for educating the worker towards a better appreciation of his rights and responsibilities. Sir Homi appealed to employers to recast their approach and face the problem in a new spirit. Government, on their part, must drop their present attitude of sermonizing the employer and appeasing the worker, in season and out of season. It was obvious that labour relations could never be healthy on the basis of an endless trial of strength.

Referring to the apprehensions of the business community regarding the industrial policy of the Government, Sir Homi said that a great deal of this loss of confidence had been created by the irresponsible utterances of people in responsible positions. Recently the Finance Minister, after observing that the extent to which private enterprise would function hereafter would be determined by the logic of facts rather than by considerations of policy or ideology, had expressed his conviction that, for as long a period as one could foresee, there would be not merely a large but an increasing field for private enterprise in India. In conclusion, Sir Homi advised industrialists to shed their fear and to make a new approach.

Office-bearers.- Sir Homi was re-elected President, and Mr. A.P. Benthall, Sir Robert Menzies and Mr. C.S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar were elected Deputy Presidents for the ensuing year.

(Summarised from a text of Presidential Address received in this Office; The Times of India, dated 28-12-1948).

CHAPTER 4. ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

INDIA - JANUARY 1949.

41. Industrial and Mining Production.

Madras: Madras State Aid to Industries
(Amendment) Bill, 1948.

The Government of Madras gazetted on 28 December 1948 the Madras State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Bill, 1948. The Bill seeks to achieve the object of the Government to establish an Industrial Finance Corporation as a joint stock company and also to take shares therein to the extent of 51 per cent so as to have complete control over the Corporation. The object of the formation of an Industrial Finance Corporation is to finance industry for facilitating post-war rehabilitation and for the industrial development of the province.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill says that with a view to financing industry for facilitating post-war rehabilitation and for the industrial development of the Province, the Government proposes to establish an Industrial Finance Corporation as a joint stock company to be registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913, and also to take shares therein to the extent of 51 per cent so ~~that~~ as to have complete control over the Corporation. The Government also considers that it should have power to take shares in, or give other financial aid to, any industrial business or enterprise, the paid-up capital of which exceeds 3,000,000 rupees, otherwise than under the provisions of the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922. These objects could not be achieved without amending the Act suitably.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 28 December 1948, pages 439-440).

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Pakistan: Plans to exploit Sulphur Resources:
Industrialists form Association.

At a conference held in Karachi recently under the chairmanship of Mr. Abbas Khaleeli, Director-General of Supply and Development, it was decided to form an association of industrialists for the exploitation of Pakistan's sulphur resources.

Pakistan's sulphur resources are mainly located in the Koh-i-Sultan area in Baluchistan. Sulphur deposits also exist in Kalat State and in Chitral and Mardan. Sulphur deposits for the whole of Pakistan are estimated at ~~about~~ about 200,000 tons.

The association agreed to instal a 10-ton plant at a cost of between 800,000 rupees and 1,000,000 rupees. It also resolved to set up a pilot plant to refine sulphur on a semi-commercial scale.

(The Civil and Military Gazette, 9-1-1949).

Pakistan: The Regulation of Mines and Oil
Fields and Mineral Development (Federal Control)
Act, 1948.

The Regulation of Mines and Oil Fields and Mineral Development (Federal Control) Bill, 1948 (vide paragraph 41, page 20 of the report of this Office for December 1948) as passed by the Pakistan Constituent Assembly (Legislature) on 24 December 1948, received the assent of the Governor-General on 8 January and has been gazetted as the Regulation of Mines and Oil Fields and Mineral Development (Federal Control) Act, 1948.

(The Gazette of Pakistan Extraordinary, Part IV,
dated 10 January 1949, pages 26-27;
The Civil and Military Gazette, dated
25-12-1948).

Pakistan: Development of Cotton Seed Oil Industry: Proposal to set up Refineries within Ten Years.

The Government of Pakistan has entered into a commercial deal with a British firm to survey the possibility of developing a cotton seed oil industry in the Dominion.

A representative of the British firm, who is now in Pakistan for the purposes of the survey, is expected to submit a 10 year plan for the development of oil industry in Pakistan.

It is understood that the Pakistan Government would enter into a short-term and a long-term agreement with the British firm. Under the short-term agreement, Pakistan would send its oil seeds abroad for crushing purposes. According to the long-term agreement oil mills and refineries would be set up in Pakistan within 10 years.

(The Statesman, dated 9-1-1949).

42. Production and Export of Agricultural Products.

India - January 1949.

Conference of Agricultural and Finance Ministers,
New Delhi, 18 January 1949: Schemes for increasing
Food Production.

A conference of the Agriculture and Finance Ministers of provincial and State Governments concerned was held at New Delhi on 18 January 1949 under the presidentship of Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India. Among the provinces and States represented were, Bombay, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, East Punjab, Orissa, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Patiala, Jaipur and Bhopal. The conference discussed a scheme for increasing food production so that India may be self-sufficient, as far as possible, in the course of the next few years.

The main features of the scheme are: Reclamation of 6 million acres of culturable land over the next seven years; sinking of 4,500 deep tube-wells to irrigate 3 million acres of land; supply of chemical fertilizers, supplementing local resources of organic manure; and increase of fish supply from marine resources by establishing five well-equipped marine fishing stations which can undertake deep sea fishing. The total financial requirements of the scheme are 2820.6 million rupees, of which it is estimated that 710.8 million rupees would be required in dollars, 649.3 million rupees in sterling and the balance 1460 million rupees would be expenditure inside India.

Land reclamation.- The total area of culturable waste land in India is about 65 million acres. The Foodgrains Policy Committee had recommended that about 9 million acres of such land should be reclaimed (vide paragraph 42, pages 29-32 of the report of this Office for May 1948). In view of the shortage of men and material, on the one hand, and the need for achieving quick and permanent results on the other, the Central scheme proposes to concentrate for the present, on the reclamation of 6 million acres. Of these, 2.2 million acres will be new land and 4 million acres will be weed or kankar-infested land which has gone out of cultivation. Cultivation of new land will be distributed as follows: East Punjab 500,000 acres; East Punjab States 400,000 acres; Orissa 500,000 acres; the Central Provinces and Berar 300,000 acres; and the United Provinces 300,000 acres. In Bihar also, some new land would be put under cultivation, but the area is not yet known. Reclamation

of kans-infested land will be taken up as follows: the Central Provinces and Berar 600,000 acres; ~~Madhya~~ Madhya Bharat 1,400,000 acres; Bombay, Bhopal, the United Provinces and Vindhya Pradesh 500,000 acres each. The estimated additional yield of food crops from the land thus reclaimed will be about 2 million tons. Already, the Central Tractor Organisation of the Government of India has reclaimed 32,000 acres of cultivable land in the United Provinces and the Central Provinces and the organisation hopes to reclaim 110,000 acres in different provinces during 1949.

The total cost of the scheme would be 1363.5 million rupees, of which 316.2 million rupees would be required in dollars, 219.7 million rupees in sterling, both being incurred abroad, and the balance, 827.6 million rupees, would be expenditure in India.

Tube-Well construction.- The tube-well construction scheme envisages the digging of 4,565 tube-wells in the provinces of East Punjab, United Provinces and Bihar during the coming three years. The total cost under tube-well construction schemes comes to 689.5 million rupees of which 230.8 million rupees will be required in dollars, 119.2 million rupees in sterling and 339.5 million rupees for expenditure inside India.

Development of fisheries.- The fishery scheme proposes to set up a chain of well-equipped pilot fishing stations along both the coasts of India. To begin with, it is proposed to start such stations at Bombay, Cochin, Vizagapatam, Chandbali and Calcutta (or some suitable place near the mouth of the Hooghly). Each station will have a cold storage plant with a capacity of 500 tons and ~~an~~ refrigerator motor ~~with a capacity of 500 tons~~ vans for carrying fish to inland markets by roads.

Supply of fertilisers.- As regards the supply of chemical fertilisers the Government of India has already established a pool from which fertilisers allocated by the International Emergency Food Council, or produced locally, are distributed to provinces according to their requirements. The total requirements of sulphate of ammonia for the Indian soil, considered from the point of view of its availability rather than from the point of view of India's minimum requirements, for the next four years beginning from 1948-49 are 1,523,200 tons. This will cost a total expenditure of 715.7 million rupees of which 152.2 million rupees will be required in dollars and 304.6 million rupees in sterling and the balance 258.9 million rupees is for expenditure inside India.

Discussing the financial aspect of the land reclamation scheme, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram said that the Government of India proposed to apply for a loan to the International Bank for dollar requirements.

The conference approved the scheme in principle.

As regards construction of tube-wells, some of the other provinces and States, particularly Bombay, Jaipur and Patiala States Union suggested that the tube-well scheme should be extended to them also. Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram while welcoming the suggestion said that tube-well irrigation would be effective only in places where the existence of subsoil water in good quality and quantity had been proved. When preliminary exploration had proved the existence of the sub-soil water in other regions, extension of the scheme would, no doubt, be considered.

On the question of the supply of fertilisers, the general view was that the present fertiliser supply for food production in India was extremely low and if any substantial increase in production was to be made, artificial manure should be forthcoming in good quantity. With regard to the fishery scheme the conference felt that 5 stations were not enough for a big country like India and more stations should be opened.

In winding up the conference, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram emphasised on the provinces their responsibility for increasing the food production, as much as possible. He observed that the time was fast approaching when the Centre should relieve itself of the responsibility for food imports and the provinces must take care of themselves in so far as feeding their people was concerned. He added that the food requirements of the country should be considered by provinces as an all-India problem and the surplus areas should try to feed deficit areas rather than make them look to the Centre for support at all times. If, in spite of land reclamation and application of fertilisers and irrigation facilities, production of cereals was not sufficient to meet the demands of the increasing population, alternative sources of food like edible roots, etc., had to be developed.

(The Statesman, 18 and 19-1-1949;
The Hindu, dated 20-1-1949).

Research on Water Needs of Crops:
Standing Advisory Committee to be
appointed.

The Government of India has decided to appoint a Standing Advisory Committee for research on water requirements of crops, consisting of representatives of the Central Board of Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture and the Meteorological Department, according to a Press note, issued by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Committee will advise on research already being conducted in regard to the most advantageous use of water for agricultural purposes. It will study and co-ordinate the research work being done by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Agriculture and Irrigation Departments in the provinces, and also the work done in regard to multi-purpose projects, and advise on the most satisfactory method of achieving optimum results. The functions of the Committee will be primarily technical and advisory, actual research being taken up and conducted by bodies most suitable for the purpose.

(The Statesman, 10-1-1949).
(The Gazette of India, Part I Section I,
dated 15-1-1949, page 67)

Madras: The Madras Irrigation Tanks
(Improvement) Bill, 1949.

The Government of Madras gazetted on 28 December 1948 the Madras Irrigation Tanks (Improvement) Bill, 1949.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that the object of the Bill is to enable the Government to increase the capacity and efficiency of all irrigation tanks in the Province wherever they may be situated by raising their full tank level or otherwise. Any person whose lands will be submerged or whose property or right in or over any property will be prejudicially affected, will be entitled to compensation which will be determined by the District Collector in accordance with rules made for the purpose.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part IV-A,
dated 28 December 1948, pages 443-445).

Increased Targets for Compost Production:
Central Manure (Compost) Development
Committee's Recommendations.

The appointment of a committee of experts with a view to increasing substantially the production of composts from town refuse in India, fixation of provincial targets of production, compulsion of municipalities by legislation to ensure proper use of manures and sample surveys of villages to estimate the present level of production were among the recommendations made by the Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee at a meeting held at Jaipur on 16 and 17 December 1948. The meeting was presided over by Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

The Committee also appointed a research sub-committee for the purpose of planning out, initiating and co-ordinating research work to be carried out by provincial Governments and the Centre in relation to different aspects of compost production and utilisation.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-12-1948).

India: Meeting of Advisory Board of Indian
Council of Agricultural Research: Five-Year
Schemes for Agriculture Survey Recommended.

A five-year scheme for conducting ~~producing~~ crop-cutting surveys on the principal crops in India was recommended by the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which met in New Delhi on 12 and 13 January 1949. In the absence of reliable data on crop yields, the results of Government development plans on Grow More Food and other schemes cannot be gauged properly. Hence the Board felt that a statistical machinery was required to collect figures.

The main objects of the scheme are: to evolve a random sampling technique for conducting crop-cutting experiments under the auspices of the Provincial Agriculture Departments, to demonstrate to the provinces the feasibility of adopting the method so devised, to train the existing provincial staff in the technique, to estimate the yield per acre for the provinces as a whole and to revise the present state of district normal yields in due course.

The total expenditure involved in the scheme is estimated at 5,900,000 rupees. The Board has recommended that the Central and the provincial Governments concerned should share the expenditure on a 50:50 basis during the first year and on 1:2 basis during the four succeeding years except the Governments of West Bengal and East Punjab, who, in view of their present financial conditions, may share one-third of the cost of surveys during the ~~first~~

first year and half during the four succeeding years.
On this basis the share of the Central Government
comes to 3,000,000 rupees.

(The Statesman, dated 17-1-1949).

43. Foreign Trade and Exchanges.

India - January 1949.

Increase of Exports to Hard Currency Areas: Special Committee's Recommendations.

Proposals for increasing India's exports to hard currency areas are contained in a report submitted to the Government of India by a committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Sri Ram, appointed by the Export Advisory Council. The report, which in general favours the removal of restrictions on exports, is being considered by the Ministry of Commerce. The report discusses the question of promoting tourist traffic and of increasing exports to dollar areas of raw jute, jute goods, oils and oil-seeds, tea, cloth, mica and shellac, gums and resins, hides and skins, manganese and other ores.

More facilities for tourists suggested.- To attract tourists to India, the committee recommends easy and prompt grant of visas, special facilities for the booking of railway accommodation, hotel accommodation of a suitable standard, establishment of a Government organisation, working through travel bureaux at important centres, to deal with this traffic, and the provision of amenities and sport. The need for publicity and propaganda abroad to attract tourists is also recognised.

Export to hard currency areas.- Regarding the export of raw jute to hard currency areas, the report favours a target of 900,000 of bales, but if in the interests of the Indian jute industry the supply position should become critical, a specified order of priority in the matter of export should be observed. The present licensing policy in regard to export of jute goods is approved. The committee feels that in view of the present export duties, Indian groundnut and groundnut oil do not sell in hard currency areas; and that this is the case with linseed and linseed oil, even in certain soft currency areas. Various remedies are recommended, including the suggestion that option should be given to export an equivalent quantity of seed instead of oil to hard currency areas, which generally prefer to buy kernels or seed. Exporters to hard currency countries should also be given additional licences for soft currency countries which pay better prices.

Pointing out that there has been a decline in the export of tea to the United States, the committee suggests that a reduction in export duty and an increase in the excise duty ~~and~~ might step up revenue as well as the quantity exported. Other recommendations are: improvement in transport arrangements, increased storage space at the port of Calcutta and, possibly, revision of the 2 per cent commission at present charged by auctioneers.

It is recommended that the export of cloth to hard currency areas should be free from restrictions regarding quality. The quota of 77 million yards should be available for the manufactured piecegoods, mill products and handloom goods alike. It is suggested that the export duty of 10 per cent be removed and a heavy excise duty on fine and superfine cloth be imposed to make up the loss in revenue. Export of light varieties of hides is also suggested.

The committee expresses the opinion that many fine products of Indian art and handicrafts could readily be sold in America if a special effort were made to acquaint the American market with their quality and availability. Towards this end, it suggests the sending of three delegations - two to America and one to Canada - with a large stock of samples. Simultaneously, American tastes should be studied in the matter of Indian carpets and textile products. The Government should also consider the advisability of setting up a Directorate to see to the development of cottage industries, art and handicrafts products, and also that the goods exported are up to standard.

