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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Development in August, 1950.

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

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## CHAPTER 3. PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

### 31. Workers' Trade Union Movements.

#### Conference of Government Employees, Delhi, 19-20 August 1950: Withdrawal of Labour Bills urged.

Resolutions condemning the Trade Unions Bill, 1950 (vide pages 8-10 of the report of this Office for February 1950) and the Labour Relations Bill, 1950 (vide pages 76-84 of the report of this Office for February 1950) and urging their withdrawal and setting up a council of action to fight the two labour Bills were adopted at a conference of representatives of Government employees held at Delhi on 19 and 20 August 1950. The conference, which was convened by the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, was inaugurated by Mr. Asoka Mehta; Mr. Jai Prakash Narain presided. Delegates from about 110 Government employees unions, with a cumulative membership of about 700,000 participated in the conference. Prominent unions among them were the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and affiliated unions, Posts and Telegraphs Workers' Unions, the Nasik Security Printing Press Union, the Bombay Government Staff Federation and the Central Government Employees Union.

Resolutions.- A resolution adopted by the conference demanded the withdrawal of the Bills and called upon Government employees all over the country to join hands with other workers and through meetings, processions, peaceful demonstrations, and even by strike action, if that became necessary, to compel the Government to withdraw them. Parliament was requested to reject the Bills if they were not withdrawn.

By another resolution, a ~~Council~~ Council of Action, consisting of eight trade unionists, with powers to co-opt was formed to "give point and direction to workers' opposition to the two Bills". The members of the Council of Action are: Mr. S. Guruswamy, General Secretary of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, Miss Maniben Kara, Mr. G.G. Mehta, Mr. Vinayak Kulkarni, Mr. P.C. Gupta, Mr. Ramamurti, Mr. Ramanujam and Mr. H.C. Joshi.

A third resolution stated that the Labour Relations Bill and the Trade Union Bill now before

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Parliament violated the fundamental rights of the workers and put new obstacles to the realization of basic human needs by the workers. The two Bills, it was apprehended, would increase their hardships and rob the trade union movement of its freedom and strength. The resolution also criticised the denial of the right of association to domestic servants and civil servants.

One of the major objections against the Bills, according to the resolution, was that the workers' right of collective bargaining through trade unions of their choice had been "reduced to a farce" by the provisions for compulsory conciliation and arbitration and by the illegalization of effective strikes, all at the instance of the Government. Voluntary negotiation and recognition of the right of strike, namely, the right to withdraw collectively, were the foundations of collective bargaining. The Bills in their present form, the resolution added, would instill a litigious spirit among workers and would seriously interfere with collective bargaining. The Government's interference at practically every stage of a labour dispute, and particularly with the independence of the judiciary, was one of the most obnoxious features of the Bills. On the other hand, the Bills gave the employers unfettered right to retrench workers. Retrenchment, which affected workers intimately, was left out of the definition of labour dispute and would be outside the jurisdiction of the tribunal.

(The Statesman, 20 and 21-8-1950;  
The Tribune, dated 21-8-1950 ).

Bombay: Working of Trade Unions Act during 1948-1949\*.

Number of unions and members.- During the year under review 149 unions were registered and the registration of 36 unions cancelled. The total number of registered unions at the end of the year stood at 442. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 166, ~~for the~~ 21 and 329 respectively. Of the 442 registered unions, 412 were provincial unions, (including two federations) and 30 central unions (including one federation). Returns were received and accepted from 297 Provincial unions (including two federations) and 25 Central unions (including one federation).

The ~~25~~ 24 Central Unions (excluding one Federation) had, at the end of the year 108,022 members as compared to 81,133 members at the beginning of the year. Of these members 94,825 belonged to the 13 railway workers' unions and 4,062 to seafarers' unions. Eight unions had a total female membership of 820; the corresponding figures for the previous year being 5 and 447 respectively. The following table gives the number and membership of unions by industries:-

Industry	Number of unions on registers	Number of unions submitting returns	Number of members			
			At the beginning of the year.	Men	Women	Total
Railways (including Railway workshops) Transport and other than Transport.	30	21	10245	9522	5	9527
Tramways.....	2	1	3764	4030	-	4030
Textiles.....	59	50	16 4915	201464	23184	227460
Printing Presses	18	14	6239	Information not available		10869

\* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the Province of Bombay, 1948-1949: The Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay: Pages 96; Price - Rs.5 As.2 or 8s. 6d.



Table continued:-

Industry	Number of unions on registers	Number of unions submitting returns	Number of members			
			At the beginning of the year.	At the end of year	Total	
			Men	Women	**	
Municipal.....	28	20	14560	15325	2220	17545
Seamen .....	3	2	29796	36147	-	36147
Dock and Port Trusts.....	15	10	14906	15294	95	15389
Engineering....	39	27	9284	14141	328	14469
Miscellaneous....	211	145	55245	79996	4343	84339
Employers' Unions.	5	5	530	1340	18	1358
All industries....	410	295	309487	386126	30270	421133

It will be seen that except for the "Railways and Transport other than Tramways" group all other groups showed an increase in their respective membership, the highest increase being in the case of "Employers" group. The decrease in the case of the "Railways and Transport other than Tramways" group was mainly due to the fall in the membership of the Bombay Private Motor Drivers' Union, the Poona District Motor Drivers, Conductors' and Cleaners' Union, Poona, and the Ahmednagar District Motor Workers' Union. The increase in the membership of "Employers" group was mainly due to increase in the membership of all the unions in that group and particularly in that of the Greater Bombay Taxi Owners' Association, while the Bombay Press Employees' Union whose membership recorded an increase from 1,323 to 3,392 and the India Security Press Rastriya Kamgar Union, Nasik Road, which was formed during the year and which attained a membership of 1,370 at the end of the year under review were chiefly responsible for the increase in the membership of "Printing Presses" group. The increase in the membership of other groups may be attributed to the increase in the membership of several individual unions in the respective groups.

As regards female membership, the number of unions reporting female membership increased from 116 in 1947-48 to 150 in 1948-49 and the actual membership recorded an increase of 6,206 from 24,664 to 30,270 during the year under report.

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Assets.- The total income of the provincial unions (excluding one Federation) was 1,215,911 rupees and the total expenditure 866,740 rupees, with the result that the General Fund which stood at 784,743 rupees at the beginning of 1948-49 increased to 1,131,914 rupees at the end of the year. All the groups except the "Tramways" groups showed excess of income over expenditure. Of the total income an amount of 1,010,057 rupees, i.e. 83.2 per cent was realised by way of contributions from members and 118,131 rupees or 9.7 per cent by way of donations. The amount of donations was the highest, i.e. 63,326 rupees in the case of "Miscellaneous" group while three unions from the "Employers" group reported that they received an aggregate donation of 26,522 rupees. The income from other sources was 7.1 per cent of the total income. Of the total expenditure an amount of 514,422 rupees or 59.3 per cent was spent on account of salaries and expenses of officers and establishment. The "Other expenses" amounting to 221,668 rupees or 25.6 per cent of the total expenditure included meeting expenses, miscellaneous expenses of the unions, ~~xxxx~~ bad debts and depreciation written off. The expenses on account of the establishment charges of the unions thus covered 84.9 per cent of the total expenditure and very little amount could be utilised for other activities of the unions. An amount of 39,981 rupees or 4.6 per cent of the aggregate expenditure was spent on conducting trade disputes, and ~~xx~~ 18,002 rupees on account of legal expenses, while 3,723 rupees representing only 0.4 per cent of the expenditure were given by way of compensation to members for loss arising out of such disputes. Out of the amount of 39,981 rupees spent on conducting trade disputes, the "Miscellaneous" group accounted for 10,993 rupees and the "Docks and Port Trusts" group for 6,120 rupees. Out of the amount of compensation paid to members, the "Textiles" group ~~accounted for 10,993 rupees and~~ paid 1,973 rupees while the "Printing Presses" and "Miscellaneous" groups paid 1,058 rupees and 692 ~~respectively~~ rupees respectively. An amount of 22,930 rupees representing 2.7 per cent of the aggregate expenditure during the year was spent by way of educational, social, religious, funeral, old-age, sickness and unemployment benefits.

As regards funds, all the unions except seven opened the year with credit balances. The financial position of five of the unions showed improvement during the year and they ended the year with credit balances while the remaining two unions and three other unions ended the year with debit balances.

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Federations.- With the registration of the Bombay Provincial Primary Teachers' Association, the number of federations registered under the Act increased to two, the other federation being the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad.