Finally, the committee points out that some countries seem to be importing from India certain commodities for re-export to dollar areas. It, therefore, suggests that control be exercised over export, but an open general licence should be issued for export to hard currency areas.

India: Trade Agreement with Yugoslavia
concluded.

A trade agreement between representatives of the Government of India and representatives of the Federal Government of the People's Republic of Yugoslavia was signed in Calcutta on 29 December 1948. The agreement is subject to ratification by both the Governments and is expected to come into force early in 1949.

The schedules which specify commodities intended for exchange are to be reviewed from year to year in the light of general covering clauses. Payment for goods will at present be in sterling, but it is hoped that arrangements will be made in the near future for making this payment either in Indian or Yugoslav currency, or both.

Under the agreement Yugoslavia will export maize, calcium carbide, tea chests, newsprint, plywood, cement and asbestos-cement, among other commodities. India will export cotton textiles, jute goods, tea, coffee, pepper, spices and certain medicinal herbs and plants.

(The Statesman, 30-12-1948).

Pakistan: Trade Agreement with
Czechoslovakia.

By a trade agreement recently concluded between Pakistan and Czechoslovakia, the Government of Pakistan has agreed to export 30,000 bales of long and medium staple cotton, 10,000 bales of short staple cotton, 65,000 bales of jute of which 40,000 bales will be delivered during the first half period of the agreement, 1 million pieces of goat skins and 250,000 pieces of cow hide. The question of exporting further quantities of cotton and jute will be determined if crop prospects improve.

Besides promising technical assistance in a number of industries, the Czechoslovakian Government has authorized export of materials worth about £5,500,000. Some of the items whose export has been authorized are: sugar up to the value of ~~£125,000~~ £460,000; chemical goods and dyes £125,000; shoes £207,500; woollen yarn £300,000; woollen fabrics £350,000; cotton textiles £1,000,000; fez caps £100,000; tyres £30,000; fine ~~maps~~ printings; paper £60,000; wrapping paper £48,000; newsprint £100,000; plate glass, telephone equipment and cars £100,000 each; hollow glass, cycles and parts £150,000 each; textile machinery £81,500; wireless receivers £50,000; motor cycles £250,000; and other textiles £500,000.

The agreement, in the first instance, is for a period of a year ending 1 October 1949. Before the expiry of the agreement, however, the two Governments, will consider the possibility of entering into a fresh agreement.

44. Prices and Cost of Living.

India - January 1949.

Family Budgets of Industrial Workers in
Jubbulpore: Government of India Report*.

The Government of India has published recently a Report on an enquiry into Family Budgets of Industrial workers in Jubbulpore. Jubbulpore is an important commercial and industrial town, and a military station in Central Provinces and the total number of industrial workers in the town is about 16,444. This enquiry was undertaken under the All-India Cost of Living Index Scheme of the Government of India (vide pages 13-15 of the report of this Office for August 1943). The following details regarding the family budgets of industrial workers in Jubbulpore are taken from the Report.

Number of budgets collected.- In all, a total number of 640 budgets were collected, 506 belonging to workers living with their families and 134 to those living singly. Of these 506 family budgets, 482 were accepted for tabulation and 24 were rejected as they either contained incomplete information or did not conform to the definition of a family adopted for the enquiry. All the 134 single-men's budgets were accepted for tabulation.

* Government of India: Report on an Enquiry into Family Budgets of Industrial Workers in Jubbulpore City: by S.R. Deshpande, Director, Cost of Living Index Scheme, pp.vi#61; Price Rs.1/6 or 2shs.

Composition of the family.- An analysis of the family budgets showed that the average membership per family at Jubbulpore came to 4.06 persons, consisting of 1.34 adult men, 1.23 adult women, 0.71 male children and 0.78 female children. If, however, the number of dependants living away from the worker, namely, 0.73 ~~was~~ taken into consideration, the average membership per family ~~was~~ 4.79 persons. Except for four income groups, viz., 90 rupees and below 100 rupees, 110 rupees and below 120 rupees, 130 rupees and below 140 rupees and 140 rupees and below 150 rupees, the number of persons per family (excluding dependants living away) increased as the income increased and varied from 2.74 to 6.29 persons.

Earners and dependants.- Of the 4.06 persons in the family 1.66 on an average, were wage-earners. Among the earners, 1.28 were adult men, 0.29 adult women, 0.06 male children and 0.03 female children. A study of the frequency distribution of wage-earners in the families falling under different income groups shows that in about 51 per cent of the total number of families there was only a single wage earner, while in 37 per cent there were two. The percentage of families with three and four or more wage earners came to 9 and 3 respectively. In the 482 families studied, there were 321 earners other ~~than~~ than the head of the family. The number of cases where a man was assisting was 172, the number of cases of women assisting the head of the family being 149. In the majority of cases either a brother or a son or a wife was assisting. The number of cases in which a father or a mother was assisting the head of the family was almost the same being ~~xx~~ 18 and 19 respectively. The majority of cases in which the womenfolk were found to assist the head of the family fell in the income levels of 30 rupees and below 70 rupees and this number decreased as the income increased.

Income and expenditure.- The composition of family income was as follows:-

<u>Composition of family income (482 budgets)</u>			
	Rs.	As.	Ps.
<u>Average monthly income from regular employment</u>			
Wages including overtime pay and dearness allowance.....	60	15	11
Money value of concessions.....	0	4	8
<u>Average monthly income from sources other than regular employment</u>			
Employment	0	10	11
Agriculture.....	0	2	2
House Rent.....	0	8	2
Others.....	2	0	11
<u>Total average monthly income.....</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

The average contribution of the head of the family was 77.01 of the total family income, and the contribution of the other adult men, women and children came to 12.51, 4.73 and 1.56 per cent respectively. The joint income from sources other than employment accounted for 4.19 of the total family income on an average.

The average monthly expenditure of a family was as follows:-

Average monthly expenditure (482 budgets)				
	Rs.As.Ps.			Percentage to total expenditure
Food.....	37	1	2	58.24
Fuel and Lighting.....	4	9	7	7.22
House rent.....	1	11	6	2.70
Clothing and footwear..	7	6	5	11.62
Household requisites...	1	1	11	1.76
Miscellaneous.....	11	11	11	18.46
Total average monthly expenditure...	63	10	6	100.00

The above table excludes amounts spent on repayment of loans, remittances to dependants, insurance premia etc.

An analysis of the income and expenditure of the family shows that the average monthly expenditure per family came to 63 rupees 10 annas and 6 pies as against the average monthly income of 64 rupees 10 annas and 9 pies, thus leaving a small surplus of 1 rupee and 3 pies per month. If, however, the amounts spent on repayment of loans, remittances to dependants, insurance premia etc., are taken into consideration, the average monthly expenditure amounts to 67 rupees 11 annas and 2 pies, thus resulting in a deficit of 3 rupees and 5 pies per month.

Indebtedness.- The total amount of indebtedness of the 482 families of industrial workers came to 27,423 rupees and 5 annas or 56 rupees 14 annas and 4 pies per family, the amount of loan per family varied from 255 rupees to 3,951 rupees and 8 annas. The causes of indebtedness were sickness, marriages, unemployment, festivals, funerals and other miscellaneous causes, the sources of loans being friends, relatives and in some cases moneylenders.

Singlemen budgets: income and expenditure.- An analysis of the budgets of singlemen showed that almost all had dependants living away from them: the average number being 2.92 per single worker. Out of the 134 persons covered by the investigation 55 were making remittances to their dependants in their village home. The average remittance per person in the various income groups varied from 11 rupees 8 annas to 75 rupees per month, the average for all income groups being 15 rupees 6 annas and 8 pies per month. The composition of the average monthly income of singlemen budgets was as follows:-

<u>Average monthly income of singlemen(134 budgets)</u>			
	Rs.As.Ps.		
<u>Average monthly income from regular employment</u>			
Wages and dearness allowance.....	31	9	6
Money value of concessions	0	2	10
<u>Average monthly earnings from sources other than regular employment</u>			
	0	8	0
<u>Total average monthly income.....</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

The enquiry showed that a large bulk of those covered by the investigation or 94.03 per cent of the total fall within the income groups 30 rupees and below 60 rupees; the bulk of them or 67.91 per cent of the total being in the income group below 30 rupees. The apparent reason for this was that those living singly were generally new entrants to industry and were engaged in the least skilled occupations.

The average monthly expenditure in the case of singlemen budgets ~~were~~ as follows:-

<u>Average monthly expenditure of singlemen(234 budgets)</u>				
	Rs.As.Ps.			Percentage in total
Food.....	14	6	5	56.75
Fuel and lighting.....	2	6	9	9.55
House rent.....	0	14	11	3.67
Clothing and footwear....	2	1	9	8.31
Household requisites.....	0	11	10	2.92
Miscellaneous.....	4	12	4	18.80
<u>Total average monthly expenditure.....</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100.00</u>

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India: The Public Companies (Limitation of Dividends) Bill, 1949.

The Government of India gazetted on 15 January 1949 the Public Companies (Limitation of Dividends) Bill, 1949, which seeks to limit the dividends which may be paid by public companies.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill says that the Bill seeks to continue the provisions of the Public Companies (Limitation of Dividends) Ordinance, 1948 (vide pages 38-39 of the report of this Office for November 1948), for a further period until the 31 December 1950. The Bill is limited to public companies, and it provides that the amount distributed as dividend should be limited to the average annual amount distributed in cash during the two years ending 31 March 1948, or six per cent of the paid-up capital of the company, whichever is ~~whichever~~ higher. In calculating the amount of the average dividend, allowance is to be made for any alterations in the paid-up capital. The rights of holders of existing preference shares are not to be affected, but the return on future issues of such shares is to be limited to six per cent.

(The Gazette of India, Part V,
dated 15 January 1949, pages 1-4).

45. Economic Development and Control.

India - January 1949.

Meeting of Central Advisory Council of
Industries, New Delhi, 24-25 January, 1949:
Advisory Committee on Industries appointed.

The first session of the Central Advisory Council of Industries, set up by the Government of India (vide paragraph 11, page 2 of the report of this Office for September 1948), was held at New Delhi on 24 and 25 January 1949. The Council, which was presided over by Dr. S.P. Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, Government of India, appointed a committee to advise the Government on matters relating to legislation contemplated in respect of 18 basic industries which the Government is taking steps to control (vide Government of India's Resolution on Industrial Policy: paragraph 45, pages 32-36 of the report of this Office for April 1948).

The Committee consists of Mr. G.D. Birla, Sir Homi Modi, Mr. Sri Ram, Mr. Asoka Mehta and Mr. Khandubhai Desai. It will tender advice not only on matters affecting industrial relations but ^{also} on those affecting production in these industries.

The Council also discussed reports of various development committees in respect of a number of major groups of industries. These committees had made several recommendations for increased production.

The Council decided that development committees should also be constituted to deal with the problems of the engineering and woollen industries. It was considered that all development committees should be as representative as possible and normally organised associations should be invited to elect representatives, but that, wherever necessary the Government should nominate suitable people to make them truly representative. These committees should meet at frequent intervals and their reports should be circulated to all provincial Governments and to all members of the Central Council, which would normally meet about once in six months.

On the question of development and regulation of industry under Central direction, the consensus of opinion was that the industries referred to in the Government's statement of policy and others of like character should be brought under Central control and regulation. Legislation for the purpose should empower the Central Government to plan development by a suitable and flexible method of approval of new undertakings and to regulate production, lay down standards, etc., to the best advantage of the country. The view was expressed that the draft Bill should be finalised only after the provisions had been discussed by the Government with an ad hoc committee of industrialists, labour and other interests concerned, and after provinces had been consulted. It was also proposed that, while powers to ~~regulate~~ regulate industry should be taken by the Government, such powers should be exercised as far as possible in consultation with and through the agency of the industries themselves and of provincial Governments, wherever necessary.

The recommendations of the Council and the decisions of the Government on them are expected to be released by the end of February 1949.

Dr. Mookerjee's address: policy regarding nationalisation clarified.- Dr. S.P. Mookerjee, Minister for Industries and Supplies, in ~~the~~ his presidential address, referring to the question of nationalisation, said, that it was the Government's specific policy that existing undertakings would not only remain with private enterprise for at least 10 years, but that they would be assisted to increase their efficiency and expand their production. The question of their acquisition by the State would be a matter of review at the end of this period of 10 years in the light of circumstances then prevailing. Even as regards future undertakings in this field it would be open to the State to invite the co-operation of private enterprise wherever it was found that by so doing industrial development would be accelerated.

Denying that Government had put undue restriction on private enterprise to develop industry on its own initiative, Dr. Mookerjee said that the Government's ~~pa~~ policy did not contemplate nationalisation of any industry, except those which were already under Government direction and management, viz., arms and ammunition, railways, and the production and control of atomic energy. The State had, however, assumed primary responsibility for the development of new undertakings in six other industries-coal, iron and steel, aircraft manufacture, shipbuilding, manufacture of telephone, telegraph and wireless apparatus and mineral oils. The Government's policy as regards the rest of the industrial field, which was a very wide one, was equally clear. No monopoly by the State was intended and private enterprise was free and welcome to play its due role in this sphere.

Slight increase in production during 1948.- Dr. Mookerjee said that the Government had constituted the Central Advisory Council for Industries, so as to secure the advice and assistance of representatives of the major industries of the country who could speak with knowledge and authority on the industries they represented. The decisions and recommendations of such a body were bound to carry great weight, not only with the Government but with industry and labour as well. He hoped that in the near future similar advisory councils would be set up in the provinces also.

The Government had convened the Industries Conference in December 1947 because of the continued tendency of production to fall and the unsatisfactory relationship between capital and labour. Dr. Mookerjee claimed that during the last quarter of 1948 there had been some recovery in industrial production. While industrial production had gone down in 1947 to about 5 per cent below the pre-war level, in 1948 India's industrial production was about 15 per cent above the pre-war level, though it was still lower than the peak reached in 1943-44. During 1948 a perceptible improvement had also taken place in regard to the position of raw materials, particularly imported raw materials.

Dr. Mookerjee complimented labour for its co-operation with industry during 1948, in spite of subversive influences and a steady rise in the cost of living in the first half of the year, and hoped that the improvement in production would be maintained and would help to create a new atmosphere where capital and labour would regard themselves as partners in a great national endeavour to increase production and accelerate the economic progress of the country.

Steps taken by Government to set up new industries.- Dr. Mookerjee said that the Government had taken preliminary steps for setting up, or investigating into the possibility of the establishment, of a number of important industries. The scheme included the establishment of new steel works for increasing the indigenous steel production by 1 million tons; the desirability of constructing one or more ship-building yards, the manufacture of synthetic oil from coal, of heavy electrical equipment, of dry core paper; insulated telephone cables, of diesel engines, tractors, penicillin, paludrine and sulpha drugs and explosives. How far private enterprise might desire to be associated with some of these undertakings was a matter of which the Government would welcome the advice of the Council.

For increasing agricultural production, he said that the Ministry of Agriculture had a number of schemes, the most important of which was the reclamation of cultivable waste land through mechanised cultivation. An area of over 150,000 acres had already been ~~has~~ brought under cultivation.

The Ministry of Works, Mines and Power was investigating a number of large river valley development schemes which were multipurpose projects of great magnitude involving extensive generation of hydro-electric power and irrigation on a vast scale.

The policy of the Government was to encourage the execution of well-planned short-term projects which would yield quick and fruitful results. The necessity of encouraging cottage and small-scale industries was also felt as a part of the national policy and for this purpose an all-India board was recently brought into existence (vide paragraph 116, pages 98-99 of the report of this Office for December 1948).

Dr. Mookerjee said that a beginning in the settlement of industrial standards had also been made and the Indian Standards Institution now covered three major fields of industry - cotton textile, engineering and chemicals. The Institution intended to introduce certification marks to identify goods produced in accordance with its standards for the maintenance of the quality of Indian goods in foreign markets and the promotion of export trade. He referred to the inadequacy of statistical data and machinery and said that by a recent amendment of the Government of India Act, the Central Government would now be able to use its own machinery, ~~where~~ wherever necessary, to collect statistics for its purposes (vide paragraph 11, page 6-7 of this report). Means were also being devised to secure greater co-ordination of the various agencies which already existed in regard to the collection of statistics, the avoidance of duplication and the more effective utilization of the statistics when collected.

In conclusion, Dr. Mookerjee said that of all the remedies suggested for the economic recovery of India, the most practical and effective was ~~for~~ ~~increase~~ industrial and agricultural production. This coupled with the adoption of reasonable price structure and a better and more rational system of distribution could alone raise the standard of living of millions of India's underfed and undernourished population. Government, industry and labour had to shoulder joint responsibility to enable the country to reap in the economic sphere the full benefits of its political freedom.

Pandit Nehru's address.- Addressing the meeting, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, urged labour and industrialists to direct their energies to greater production. In their approach to the problem, the only criterion should be the good of the Indian masses; everything else was secondary. Answering criticism about the Government's industrial policy, which was alleged to have made capital "sullen and nervous", he said no Government could guarantee the future in a changing, dynamic world. It could lay down certain policies to which it could adhere. Talk of guarantees showed that the changing conditions in the world and in India, "which was undergoing rapid transformation" were not being appreciated. About nationalisation, Pandit Nehru said that he had no sympathy with people who were afraid. It did not become people of capacity and intelligence to be nervous of something which might happen. This business of capital being sullen did not do credit to the holders of capital". Pandit Nehru emphasised that the Government's resources were to be directed towards increasing production and not towards transfer of ownership. Ultimately nationalisation would depend on external factors. He thought it would be folly for India to think in terms of a sudden upset, which would mean no improvement but a lowering of all standards for many years. It might also imperil her political freedom.

Industrialists' views.- During the general discussion, Sir Homi Mody asked for clarification of the Government's attitude towards private enterprise about which, he said, much apprehension prevailed inside and outside the country. He suggested that the Government should induce an American mission to come to India to discuss co-operation between foreign and Indian capital. He complained of lack of Government control over labour.

Extending unconditional co-operation to the Government in its production drive, Sir Sri Ram referred to the gradually decreasing purchasing capacity of the people and to the growing stocks in factories. He suggested as a remedy extension of the policy of open general licence to most of the goods produced by Indian industries and the setting up of a Board of Trade, as in the United Kingdom, with officials of various departments, to expedite attached work.

Mr. G.D. Birla gave a disquieting picture of the money market and said the floating of large-scale industries was impossible. They were now thinking in terms of borrowing abroad. What was needed was co-ordinated planning at the highest level.

Attitude of labour.- The labour view was outlined by Mr. Khandubhai Desai, Mr. Asoka Mehta, and others. They expressed dissatisfaction with the Government's policy and urged "more efficient and intelligent ~~direction~~ ^{production}", pointing out the common man's "nervousness and apprehension".

Mr. Desai said workers had decided to co-operate in the country's economic recovery, which, he thought, was not possible without complete Government control over industries. Mr. Mehta complained of lack of sympathy on the part of the Government and capitalists with workers and alleged discriminatory treatment of labour organisations by the Government, which, he said, had created discontent among a large section of labour.

(The Statesman, 24 and 25-1-1949).

31st Session of All-India Economic Conference, Hyderabad, 26-28 December 1948.

The 31st Session of the All-India Economic Conference was held at Hyderabad on 26-28 December 1948. The Conference was inaugurated by Major-General A.N. Chaudhury, Military Governor of Hyderabad State.

Inaugural address.- Referring to the prevalence of powerful and age-old vested interests in the State and the general backwardness in education, General Chaudhury said that in the world today such feudal relics were an anachronism; but too rapid a change lead to unrest. These problems would be solved however, and while the Military Administration were administering, it was already taking steps and would continue to take steps to solve them.

Presidential address: measures against inflation urged.- Dr. J.C. Sinha, in his address, said that the first economic priority must be given "to fight inflation on all ~~the~~ fronts". According to Dr. Sinha the root of the prevalent economic troubles lay in the fact that surplus purchasing power had not been mopped up. There was a widespread belief, however, that the only effective method of reducing divergence was to increase production. It was true that adequate steps for the increase of production must be immediately taken in hand. Speedy relief, however, could not be expected from them, but

from the liquidation of the black market and the sterilisation of all funds that sought investment in that market. Unless this was effectively done, all schemes of price control and rationing ^{usually} ~~was~~ prove futile. The approved methods of fighting the black market were the demonetisation of high denomination notes and freezing of bank balances, as had been ~~was~~ successfully done in several European countries.

Referring to the Government's anti-inflation proposals, Dr. Sinha said that he did not think the measure intended to be followed by Government to have surplus budgets both at the centre and in the provinces would be successful. With excise gradually being given up and also proposed to be abandoned under the new Constitution, there was not much scope, at present, for expansion of provincial revenue. The proposed Death Duty, and the Agricultural Income-Tax now in force in some provinces, would not be sufficient to pay for the vastly increased social welfare schemes in contemplation. As regards indirect taxes, he felt they were "theoretically unjustified for fighting inflation", as they tended to raise prices. The Government's post-war development schemes, aggregating 2,500 million rupees, also needed very close scrutiny if a further stimulus to rising prices through lavish state expenditure was to be avoided.

As regards the present labour unrest, specially among railway workers and ~~for~~ their demand for implementing the recommendation of the Pay Commission about linking the dearness allowances with the changes in cost of living, Dr. Sinha said that this would lead to further inflation, without adequate safeguards. What the Government should do was to stabilise the main elements of their cost of living by providing for adulterated foodstuff, utility cloth and proper housing at controlled ~~rates~~ rates.

In conclusion, Dr. Sinha suggested that after the black market had been successfully rooted out, a policy designed to bring down prices should be followed; prices declining at the same rate as productivity rises, with all-round nationalisation, till the stage of about 250 per cent ~~where~~ of the pre-war level was reached, where both industrial and agricultural prices should be stabilised.

Among the subjects discussed by the Conference ~~was~~ were the problems of national budgets in relation to planning, international economic relations, and the scope and limitation of nationalisation of industries.

Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao was elected President of the Association for 1948-49.

(The Times of India, -27 and 28-12-1948;
The Hindu, dated 31-12-1948).

Cut in Cost of Government's Development
Plans: Priorities Committee's Report.

The Priorities Committee set up by the Government of India has finalised their recommendations on the reductions to be effected in the expenditure on Central Government's development plans during the current financial year ending 31 March 1949 and the next financial year (vide paragraph 44, pages 15-18 of the report of this Office for October 1948).

The Committee has permitted expenditure of 510 million rupees as against the originally fixed sum of 700 million rupees during the current financial year. Besides this sum of 510 million rupees the Government would provide funds for a newly launched telephone factory and for the Shipping Corporation and as much finance for the Railways as the Railways show as surplus in excess of the figure expected earlier.

For the next financial year, a sum of 450 million rupees has been provided for Central Government development ~~proj~~ projects, besides which it is intended to provide 60 million rupees more to certain specific items like the Shipping Corporation and some new industries.

(The Statesman, 27-12-1948).

Pakistan: Economic Development of West Punjab:
Planning Commission set up.

A press note issued on 19 January 1949, by the Government of West Punjab, announces the constitution of a Planning Commission to prepare a comprehensive and integrated 5-year plan for an all-round development in the economic, social and cultural life of the ~~peop~~ people of the province. Mr. Abdul Hamid Dasti, Minister of Civil Supplies, will be the chairman of the Commission.

Functions.- The Commission will be required to draw up a plan, which, among other things, will indicate ways and means of developing and utilising the economic resources of the province to the fullest possible extent, fix targets for agricultural and industrial production, and devise a programme for educational and cultural advance, and improvement in public health. It will formulate concrete proposals for the implementation of the ~~plan~~ plan. Further it will be asked to examine existing development plans of the Government, and to propose whether any modifications or amendments are necessary in the interest of an integrated development.

Sub-committees.- The Commission will carry out its work with the assistance of several expert sub-committees for such subjects, as- (1) Agriculture; (2) Industries, exclusive of cottage industries; (3) Cottage Industries; (4) Forests; (5) Education; (6) Medical and Public Health; (7) Fuel and Power; (8) River Training and Irrigation; (9) Animal Husbandry and Dairying; (10) Roads and Transport; (11) Fisheries; (12) Village Reconstruction; (13) Town Planning; (14) Trade; (15) Labour; (16) Scientific and Industrial Research; (17) Technical Man-Power; (18) Cultural Development; and (19) Finance.

Members of the sub-committees will be selected from among official and non-official experts in their respective lines.

Pakistan: The Hoarding and Black Market Act, 1948.

The Hoarding and Black Market Bill, 1948 (vide paragraph 45, pages 29-30 of the report of this Office for December 1948), as passed by the Pakistan Constituent Assembly (Legislature), received the assent of the Governor-General on 8 January 1949 and has been gazetted as the Hoarding and Black Market Act, 1948.

(The Gazette of Pakistan, Extraordinary, Part IV, dated 10 January 1949, pages 31-37).

Pakistan: The Banking Companies (Control) Act, 1948.

The Banking Companies (Control) Bill, 1948 (vide paragraph 45, pages 30-31 of the report of this Office for December 1948), as passed by the Constituent Assembly (Legislature) Pakistan on 24 December 1948, received the assent of the Governor-General on 8 January 1949 and has been gazetted as the Banking Companies (Control) Act, 1948.

(The Gazette of Pakistan, Extraordinary, Part IV, dated 10 January, 1948, pages 19-24; The Civil and Military Gazette, dated 25-12-1948).

46. Wages.

India - January 1949.

U.P. Sugar Factory Workers' Wages
raised: New Scales announced by
Government.

The Government of the United Provinces announced on 27 December 1948 revised scales of consolidated wages of sugar factory workers in the province. According to the new scales minimum consolidated wage of a worker will be 55 rupees a month.

The table below gives the revised rates:-

<u>Wage levels of 1945-46.</u>	<u>Increased wages now sanctioned</u>
1. Rupees 22/8	Rs. 32/8
2. Rupees 23/- to Rupees 30/-	an increase of Rs.32/8
3. Rupees 31/- to Rupees 40/-	an increase of Rs.28/14
4. Rupees 41/- to Rupees 50/-	an increase of Rs.26/8
5. Rupees 51/- to Rupees 100/-	an increase of Rs.24/-
6. Rupees 101/- to Rupees 200/-	an increase of 24 per cent of pay
7. Rupees 201/- to Rupees 300/-	an increase of 18 per cent of pay.

(National Herald, dated 28-12-1948).

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Indore Textile Workers to get 12 1/2 per cent
of Wages as Bonus for 1947: Industrial Court's
Award.

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On January 1949 the Madhya Bharat Industrial Court consisting of Mr. G.R. Garde, President, and Mr. R.S. Date, member Judge, announced its award in the first case which had been referred to it for arbitration in the matter of payment of ~~india~~ bonus by the ~~mill~~ managements of Indore textile mills to their workers for 1947.

The Court held that mills should pay to workers 12 1/2 per cent of the annual basic earnings of workers, excluding the dearness allowance paid to them, which amounts ~~should~~ should be paid to workers on or before ~~Rs~~ 6 February, on the same terms on which payment of bonus was made to them in 1946.

(The Times of India, 14-1-1949).

Hyderabad: Annual Bonus of 4 Months' Wages
For Coal Miners: Military Administration's
Decision.

Provision for the payment of an annual bonus equal to four months' basic wages and an increase in the amount of subscription to the provident fund are among the interim decisions taken by the Hyderabad Military Administration on various demands submitted to it by the Singareni Collieries Workers' Union.

Other demands relating to wages, dearness allowance, rehabilitation of displaced workers, grainshops facilities, the abolition of contract system and differential treatment are to be referred to an enquiry committee, while ~~the~~ the demand for payment of wages during the strike period from 24 to 28 November 1948 has been rejected.

(The Hindu, dated 4-1-1949).

49. Rehabilitation.

India - January 1949.

Indo-Pakistan Agreement on Evacuee
Property: Disposal by Owners allowed.

At an inter-Dominion Conference held at Karachi on 11 - 13 January 1949, an Agreement was reached on private exchanges and sales of urban immovable property belonging to evacuees in both India and Pakistan. ~~Administration, and~~ No decision, however, was taken by the Conference in regard to agricultural lands for want of relevant data.

Under the terms of the agreement, Administration, sale and transfer of property will be supervised by a joint commission and a council will be set up - comprising two Ministers from each Dominion - to resolve problems on which the commission is unable to agree and to decide on questions of policy. Agreement was reached on the principles to be adopted for the determination of fair compensation when evacuee property is acquired or requisitioned and the procedure to be followed for the assessment and payment of compensation for the property ~~requisitioned and payment of compensation for~~ acquired and rent for the property requisitioned or ~~for~~ leased out.

The conference also considered the question of trust property and appreciating the necessity of very careful prior examination, decided to set up a committee of six members. It was agreed that this committee should be constituted before the end of January and shall submit its ~~report~~ recommendations before the end of April, 1949.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-1-1949).

New Townships for Refugees ⁱⁿ East Punjab
States: Development Board to be
set up.

A new statutory body to be called the Rajpura Development Board is to be set up immediately by the Patiala and East Punjab States Union Governments for the rehabilitation of 60,000 non-Punjabi refugees now living in the Kurukshetra Camp. It is understood that the 60,000 refugees, who are to be rehabilitated, would be moved from Kurukshetra to a camp at Rajpura. The entire expenditure ~~incurred~~ incurred on this camp will be paid by the Central Government which will also arrange transfer of tents and other necessary material from Kurukshetra.

The Government of India has informed the States Union of its decision to advance a loan of ~~Rs. 20,00,000~~ 20,000,000 rupees for the construction of a new township at Rajpura in this connection. The loan will be utilized for the acquisition of about 2,000 acres of land, its development and for advances to refugees for building houses.

It is understood that an Ordinance has already been issued by the Patiala and East Punjab States Union Government to facilitate speedy acquisition of land. ~~There will~~ The planning and construction of the new township will be according to instructions of the Government of India.

(The Statesman, dated 9-1-1949).

India: Refugee Employment Committee set up.

The Government of India has set up an Employment Co-ordination Committee consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Relief and Rehabilitation, ~~and Labour~~ and Finance for the purpose of co-ordinating the efforts of the various organisations engaged in the rehabilitation of refugees possessing high educational or technical qualifications.

The functions of the Committee will be to prevent confusion or duplication and to co-ordinate the efforts of (1) the Transfer Bureau in the Ministry of Home Affairs, which deals principally with the re-employment of refugee Government servants, (2) the Special Employment Bureau in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, which deals with other refugees possessing educational or technical qualifications above a certain standard, (3) the Employment Exchange under the Labour Ministry, which deal with all refugees other than those registered at the bureau in the other two Ministries.

The Government has appointed an Employment Liaison Officer with a specific directive to establish personal contacts with provincial and State Governments, Chambers of Commerce, and leading industrialists in order to ensure that full particulars of the large number of highly educated and qualified refugees, who need immediate relief, are brought to the notice of all employing authorities.

Necessary directives to make the scheme a success have also been issued to all provincial and State Governments and the Centrally administered areas of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg.

Work found for 1,600 Refugees: Congress Relief Committee's efforts.