The assets of the Textile Labour Ahmedabad, were made up of cash amounting to 1,601,157 rupees, securities worth 354,660 rupees and miscellaneous assets amounting to 535,250 rupees. The Federation had a general fund of 201,276 rupees, a Political Fund of 1,220 rupees, Staff Provident Fund of 78,699 rupees, School Fund of 2,857 rupees, Shahpur Housing Society Sinking Fund of 47,401 rupees and other ~~liabilities~~ liabilities amounting to 2,159,614 rupees. Out of the income of 327,582 rupees during the year under report, 312,540 rupees were realised by way of contributions from members, 11,659 rupees by way of donations and the rest from miscellaneous sources. The amount of expenditure of the Association during the year was 228,300 rupees out of which 98,480 rupees were spent on administration. The Association paid 65,023 rupees by way of educational, social and religious benefits and 23,822 rupees by way of funeral, oldage, sickness and unemployment etc., benefits. The Association spent 10,074 rupees in conducting trade disputes and 24,758 rupees for publishing periodicals.

The assets of the Bombay Provincial Primary Teachers' Association were made up of cash amounting to 437 rupees and miscellaneous assets amounting to 470 rupees. The Association did not have any other fund except the general fund amounting to 907 rupees. The main source of income of the Association was the contributions from members and its sole expenditure was on establishment charges.

The Federation of Bank Employees, Bombay, which was the only Central Federation on the register had 19 unions affiliated to it at the end of the year. Its income was 6,523 rupees and expenditure 5,997 rupees. At the end of the year it had a closing balance of 1,497 rupees.

(The Annual report on the working of the Act for the year 1947-48 was summarised at pages 6-9 of the report of this Office for January 1950).

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## CHAPTER 4. ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

### INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

#### 41. Industrial and Mining Production.

##### Improvement in India's Industrial Production: Figures for the Period January-June 1950.

According to official statistics, India's industrial production during the first half of the current year has recorded, on the whole, an improvement compared to the corresponding period last year. Out of 40 industries covered by the statistics 25 have recorded an increase while in the case of the remaining 15 there has been a decline.

The industries showing increased production include most of the important industries, such as, coal, steel, salt, cement, paper, diesel engines, bicycles, electric motors, electric transformers and electric fans, plywood, heavy chemicals, etc. In cotton textiles, however, production which began to decline in the second half of the last year continued to be slow during the first few months of this year also; but is showing a tendency lately to increase again.

Production figures for certain industries.-  
The production of coal for the first six months of 1950 was 16.16 million tons against 15.54 million tons in the same period last year, an increase of nearly 4 per cent. The figures for steel, cement, paper and salt (with last year's comparative figures in brackets) were 460,000 tons (442,300 tons), 1,271,300 tons (957,051 tons), 53,400 tons (51,324 tons), and 2.06 million tons (1.7 million tons), respectively.

The drop in the production of cloth and yarn was little over 4 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively, the exact figures for the January-June period of 1950 being 1,910.2 million yards and ~~605.4~~ 605.4 million lbs against 1,996.6 million yards and 703.4 million lbs in the corresponding period of 1949. The decline is ascribed to shortage of cotton and partial or complete closure of some mills. The production in July and August 1950 is reported to be on the increase.

~~Communal~~ Communal disturbances in Calcutta and the surrounding industrial areas early this year are stated to have resulted in reduction in the production of cycle tyres and conduit pipes.

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Migration of Muslim workers during this period contributed to the loss in the output of the sewing machine manufacturing industry.

Aluminium production during the first half of 1950 was 1,698 long tons against the half-year's average of 1,745 long tons last year. The comparatively low figure this year is due to the cut in power supply in some factories. Accumulation of stocks and loss of export markets are mentioned as the main factors responsible for unsatisfactory results in the machine-tools and enamelware manufacturing industries.

The following table shows the production trend of some of the main industries in the first six months of 1950 compared to the corresponding period last year:-

	1950.	1949.
Electric Lamps (Nos.).....	7,345,020	6,506,580
Motor car batteries (Nos.)..	97,650	50,890
Electric motors (h.p.).....	35,209	35,143
Electric transformers (k.v.a.)	79,603	44,499
Electric fans (Nos.).....	102,600	85,580
Diesel engines (Nos.).....	1,947	781
Bicycles (Nos.).....	48,559	31,276
Sulphuric acid (tons)...	49,500	40,000
Caustic Soda (tons).....	5,270	2,820
Soda ash (tons).....	23,550	11,410
Liquid chlorine (tons)...	2,150	920
Bleaching powder (tons)...	1,590	1,260
Bichromites (tons).....	900	1,040
Antimony (tons).....	144,000	42,820 m
Cigarettes (Nos.).....	11,446.9m.	10,258.9B
Plywood (sq.ft.).....	23.5m.	27.23
Refractories (tons).....	114,500	105,420
Abrastives (reams).....	14,400	10,760
Hurricane lanterns (Nos.)..	1,183,100	792,190

The production figures for cotton cloth and yarn during the first half of 1949 and 1950 respectively are the following:-

	1949	Jan-June 1949	Jan.-June 1950
Cloth (million Yards)	3,918.52	1,996.60	1,920.2
Yarn (in million)...	1,356.29	703.40	605.4

(The Statesman, 18-8-1950 )

9

Production of Electricity doubled in the  
Decade 1939-1949: Marked Progress in  
rural Electrification.

Production of electricity in areas, now comprising the Indian Union has doubled in the ten years ending 1949, showing an increase from 2,440 million k.w. hours in 1939 to over 4,900 million k.w. hours in 1949, according to data compiled by the Central Electricity Commission, Simla. The total installed capacity of all the generating stations in India reached nearly 1.54 million k.w. in 1949.

Progress in rural electrification.- Marked progress was recorded in rural electrification, but this was mostly confined to the States of Madras, Mysore, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab. While in 1947 there were 1,295 villages with a population of less than 5,000 each which had electricity, in 1949 the number of such villages rose to 2,118 - an increase of 63.6 per cent. But, taking the country as a whole, only 0.38 per cent of the villages with a population of less than 5,000 had electricity in 1949. The following table gives the percentage of electrified towns and villages of different population ranges:-

Population	Total number of towns or villages in India	Percentage electrified
Over 100,000	49	100 per cent
50,000 to 100,000	87	98.9 per cent
20,000 to 50,000	277	84.1 per cent
10,000 to 20,000	607	38.0 per cent
5,000 to 10,000	2,367	9.3 per cent
Below 5,000	559,062	0.38 per cent

Consumption.- Nearly two-thirds of the electricity sold in the country in 1949 was consumed by industry; other categories of consumers, next in order of consumption, were: domestic, traction, commercial, waterworks, irrigation and street lighting. The last mentioned category accounted for only 1.4 per cent of the total electricity sold during the year. Irrigation registered an increase of 24 per cent in consumption over 1948. Similar large increases also occurred in the case of commercial and domestic ~~consumption~~ consumers. Among industries, textile and jute mills continued to be the largest purchasers of electric power.

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The 'per capita' consumption of electricity in India as a whole in 1949 was 11.64 k.w.hours. The figures relating to some of the States (in kilowatt-hours) are: Delhi (105); Bombay (47.7); West Bengal (40.7); and Mysore (39). In Madhyabharat, Bihar, Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and P.E.P.S.U. the 'per capita' consumption was between two and three k.w. hours only. In Assam and Orissa, the 'per capita' consumption was even lower - slightly over half and quarter kilowatt hour, respectively.

New electricity undertakings.- Nine new electricity undertakings, seven operated by the State and two by companies commenced operation during 1949. This brought the total number of authorised electricity undertakings in the country to 486. Out of these, 190 were State-owned. The State-owned undertakings accounted for 40 per cent of the total electricity generated in the country. Not ~~xxx~~ all the 486 undertakings had their own generating stations, the number of those having their own generating stations being 347; the remaining undertakings purchased bulk supplies of power and merely undertook retail distribution.

Figures of production during 1949 again proved the superiority of the hydro power system over the systems worked on steam or oil. Although steam power stations had 55.5 per cent of the total generating capacity they contributed only 45.7 percent of the total energy produced in the year. As against this, the hydro plants, constituting only 36.4 per cent of the total generating capacity, contributed 50.7 per cent of the total energy. Oil plants contributed only 3.6 per cent of the electricity produced in 1949.

Capital outlay.- The total capital outlay involved in all the public electricity supply undertakings in the country up to the end of 1948 exceeded 1186 million rupees. The State-owned undertakings accounted for 563 million rupees and the private companies for the remaining 623 million rupees. Based on the revenue realized in 40 major electricity supply undertakings, covering over 70 per cent of the total sales in India for all purposes, it was found that the average price per unit was 0.96 anna.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-8-1950).

11

Iron and Steel Advisory Committee dissolved.

By a resolution dated 8 July 1950, the Government of India has dissolved the Iron and Steel Advisory Committee set up in September 1948 (vide page 20 of the report of this Office for September 1948). As a result of a review of the working of the Committee, it has been found that it has already dealt with almost all the problems connected with the iron and steel industry and that there is hardly any new subject which is will be called upon to consider in the future. The continuance of the Committee is, therefore, no longer necessary and it has accordingly been decided to abolish it with immediate effect.

(The Gazette of India, Part I-Section 1,  
dated 8 July 1950, page 215 ).



42. Production and Export of Agricultural Products.

India - August 1950.