More than 1,600 refugees have obtained employment during the last 12 months through the efforts of the Central Relief Committee of the All-India Congress Committee. This does not take into account refugees who have been employed through the provincial branches of the Committee. Most of the refugees have been absorbed in services under the Central Government, the United Provinces Government, Delhi administration as also in private firms.

Trade centres for refugee women:- The Relief Committee has also opened 7 earn-as-you-learn centres and 5 sales centres for refugee women in Delhi. The women are supplied materials and implements and make quilts, embroider, spin and knit. Handicrafts are made to order and the centres also work to clothe destitute refugees in the camps.

(The Statesman, 29-12-1948 and
15-1-1949).

West Bengal: The West Bengal Evacuees
(Administration of Property) Bill,
1949.

The Government of West Bengal gazetted on 17 January 1949 the West Bengal Evacuees (Administration of Property) Bill, 1949 to provide for the administration of properties of evacuees in West Bengal.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill stated it was agreed at an inter-Dominion conference held in December, 1948, that the Government of East and West Bengal should legislate by 31 January 1949, for the setting up of Evacuee Property Management Boards in districts or areas from where a substantial exodus has taken place and set up these Boards as soon thereafter as possible. It was further agreed that- (i) the Boards which should be composed of members of the minority community would assume management of properties only on the definite request of their owners; (ii) their function would be of a managerial character and they would not have the power to alienate the property entrusted to them for management; and (iii) the word "evacuee" should be defined as a person who has left the Province in question on or after 1 June, 1947, and who declares his intention to return as soon as conditions become normal in the opinion of the two Governments. The Bill has been framed with the foregoing objects in view and embodies provisions accepted by the Governments ~~of~~ of East and West Bengal at a conference of Chief Secretaries held at Dacca during January 1949.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary,
dated 17 January 1949, pages 79-86).

Pakistan: East Bengal Scheme for
Rehabilitating Refugees: 5 Acres
of Land to be allotted per Family.

A scheme involving an expenditure of about 30 million rupees for the colonization and rehabilitation of about 500,000 refugees, who have come to East Bengal from Bihar and other provinces, has been completed by the Government of East Bengal. It is proposed to reclaim 100,000 acres of land for purposes of cultivation and rehabilitation. It is proposed to allot an average of five acres per family. The scheme will be worked on a co-operative basis and the Government will also experiment in collective farming.

The Government of Pakistan, it is understood, has tentatively agreed to finance the scheme.

(The Statesman, dated 12-1-1949).

52. Welfare and Workers' Leisure.

India - January 1949.

Bihar: Rules under Factories Act:
Provisions for Canteens in Factories.

Reference was made at paragraph 52, page 44 of the report of this Office for December 1948 to the draft of certain rules, the Government of Bihar proposed to make under Section 33A of the Factories Act, 1934, for the provision of canteens in factories. The draft rules have now been approved and gazetted.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part II,
dated 19 January 1949, pages 64-68).

Delhi: Draft Rules for Provision of
Canteens in Factories.

The Chief Commissioner of Delhi published on 11 December 1948 the draft of certain amendments to the Delhi Factories Rules, 1937, proposed to be made in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 33A(1) of the Factories Act, 1934. The draft rules require the occupier of every specified factory, wherein more than 250 workers are ordinarily employed, to provide and maintain a suitable canteen for the use of the workers employed in the factory, in accordance with the rules. The rules further provide for separate dining rooms for men and women workers. Every canteen is to have a managing committee consisting of representatives of employers and workers.

(The Gazette of India, Part IIA,
dated 11 December 1948, pages 512-513).

56. Labour Administration.

India - January 1949.

Working of Factories Act in Delhi during 1947.

Number of factories and workers.- The total number of registered factories in Delhi at the close of 1947 was 281 as compared to 257 in the previous year. Of these, 27 remained closed during the year and 31 did not work after the disturbances in September 1947. Annual returns were received from 219 factories, all of which were perennial.

The average daily number of workers employed during the year was 31,320 as against 33,349 in the previous year. The decrease in employment was attributed to the non-submission of returns, by some of the factories and also to the unsettled conditions prevailing in Delhi after the partition of India. Of the total number of workers, 29,928 were men, 1,139 women, 99 adolescents and 154 children. A statement showing employment in 1946 and 1947 in the major industry groups is shown below:-

Industry	Average daily number of workers employed in:-	
	1947	1946
Government and Local Fund Factories.....	9,031	8,524
All Other Factories		
Textiles	13,206	14,525
Engineering.....	2,995	2,748
Food, Drink and Tobacco...	1,011	963
Paper and Printing.....	1,623	1,896
Others.....	3,454	4,693
Total	31,320	33,349

Inspections and prosecutions.- All the 219 working factories were inspected during the year; 146 factories were inspected once, 48 twice and 25 three times. Prosecutions were launched against the occupiers and managers of 14 factories and the offences related mainly to the breach of the provisions relating to health and safety and hours of work.

Health and welfare.- During 1947 the health of the workers was reported to be generally good. Lighting arrangements both natural and artificial were satisfactory in most of the factories. A few factories were ordered to introduce exhaust fans for improving ventilation. Special attention was paid to the abatement of dust clouds, fumes, gases and vapour in textile mills etc. The atmospheric conditions in the spinning and weaving sheds in which artificial humidification was done, were found to be reasonably comfortable. Welfare activities like education, games and other forms of recreation continued to be undertaken by ~~workers~~ some employers. The housing accommodation provided for workers was mainly confined to those employed in textile mills and Government and Local Fund factories.

Accidents and safety.- There was an increase in the number of accidents from 1,139 in 1946 to 1,169 in 1947. The incidence of accidents per 100 workers rose from 3.4 in 1946 to 3.7 during the year under report. Of the accidents which occurred during the year 2 were fatal, 85 serious and 1,082 minor. Of the serious accidents, 55 per cent were caused by machines, 13 per cent by falling objects and 12 per cent by explosions and fires. In the case of minor accidents, 47 per cent were caused by machines, and 11 per cent by falling objects. Most of the minor accidents, it was reported, ^{was} due to the carelessness of the workers. Fencing and guarding of dangerous parts of machinery continued to receive the attention of the Inspectorate. Special attention was given to guarding power presses which constitute a great source of danger. Fire extinguishing appliances were maintained in all the factories and were kept in good order.

Working of Factories Act in Bihar during 1947.

Number of factories and workers.- During the year 1947 the number of registered factories in Bihar province increased from 553 at the beginning of the year to 584 at the end of the year. 46 factories were brought on the register and 15 were removed from it during the year. Of the 584 factories, 505 worked during the year as against 476 in the previous year. The average daily number of workers employed during 1947 was 136,834 as against 138,990 in 1946. This fall in employment, in spite of the rise in the number of factories, was attributed to the settling down to peace-time level of factories which had experienced a war time boom. A comparative table showing the employment in 1946 and 1947 in the major industry groups is shown below:-

Industry	Average daily number of workers employed in:-	
	1947	1946
Government and Local Fund Factories.....	21,121	21,399
All Other Factories:-		
Perennial		
Textiles.....	9,161	8,543
Engineering.....	11,309	11,450
Minerals and Metals.....	40,374	40,170
Food, Drink and Tobacco..	9,990	9,810
Wood, Stone and Glass....	12,803	13,785
Others.....	10,132	10,940
Seasonal		
Food, Drink and Tobacco..	20,185	20,799
Others.....	1,759	2,094
Total...	136,834	138,990

Of the total number of workers in 1947, 125,937 were men, 10,084 women, 299 adolescents and 514 children. Women, adolescents and children thus formed a very small percentage of the total employment.

Inspections and prosecutions.- All the 505 factories were inspected during the year. 327 factories were inspected once, 111 twice, 41 thrice and 26 more than three times. These included special and surprise visits made for enquiring into accidents and looking into complaints. A large number of unregistered factories were also visited by the inspectorate. Cases instituted during the year for contravention of the provisions of the Act numbered 40 and the offences related mainly to breach of provisions in respect of safety, employment of children and adolescents, working hours, holidays etc.

Health and welfare.- The progress made regarding sanitation, ventilation and lighting was reported to be satisfactory. Due to scarcity of building materials washing places could not, however, be constructed strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Act. A few of the bigger factories constructed water fountains for supplying drinking water to their workers. The smaller employers realised the advantages of well lighted and ventilated work-places and were ready to co-operate with the inspectorate. The problem of removal of dust and fumes received careful attention of the inspectorate. Cement factories were advised to have automatic cement packing in enclosed spaces just below floor level with negative pressure so that no dust would be given out at floor level where the workers were required to work in putting in and taking out bags. Creches were constructed in a number of factories employing women workers. The desirability of maintaining these in efficient manner was stressed and the progress made was satisfactory.

Accidents and safety.- The number of accidents reported during the year was 4,210 as against 4,813 in the previous year. The incidence of accidents per 100 workers also came down from 3.42 in 1946 to 3.08 in 1947. Of the 4,210 accidents, 14 were fatal, 162 serious and 4,034 minor. As compared to the previous year there was a decline in all types of accidents. An analysis of the accidents by causes showed that, of the fatal accidents, 3 were caused by machines, 3 by explosions and fires, 3 by persons falling, and 5 were due to miscellaneous causes. In the case of serious accidents about 25 per cent were caused by machines, 21 per cent by falling objects, 9 per cent by persons falling and 8 per cent by hand tools. Forty per cent of the minor accidents were due to miscellaneous causes for which hardly anybody or any particular object could be blamed. Of the other agents causing minor accidents the most important were falling objects, hand tools and machines. As ~~xxxxxxx~~ a result of the non-availability of steel materials many factories were forced to put up weak wooden fencings which could hardly be called safe. All the new machines that were being installed in factories were, however, fitted with integral guards to the moving parts. Pressure vessels received the increasing attention of the inspectorate.

Safety committees functioned in a number of factories but they were not successful for want of co-operation. The need for proper training of the workers and making them safety-minded was stressed on the factories. In a number of factories no-accident campaigns were launched with good results.

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Working of Factories Act in Madras during 1947.

Number of factories and workers.- According to the report on the working of the Factories Act in the province of Madras for the year 1947, there were 3,928 factories on the register at the close of year as compared to 3,554 at the beginning of the year. Of these, the number of factories which worked during the year was 3,761. ~~of which 3,761 factories were in commission.~~ Of these, 3,418 were non-seasonal and 343 seasonal factories. Annual returns were received in time from 3,119 factories. Increases were registered chiefly in coach building, motor car repairing, engineering workshops, foundries, rice mills, groundnut decortiating and oil mills, printing and book-binding, and tanneries.

The average number of workers employed daily in the 3,119 factories which submitted returns was 276,586 as against 262,292 in the previous year. The increase in the number of workers was due to the increase in the number of factories. A comparative statement showing the employment in 1946 and 1947, in the major industry groups is shown below:-

Industry	Average daily number of workers employed during:-	
	1947	1946
Government and Local Fund Factories.....	23,390	9,245
All Other Factories-		
Perennial		
Textiles.....	101,464	101,862
Engineering.....	22,710	29,252
Minerals and Metals.....	4,738	3,761
Food, Drink and Tobacco..	42,513	45,065
Chemicals and Dyes.....	17,384	12,457
Paper and Printing.....	10,551	8,099
Wood, Stone and Glass....	19,002	16,238
Skins and Hides.....	8,251	7,301
Gins and Presses.....	5,715	6,067
Miscellaneous.....	3,422	4,031
Seasonal		
Gins and Presses.....	12,993	14,174
Food, Drink and Tobacco..	4,378	4,740
Miscellaneous.....	75	-
Total.....	276,586	262,292

Inspections and prosecutions.- Of the 3,761 factories in commission, 1,433 were inspected once, 1,249 twice, 528 thrice and 204 more than three times. The total number of inspections made was 7,082 as against ~~6,421~~ 6,421 in 1946. 347 factories were not inspected.

The occupiers and managers of 132 factories involving 186 persons were prosecuted during the year. Convictions were obtained on 211 counts against 100 factories involving 162 persons. A sum of 7,688 rupees was imposed as fines ranging from a minimum of 1 rupee to 400 rupees. In 23 cases, managers of factories were prosecuted and convicted for employing children without certificates of physical fitness.

Health, welfare and safety.- Special attention was paid to the abatement of dust nuisance in factories by the introduction of exhaust fans, cyclone dust separators, provision of adequate roof and window ventilators etc. The health of the workers was reported to be generally good. Though plague was prevalent in some of the districts no attacks were reported among workers. The number of man-days lost due to sickness was 1,039,437 as against 1,274,031 in the previous year.

During the year 26 factories provided housing accommodation and 8 factories opened schools for the workers' children. Canteens and co-operative stores were run in many factories to supply food and clothing at cheap rates. Tea was supplied free to night-shift workers in some establishments. Medical facilities were also available free in big factories. 48 factories paid bonus to workers.

Accidents.- The total number of accidents reported during the year was 6,632 ~~xxx~~ as against 5,481 in the previous year. Of the total, 27 were fatal, 1,106 serious and 5,499 minor. As compared to the previous year, there was a considerable fall in the number of fatal accidents although the number of minor accidents showed an increase. About 40 per cent of the accidents occurred in railway workshops and about 21 per cent in cotton mills. The increase in the number of minor accidents was attributed to the increased activities in the various industries, carelessness of workers and better reporting. An analysis of the accidents by causes shows that of the fatal accidents, more than 40 per cent were caused by machinery and about 15 per cent through persons falling. Of the serious accidents, 26 per cent were caused by machines and 18 per cent by falling objects. In the case of minor accidents, while machinery accounted for 6.4 per cent of the accidents, about 18 per cent were caused by falling objects. In 106 cases, the injured persons were paid compensation amounting to 35,821 rupees.

Strikes.- There were 164 strikes in 1947 against 152 in 1946 and 45 in 1945. The most important strike was in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, resulting in a loss of over ~~12,000~~ 1,200,000 of man-days by the industry and 3,300,000 of rupees as wages by the workers. The Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Vizagapatam, also lost over 200,000 of man-days in strike. The total man-days lost was over 2,000,000 during the year against 430,000 in 1946. The result of a majority of strikes was indefinite. Only 32 strikes were either successful or partially successful. The Commissioner of Labour and other Government officials brought about settlement by mediation in 62 cases.

(The working of the Factories Act in Madras Province-during 1946 was reported at paragraph 56, pages 48-49 of the report of this Office for February 1948).

(Report on the Working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras, for the Year 1947: Printed by the ~~xxx~~ Superintendent Government Press, Madras, 1948).

59. General.

India - January 1949.

Assam: Assam Factories Rules, 1949:
Draft published.

The Government of Assam published on 12 January 1949, for general information as required by section 115 of the Factories Act, 1948 (vide pages 59-62 of the report of this Office for September 1948), the draft of certain Rules which the Government proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by the various sections of the Factories Act, 1948. The draft is to be taken into consideration after ~~the~~ 9 April 1949.

The rules inter alia prescribe (1) the procedure for registration and licensing of factories, (2) the powers and duties of the inspecting staff, (3) detailed standards to be observed and precautions to be taken in factories in regard to health, safety and welfare of the workers, (4) further safety precautions to be taken in the fencing of different types of machines, (5) the maximum weights which may be lifted, carried or moved by adult men, adult women, adolescents and children, (6) the ~~XXXXXX~~ forms of notice of periods of work and register of adult workers, (7) the conditions under which exemption of adult workers from certain provisions of the Act may be granted, (8) special precautions and special provisions relating to certain dangerous operations (nine) ^{in the premises} which is carried on in a factory, (9) procedure in appeals, and (10) the various forms relating to display of notices and submission of returns.

(The Assam Gazette, Part II,
dated 12 January 1949, pages 17-117).