Co-ordinated Food Policy for India:  
Chief Ministers' Decisions.

A conference of Chief Ministers and Food Ministers of States were held in New Delhi on 19 and 20 August 1950. Ministers of the Central Cabinet and members of the Planning Commission also attended the meeting.

The conference announced a seven-point plan for ensuring a uniform food policy throughout India. First, the conference felt that there must be unified direction in matters of food policy between the Centre and the States. State barriers should not be looked upon as a means of ensuring food supplies only to the people of the State itself, but as a mechanism for maximizing the effort of a State towards feeding the country as a whole. This recommendation is said to have been necessitated by the fact that some surplus States have hitherto been looking to their needs first and declaring their surplus foodgrains arbitrarily. No procurement has been effective there. It is now proposed to ensure equitable distribution of all available grain in all States, surplus or deficit. The step is further designed to help the development of an all-India outlook in the matter of foodgrains, which will enable a better co-ordinated and well directed control being exercised by the Centre.

Secondly, the conference is understood to have impressed on the States that the self-sufficiency of food programme must be fulfilled. The target date fixed by the Government is the end of 1951. The conference is reported to have felt that the outbreak of the Korean war has made it all the more necessary that India should be able to manage her food problem from her internal resources.

Thirdly, the conference urged that food production and food procurement be organized on a war footing and given the highest priority. It was decided that the administrative machinery should be strengthened where necessary.

Fourthly, the conference decided that procurement of all controlled grain must be intensified in all States, whether surplus or deficit in grain.

Fifthly, and coupled with intensified procurement, rigorous action against hoarding, was recommended. The conference suggested that reasonably uniform standard be laid down in all States in respect of stocks that could be lawfully held by traders, consumers and producers. Special instructions, it was decided, should be issued to officers to make food laws effective.

Sixthly, the conference recommended that proper co-ordination should as far as possible be effective in price levels in different States.

Lastly, it was decided that steps be taken to make sufficient sugarcane available ~~to~~ to factories from zonal areas during the crushing ~~season~~ season.

(The Statesman, 21-8-1950).

43. Foreign Trade and Exchanges.

India - August 1950.

Statutory Trading Corporation proposed:  
State Trading Committee's Report published.

The Committee on State trading appointed by the Central Government in October 1949, with Dr. Panjab Rao Deshmukh as Chairman (vide page 19 of the report of this Office for October 1949), has, in its report, recommended the establishment of a statutory State-sponsored Trading Corporation to take over, in the first instance, all the import and export operations of a commercial nature which are being handled by the Central Government.

The proposed Corporation should be a statutory body with an authorized capital of 100 million rupees and an initial capital of 20 million rupees. The Central Government should hold 51 per cent of the capital and the balance should be offered to the State Governments and private enterprise. The Central Government should, guarantee the capital and also a minimum dividend to private shareholders. The Corporation should be subject to taxation like any other commercial concern. It should function on business principles and its day-to-day working should be managed by an Executive Board composed of business men of proved integrity with a managing director acting under the orders of the Board. The first Board and its chairman should be nominated by the Government.

The following are the main recommendations of the Committee in regard to the functions of the Corporation:

(a) It should take over from the Government of India the commercial operations in respect of import of foodgrains, fertilizers, steel, East African cotton and also such operations as are necessary for implementing barter agreement concluded by the Government; (b) The Corporation should be given the monopoly of export trade in coal and short-staple cotton; (c) It should undertake export trade in cottage industries, on a pioneering basis, as initially private enterprise cannot be paying. When a proper market has been created abroad for cottage industry products, the Corporation should curtail its activities and encourage private enterprise to enter the field; (d) The Corporation may advise the Government from time to time, whether State trading should be extended to or withdrawn from any commodity in the national interest. The Corporation should

not be free, however, to extend its trading activities to any commodity without the prior approval of Government; (e) The Corporation may act whenever required in the capacity of either a principal or an agent for direct purchase and sales by any foreign Government in the Indian market; and (f) On request by Indian traders, the Corporation may undertake on their behalf and at their risk, negotiations with foreign traders.

The Committee has also given its views in regard to the import and export trade on certain essential commodities. ~~These~~ These are: a) Raw Jute: The Indian Jute Mills Association should adopt a system of centralized buying; b) Non-ferrous metals: The desirability of reintroducing State trading should be examined by the Corporation; c) Jute manufactures, shellac and managanese: The ~~same~~ question of State trading should be examined by the Corporation after it has gained some experience; d) Tea and Mica: State trading is not recommended at this stage; e) Coal: State trading should be continued; and f) Sugar: The question of State trading will not arise until internal production increases sufficiently to leave a surplus.

The Committee observes that while in some types of business undertakings, State trading is not desirable, it is justified in certain other types of business, particularly in the field of international trade.

Even in countries like the United States of America and Canada, where State trading is, as a rule, looked upon with disfavour and where economic ~~independent~~ policies are designed primarily to foster private enterprise, a limited measure of State trading has not been found incompatible with the general economic policy. In the United Kingdom, for example, as much as 50 per cent of the total imports are being handled by Government agencies. The Committee emphasises the need for utilizing the services of national banking, shipping and insurance companies in connexion with State trading. It has also urged the reorganization of international trade on co-operative lines. If the banking, shipping and insurance services in the country are utilized properly in the promotion of State trading, the Committee feels, it would help the State considerably in giving effect to its economic policies in spheres other than trade. Similarly, a progressive reorganisation of internal trade on a co-operative basis will, in the Committee's opinion, obviate the necessity of extending the scope of the Corporation's activities, as co-operation offers a form of control which, while securing all the benefits of State trading, preserves the advantages

of private enterprise. The Committee feels that regulation of the distribution of ~~imported~~ imported commodities can best be carried out by setting up a network of co-operative consumers' stores with an apex store in each State directly linked with the State Trading Corporation.

The Committee also stresses the need for rationalization of the import control policy and procedure of the Government. It says that if the Government was to adopt the practice of not ~~put~~ placing any article on an Open General Licence until after the interim period of liberal licensing designed to restore normal marketing conditions so far as that commodity is concerned is over, the chance of large speculative imports taking place would be greatly minimized.

(The Statesman, dated 6-8-1950).

Trade with Indonesia: India to send Delegation.

A Government Press note states that the Indian Government is sending a trade delegation to Indonesia with a view to promoting trade relations between the two countries. The delegation, which is primarily composed of non-official business men, will be led by Mr. P.A. Narielwala, Director, Tata Industries.

The delegation is expected to leave India early in September 1950. It will return to India via Singapore, Bangkok and Rangoon where it will have talks with the representatives of the local Governments and the business interests in order to explore possibilities of increased Indian trade in those areas.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-8-1950).

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45. Economic Development and Control.

India - August 1950.

Centre's Move to check Rising Prices:  
Legislation authorised on State List  
Items: Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers)  
(Amendment) Bill passed.

On 12 August 1950, Parliament unanimously passed an official resolution enabling the Centre to legislate for a period of one year from 15 August 1950, on certain State subjects, namely, trade and commerce, and production, supply, and distribution of goods. The measure is designed to empower the Centre to evolve a uniform policy to check rising prices of commodities and goods essential to the community.

*its object is*

Moving the resolution, Mr. Hare Krishna Mahtab, Minister for Industry and Supply, said that, was to meet "a very serious situation created in the country today by the rise in the prices of various articles". He feared that if the prices rose higher and higher, "disastrous results would follow leading to large-scale famine and general disaster". The Government, was determined to see that the situation did not deteriorate. He thought that neither scarcity conditions nor inflation of currency were the cause for the rise in prices. Nor did he think production alone was the remedy. It was a fight against anti-social elements to be undertaken jointly by the Central and the State Governments. Assuring the House that the Government would take steps on the resolution only with the object of bringing down the prices, Mr. Mahtab suggested to the members to exercise their influence in their respective constituencies in favour of the administration of law. He appealed to the people not to "accept black-marketers and profiteers in society".

Several speakers who participated in the ~~debate~~ debate gave general welcome to the measure but many were doubtful of its proper implementation, holding that the Central Government had not the adequate machinery to enforce it effectively and efficiently.

The resolution was adopted.

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Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill: Drastic punishment for food hoarders. - On 14 August Parliament passed the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill which provides for more drastic punishment of those guilty of hoarding of food grains and profiteers in food grains, cotton textiles and other essential goods. The Bill lays down that if any person contravened any order under the Act relating to cotton textiles, he shall be punishable with imprisonment extending to three years and shall also be liable to fine besides forfeiture of the property concerned.

Any offender relating to foodstuffs shall be punishable with an imprisonment extending to three years and also a fine. It also provides for the forfeiture of property concerned in the order but the court should record its opinion if it decided that a sentence of imprisonment or forfeiture ~~is~~ was not necessary to meet the ends of justice.

In the case of the hoarding of food grains, the offender is liable to imprisonment which may extend to ~~imprisonment which~~ seven years and to a fine not less than 20 times the value of the food grains found in his possession besides forfeiture of the hoarded grain.

If any person contravenes any order under the Act relating to other essential commodities, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term extending to three years or with fine or both, and forfeiture of property concerned if necessary.

Provision is made for expeditious disposal of the cases and the court is enjoined to hear the cases day to day.

The new Act is applicable to all States and is designed to bring a uniform law on the ~~same~~ subject of essential supplies for all parts of the Indian Union.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill explains that as a result of the Korean war, there has been a sudden rise in the prices of foodstuffs. Also on account of drought and floods in certain parts of India there has been a comparative failure of grain crop in certain areas. This has resulted in a growing tendency among all sections of the people to hoard food grains. It is, therefore, necessary to take measures to stop this tendency to hoard which creates unnecessary panic. Unless hoarded quantities are made available to the Government, it will be difficult to maintain equitable distribution of the country's limited resources of food grains. The Bill, therefore, provides for more drastic punishment in the case

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of persons who are guilty of excessive hoarding of food grains.

The Bill, which was moved by the Food Minister, was passed by Parliament.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 13 and 15-8-1950).

Meeting of Planning Commission Advisory Board:  
Economic Situation to be examined.

A meeting of the Planning Commission Advisory Board was held at New Delhi on 21, 22 and 23 August 1950. The meeting was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, who is the Chairman of the Commission.

Initiating discussion on the present economic situation in India, the Finance Minister, Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, said that although it was now five years since the war ended, Indian economy had not regained normalcy. High prices, shortages of essential consumer goods and raw materials, and balance of payments difficulties characterized the economic situation. The task of ~~the~~ planning was to restore to the economy a certain amount of balance and equilibrium. He further indicated the general lines along which a solution might be sought, and he referred for consideration of the members of the Board certain concrete issues, such as the scope for fiscal and monetary measures to reduce the excess purchasing power in the hands of the people.

In the general discussions a number of members urged that food was the basic problem and in this there should be uniformity of sacrifice for all the States, and that procurement and distribution should be further improved. Mere production alone would not eliminate the need for food imports. One point of view was that the strength of inflationary forces in the economy was at present very great and that the first task was to concentrate on preventing a further rise in prices. There was general agreement that although no single remedy, whether monetary or real, could at this stage produce quick results, a combination of sound monetary, and fiscal policy, with adequate integrated controls, could produce a significant disinflationary effect and put the economy on the way to sound progress.



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The Board also considered the problem of demarcating the public and private sectors in planning for a mixed economy, the scope and technique of planning in each sector and the considerations that should determine fixation of priorities.

The difficulties of operating a mixed economy were stressed by a few members, but it was generally felt that, given the existing commitments of the Central and State Governments and the resources that were likely to be available to them over the next few years, there was no practical alternative to a policy of leaving a large sector of development to private enterprise. Planning in the private sector would have to take the form, on the one hand, of the State making available certain facilities for attaining defined targets and, on the other, of exercising indirect controls through licensing, foreign allocation, etc.

It was felt that the States' responsibility in the sphere of agriculture would be to a great extent carried out by the emphasis in the public sector as multi-purpose projects, irrigation schemes, etc., but that other measures would also be necessary. The question was also considered as to what extent it would be necessary in the implementation of planning to extend State intervention in the management of credit.

The magnitude of the existing commitments of the Government in schemes already in operation was advanced by some members to support the view, that since public investments would in any case account for a large proportion of the capital formation in the country in the next few years, the Planning Commission should adopt a pragmatic approach in fixing the limits of the private sector.

Economic situation to be examined.— The Board decided to set up a sub-committee to examine and report on the economic situation, especially in relation to the price level. The sub-committee will also report on the scope and method of planning in the private and public sector. Mr. Tulsidas Kilachand, Dr. D.R. Gadgil, Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, Prof. C.N. Wakil, Mr. Khandubhai K. Desai, Mr. Ramachandran and Mr. Manu Subedar will be members of the sub-committee.

Agrarian policy.— The Board also decided to set up another sub-committee to examine agrarian policy. The sub-committee will consist of Chaudhri Mukhtar Singh, Mr. Manilal Nanavati, Dr. D.R. Gadgil, Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, Mr. Anna Sahib - Sahastrabudde and Mr. Ramachandran. While examining the role of land reform in increasing agricultural production, the Board considered a tentative

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proposal that the village should be taken as a unit of management and that all the land should be pooled and allotted afresh to cultivators in economic holdings while preserving ownership rights intact. This work, it was argued, should be entrusted to village committees having a statutory basis.

(The Statesman, 22, 23 and 24-8-1950)

Need for Mobilisation of Rural Savings:  
Rural Banking Inquiry Committee's Report.

Mr. C.D. Deshmukh, Minister for Finance, Government of India, presented the report of the Rural Banking Inquiry Committee to the Parliament on 11 August 1950, recommending, among other things, the need to stimulate and mobilise rural savings in order to help the Government's anti-inflation programme. The Committee was set up in November 1949 under the chairmanship of Mr. Purushottamdas Thakurdas to enquire into the measures which can be taken immediately for extending banking facilities to rural areas, the existing arrangements for cash work at Government treasuries and sub-treasuries, including those managed by the Imperial Bank of India, and the future arrangement for such work in the provinces (Part A States) and the former Indian States whose financial integration had taken effect from 1 April 1950, with special reference to the possibility of entrusting the work to a bank or banks.

The report ~~and~~ covers a large ground and contains special chapters on the present position of banking facilities in the country, mobilization of rural savings, machinery for rural credit and proposals for extension of banking facilities to rural areas. Other subjects dealt with in the report include treasury arrangements in Part A and B States and the future role of the Imperial Bank of India in the banking and treasury set-up and the question of a State-sponsored bank. Exhaustive proposals have been made in regard to treasury arrangements in Part B States. The following is a brief summary of the main recommendations of the report.

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Rural savings.- The report states that the primary object of the extension of banking facilities to rural areas should at present be to stimulate and mobilize rural savings in order to help the Government's anti-inflationary programme as well as to provide financial resources for national development to the maximum extent possible.

While appreciating the importance of devising a ~~satisfactory~~ satisfactory machinery for the supply of rural credit, it does not agree with the contention that this is the primary problem of rural banking. The problem of rural credit is of long standing and would require long-term planning and probably many more years of effort. The differing financial requirements of the rural peoples, the report says, cannot all be provided by one set of institutions. It has, therefore, urged co-ordination in the activities of the existing banking institutions and the maintenance of a minimum standard of soundness, efficiency and service to the people.

Building up of a sound structure of primary institutions like co-operative credit ~~societies~~ societies or multi-purpose societies in the rural areas has, however, been emphasized.

Indigenous bankers and moneylenders, the report says, continue to play a significant role in rural credit. In any legislation, therefore, which is intended to restrict and control their activities, the Government should take into account the pace at which alternative machinery of a satisfactory type can be made available to agriculturists. The report has suggested development of the post office savings banks "which are the most widespread governmental agency and enjoy the confidence of the people and if developed can collect the savings of the rural people to an increasing extent". There is also need of developing provincial co-operative societies, as the largest part of the structure providing banking facilities to rural areas consists of such societies. Much still remains to be done to extend the benefits of modern banking to the rural areas, but no special recommendations have been made in this respect.

Increase in rural money income.- With regard to mobilization of rural savings, the report states that taking the agricultural sector as a whole, available estimates of national income show that its money income has increased threefold since 1931-32 and that its share in the total income has also gone up, revealing a relative

Costs

shift in incomes. ~~Costs~~ ~~good~~ of cultivation and prices of consumers' goods have also been increasing along with agricultural prices, but agricultural costs being largely of a local and predominantly rural character, their increase means only a certain amount of redistribution of incomes within the rural community itself. Co-operative statistics, reduction of indebtedness and increase in the balances in rural post office savings accounts reinforce the general conclusion that rural incomes have risen and a margin has been available for savings. But taking the country as a whole, the major part of rural surpluses, and consequently savings, the report says, should be found with the bigger land-holders and with some non-agriculturists, such as village money-lenders, traders, owners of mills, etc.

Banking facilities.- The Committee, the report says, does not consider the undertaking of costly and hasty schemes of expansion of the banking system on the basis of over-optimistic expectations advisable. It has, therefore, suggested that commercial banks should be encouraged to open offices as near the rural areas as possible and that the machinery, like the post office savings banks and co-operative societies should be expanded and more effectively utilized. Attempts will also have to be made to promote thrift and small savings by means of propaganda.

Rural credit machinery.- Regarding the question of setting up machinery for rural credit, the report feels that the establishment of a single financial agency to cover the entire field of rural credit would not be feasible in existing conditions and in each region a varied and adequate machinery should be developed in conformity with local conditions. Such machinery should be able to raise adequate funds by way of share capital and deposits, or debentures from the public. The State cannot raise vast amount of capital, and if the problem of rural credit has to be properly tackled, rural savings funds must be tapped to obtain the necessary funds.