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Mysore Labour Bill: Law relating to
Organisation of Employees, Industrial
Disputes, etc. consolidated.

On 13 January 1949, Mr. K.T. Bashyam, Minister for Law and Labour, moved in the Mysore Legislative Council that the Mysore Labour Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee of the ~~House~~ House.

Statement of Principles.- The Statement of Principles of the Bill says that with a view to provide for the organisation of Industrial employees into associations to secure their welfare, and the settlement of industrial disputes, the Mysore Labour Act was enacted in 1942. A committee was appointed in December 1944 consisting of representatives of Government, employers and employees to review the labour laws in force and to suggest suitable changes. The committee submitted its report in 1946 in which inter alia certain amendments to the Mysore Labour Act, 1942, were also suggested. Since the ~~Committee~~ committee made its report, the Labour laws in force in the provinces of India have been revised. It is considered necessary that the rights and liabilities of labourers in Mysore should as far as possible be similar to those of the employees in Indian provinces. A consolidated Mysore Labour Bill has accordingly been brought forward.

The Bill makes provision for the recognition of Labour associations in any industrial concern and confers on them certain rights and privileges and provides also for ~~them~~ the formation of Federations of Labour Associations. The provision made in the Act of 1942 for the settlement of industrial disputes was found to be inadequate. Provision is made in the Bill for the settlement of such disputes by conciliation by Conciliators or Special Conciliators or by a Board of Conciliations and by arbitration. Power is also taken to establish an Industrial Court for the settlement or the adjudication of industrial disputes. Provision has also been made for enabling Government to assume control of any industrial concern in certain circumstances if it is found necessary to do so, for securing public safety or convenience or the maintenance of public order or supplies essential to the life of the community or for maintaining employment.

(The Bill had been passed earlier by the Mysore Representative Assembly).

(Summarised from a copy of the Mysore Labour Bill, received in this Office; The Hindu, dated 14-1-1949).

Cochin: Committee set up to enquire
into Labour Conditions in Mattancheri.

The Cochin State Government has appointed a committee of 3 persons with Mr. C. Sankara Menon as chairman to enquire into the labour conditions in Mattancheri and its suburbs.

A large number of labourers in Mattancheri and its suburbs depend upon casual labour for their livelihood. They are mostly employed in works connected with the port of Cochin. The administration of labour in the port of Cochin is done by the Government of India direct but the State Government feels that it is desirable for it to understand the general condition of this class of labour so as to enable it to take measures to ameliorate their conditions.

(Cochin Government Gazette, Part I,
dated 8 January 1949, page 303).

CHAPTER 6. GENERAL RIGHTS OF WORKERS.

INDIA - JANUARY 1949.

63. Individual Labour Contracts.

India: Industrial Employment(Standing Orders)
Act, 1946: Exemptions.

The Government of India by a notification dated- 7 January 1949 has exempted the industrial establishments in the major ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras from the provisions of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 subject to the following conditions, namely, (1) that the port authorities shall arrange to bring together all the rules relating to the matters set out in the schedule to the said Act in a pamphlet form and publish them in English and in the language or languages understood by the majority of the workmen; and (2) that a copy of the pamphlet shall be supplied to each workman.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1
dated 15 January 1949, page 69).

64. Wage Protection.

India - January 1949.

Burma: Proposal to extend Payment of
Wages Act to Persons employed in Mines,
Quarries and Oil Fields.

R

By a notification dated 29 December 1948, the Government of the Union of Burma has given notice of its intention to extend the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 to all persons employed in mines, quarries and oil fields. The proposal will be taken into consideration after ~~March~~ 28 March 1949.

(The Burma Gazette, Part I,
dated 8 January 1949, page 32).

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67. Conciliation and Arbitration.

India - January 1949.

Bombay

India: Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946
extended to Textile Processing Industry in
the Province.

R

By a notification dated 13 December 1948 the Government of Bombay has directed that all the provisions of the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946 shall apply with effect from 1 January 1949 to the textile processing industry in the province. The provisions of the Act will apply to all concerns using power and employing 20 or more persons, which are engaged in one or more of the following processes, namely, dyeing, bleaching, finishing, mercerizing, calendering, printing or glazing of yarn, cloth or article made of cloth or any process incidental or supplemental thereto.

(Notification No.180/48 dated 13 December 1948;
The Bombay Government Gazette, Part I,
dated 16 December 1948, page 5408).

Pakistan: The Industrial Disputes (Amendment)
Act, 1948.

R

The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (vide paragraph 67, page 63 of the report of this Office for December 1948) as passed by the Pakistan Constituent Assembly (Legislature) received the assent of the Governor-General on 8 January 1949 and has been gazetted as the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1948.

(The Gazette of Pakistan, Extraordinary,
Part IV, dated 10 January 1949, page 29).

Bombay: Bombay Industrial Relations (Second Amendment) Act, 1948 (Bombay Act No. LXXIV of 1948).

The Bombay Industrial Relations (Second Amendment) Bill, 1948 (vide pages 43-44 of the report of this Office for October 1948) as passed by the Bombay Legislature, received the assent of the Governor-General of India on 27 December 1948 and has been gazetted as the Bombay Industrial Relations (Second Amendment) Act 1948 (Bombay Act No. LXXIV of 1948).

As already stated at pages 43-44 of the report of this Office for October 1948 the Bombay Industrial Relations (Second Amendment) Act introduced inter alia the following improvements in the Act: (1) Under section 15 of the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946 it is a condition for retention of registration of a union that the union shall not take part in illegal strikes, etc. The same condition is now attached to acquisition of registration under section 14 of the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1948. (2) Section 28 of the Act provides for the fresh election of representatives of employees for the purposes of the Act within 12 months from the date on which ^{the} election ~~was~~ held. As this method makes elections too frequent and burdens administration, the period ~~for~~ for fresh election has now been enlarged by the amending Act to two years. (3) When an employer or employee gives notice of a proposed change in respect of an industrial matter specified in ^{the} schedule of the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946, provision has been made by the amending Act for the notice to be adopted by other employers or employees so that disputes may be consolidated and decided together. (4) Where both parties consent, disputes are now permitted by suitable amendments to section 58 of the Act, to be split in parts for the purposes of conciliation, etc. (5) In order to relieve congestion in the Industrial Court provision has now been made by the insertion of a new section 86KK for the transfer of cases, on the recommendation of the Industrial Court, from the Industrial Court to Wage Boards. (6) Where stoppages or closures of work are caused in relation to an industrial dispute but under the guise of a protest against a course of action taken or not taken by the provincial Government or a public servant, such stoppages are now made illegal by insertion of new sections 97A and 98A. Stoppages are also made illegal if ^{instigated} ~~agitated~~ in sympathy with strikes which are themselves illegal. (7) By the insertion of a new section 116A provision has now been made for the modification of an award, provided the award has run a life of one year. This will enable parties to apply for modification of the whole or any part of an award instead of terminating it

by a notice under section 116 of the Act and thereby to secure the benefit of the current award till its modification.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 31 December 1948, pages 740-746).

West Bengal: The Bengal Industrial Disputes Rules, 1947: Draft amendments.

The Government of West Bengal published on 6 January 1949 the draft of an amendment which it proposes to make in the Bengal Industrial Disputes Rules, 1947 (vide page 2 of the report of this Office for May 1948). The proposed amendment provides inter alia that the conciliation officer ~~when~~ he receives information about an existing or apprehended industrial dispute or when he receives a notice of a strike or lock-out if the dispute relates to a public utility service, should arrange forthwith to interview the employer and workmen concerned and endeavour to bring about a settlement. The amendment will be taken into consideration after the 30 January 1949.

(The Calcutta Gazette, Part I, dated 6 January, 1949, page 16).

Bombay: Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946: Notification declaring certain Undertakings in Sugar Industry as Occupations.

R

The Registrar of Unions appointed under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946, has, by a notification dated 20 December 1948, recognised certain sections of undertakings in sugar industry as occupations for the purposes of the Act. The categories of employees in the sugar industry listed in the notification include process operatives, power plant and workshop operatives, distillers and fermenters, tractor operators and mechanics, farm labourers, transport operators, clerks, laboratory assistants, mukadams and supervisors, general workers, etc.

(Notification No.220/48, dated 20 December 1948; The Bombay Government Gazette, Part I, dated 30 December 1948, pages 5767-5769).

Working Conditions of Jute Mill Workers in Bihar: Memoranda of Settlement arrived at Conference of Employers and Employees.

A conference of the representatives of the jute mills of Bihar and their employees was held on 12 and 14 November, 1948 at Patna. The meeting was presided over by Mr. K. Raman, Secretary to the Labour Department, Government of Bihar. The agenda of the conference included: (i) the examination of the recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal appointed by the Government of West Bengal for the jute textile industry (vide paragraph 67, pages 46-47 of the report of this Office for October 1948) with special reference to the recommendations regarding wages and dearness allowance, bonus, payment for involuntary unemployment, leave and holidays, provident fund and gratuity, with a view to their adoption in the jute mills of Bihar; (ii) the adoption of a uniform practice in respect of spread-over, method of wages payment, ^{and} weekly holidays for workers of the mechanical department in the jute mills of the province; and (iii) the setting up of works committees and production committees in the jute mills.

The Government of Bihar gazetted on 3 January 1949, the terms of the settlement which are to remain in force for a period of six months with effect from 12 November 1948.

Decisions.- (a) Wages and dearness allowance.- The meeting resolved that the Indian Jute Mills Association be requested to examine the wages, dearness allowance, bonus and provident fund in the three jute mills of Bihar and to suggest suitable scales for the consideration of the employees, the industry and the Government within a period of one month. It was also agreed that the decisions subsequently arrived at as a result of this report would be enforced from 8 November, 1948.

(b) Payment for involuntary employment.- With regard to this question, it was decided that payment for involuntary unemployment should be made at the rate of 50 per cent of basic wages and dearness allowance and full-ration concessions for a period of one month from January to June and a similar payment for the period ~~of~~ from July to December, as in the Bengal award.

(c) Works and production committees.- The meeting resolved that the mills and the employees be requested to form works committees and production committees as early as possible.

The meeting also decided that leave and holidays should be given as recommended in the Bengal award, and that the adoption of a uniform practice in respect of spread-over of work, method of wage payment, and weekly holidays for the mechanical department should be according to the Factories Act.

(The Bihar Gazette, Extraordinary, dated 3-1-1949, pages 1-3).

Central Provinces and Berar: Earlier Notification regarding Constitution of Provincial Industrial Court cancelled.

By a notification dated 8 January 1948, the Central Provinces and Berar Government has cancelled its earlier notification constituting the Provincial Industrial Court (vide paragraph 67, page 53 of the report of this Office for January 1948).

(Central Provinces and Berar Gazette, Part I, dated 14 January 1949, page 13).

Conflicting Awards in Labour Disputes:
Need for Uniform Policy stressed by
United Provinces Government Statistician.

Mr. J. Singh, Statistical Superintendent of the Government of the United Provinces, has pointed out that in many adjudication awards passed in the United Provinces and other provinces, no uniform principles have been followed by the adjudicators. According to Mr. Singh, "the adjudication awards are so conflicting on the same point that it is difficult to discern any uniform legal principles emerging out of them". Mr. Singh adds that though industrial disputes have been brought under the domain of law, there is no legal code to be followed by individual adjudicators. It depends entirely on the discretion ~~of~~ and training of an adjudicator, what view he holds of a particular demand in dispute and how far he observes the principle ~~and~~ of ~~equity~~ equity and social justice.

According to Mr. Singh the situation, had created fresh difficulties in the realm of industrial relations and a legal code, setting forth a chart of industrial relations comprising the rights of both the employers and the employees ~~was~~ necessary. Citing instances to support his opinion, Mr. Singh says that the most conflicting views held by adjudicators in their awards have been in regard to the payment of bonus to workers. From the point of civil law it has been argued at many places that bonus was entirely an ex gratia payment not being a part of wages and could not be claimed by workers as a matter of right. On the other hand many adjudication awards have declared that bonus is rightly claimed by workers as a right; it must be paid by undertakings which have ability to pay. Employers have taken advantage of civil law and have at several occasions succeeded in getting issued from civil courts injunctions that ~~bonus~~ being ex gratia payment could not form part of a trade dispute and could not be adjudicated upon. In spite of this adjudicators have taken up the matter in their proceedings and have awarded in favour of payment of bonus on individual merits of the demand.

Stressing the need of settling disputes through conciliation as far as possible, Mr. Singh points out that the procedure of compulsory arbitration has failed to maintain industrial peace. Instead of ironing out differences between labour and capital, the adjudicators quite infrequently assume a superior attitude of sitting in judgement and their awards, instead of healing the sores, further aggravate them.

It has been quite usual for labour to repudiate the awards and take recourse to lightning strikes in protest against the adjudicators' alleged harshness towards labour. The employers, too, on many occasions were compelled to flout Government orders enforcing the awards. It was necessary that full use was made of the provision for establishing 'works committees' in all undertakings under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Government of the United Provinces was taking steps to set up such committees and it was hoped that these would help to improve the situation.

Mr. Singh further points out that in spite of the Government order prohibiting strikes and lock-outs without 14 days' notice in advance, a large number of strikes has been declared without giving any notice at all. During the years 1945 and 1946 out of 22 strikes which were declared after giving notice, only 9, that is, 41 per cent were successful and of the 149 strikes which were declared without giving any notice, 36 strikes, that is, 24 per cent were successful. These figures show that 87 per cent of the total number of strikes were declared without giving any notice.

Concluding, Mr. Singh says "insistence on the policy of maintaining industrial peace based on law is a negative policy and should be abandoned in favour of a positive labour policy based on social and economic justice."

(National Herald, dated 9-1-1949).

69. Workers' Participation in Management
or Profits of Undertakings.

India - January 1949.

Orissa: Works Committees in all Industrial
Establishments employing 100 Workmen or more
to be set up.

The Government of Orissa, by an order dated 20 December 1948, ~~has~~ has directed the employers of all the industrial establishments in Orissa in which 100 or more workmen are employed or have been employed on any day in the preceding 12 months to constitute works committees in the manner prescribed in the Orissa Industrial Disputes Rules, 1947 (vide paragraph 67, page 78 of the report of this Office for April 1948).

(No.5221-Com.-dated 20 December 1948;
The Orissa Gazette, Part III, dated
24 December 1948, page 787).

CHAPTER 7. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

INDIA - JANUARY 1949.

71. Organisation of the Labour Market.

India: Employment Exchanges: Working during
November, 1948.

Employment situation.- During November 1948, there was a slight improvement in the employment situation. In ~~Mad~~ Dhanbad employment opportunities were reported to be increasing on account of notification of vacancies by the Damodar Valley Corporation, East Indian Railway and the Survey of India. Absorption of applicants was also reported in the sugar factories in Muzaffarpur area. In Delhi, a large number of vacancies were notified by the East Punjab Railway. Construction works in Delhi ~~are~~ also expected to lead to an increasing number of employment opportunities. On the other hand, the retrenchment proposals of the Government of India led to a sharp fall in the number of Government vacancies notified to the exchanges.

During the month the all-India shortage of skilled technicians such as machinists, turners, mechanical draftsmen, moulders, fitters, mechanical engineers, etc., continued to exist. Shortage of stenographers was also reported from almost all exchanges. Howrah reported an acute shortage of skilled cotton mill and jute mill workers. Shortages of qualified teachers were reported from a number of exchanges. On the other hand, there was a surplus of clerks, semi-skilled technicians, motor mechanics, peons, and unskilled labourers in many local areas.

Registrations and placings.- The total number of registrations for employment assistance including re-registrations effected at employment exchanges, district employment offices and Special Employment Bureau and placings during November 1948 are given below:-

	November 1948	October 1948	November 1947
Total number of registrations (including re-registrations).	70,533	66,303	53,133
Total number of persons placed in employment.....	19,568	18,535	15,707

Of those placed in employment 2,982 were ex-services personnel and 189 refugees. Of the total number of placings effected, 346 were in posts carrying a basic pay of 101 rupees or more and 1,831 in posts carrying a basic pay of 61 rupees to 100 rupees. 10 persons were placed in jobs carrying salaries ranging from 400 rupees to 1000 rupees per month.

Placings by wage groups.- Figures relating to placings during November 1948 (~~excluding~~ excluding placings effected by the Special Employment Bureau), analysed according to wage groups were as follows:-

<u>Wage groups: basic monthly pay</u>	<u>Number of placings</u>
About 101 rupees.....	306
61 to 100 rupees.....	1,831
36 to 60 rupees.....	9,404
21 to 35 rupees.....	6,853
20 rupees or less.....	1,134

Employment exchanges in Indian States.- Returns received from employment exchanges in Indian States show that upto 30 November 1948, 90,430 applicants had been registered, of whom 18,872 had been found employment. This information does not, however, illustrate completely the work performed by all State Exchanges, as up-to-date information was not received from many of them. These figures are in addition to the all-India figures quoted above.

Employment of displaced persons.- 15,544 displaced persons were registered during the month as against 15,878 during October 1948, and 4,189 were placed in employment. In East Punjab, refugees were continuously being posted to various training centres. Calcutta also reported that there were several thousand applicants anxious to join training schemes. Shortage of accommodation, however, continued to be a great handicap in resettling refugees.

Technical and vocational training.- During November 1948, there were 83 technical training centres and 108 vocational training centres functioning, with 4,902 and 2,752 ex-Servicemen trainees respectively under training. In the former group, 472 trainees passed the trade tests, bringing the total of passed out trainees to 7,853. In the latter group, 127 trainees passed out, bringing the total to 1,523. 6,744 male refugees were undergoing training at training centres in Bihar, Bombay, Central Provinces and Berar, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, East Punjab, United Provinces and West Bengal. 310 refugee girls and women were undergoing training at the New Delhi centre run by the Ministry of Labour. 1 trainee passed the prescribed trade test, bringing the total of passed out trainees to 23. 399 disabled ex-Servicemen were undergoing training in the three special training centres. 67 trainees passed the prescribed trade tests, bringing

the total passed out to 891. During the month 8 more firms (3 in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, 2 in United Provinces and 3 in West Bengal) agreed to participate in the apprenticeship training scheme, while training was withdrawn from 7 firms (1 in Bihar, 2 in Bombay, 1 in East Punjab and 3 in Madras). The total number of apprenticeship training centres was thus 228 and 645 ex-Servicemen and 1656 refugees were under training at these centres.

The number of ex-Servicemen selected and posted for technical training during November 1948 and to date is shown in the table below:-

Administrative Region.	Technical Training		Vocational Training	
	During the month.	Cumulative to date.	During the month.	Cumulative to date.
Assam.....	11	323	8	225
Bihar.....	40	3,380*	45	1,228*
Bombay.....	270	4,354	53	2,293
C.P. and Berar....	16	1,831	12	845
Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara..	48	1,597	26	677
East Punjab§.....	8	284	15	118
Madras.....	1,362	24,089	1,366	6,304
Orissa§§.....	32	32	35	35
United Provinces...	190	6,821	239	8,388
West Bengal.....	29	2,908	20	1,109
Total.....	2,006	45,619	1,819	21,222

* Includes trainees appropriate to Orissa region selected and posted upto 30-9-1948, separate figures for which are not available.

§ Cumulative figures are for the period beginning with 15th August 1947.

§§ Cumulative figures are for the period beginning with 1st October, 1948.

(Review of work done by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during the month of November, 1948, issued by the Government of India).

Pakistan: Committee appointed to enquire into
Unemployment by West Punjab Government.

A committee under the chairmanship of the Development Minister, has been appointed by the West Punjab Government to enquire into the ~~ca~~ causes and extent of unemployment in the province and to suggest ways to reduce it.

The committee has been appointed in pursuance of a resolution passed at a recent session of the provincial Assembly.

..... (The West Punjab Gazette, Part I,
dated 14 January 1949, page 9).
.....

Burma: Working of Employment Exchange Service
during October 1948.

.....
According to statistics published in the December 1948 issue of the Burma Labour Gazette, the number of applicants on the live and pending registers of the Employment Exchange service at the beginning of October 1948 was 2,280. During the month 543 fresh registrations were made and 237 applicants placed in employment. (Figures relating to registrations and placings during the period June 1947 to September 1948 were given at paragraph 71, pages 75-76 of the report of this Office for December 1948).

(Burma Labour Gazette, December 1948).

72. Vocational Guidance and Training.

India - January 1949.

Burma: Proposals to amend Apprentices Act:
Enquiry Committee constituted.

With a view to effecting improvements in the apprenticeship system in Burma and promoting the training of young persons by employers in skilled trades under fair terms and conditions of service so that such trained young persons may be available in sufficient numbers to meet the acute shortage of skilled workmen in the various trades and occupations, the Government of the Union of Burma has decided to appoint an ad hoc committee with the Director of Labour, Burma, as chairman, to advise the Government in the matter. The ^{committee} consists of 9 members and includes representatives of workers and employers.

The terms of reference of the committee are as follows:-

- (i) To enquire into the working of the apprenticeship system in the country and make recommendations to Government for such amendments to the existing Apprentices Act as may in the committee's opinion be likely to assist in effecting improvements in the system;
 - (ii) To draw up model indentures; and
 - (iii) To suggest to Government such further steps as may be necessary to promote the training of young persons by employers in skilled trades under fair terms and conditions of service, in such a manner as to protect such young persons against exploitations, ~~and to ensure that they are given proper opportunities of obtaining full knowledge of, and proficiency in, the various trades and occupations concerned.~~

(Extract from the proceedings of the Government of the Union of Burma, -No.106LC48, dated the 22 December 1948, reproduced in the Supplement to the Burma Gazette dated 1 January 1949).

CHAPTER 8. SOCIAL SECURITY.

INDIA - JANUARY 1949.

81. Social Insurance.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act
in Orissa during 1947.

The average daily number of persons employed in Orissa province during 1947 was 5,759 adults and 13 minors as against 7,218 adults only in the previous year. During the year under report there were 5 cases of death, 10 cases of permanent disablement and 13 cases of temporary disablement against 3 cases of death, 2 cases of permanent disablement and 14 cases of temporary disablement in 1946. The amounts of compensation paid were 4,820 rupees, 6,213 rupees and 1,858 rupees respectively for the three classes of accidents while the corresponding figures in the previous year, were 2,900 rupees, 841 rupees and 528 rupees respectively.

There was no case of occupational diseases in the year under report.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Orissa during 1946 was reported at paragraph 81, page 89 of the report of this Office for May 1948).

(Annual Returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1947 published by the Government of Orissa. Letter No. 3863-Com., dated 16-9-1948).

India: Medical Benefit Council
constituted.

In pursuance of Section 10 of the Employers' State Insurance Act (vide pages 68-72 of the report of this Office for June 1948), the Government of India has constituted a Medical Benefit Council, consisting of representatives of the Central Government, provincial Governments, employers, employees and the medical profession.

The Director-General of Health Services in India is the ex-officio chairman of the Council, which consists of 20 members. Each Governor's province has one representative on the Council. The employers and employees have three representatives each. From the medical profession, out of three representatives one is a lady doctor.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1,
dated 8 January 1949, page 50).

85. Benefits Organised or paid by Employers.

India - January 1949.

Factories in Madras: Working of Maternity Benefit Act during 1947.

Application of the Act.- The provisions of the Act are applicable to women employed in non-seasonal factories. Of the 3,418 non-seasonal factories in commission during 1947, 2113 factories employed ~~en~~ women as against 2,211 factories in 1946. Annual returns were not received from 430 factories as against 318 in 1946. The average number of women employed daily in 1,683 factories from which annual returns were received in time was 50,867 as against 50,059 in the previous year.

Benefits paid.- 5554 claims were made during the year as against 2,388 in the previous year of which 3,207 ~~en~~ claims were paid to the women concerned and in 19 cases to their nominees. The total amount of benefits paid was 138,859 rupees as against 84,211 rupees in the previous year. This included 31 cases of 1946 paid during the year 1947. Ex-gratia payments amounting to 363 rupees were paid in 14 cases.

Inspections and prosecutions.- No woman was employed in any factory (seasonal or non-seasonal) during the four weeks immediately following the day of confinement. Inspections by factory inspectors were made along with the inspections under the Factories Act and claims and benefits were checked by them. 2 more inspectresses of factories were appointed during the year.

During the year 10 prosecutions were instituted, 7 for failure to maintain registers and 3 for not exhibiting the notices in factories as required under the Act. All cases were disposed of during the year and fines ranging from 5 rupees to 25 rupees were imposed. No cases were pending disposal at the end of the year.

(The working of the Maternity Benefit Act in the factories of the Province of Madras during 1946 was summarised at paragraph 85, page 68 of the report of this Office for February 1948).

(Summarised from the Report on the Working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras for the year 1947).

Bihar: Coal Mines Provident Fund and
Bonus Schemes Act, 1948: Extended to
Chota Nagpur Division and Santal Parganas.

By a notification dated 31 December 1948, the Government of Bihar has extended the application of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948, to the Chota Nagpur Division and the Santal Parganas District.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part II,
dated 5 January 1949, page 16).

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87. Public Health.

India - January 1949.

Conference of Medical Faculties of Universities,
Madras, 1 January 1949: Constitution of Central
Council of Post-Graduate Medical Education suggested.

A conference of Vice-Chancellors, and representatives of Medical Faculties of Universities and representatives of the Government of India was held at Madras on 1-January 1949. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, presided over the conference. Among those who attended were the Minister for Public Health, Madras; Minister for Health Bombay; the Prime Minister, Baroda; the Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, and the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

The conference urged the desirability of constituting an All-India Council of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research. The resolution urging the constitution of an all-India Council ~~which might~~ pointed out the desirability of such a Council which might consist of 7 members, with power to co-opt, consisting of specialists from teaching faculties in medicine and of experts nominated by the Central Ministry of Health. The Council, the resolution added, might be constituted by the Inter-Universities Board. The conference further requested the Government of India to bear the cost of establishing and maintaining this Council; and till such time as conditions became favourable in all the universities or where special courses could be developed only in some universities, a certain number of seats, preferably 50 per cent, be made available for candidates from other universities; and that individual universities might set up local councils for post-graduate medical education to advise them in the proper selection of teaching personnel. The conference made a request to provincial, State and Central Governments to pay lump-sum grants to universities for organising such training and research facilities, and also institute scholarships and fellowships to encourage students to take to research.

By other resolutions the conference stressed the desirability of all universities maintaining certain minimum standards in regard to post-graduate qualifications in the Faculty of Medicine. The conference recommended that the holding of a resident appointment for at least one year should be a pre-requisite for all post-graduate qualifications in medicine or surgery, that the Diplomas and Degrees should be awarded only to those who had put in a course of study and hospital instruction in a recognised hospital, that higher post-graduate degrees should be confined to medicine, surgery, obstetrics, and gynaecology or such other specialities as might be recommended by the Council of Post-Graduate Medical Education and that the courses of study for post-graduate qualifications should be made available

only in hospitals with adequate facilities chosen after inspection by an expert commission. The conference expressed itself in favour of instituting research degrees in pre-clinical and certain clinical laboratory subjects like anatomy, physiology, bio-chemistry, pharmacology, pathology, bacteriology, public health etc.

The conference further urged the Government of India to take up early ~~the~~ question of constituting a committee for the allocation of grants made for post-graduate medical education and research to the various universities and to report on their proper utilisation.

(The Hindu, dated 2-1-1949).

CHAPTER 9. LIVING STANDARDS.

INDIA - JANUARY 1949.

91. Nutrition.

Proper utilisation of Food Resources:
Central Food Technological Institute
opened.

The Central Food Technological Institute was formally opened at Mysore on 29 December 1948 by the Prime Minister of India.

Functions.- The Institute will have several sections and divisions such as storage and reclamation of foodgrains, processing, food engineering and dietetics. There will be a division to investigate field statistics and another dealing with food containers, adulteration and industrial sanitation. Special enquiries regarding confectionery, bakery products, infant and invalid products and aerated waters will be answered. One of the foremost problems which the Institute will tackle will be food conservation and there is also a big programme relating to the investigation of composite and emergency foods. The object of the latter work is to take up the materials not commonly used as food, blend them together with yeast, green leaf and other materials and produce food which would both be cheap and nutritive. Fuel saving devices, as well as storage of prepared foods, will also be investigated. Steps will ~~xxxxxxx~~ be taken to stimulate food industries which are at present few and unorganised. Another activity of ~~information~~ the Institute will be the preparation of information statistics and bulletins and articles providing information to the public. An exhaustive library of food technology will also be built up. The organisation will employ about 300 technical men in two to three years. It is expected that the Institute will start functioning by the summer of 1949. The authorities have budgeted for ~~it~~ an expenditure of 5,000,000 rupees spread over four to five years. In the first year ~~xxxxxxx~~ about 800,000 rupees *will be spent.*

(The Hindu, dated 30-12-1948).

92. Housing.

India - January 1949.

Bombay: The Bombay Housing Board Act, 1948
(Bombay Act No. LXIX of 1948).

The Bombay Housing Board Bill, 1948 (vide pages 74-75 of the report of this Office for October 1948), as passed by the Bombay Legislature, received the assent of the Governor General of India on 22 December 1948 and has been gazetted as the Bombay Housing Board Act, 1948 (Bombay Act No. LXIX of 1948).

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 30 December 1948, pages 659-681).

Bombay: Housing Board set up.

Under the provisions of the Bombay Housing Board Act, 1948 (~~vide pages~~ of this Report) the provincial Government has set up a Housing Board from 15 January 1949. Mr. S.H. Gidwani has been appointed Chairman of the Board.

(The Times of India, 15-1-1949).

Mysore Labour Housing Bill: Passed by
Legislative Council.

On 10 January 1949 Mr. K.T. Bhashyam, Minister for Law and Labour, introduced in the Mysore Legislative Council the Mysore Labour Housing Bill (vide paragraph 92, page 76 of the report of this Office for October 1948). The Bill provides for the establishment of a Labour Housing Corporation and the creation of a Labour Housing Fund. Under the Bill it shall be the duty of the Corporation to provide proper houses for employees as near as possible to their place of work of such types and designs and in accordance with such schemes as the Government may approve. The Corporation shall consist of members representing the Government, employers and employees and shall be of such number and chosen in such manner as may be prescribed, but at least one member shall be a woman. The Corporation shall have a Chairman whose appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Government.

Capitation tax.- The Bill provides for the levy and collection from every employer a capitation tax at a rate ~~of~~ not exceeding "four" rupees per month as may from time to time be fixed by the Government by notification in the official Gazette in respect of every employee not provided by such employer with housing accommodation of such standard as may be prescribed by the Government.

Labour Housing Fund.- The Labour Housing Fund will be ~~derived~~ from: (1) the levy of capitation/tax on employers; (2) rents from employee tenants; (3) grants from Government; (4) loans; and (5) any other income to which the Corporation may be entitled. The Bill also prescribes the various purposes for which the Fund may be expended.

Rates of rent payable.- Where a single employee occupies any housing accommodation provided out of the Mysore Labour Housing Fund the rent payable by him shall not exceed 7 1/2 per cent of the capital cost of the accommodation or 10 per cent of his wages, whichever is less. Where more than 1 employee occupies such accommodation the rent payable shall not exceed 10 per cent of the capital cost of the accommodation or 15 per cent of the wages of the highest paid employee among them, whichever is less.