The establishment of an agricultural credit corporation for the country as a whole for the purpose, the report says, is not opportune now. But separate institutions would be necessary to provide longterm credit, and, the report adds, the land mortgage banks are the most appropriate agencies for this purpose. It further holds that it should be possible for the ~~commercial~~ commercial banks to provide finance for the marketing of produce to a much greater extent than at present when a number of regulated markets are established.

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To enable commercial banks, co-operative banks and land mortgage banks to play an effective role in extending rural credit, it would be necessary to review the existing and proposed legislation concerning debt relief, money-lending, tenancy and land tenures in so far as it may affect their position.

The report recommends that in so far as the high operating costs of rural branches are due to the application of the Shops and Establishments Acts and the awards of industrial tribunals, such Acts and awards should not be made applicable to offices of banks situated in towns having a population of less than 50,000. Liberalization of remittance facilities is suggested for encouraging banks to open branches in the countryside.

Other suggestions include the drawing up of a ware-housing ~~banking~~ scheme and inducing co-operative banks to take increasing advantage of the financial accommodation available at concessional rates from the Reserve Bank of India.

Role of Imperial Bank.— Referring to the role of the Imperial Bank in the banking and treasury setup, the report says that it is not desirable to effect a change in the existing system in which the Imperial Bank functions as the sole agent of the Reserve Bank. It adds that it would not be in the interest of the country to do anything which will weaken or impair the organization and financial strength of the Bank towards the building of which much of the nation's efforts and resources have been spent. The present unsatisfactory features of the working of the Imperial Bank can be remedied by legislative and other measures, and various steps in this regard have been suggested. In view of all this the report holds that the Imperial Bank should continue its commercial activities. It considers the assurance given to the Government of India by the Bank that all senior appointments in it will be Indianized by 1955 as reasonably satisfactory. No political complaints could arise against the Bank under the changed political status of the country.

In view of the Committee's suggestion that no change should be made in the role of the Imperial Bank as the agent of the Reserve Bank, the proposal for the formation of a new State-sponsored bank to do this work is not considered necessary. The Imperial Bank, it says, is to all intents and purposes functioning as a State-sponsored bank and the people can legitimately look forward to its being developed as a national institution.

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The report while not supporting the contention that the Reserve Bank should establish a large number of its branches and manage Government cash work at all treasuries and sub-treasuries, does hold that the present organization of the Reserve Bank is inadequate to meet the requirements of the country. It, therefore, suggests that energetic steps be taken to secure the establishment of a branch of the Bank at the headquarters of each of the major States, special attention being paid to the requirements of States where the Reserve Bank has no office at present.

Better transport facilities urged.- The report urges the Government ~~xxxx~~ to develop the transport system at the earliest opportunity, as without it an efficient banking system cannot be set up. Road plans should be co-ordinated with other plans for ~~xx~~ economic development such as those for railway, telegraph, postal and banking development.

Future banking set-up.- Under the report's recommendations the future structure of banking will consist of: (a) The Reserve Bank of India with a branch or office in each State; (b) The Imperial Bank of India and other commercial banks extending their activities to the taluka or tehsil headquarters or other semi-urban centres; (c) The State and Central co-operative banks with their branches or affiliated banks, extending to all towns or large villages or centrally situated villages; (d) State-owned and State-sponsored agricultural credit corporations or agricultural banks; and (e) A chain of land mortgage banks for each region.

(The Hindustan Times, 12-8-1950 )

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46. Wages.

India - August 1950.

Fair Wages Bill introduced in Parliament:  
Wages Boards to be set up.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, Government of India, introduced in Parliament on 10 August 1950 a Bill which seeks to fix fair wages for workers employed, in the first instance, in factories and mines. For this purpose, the Bill contemplates the setting up of tripartite wages boards.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the Bill, in its present form is undoubtedly a novel experience in the field of wage regulation, for it is not often that enactments of this kind provide for anything more than a bare machinery for fixation of wages. If, then, the Statement adds, Government had tried to include in the Bill something more than is usual or conventional, it is because it has tried to give expression, inadequately perhaps, to the hopes and aspirations of a class of wage-earners who occupy a strategic position in the economy of the country. It is, however, explained in the statement that the ultimate expectations have to be tempered with immediate possibilities and, hence, the emphasis that the Bill places on the limit to fair wages being set by the capacity of the industry today.

Fair wages linked with cost of living index.-  
The fair wage contemplated in the Bill would, so long as the cost of living index number exceeds a slab of 185 to 200 (the cost of living index number of 1939 being taken as 100), consist of a basic rate and a cost of living allowance. The latter is to be adjusted according to such graduated scales as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the appropriate State Government. There are also provisions in the Bill relating to the fixation of wage differentials, the calculation of overtime, the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women and the revision of fair rates of wages from time to time.

The machinery contemplated for the fixation of fair wages is largely based on familiar lines - tripartite wage boards ~~and~~ co-ordinated by an All-India appellate body. The technical aspects of the working of wages boards, it is explained, are on the lines provided for in the Labour Relations Bill. They include details regarding publications, commencement and period of operation of awards and similar matters. Provisions of the Bills, it is stated, may be extended by notification to other classes of establishments where a manufacturing or mining process is carried on.

It has been clearly laid down in the Bill that an employer to whom the provisions of the Bill apply shall in no circumstances pay his employees a wage less than the minimum wage described therein, irrespective of the capacity of the industry or unit.

The Bill contains a financial memorandum relating to the expenditure that would be incurred in setting up the machinery for fixation of fair wages.

Principles for determining fair wages.- According to the principles laid down in the Bill for the determination of fair wages, the fair rates of wages for any class of employees shall not be less than the minimum rates of wages payable to them. The minimum rates of wages are fixed for employees in certain specified industries under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Bill defines the phrase "minimum rate of wages" as wages which ensure to an employee the means to provide a standard family with food, shelter and clothing and also, medical expenses and education of children appropriate to his station in life.

It is provided in the Bill that if the fair wages determined under these principles exceed the wagepaying capacity of any establishment for any special reasons not connected with the mismanagement thereof the wages board or the regional board (proposed to be set up under the Bill) as the case may be, may fix lower rates of wages for employees employed in that establishment. In considering the capacity of all establishments, due allowance will be made for a fair return on capital, remuneration to management, and a fair allocation to reserves and depreciation funds so as to keep that class of establishments in an economically sound condition.



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Fair wages and work loads.- A fair rate of wages for any class of employees shall be related to a fair load of work which that class of employees is expected to do. If an employee, the Bill lays down, belonging to that class does not turn out a fair load of work, the wages payable to that employee shall bear the same proportion to the fair rate of wages as the work done by him bears to the fair load of work, and in order to determine the productivity of employees and whether a fair load of work is being turned out by an employee, the board or a regional board, as the case may be, may ~~institute~~ institute time and motion studies in such manner as may be prescribed.

Failure to turn out the specified fair load of work has been laid down as a good cause for dismissal.

Wages boards.- The Bill contemplates the setting up of wages boards and regional boards which will determine the fair wages. The former will be primarily a co-ordinating authority for the regional boards. So far as the Central Government is concerned, it is stated, it is proposed to set up a wages board and it may be necessary to constitute four regional wages boards for "establishments" in the "Central sphere". The boards will have the same powers as are vested in a civil court when trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in respect of summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath, requiring the discovery and production of documents, issuing commissions for examination of witnesses and any other matters which may be specified. The boards shall also be ~~specified~~ deemed to be civil courts for purposes of Section 480 and 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 and any proceedings before them shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of Sections 193 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code.

Restriction on strike and lock-out rights.- The ~~right~~ right to strike and declare lock-outs is restricted in the Bill. This right cannot be exercised by any party in pursuance of any dispute arising out of any matter referred to the Board regarding payment of fair wages during the pendency of the proceedings before such Board. This also applies to the period in which the award is in operation.

(The Gazette containing the text of the Fair Wages Bill, has not yet been received in this Office. A fuller summary of the Bill, would be included in a subsequent report if considered necessary).

(The Hindustan Times, 11-8-1950).

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The Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill passed by Parliament: Time Limit for fixing of Minimum Rates of Wages extended.

The Parliament passed on 10 August 1950, the Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill 1950, which seeks to replace the Minimum Wages (Extension of Time) Ordinance, 1950, extending the time limit for the fixation of minimum rates of wages (vide page 29 of the report of this Office for June 1950).

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Governments were required to fix minimum rates of wages in respect of the employments specified in Part I of the Schedule to the Act before 15 March, 1950. The Union Government and most of the State Governments, for one reason or the other, have not been able to fix minimum rates of wages in respect of those employments by the stipulated date. Steps, however, are being taken to fix the rates as early as possible. The minimum rates of wages fixed after 15 March, 1950 or any action taken under the enactment after that date could be contended as bad in law, because action was not taken within the period specified in the Act. To get over this difficulty and also to legalise the actions taken by the appropriate Governments regarding the fixation of minimum rates of wages in those employments after the 15 March 1950, the Minimum Wages (Extension of Time) Ordinance, 1950, was promulgated. Since the Ordinance will, under article 123 of the Constitution of India, cease to operate after six weeks from the reassembly of the next session of the Parliament, it is necessary to replace it by an Act. This Bill has, therefore, been brought before the Parliament.

The Bill provides that minimum rates of wages shall be fixed in all scheduled employments before the expiry of three years from the commencement of the Act or in the case of employments included in the schedule by a notification under section 27 of the Act, two years from the date of the notification. The Bill also validates all acts done or any fixation of the minimum wages made, between 15 March and 15 June 1950.

Debate in the Parliament.— Moving the Bill for the consideration of the House, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, stated that under the Minimum Wages Act 1948, minimum wages in certain scheduled industries were to be fixed by the end of March 1950, but due to various reasons it was not possible for the States to do so. Efforts were

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made to expedite the fixation of minimum wages. It was later pointed out to the Union Government that the wages fixed after March 1950, might not be legal and, therefore, an ordinance was passed to validate the wages that were fixed before the promulgation of that ordinance as well as to extend the period by one year so that in all the scheduled industries minimum wages could be fixed in all the States. The Bill would replace the Ordinance.

Mr. Hariharnath Shastri, General Secretary, Indian National Trade Union Congress, expressed his "deep resentment" against the "indifference" with which the State Government had treated the Minimum Wages Act. Referring to the recent meeting of the Central Advisory Board (Minimum Wages), which inter alia, considered the fixation of minimum wages in agriculture (vide pages 37-39 of the report of this Office for July 1950), he regretted to say that at that meeting, with the exception of one or two State Governments, in the generality of cases the States did not favour the fixation of minimum wages for agricultural labour.

Mr. Venkataraman said that if the Central Government was anxious that the States should implement measures of labour legislation passed by Parliament, they must arm themselves with the necessary powers. It was the duty of the State Governments to fix the minimum wages, in consultation with the representative of the working class and the employers, and not by a mere fiat of the administration.

Replying to the debate, Mr. Jagjivan Ram said that "interested parties" were creating the atmosphere that in the present time of financial and economic stringency all measures which gave some facilities to the workers might add to the cost of the commodities in general use, and, therefore, should be delayed and postponed. That had been to some extent instrumental for the delay in the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act. But when the time limit was about to expire, there was anxiety on the part of the State Governments to fix the minimum wages and he was sure that before the extended time limit expired, such wages would be fixed in most of the industries. Perhaps in some of them it might not be necessary to do so because tribunals had done the work.

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Madras: Draft Schedule of Minimum Rates of Wages for Employees in Public Motor Transport.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government of Madras has published the following draft schedule of minimum rates of wages payable to employees in public motor transport:-

Class of Workers.	Minimum rates of wages.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
<b>Transport services-</b>			
1. Drivers.....	40	0	0 per mensem.
2. Lorry drivers...	45	0	0 per mensem.
3. Conductors.....	30	0	0 per mensem.
4. Unskilled workers like cleaners, etc.	0	14	0 per diem.
<b>Transport workshops-</b>			
1. Apprentices.....	1	0	0 per diem.
2. Foremen.....	100	0	0 per mensem.
3. Mechanics.....	75	0	0 per mensem.
4. Assistant Mechanics.	50	0	0 per mensem.
5. Fitters.....	50	0	0 per mensem.
6. Skilled workers like carpenters, blacksmiths, etc..	1	8	0 per diem.

Note:- The rates of minimum wages proposed above are exclusive of cost of living allowance and batta.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I,  
dated 25 July 1950, page 2425 )

## Wages of Oil Mill Workers in Punjab.

The Punjab Labour Department recently conducted a survey into the wages and earnings of workers employed in oil mills in connection with the fixation of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. A note based on information supplied by the Labour Commissioner, Punjab, is published in the June 1950, issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. The following is a summary of the note:-

The survey covered 42 oil plants in the State employing about 800 workers. A feature of this industry is that there are very few plants which are exclusively engaged in the extraction of oil. Most of them are attached to either flour mills, rice mills, cotton ginning mills or ice mills. The owners generally employ a joint establishment in their concerns and do not engage separate staff for the oil extracting part of their plants.

The following statement gives details regarding minimum average and maximum wage rates etc., of different categories of workers in the industry.

Occupation	Number of UNITS for which infor- mation was collected	Wages paid		
		Minimum Rs.	Average Rs.	Maximum Rs.
1. Unskilled Labourers...	34	35	54	90
2. Labour Supervisor.....	3	40	53	75
3. Expeller man.....	12	45	105	200
4. Kohloo man.....	2	50	53	55
5. Filterman.....	1	65	65	65
6. Expeller cleaner.....	2	52	53	53
7. Greeze man.....	5	55	61	67
8. Fitter.....	18	50	95	150
9. Mistri.....	28	45	95	190
10. Driver.....	14	45	97	100
11. Oil man.....	13	45	56	60
12. Fireman.....	10	60	86	175
13. Blacksmith.....	3	85	92	100
14. Mochi.....	1	70	70	70
15. Electrician.....	1	75	75	75
16. Miller.....	4	35	109	300
17. Coal man.....	4	53	56	60
18. Munshi or Munim.....	7	40	61	80
19. Storekeeper.....	1	66	66	66
20. Sweeper.....	2	20	35	50
21. Chaukidar.....	9	35	45	60
22. Water carrier.....	2	30	31	32
23. Gate keeper.....	2	60	60	60
24. Gartman.....	1	53	53	53

(Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1950).

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Textile Workers' Strike in Bombay:  
Demand for immediate Payment of  
Three Months' Bonus.

A strike by the majority of workers employed in the textile mills in Bombay began on 14 August 1950, in response to the call issued by the Socialist-dominated Hind Mazdoor Sabha as a protest against the attitude of the Mill-owners' Association in refusing to meet their demand for immediate payment of three months' salary (with Dearness Allowance) as bonus.

Early in July 1950, the Industrial Court had awarded two months' bonus to textile workers, but had exempted four mills from paying it on the ground that they had not made any profit (vide pages 40-42 of the report of this Office for July 1950). An application by the Millowners' Association for an extension by three months for the payment of the bonus was rejected by the Court on 5 August 1950. On 10 August 1950, the INTUC led Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, which is the ~~only~~ recognised union for the textile industry under the Industrial Relations Act, reached an agreement with the Millowners' Association before the labour appellate tribunal on the payment of the first instalment of the bonus on 14 August as "advance against wages". This was criticised by the Socialist-led Mill Mazdoor Sabha as "a shameful deal, an attempt at breaking working class solidarity and betrayal of the workers". The Sabha called upon the workers not to accept the "advance tickets" to be given on 14 August and ~~was~~ embark on an indefinite strike from that date.

Strike declared illegal.- Bombay's Labour Minister had declared that the strike was illegal. Under the Labour Appellate Tribunals Act, any strike or lockout during the pendency of appeal in the appellate court would become automatically illegal.

The strike had not ended by 31 August 1950.

(The Hindustan Times, 15-8-1950;  
The Indian News Chronicle, 14-8-1950;  
The Times of India, dated 1-9-1950):

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Profit-Sharing Bonus for Tata Workers:-  
7.8 Million Rupees to be paid for 1949-1950.

Mr. Michael John, President of the Tata Workers' Union, announced at a meeting at Jamshedpur on 1 August 1950 that 7.8 million rupees would be available for distribution among the workers as profit-sharing bonus for the year ending 31 March 1950. Bonus in the previous year amounted to 5.5 million rupees. This year's bonus amounts to wages of each worker for about 2 1/4 months.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-8-1950).

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47. Reconstruction Plans.

India - August 1950.

National Laboratories Scheme for India:  
Central Glass and Ceramic Research  
Institute opened at Calcutta.

The Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, fourth in the chain of national laboratories, was opened on 26 August 1950 at Calcutta by Dr. B.C. Roy, Premier of West Bengal.

Functions of the Institute.- The institute will conduct fundamental research having a bearing on the different branches of glass and ceramics. Its other functions will be testing and standardisation, technical assistance to the glass and ceramics industry, dissemination of information and training of technologists for special work. The scope of its work includes research and investigation in glass, pottery and porcelain, enamels and refractories.

Training facilities.- Apart from fundamental research, an important function of the Institute will be to render technical help to the industry in the improvement of the quality of products and to induce the industry, by demonstrating the benefits of scientific processes, to utilize and adopt improved techniques in works operations. In the course of time, the Institute will encourage the factories to send their workers for short training courses so that they may apply the knowledge so gained in manufacturing operations. Research staff will also be sent to visit factories in order that they may acquire factory experience. The Institute will work in collaboration with industry, universities, other research organisations and Government departments for the collection of data and the dissemination of technical information. For this purpose, the Institute will also maintain a library for the use of workers and will organise a museum where a wide collection of finished articles, samples of raw materials in various regions, processed raw materials and other items of interest to the industry, will be displayed.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 26 and 27-8-1950).