All rent payable in respect of the occupation of such accommodation shall in the first instance be paid by the employer of the employee occupying the accommodation. Notwithstanding any thing contained in any other enactment but subject to the provisions of any regulations, made under the Bill when enacted, the employer shall be entitled to recover the rent paid by him ~~under~~ by deductions from the wages of the employee concerned, and not otherwise.

Accommodation provided by employers.- The Bill further provides that if any employer has provided housing accommodation for his employees, such employer and employees shall comply with such provisions as may be prescribed regulating (i) the occupation of such accommodation, (ii) the rents payable for such occupation (iii) the proper maintenance of such accommodation, (iv) the rights and liabilities of the employer and the employees in respect of such accommodation, and (v) the circumstances in which such employees can be evicted from such accommodation.

Where workers who have no easily accessible dwelling of their own are employed on any works, the owner of such works shall provide free of all cost to the workers, accommodation proper and sufficient for the comfort and health of such workers. The Government may by general or special rules made in this behalf specify ~~to~~ conditions with which accommodation in any works or class of works for the purposes shall comply. Rules made under this clause may provide for the following matters, namely:- (i) the types and designs of the buildings; (ii) the accommodation, amenities and

facilities to be provided in or near the buildings; (iii) the proper maintenance of the buildings and their surroundings in a clean state; (iv) the rights and liabilities of the owners and employees in respect of the buildings and their surroundings; and (v) the appointment of agencies or authorities to ensure compliance with the rules and their powers and duties.

Statement of Principles.- The Statement of Principles of the Bill, says that the necessity for adopting a definite policy for the proper housing of workers has been stressed by various Labour Enquiry Committees. In their report submitted to the Government of India in 1946, the Rege Committee after studying the housing conditions of labour throughout India have stated that no attempt at raising the standard of living of the industrial workers can be successful without an early solution of the housing problem. Employers will not be able to discharge their duties to the satisfaction of all concerned, if they are statutorily required to provide proper houses for their workers. The only possible course therefore is for the Government to take over control and introduce a labour housing scheme in co-operation with employers and employees. This Bill has accordingly been brought forward.

The Bill was passed by the Legislative Council on 15 January 1949.

(Summarised from a copy of the Mysore Labour Housing Bill, received in this Office;
The Hindu, dated 11 and 17-1-1949).

93. Co-operation.

India - January 1949.

Madras: Co-operative Rural Credit Societies:
Scope of Societies to be widened .

It is understood that the Government of Madras has accorded sanction to a proposal of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the expansion of the existing rural credit system through the co-operative movement so as to embrace a much more widened sphere of activities than at present.

The Government has agreed to pay a subsidy of 127,000 rupees per year, for a period of two years for payment to the Co-operative Central Banks in order to strengthen their supervisory staff. It is expected that as a result the rural-credit movement would be ~~en~~ enabled to undertake extra-business activities other than mere supply of credit, such as the distribution of controlled commodities, supply of seed, manure and agricultural implements, marketing of agricultural produce, promotion of thrift, construction of godowns and helping artisans.

(The Hindu, dated 4-1-1949)

94. Education.India - January 1949.Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education,
Allahabad, 7-9 January 1949: Basic initial
Salary of Teachers to be 40 Rupees.

The 15th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held at Allahabad from 7 to 9-1-1949, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, Government of India, presided. The Board among other decisions, resolved that the basic initial salary of a trained teacher should be 40 rupees ~~per~~ a month with a graded scale.

Priority for educational plans urged: Maulana Azad's address.- Addressing the Board, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad urged that education must be given first priority in India's development programmes. Financial considerations had held up the Government's educational plans during 1948. He hoped that this year the Government would be able to introduce the programme of educational expansion in all its stages.

Action taken on reports on basic and adult education.- The Education Minister announced that the Government had accepted the interim report of the Committee of experts on free and compulsory basic education (vide paragraph 94, page 105 of the report of this Office for September 1948) and that ~~the Ministry of Education had accepted~~ would try to provide funds in ~~view~~ the next year's budget on that basis. In view of the economic and financial dangers, it had not been possible to provide for the entire amount. The Government had, however, ~~provided~~ provided funds for the training of teachers so that, as soon as the economic situation improved, it could go ahead with the programme of basic education. The Government had generally accepted the recommendations of the Committee on adult education (vide paragraph 94, page 86 of the report of this Office for July 1948) and had provided for the implementation of the plan in the 1949 budget.

Programme for social and basic education.- In order to make the programme of basic and social education one of the immediate interest and utility ~~to~~ the villages the Education Minister announced a 12-point programme the Government had in view. According to the programme, the village school would be a centre of instruction, work, sports and recreation for the

entire village. Certain days in the week will be reserved exclusively for girls and women. Films and magic lantern slides would be shown and recordings of talks relayed. Schools would be provided with radio sets and arrangements would be made for broadcasting special programmes. Arrangements would be made for giving simple instruction ~~textile~~ in some craft or industry suited to the locality. Periodic exhibitions, fairs and excursions would be organised.

Referring to scientific education and overseas scholarships the Education Minister said that till such time as arrangements in India for imparting instruction up to the highest standard were complete, the despatch of students abroad must not cease. The Government had drawn up a modified scheme of overseas scholarships which would aim both at ~~ships~~ strengthening the teaching personnel in Indian universities and scientific and technological institutions and providing the necessary staff for carrying through the industrial development of the country.

Resolutions.- The Board considered the reports of the various committees on basic, adult and secondary education and adopted a number of resolutions: - the more important among them are summarised below:-

Salary of teachers.- The basic initial salary of a trained teacher should be 40 rupees per month on a graded scale.

State responsibility for education.- The State must undertake the responsibility of providing universal compulsory education for children of six to eleven years of age without detriment to facilitating secondary and higher education. Special attention should be given to the question of such higher studies as will be necessary for increasing the industrial and agricultural potential of the country.

Financing of educational development programmes.- A fixed percentage of Central and provincial Revenue - about 10 per cent of the Central and 20 per cent of the provincial - should be ear-marked for education by the respective Governments. About 70 per cent of the expenditure on education should be borne by the local bodies and provinces and the remaining 30 per cent by the Centre. The Government may enact that an adequate percentage of the income of charitable trusts should be allocated towards the expenses of education, provided that the Government may exempt certain specified types of trusts from the operation of such law. Voluntary efforts should also be encouraged for meeting the capital and recurring cost of education and voluntary organisations should be induced to run educational institutions with such assistance from the Government as feasible.

Adult or social education.- The report of the Adult or Social Education Committee was adopted with slight modifications. The report of the Committee recommended the launching of a social education programme which would be designed for the purpose of imparting education to the population between the ages of 12 and 45. The report, as adopted, also recommended the setting up of a board of experts and technical men to examine the provincial schemes, to recommend to the Government of India the payment of necessary grants for their implementation, to advise and make arrangements for the preparation of literature and audio-visual aids particularly films, charts, maps etc., to co-ordinate activities of the provincial Governments in the field of social education, to receive periodical reports of the working of this scheme in different provinces and to suggest legislation or other administrative action for mobilising students, Government employees, etc., for furthering the schemes of social education.

Secondary education.- After a full discussion, the Board accepted the report of the Committee on Secondary Education with certain modifications. The accepted recommendations inter alia provide that (a) the federal language should become a compulsory subject at the secondary stage when English ceases to be the medium of instruction in universities; (b) the pay and conditions of service of teachers should be the same as recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education, though the scales of pay should be revised in the light of the changes that have recently taken place; and (c) provincial boards should be set up to advise provincial educational authorities on problems connected with secondary education. In the course of discussion on the report, the Education Minister promised that the Government of India would go into the question of appointing a Secondary Education Commission. The Board decided that the recommendations of the committee should be referred to the Secondary Education Commission when appointed, as decisions regarding those should be taken only after a full enquiry into the whole field of secondary education.

Technical education.- The Board, ~~while~~ while appreciating the steps taken by the Central Government for the development of technical education resolved to move the Government: (1) to take early decision of the question of the total grants to be paid to the existing technological institutions for strengthening and improving them, and (2) to take immediate steps to organise adequate and suitable ~~steps to organise~~ practical training facilities for students from technical institutions. The Board was of the view that the setting up of the Regional Committees of the All-India Council ~~of~~ for Technical Education and the appointment of special Technical Officers for each of them were essential for the proper organisation of technical education and training.

Resolutions.- By a resolution the conference urged the Central, provincial and State Governments to undertake legislation for adequate old age provision, including compulsory insurance and sickness and medical benefits to the teachers, employed in all recognised institutions. By another resolution it suggested Governments to grant full-fee concessions to the children of teachers at all stages of their education. Among other resolutions adopted was one stressing the need of removing the ~~hi~~ difference between the scale of pay of teachers in Government and non-Government ~~schools~~ schools; and another suggesting that representatives of teachers should be included on the managing committees of schools.

(The Hindu, 30-12-1948 and 1 and 2-1-1949).

West Bengal: West Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1949.

The Government of West Bengal gazetted on 5 January 1949 the West Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1949 to provide for the regulation, control and development of secondary education in West Bengal.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that at present there is no authority with power to regulate development of secondary education according to a planned scheme or to insist upon certain standards being maintained. The Bill provides for the setting up of a Board of 42 members for the administration of secondary education in the province. The Board, which is a large and representative body, will in general be responsible for policy and ideals, while its Executive Council which contains strong representation of expert educationists will be responsible for the actual administration and executive work. Special Committees are proposed to be constituted to safeguard the interests of special education and to provide a self-contained but diversified course of training for the adolescent.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary,
dated 5 January 1949, pages 5-28).

Pakistan: West Punjab 5-Year Plan for
Compulsory Mass Literacy.

A five-year plan to promote compulsory mass literacy in West Punjab to be put into immediate effect in the province, was announced by Mr. Fazal Ilahi, Education Minister, West Punjab, at a press conference at Lahore on 19 January 1949. The plan contemplates enforcement of compulsory primary education at an estimated cost of 6,500,000 rupees.

Outlining details of the plan, Mr. Fazal Ilahi said that the first year, that is, 1949-50, would be spent in making preliminary preparations for the opening of new schools. It was proposed to open 200 primary schools for boys and 100 ~~pxi~~ schools for girls every year beginning from the second year of the scheme. Thus 1,200 new schools would have come into existence by the end of the fifth year, that is, 1954-55, and, out of these, 800 schools will be for boys and 400 for girls. The Minister stated that the Government proposed to take over the administrative control of primary and vernacular education from the local bodies.

(The Civil and Military-Gazette, dated
20-1-1949).

95. Social Conditions.

India - January 1949.

Bombay: The Bombay Prohibition Bill, 1948.

The Government of Bombay gazetted on 28 December 1948 the Bombay Prohibition Bill, 1948. The Bill seeks to amend and consolidate the law relating to the promotion and enforcement of and carrying into effect the policy of prohibition and also the Abkari law in the province.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons ~~is~~ appended to the Bill points out that in 1946 the Government had decided to undertake and enforce a policy of total prohibition in the whole of the Province of Bombay on the basis of a four year plan (vide page 59 of the report of this Office for December 1946). The programme was to begin from the financial year 1947-48 and end in 1950-51. To enforce the policy of total prohibition effectually, the Government considers it necessary to overhaul the law relating to intoxicating drugs and narcotics and to embody the same into one legislative enactment. With that object in view the present Bill has been prepared. It is proposed to amend and consolidate the Abkari Law with a view to promote, enforce and carry out into effect the policy of prohibition in the Province of Bombay. Opportunity has been taken to include in the present Bill the relevant provisions of the Opium Act, 1878, and the Bombay Molasses Act, 1947.

The Bill is divided into eleven chapters. The first chapter is preliminary and includes provisions relating to commencement and definitions. The second chapter contains provisions regarding the establishment. The third chapter sets out prohibitions and the fourth relates to control, regulation and exemptions. Chapter VII specifies offences and provides for penalties. Chapter VIII contains provisions regarding the levy and recovery of excise duties. Chapter IX specifies the powers and duties of various officers entitled to act under the Act. Chapter X relates to appeals and revisions and Chapter XI to miscellaneous matters.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part V, dated 28 December 1948, pages 602-655).

CHAPTER 11. PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO CERTAIN
OCCUPATIONS OR CATEGORIES OF OCCUPATIONS;

INDIA - JANUARY 1949.

11. Agriculture.

9th Session of Indian Society of Agricultural
Economics, Hyderabad, 29 and 30 December 1948.

The 9th session of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics was held at Hyderabad on 29 and 30 December 1948. The conference was presided over by Sir S.V. Ramamurthy and inaugurated by Mr. D.R. Pradhan, Chief Civil Administrator, Hyderabad. A number of papers on mechanisation of agriculture, scope and method of teaching and research in agricultural economics, etc., were read at the conference.

Presidential address: appeal for development of agriculture.- In his presidential address, Sir S.V. Ramamurthy urged economists and scientists to tackle the food problem that was facing India with the care and deliberation it deserved. India, with an internal supply of about 40 million tons of cereals for 300 millions of people needed an import of about 3 million tons costing about 1,000 million rupees a year to maintain the existing rationing arrangements. The food position of India was poor in regard to the area of food cultivation per head of the population, the production per acre of such area, the availability of water, chemical manure, and machinery for improvement of cultivation, the availability of imports, the high ratio of the population dependent on agriculture and the low standard of living of the people due to paucity of industrial employment. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ India had to produce more food and increase her standard of living, The long-range method of achieving them was the execution of multi-purpose river projects for storage of water and production of power.

Referring to farming in India, Sir S.V. Ramamurthy said Indian farms were too small in area compared to farms in other countries. That made mechanical cultivation difficult. He pleaded for the development of agriculture, which he called the only cottage industry alive

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in India. The system of co-operative methods in agriculture should be found very helpful to Indian farming. In a balanced world, agriculture should be the base and industry the ~~apex~~ apex. The large potentialities of hydro-electric power in India were a good augury for strengthening the economic life.

(The Hindu, 30-12-1948 and 1-1-1949).

Rural Indebtedness in United Provinces:
Questionnaire issued by Inquiry Committee.

A questionnaire, seeking detailed information about the existing system of credit facilities in rural areas, the effects of ~~present~~ present indebtedness on agricultural economy, working of the debt acts, savings and the habit of investment in the rural population, has been ~~is~~ issued by the Rural Debt Inquiry Committee appointed by the United Provinces Government under the chairmanship of Acharya Narendra Deva.

With a view to obtaining information about the estimated income of different groups and their standard of living, the Committee has divided the rural society into various classes, like landless labourers, artisans, craftsmen, village servants, tenants with holdings below 2 acres, with holdings from 2 to 6 acres; and with holdings of 6 to 10 acres and over 15 acres. Zamindars have been classified into two groups: those paying revenue below 25 rupees and those above 25 rupees.

The Committee has sought opinion about an ideal and economic agricultural holding, able to maintain a rural ~~working~~ family with sufficient food and clothing. Information has also been sought about the extent of rural indebtedness, its abatement, if any, due to rise in prices of agricultural produce, the existing facilities of rural credit, and ideal agencies that may be created to extend an efficient credit system to the rural areas. Furthermore, a number of questions pertaining to rural wages and wage standards have also been asked.

The questionnaire further deals with the effects of indebtedness on agricultural economy by way of shrinkage of under-cultivation of an area or as an abstacle towards intensive cultivation. It also deals with the problem of fragmentation of holdings and their sub-letting due to indebtedness and contains questions with regard to facilities of seed-procurement, marketing of crops and the necessity of providing co-operative finance.

Finally it seeks information about the basic principles of future debt legislation. (National Herald, 7-1-1949).

Bombay: The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 (Bombay Act No. LXVII of 1948).