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CHAPTER 5. WORKING CONDITIONS.

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

52. Welfare and Workers' Leisure.

The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes  
(Amendment) Bill, 1950: Definition of the Term  
"Employee" classified.

*in the Parliament*

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, Government of India, moved, on 12 August 1950 the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes (Amendment) Bill, 1950. The amendment is of a verbal character, seeking to make the definition of the term "employee" applied uniformly throughout the Act, by substituting the word "employee" for "employee in a coal mine" wherever it occurs.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that the expression "employee" is defined by section 2 of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948, to mean any person who is employed in any kind of work, manual or otherwise, in or in connection with a coal mine and who gets his wages directly or indirectly from the employer. A doubt has been expressed that by reason of the use of the words "employee in a coal mine" or "employees in coal mines" in certain parts of the Act it is not permissible to extend the provident fund and bonus schemes to persons employed; say, in the central offices of a group of colliery-owners and ancillary organisations, although such offices are situated ~~xxx~~ within the precincts of a mine and are connected with the mine. The present Bill seeks to make the definition apply uniformly throughout the Act. Ample powers exist in the Act to determine the employees or class of employees who shall be entitled to join the fund.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-  
Section 2, dated 12 August 1950,  
pages 304-305 ).

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The Uttar Pradesh Sugar and Power Alcohol  
Industries Labour, Welfare and Development  
Fund Bill, 1950: Provision for financing  
Housing, Dispensary Services and other  
Welfare Measures.

The Uttar Pradesh Government published on 5 August 1950, the Uttar Pradesh Sugar and Power Alcohol Industries Labour, Welfare and Development Fund Bill, 1950, to make better provision for financing measures for promoting the welfare of labour employed in the sugar and power alcohol industries, including housing and dispensary services. The Bill, which is modelled on the Central Government's Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947, sets up a fund and a housing board for carrying out the purposes of the Bill.

Statement of Objects and Reasons.- The Statement of Objects and Reasons, appended to the Bill points out ~~that~~ the importance of industrial housing to the country and observes that, however, costs of construction, are extremely high and an economic rent which includes provision for depreciation, maintenance and repairs and a reasonable return on the capital outlay ~~of~~ the prevailing cost of construction would be beyond the means of the vast majority of industrial workers. And apart from this factor the provision of ~~great~~ capital itself for housing programmes in the prevailing economic and money conditions is a matter of great difficulty. A source of money for starting housing schemes has, therefore, to be found. In the coal industry a cess of a few annas per ton of coal sold has been levied and constituted into a Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. Owing to high prices and for other reasons it has not been possible to impose a similar cess on other industrial products. In any case that has to be done on an all-India basis. The Bill proposes to constitute a fund out of the excess money realised from the open sale of molasses. Molasses were considered a noxious industrial waste before the war and during the earlier part of the war, and consequently were sold at extremely low prices, e.g., two pice per maund. Owing to the war-time sugar shortage and transport and other difficulties, however, molasses became valuable during the latter part of the war and was sold at prices as high as 6 rupees per maund. At this time the alcohol industry was set up for defence purposes and the price of molasses supplied to distilleries was controlled in order to keep down the price of alcohol ~~at~~ at a reasonable level (a maximum of six annas per maund). After the end of the war alcohol became even more important as an additive to petrol for automotive purposes in order to save foreign exchange by reducing imports of

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motor fuel. The necessity for keeping down the price of molasses to the alcohol industry is even greater ~~than~~ today than it was during the war. The price of molasses sold for other purposes is still in the neighbourhood of 1 rupee and 8 annas per maund. There is, therefore, a disparity of nearly 1 rupee per maund in the price of molasses sold to the distillery industry and to others. In order to rationalize the supply of molasses to distilleries and to make use of the least possible amount of transport it is necessary to take molasses for the distillery industry from a few sugar factories rather than earmark a specific percentage of the molasses output of each sugar ~~and~~ factory for the distillery industry. Factories supplying molasses to the distillery industry, would, therefore, suffer a loss in comparison to factories making sales to others. Moreover, in fixing a controlled price of sugar, a specific allowance has to be made for the realization by the sale of molasses. For all these reasons it was thought feasible to allow sugar factories a flat rate of 4 1/2 annas per maund of molasses. Any excess realized by open sales was to be constituted into a fund to be used specifically for the benefit ~~in~~ of the sugar and alcohol industries with particular reference to the provision of housing for labour in the sugar industry. The Indian Sugar Syndicate agreed to this arrangement and has been paying surplus realizations from free molasses sales into a Government head of account. The main purpose of the present Bill is to constitute a fund out of this money and to arrange for the proper utilization of the money.

The Bill is on the lines of the Central Government's Coal Mines Welfare Fund Act with necessary modifications.

Constitution of the Fund.- According to the provisions of the Bill, a fund called the U.P. Sugar and Power Alcohol Industries Labour, Welfare and Development Fund would ~~be~~ set up. It would consist of three separate accounts: (a) Housing Account (b) General Welfare Account and (c) Development Account. Contributions to each account would consist of moneys allotted by the State Government out of the resources of the Fund, grants by the State Government, any contributions from others and income out of charges and fees payable to the account. Rents and other income received by the Housing Board to be set up under the Bill, would be credited to the Housing Account.

Objects for which the Fund may be utilised.-The Fund may be utilised generally for the purpose of financing measures for promoting the ~~welfare~~ welfare of labour employed in sugar and power alcohol industries, including housing, provision of dispensary

services and the development generally of the sugar and power alcohol industries.

The Housing Account may be utilised, among other things, a) for erecting, maintaining and repairing housing accommodation for labour employed in the sugar and power alcohol industries and for providing connected services and facilities; b) for preparing schemes and of acquiring ~~and~~ or purchasing any property required, for the purposes of providing housing accommodation; and c) grants, subject to the previous approval of the State Government, to local authorities or the owners, agents or managers of a sugar or power alcohol factories, in aid of any scheme approved by the Housing Board.

The General Welfare Account may be used to defray the cost of measures for the benefit of labour employed in the sugar and power alcohol industries, including the ~~following~~ following: (i) the improvement of health and sanitation, the prevention of disease, the provision of medical facilities, maternity and improvement of existing medical facilities, including the provision and maintenance of dispensary services in sugar and power alcohol factories, the promotion of industrial hygiene and the undertaking of medico-social investigations; (ii) the provision of water supplies and facilities for washing and the improvement of existing supplies and facilities; (iii) the provision and improvement of educational facilities including libraries and publicity; (iv) the improvement of the standard of living, including nutrition, amelioration of social conditions, and the provision of recreational facilities; and (v) the provision of transport to and from work. The State Government may also give grants-in-aid to sugar and power alcohol factories which maintain dispensary services for the benefit of their labour, at a prescribed standard.

The Development Account may be spent for providing facilities for imparting technical education and training connected with the manufacture of sugar, alcohol and products derived therefrom, including the growing of sugarcane, and the utilization of by-products of ~~both~~ both industries, for providing facilities of all kinds for research connected with the growing of sugar cane and its manufacture and utilization including the financing of pilot and large-scale trials, and for providing facilities generally for the development of the sugar and alcohol industries including the building of roads and the provisions of facilities for irrigation.

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Housing Board.- The Bill also provides for the setting up of the U.P. (Sugar and Power Alcohol) Labour Housing Board, to prepare and to carry out, subject to the previous approval of the State Government, schemes financed from the housing account for the provision of suitable housing accommodation for labour employed in the sugar and power alcohol industries. The Labour Welfare Commissioner, to be appointed for supervising and carrying out the measures financed from the fund, would be the chairman of the Board, and the other members would be appointed by the State Government.

The State Government may also constitute an advisory committee consisting of equal number of representatives of Government, employers and workers, to advise it on matters falling under the Bill.

(Government Gazette of the Uttar Pradesh  
Extraordinary, dated 5 August, 1950,  
pages 1-10 ).

The West Bengal Factories (Welfare Officers')  
Rules, 1950.

The draft West Bengal Factories (Welfare Officers') Rules (vide pages 36-37 of the report of this Office for January 1950) have been approved and gazetted on 27 July 1950.

(The ~~Six~~ Calcutta Gazette, Part I,  
dated 27 July 1950, pages 1497-1498).

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55. Protection of Minors.

India - August 1950.

*note*

U.P.: Proposal to extend the Employment of Children Act, 1938, to certain Processes in Glass Bangles and Brassware Industries.

By a notification under section 3A of the Employment of Children Act, 1938, in supersession of a earlier Government notification dated 24 August 1948 (vide page 50 of the report of this Office for September 1948) the Uttar Pradesh Government has given notice of its proposal to extend the Employment of Childrens' Act, 1938 to the following processes in the Brassware and glass bangles industries:-

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A) Brassware Industry:- (1) moulding, (2) casting, (3) shaping, (4) soldering, (5) brazing, (6) filling, (7) fitting, (8) scraping, (9) turning, (10) polishing, (11) electroplating, (12) tinning, (13) lacquering, (14) drawing, (15) Acid cleaning, and (16) finishing. B) Glass Bangle Industry:- (1) batch mixing, (2) furnace filling, (3) stocking, (4) shaping, (5) disecting, (6) internal silvering, (7) lustering, (8) grinding, (9) cutting, (10) decorative firing, and (11) joining.