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Bill, 1948 (vide pages 98-99 of the report of this Office for August 1948) as passed by the Bombay Legislature, received the assent of the Governor General of India on 16 December 1948 and has been gazetted as the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 (Bombay Act No. LXVII of 1948).

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV, dated 28 December 1948, pages 622-656).

Burma: Implementation of Land Nationalisation Act: Five Districts chosen for operation on experimental basis.

The Burmese Ministry of Agriculture announced on 6 January 1949 that the Government had selected five districts for operating its Land Nationalisation Act (vide paragraph 111, pages 92-93 of the report of this Office for December 1948) on an "experimental basis". The Government had not yet implemented the Act passed last October, but was studying the conditions under which it would operate, it was authoritatively stated.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 7-1-1949).

Pakistan: East Bengal Transfer of Agricultural Land Ordinance promulgated.

Ordinance

The Ordinance of East Bengal promulgated on 7 December 1948, the East Bengal Transfer of Agricultural Land Ordinance, 1948 (East Bengal Ordinance No. XXI of 1948), restricting the transfer of certain agricultural lands in East Bengal.

The Ordinance provides that no person shall, except under certain conditions, transfer any quantity of agricultural land in his khas possession which exceeds, in the aggregate, ten standard bighas and whenever the total quantity of such land transferred by such person after the commencement of the Ordinance amounts to ten standard bighas, he shall be debarred from transferring any more such land. If, however, a person desires to transfer any agricultural land in his khas possession in excess of the quantity specified in the Ordinance, he shall apply to the collector for an order permitting him to transfer such land, stating in the application the area and description of the land sought to be transferred and the purposes of such ~~transfer~~ transfer and the collector may permit ~~and~~ such transfer if he is satisfied, that the applicant is in need of transferring the land for bona fide purposes of meeting an urgent and unavoidable expenditure or obligation.

(The Dacca Gazette Extraordinary, Part IIIA, dated 14-12-1948, pages 1-4).

112. Indigenous Workers.

India - January 1949.

Hyderabad: Improvement Schemes for Backward Classes: Separate Social Service Department to be established.

The Hyderabad Government has decided to establish a separate Social Service Department to act as liaison between the backward rural population and executive. Besides it has launched several social and economic schemes with a view to improve the condition of the aboriginal and other backward rural population in the State and make them useful members of society. The schemes provide for all round rural reconstruction through education, medical facilities, agricultural and veterinary instruction, co-operative organisation, co-operative farming and cattle breeding, instruction in essential crafts and direct economic assistance through interest-free loans and grant of land.

(The ~~Mumbai~~ Hindu, dated 18-1-1949).

Baroda: Backward Classes Department constituted.

With a view to ameliorating the conditions of the backward classes in the State and co-ordinating all efforts in this direction, the Baroda Government has constituted a special Backward Classes Department.

(The Times of India, dated 23-12-1948).

113. Navigation.

India - January 1949.

Development of Indian Shipping:
Finance Committee approves Plan
for setting up Corporation.

A proposal to form immediately one of the three shipping corporations for the expansion of Indian shipping and its participation in overseas trade was approved by the Standing Finance Committee at its meeting held in New Delhi recently. Dr. John Matthal, Minister of Finance, presided. (Vide pages 52-54 of the report of this Office for November 1947). Necessary preliminaries in respect of the Corporation, which will be managed by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., have been completed and negotiations are in progress in the United States of America and the United Kingdom for acquisition of tonnage for employment by the Corporation.

In the case of each corporation, the ultimate capital liability of the Government will be between 51 per cent and 75 per cent of 100 million rupees. The probable sum required for the first corporation will be 70 million rupees. ~~of which~~ The scheme involves no regular recurring expenditure except that the Government of India undertakes to make good any losses incurred by the Corporation during the first five years. Such losses, it is expected, will be confined to the first two or three years and are not likely to exceed 100,000 to 200,000 rupees per year per Corporation. The subsidy involved will ~~be repaid~~ be repaid to Government by the corporation out of profits made in subsequent years.

Pakistan: Merchant Seamen Welfare Fund:
Administration Committee Appointed.

The Government of Pakistan has created a Merchant Seamen Welfare Fund and appointed a Committee, ~~under the chairmanship~~ under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Law and Labour, to administer it.

The functions of the Committee will be (i) to promote coordination among the voluntary organisations engaged in welfare work for merchant navy seamen of all nationalities, and ~~and~~ (ii) to give financial aid to such institutions and bodies as are engaged in welfare work for merchant navy seamen of all nationalities in Pakistan and Pakistan seamen abroad.

A resolution announcing the decision of the Government points out that prior to the partition, of 2 funds, known as Indian Merchant Seamen (War-Services) Benevolent Fund and Merchant Seamen's Amenities Fund, were administered by Merchant Seamen's Amenities Fund Committee, Central (India). On partition, sums of 300,000 rupees and 100,000 rupees respectively, were handed over by that Committee to the Government of Pakistan from these funds for providing amenities to Pakistan seafarers.

(The Gazette of Pakistan, Part I, Section 1, dated 7-1-1949, page 4).

114. Officials.

India - January 1949.

Ten Rupees Increase in Dearness Allowance
for low-paid Government Employees: Government
of India's decision.

The Government of India has decided to grant an increase of 10 rupees in dearness allowance, with effect from 1 January 1949, for all Central Government employees, except those of railways, drawing a monthly salary of less than 250 rupees, according to a Ministry of Finance communiqué issued on 20 January 1949. Those employees of Indian Government Railways, who are ~~not~~ now ~~in~~ receipt of dearness allowance as admissible to other Central Government employees, will also be entitled to the increase. Railway employees who are in receipt of grainshop concessions (vide paragraph 52, pages ~~55-59~~ ~~of the~~ 57-59 of the report of this Office for November 1948), will be given an increase of only 5 rupees, but they will be given another chance, up to 31 March 1949 to opt out of the grainshop's scheme for full cash dearness allowance, in which case they will be entitled to the same dearness allowance as others and also lump sum payments to which they would have been entitled if they had opted out of the grainshops before 1 January 1949.

The Communiqué states that on account of the increase in prices which occurred during the first nine months of 1948, there has been a persistent demand for a review of dearness allowance in accordance with the recommendations of Pay Commission. The Government of India, after taking into account its financial position, had to rule out the possibility of increasing dearness allowance to the full extent of the increase in the cost of living index as that would have resulted in serious deficits in the general and railway budgets and intensified the forces of inflation. It was even doubtful whether, in view of these considerations, any increase could be sanctioned at all; but the Government after taking all factors into account was of the opinion that it was necessary to give much needed relief to those sections of its employees who had been hit hardest by the rise in prices.

The increase in dearness allowance involves an expenditure of over 130 million rupees annually.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
22-1-1949).

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Industrial Employees of Finance Ministry:
Federation of Unions formed.

At a meeting of representatives of Central Government employees working at the Calcutta and Bombay mints and the Security Press, Nasik, totalling over 8,000 was held at Bombay recently. The meeting decided to form a Federation of their trade unions.

The Federation aims at organising the staff, clerical and supervisory, and the workers employed in the industrial establishments of the Finance Ministry, Government of India. Its objects will be to secure to the employees direct access to the Government to negotiate with the Government of India on matters of common interest and generally to organise and function for the amelioration their conditions of work and wages. The immediate object is to open negotiations with the Government on the common demands of the local unions, particularly, revision of pay scales according to the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and their application with effect from the 1 January 1949.

The meeting elected Mr. Asoka Mehta and Mr. Sibnath Banerji respectively as President and Vice-President of the Federation and Mr. P.D. Kamerkar and Mr. Vasant Upadhye as Joint Secretaries.

(Janata, dated 19-12-1948).

115. Working Conditions of Intellectual
Workers and Liberal Professions.

India - January 1949.

Central Provinces and Berar: Report of
Newspaper Industry Committee: 100 Rupees
per Month fixed as Minimum Basic Pay for
Journalists.

The Central and Provinces and Berar Newspaper Industry Committee (vide paragraph 115, page 90 of the report of this Office for March 1948) submitted its report recently, recommending 100 rupees as the basic minimum salary for employees in the editorial section of newspapers in the province. The scales of pay, recommended by the committee range from 100 rupees (being the minimum) to 450 rupees for different categories of editorial staff in a newspaper office. These pay scales are exclusive of other benefits due to the members of editorial staff.

Constitution of professional council recommended.-
The committee has recommended the constitution of a Professional Council of Journalists analogous in status to the Bar Council or the Medical Council of India to deal with cases of infringements of the normal code of conduct by journalists.

The committee has also suggested to the Government to defer the question of taking legislative action on the recommendations for two years to enable the proprietors of newspapers to give effect to them on their own initiative. It also expressed the opinion that newspaper proprietors should give effect to the recommendations in respect of scales of pay from 1 January 1949.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13-1-1949).

Pakistan: Working Conditions of Journalists:
Pakistan Newspaper Editors' Conference sets up
Enquiry Committee.

A five-man committee to survey the conditions of working journalists in Pakistan was appointed by the Standing Committee of the Pakistan Newspaper Editors' Conference at a meeting held in Karachi on 22 December 1948.

The work of the committee will be purely of a fact-finding nature. The committee, which is under the chairmanship of Mr. F.W. Bustin, has been asked to submit its report within 6 months.

(The Civil and Military Gazette, 25-12-1948).

116, Handicrafts.

India - January 1949.

Pakistan: Cottage Industries Board set up
by Government of East Bengal.

The Government of East Bengal has set up a Cottage Industries Board consisting of 18 members, officials and non-officials, with the Minister in charge of Commerce and Industries as chairman. The functions of the Board will be to advise the Government on all matters connected with the growth and development of cottage industries.

(The Dacca Gazette, Part I, dated
30 December 1948, page 427).

117. Shopworkers.

India - January 1949.

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Madras: Madras Shops and Establishments Act,
1947: Exemption.

The Government of Madras, by a notification dated 6 December 1948, has exempted employees in shops from the provisions of section 9(2) of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, subject to the conditions that no such employee shall be required or allowed to work for more than 5 hours in any day unless he has had an interval for rest of half an hour if he is employed in a clerical capacity and of an hour if he is employed otherwise. (Section 9(2) of the Act provides that no employee in a shop should be allowed or required to work therein for more than 4 hours unless he has had an interval for rest of at least one hour).

By another notification, dated 20 December 1948, the Government has declared the Chambers of Commerce, all trade unions registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 and certain employers' associations, to be commercial establishments for the purposes of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947.

(Notification No.1200, dated 6 December 1948;
The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated
21 December 1948, page 1241;
G.O. No.6265 Development, dated 20 December 1948;
The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I, dated
28 December 1948, page 1276).

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Bombay: Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 (Act No. LXXIX of 1948).

The Bombay Shops and Establishments Bill, 1948 (vide pages 86-87 of the report of this Office for October 1948) as passed by the Bombay Legislature received the assent of the Governor General of India on 3 January 1949 and has been gazetted as the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 (Bombay Act No. LXXIX of 1948). The Act consolidates and amends the law relating to the regulation of conditions of work and employment in shops, commercial establishments, residential hotels, restaurants, eating houses, theatres, other places of public amusement or entertainment and other establishments. A brief summary of the more important provisions of the Act is given below.

Extent and operation.- The Act extends to the whole of the province of Bombay and comes into force in the first instance in 42 local areas specified in Schedule I to the Act and the Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, ~~ex to~~ extend all or any of the ~~provisions~~ provisions of the Act to such other local areas having a population of 25,000 and more as specified in the notification.

Exemptions.- The provisions of the Act mentioned in the third column of Schedule II to the Act do not apply to establishments, employees and other persons mentioned against them in the second column of the schedule and the Government has been empowered to add to, omit or alter any of the entries in the schedule, by notification in the Official Gazette. Employees exempted from all the provisions of the Act include employees in offices of the Provincial and Central Governments, local authorities, Bombay Port Trust and any railway administration. Partial exemptions have been provided in respect of certain other employees.

Registration.- The employer of every establishment is required to send to the Inspector of the local area concerned, within 30 days from the date of which the Act comes into force, a statement containing particulars regarding the name of the employer, name, address and category of the establishment and other prescribed particulars, together with such fees as may be prescribed. The Inspector after satisfying himself about the correctness of the statement is required to register the establishment and issue a registration certificate to the employer.

Opening and closing hours of shops and commercial establishments.- The opening and closing hours of shops commercial establishments, residential hotels, restaurants and eating houses have been fixed and the Government has been authorised to fix later opening hours or earlier closing hours for different classes of shops or commercial establishments *or for different areas or for different periods of the year.*

Hours of work.- A substantial reduction in the normal working hours in all establishments except the commercial establishments has been effected. Hours of work in shops and commercial establishments have been fixed at nine hours a day and 48 hours a week with a rest interval of an hour. The maximum spread-over of an employee in shops and commercial establishments has been fixed at 11 hours a day with a few exceptions. Compulsory weekly closure of shops and establishments on one day is provided for. Rate of pay for overtime has been fixed at 1 1/2 times the ordinary rates of wages in shops, establishments, theatres or other places of public amusement or entertainment, *and* at twice the ordinary rate in residential hotels, restaurants and eating ~~houses~~ houses.

Employment of women and children.- Women are prohibited from work before 6 A.M. and after 7 P.M. and the employment of children under 12 years of age is also prohibited. The hours of work of young persons under 17 years of age have been fixed at 6 hours a day.

Holidays with pay.- Every employee ~~that~~ who has worked for not less than 270 days during a year is allowed during the subsequent year, leave with pay for 14 days with freedom to accumulate up to 28 days.

Health and safety.- Provisions have been made requiring the premises of every establishment to be cleaned at such times and methods as may be prescribed, ventilated in accordance with prescribed standards and sufficiently lighted during all working hours. Precautions against fire as may be prescribed should also be taken.

Miscellaneous.- Provisions have been made for the enforcement of ~~the~~ provisions of the Act and penalties have been prescribed for contravention of certain provisions.

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LIST OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED
IN THE NEW DELHI OFFICE DURING JANUARY 1949.

Professional Organisations

- by S.D. Panekar ✓ 1) Trade Unionism in India: A study in Industrial Democracy: Printed by New Book Co., Ltd., Bombay: pp.vi+407. Price Rs 17/8/-.
- ✓ 2) Report relating to the Enquiry whether the All India Trade Union Congress or the Indian National Trade Union Congress is the most Representative Organisation of organised Workers in India - 1948: Issued by Government of India, Ministry of Labour: Manager, Government of India Press, Simla, 1948: pp.45.

Economic Questions

- ✓ 1) Leather Industry in India: A.I.M.O. Monograph No.12: Published by the All India Manufacturers Organisation, Bombay: pp. iix274.
- ✓ 2) Indo-Russian Trade - by S.M. Siddiqe: Published by Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi: Oxford University Press: Price Rs.4/-; pp.81.
- ✓ 3) Report on an Enquiry into Family Budgets of Industrial Workers in Dehri-on-Sone - by S.R. Deshpande, Director, Cost of Living Index Scheme: Manager of Publications, Delhi: Price Rs.1-4 or 2s; pp.vii+59.

Working Conditions

- ✓ Report on the Working of the Factories Act in the Province of Madras for the year 1947: Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, 1948: Price Rs.3-12-0; pp. 53x2.

Living Standards

- ✓ Co-operation in Ceylon: Published by the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay: The Times of India Press, Bombay: pp.75.

Problems peculiar to certain Occupations or Categories of Occupations

- 1) Government of Sind: Report of the Government Hari Enquiry Committee: 1947-48: Price Re.1/-; pp. vi+141.
- ✓ 2) Regionalism and Security by K.M. Panikkar and others: Published by the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi: Oxford University Press: Price Rs.4/-; pp. 73.