The proposal will be taken into consideration after 1 November 1950.

(The Government Gazette of the Uttar Pradesh, Part I-A, dated 22 July 1950, page 325 )

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59. General.

India - August 1950.

Delhi Factories Rules, 1950.

The draft Delhi Factories Rules (vide page 53 of the report of this Office for April 1949) have now been approved and gazetted on 5 August 1950.

(The Gazette of India, Part III-  
Section 3, dated 5 August, 1950,  
pages 381-418 ).

Assam: Tea Factories exempted from certain  
Sections of the Factories Act, 1948.

By a notification dated 20 July 1950 under section 65 of the Factories Act, 1948, the Government of Assam has exempted all the factories in Assam from the provisions of sections 51, 52, 54, 55, 56 and 61 (relating respectively to weekly hours of work, weekly holidays, daily hours of work, rest interval, spreadover and notice of periods of work for adults) of the Factories Act, 1948, for the year 1950, subject to the following conditions:- (1) the total number of hours of works in any day shall not exceed ten; (2) the period of exemption shall be during the months of August, September and October; (3) the total number of hours of overtime during a quarter shall be limited to 50 hours; (4) the spread over including rest period shall not exceed 12 hours per day; (5) the overtime wage shall be paid at double the ordinary rate of wages and recorded in overtime register; (6) no worker shall be employed for more than fourteen consecutive days without a rest period of 24 consecutive hours; and (7) compensatory holidays for loss of weekly holiday shall be given within one month of the day on which the weekly holiday is not given to the workers.

§ Notification No. GIR.138/50/4, dated 20 July 1950; The Assam Gazette, Part II-A, dated 26 July 1950, pages 1273-1274 ).

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Bihar: Factories Act, 1948, extended to  
certain Industries.

f By a notification dated 2 August 1950 under section 85 of the Factories Act, 1948, the Government of Bihar has extended the provisions of sections 6 and 7 of Chapter I and those of Chapter IV of the Factories Act, 1948, to saw mills, ice factories, oil mills, atta chakies (flour mills) and machine shops for carrying on repair work of machinery, wherein a manufacturing process is carried on with the aid of power and the number of persons employed is less than ten, provided the work is not carried on by the owner only with the aid of his family.

(Sections 6 and 7 of Chapter I relate, respectively, to approval, licensing and registrations of factories and notice to be given by the occupier to the Chief Inspector of Factories. Chapter IV of the Act relates to safety provisions).

(Notification No. FI-80L-5049, dated 26 July 1950; The Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated 2nd August 1950, page 1061 ).

Madras: Repealing and Amending Bill, 1950:  
The Madras Non-Power Factories Act, 1947  
Repealed.

The Government of Madras has published the Madras Repealing and Amending Bill, 1950, which seeks to repeal certain spent or useless Acts and make some formal and consequential amendments in certain other Acts. The Bill, among other things, repeals the Factories (Madras Amendment) Act, 1941, which amends the Factories Act, 1934, since repealed by the Factories Act, 1948, and the Madras Non-Power Factories Act, 1947. Certain consequential amendments are also made to the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, substituting references to the Factories Act, 1934 for references to the Factories Act, 1948.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part-IV-A,  
dated 1 August, 1950, pages 321-338 ).



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Labour Conditions in the Paper Mills  
Industry in India.

A review of the conditions of labour in the Paper Mill Industry in India was made at pages 36 to 42 of the report of this Office for March 1950. The information related to January 1948. With a view to bringing the information up-to-date, the Labour Bureau, Government of India, issued questionnaires to 20 mills including two mills manufacturing ~~xxxx~~ paper and board alone and two others manufacturing both paper and paper board. One of the mills was reported to have been closed and a note based on the replies received from the 19 mills is published in the June 1950 issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. The information relates in most cases to July 1949. The following is a summary of the note:-

Number of workers.- According to the Statistics of Factories, there were in 1948 in India some 30 paper mills including 6 in the former princely states of Hyderabad, Mysore and Travancore. These mills employed about 21,000 workers per day on the average. In addition, there were a number of paper board and other factories, separate statistics relating to which are not available. The units which replied to the questionnaire (including a few paper board mills) employed over 21,000 workers directly or indirectly in July 1949. Detailed statistics of employment relating to these units are given in the table below:-

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Please see table on the next page.

State	No. of Units furnishing information	Employed directly					
		Permanent			Temporary		
		Men	Women	Child- ren	Men	Women	Child- ren
West Bengal.....	4	8455	387	-	225	300	-
Bombay.....	3	797	224	3	197	11	-
U.P. ....	3	1844	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar .....	1	937	-	-	171	-	-
Punjab .....	1	1374	20	-	183	-	-
Orissa .....	1	679	25	-	226	20	-
Madras .....	2	24	3	-	194	1	-
Hyderabad.....	1	1348	30	-	-	-	-
Mysore .....	1	650	53	8	121	1	16
Travancore.....	1	499	156	-	87	24	-
Bhopal.....	1	166	22	-	94	4	-
Total.....	19	16773	920	11	1498	361	16

States	Employed through Contractors			Total
	Men	Women	Children	
West Bengal.....	1045	6	-	10418
Bombay.....	13	8	-	1253
U.P. ....	-	-	-	1844
Bihar .....	199	-	-	1307
Punjab .....	64	-	-	1641
Orissa .....	169	16	-	1135
Madras .....	-	30	-	252
Hyderabad .....	42	21	-	1441
Mysore .....	-	-	-	849
Travancore.....	82	19	-	867
Bhopal .....	-	-	-	286
Total.....	1614	100	-	21293

Recruitment.- In most cases there was no special machinery for the recruitment of labour. Unskilled labour was generally recruited at the mill gates while skilled workers were recruited by advertisement or through the employment exchanges. In certain cases, preference was given to the relatives of employees and old workers seeking re-employment while in some others substitutes appointed in place of absentees were given preference for regular employment when vacancies arose. In one factory, workers were usually engaged on probation for 4 months and were later confirmed if their work was satisfactory. Special machinery for recruitment however existed in some of the bigger mills. In the mill at Dalmianagar (Bihar) there was a Recruitment Board consisting of 3 members including the Controller of Personnel and the Labour Officer. In the Titaghur Paper Mills recruitment was made through the mill labour office from among the names registered for employment.

Apprenticeship and training.- A majority of the mills did not have any systems of apprenticeship and training. Some of the bigger mills however had facilities for this purpose and employment in certain cases was conditional on apprenticeship for a prescribed period. In the Titaghur Paper Mills there were six kinds of apprenticeship. Under these schemes trade apprenticeship are trained for 5 years in different trades following which they have to undergo an improvers' course for 4 years before being absorbed as tradesmen. A trade apprentice is started on ~~57 rupees~~ 10 annas per day. Boiler apprentices are trained for 5 years and are started on 37 rupees per month. Pupil supervisors are trained in the Calcutta Training School besides being given practical training in the mill and all expenses are borne by the company including the pay of the trainees who start on 42 rupees per month. A number of persons are trained in the process departments and are ultimately taken over as Assistant Supervisors. After three years' training they are put on to a 3 years' improvers' course. The trainees are started on 50 rupees per month. There were also schemes to train up young graduates in the process departments for paper making and as assistant chemists. While the training period in the former was 5 years, no such period was fixed in the latter case. In the Bengal Paper Mills at Raniganj a limited number of trade apprentices were being trained for 5 years in different occupations. In the factory of the Indian Paper Pulp Co. at Naihati apprentices were receiving training in all departments for a period of 5 years. ~~In the Shri Gopal Paper Mills in Punjab apprentices were trained generally taken in the production and engineering departments.~~ Earners were also taken in certain departments and trained for 5 years. In the Shri Gopal Paper Mills in Punjab apprentices were ~~trained~~ generally taken in the production and engineering departments. In the Western India Paper and Board Mills at Bombay workers were taken in as apprentices for 6 months during which period they were paid as unskilled workers and later absorbed in regular jobs on prescribed scales of pay. In Travancore a scheme was in existence for training educated young men as Improvers, Supervisors, etc., the period of apprenticeship being 5 years. There was also a scheme of apprenticeship in the Sirpur Paper Mills in Hyderabad.

Hours of work.- All the mills except two, which mainly deal with paper board, work three shifts of eight hours each. There is in addition a general day shift in most cases while in a few there is also a night shift. In the mills in Bombay and Travancore night shift workers are given free tea.

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Wages and earnings.- As a result of certain adjudication awards and recommendations of arbitrators and conciliators in industrial disputes, the wage structure has undergone further changes in six of the mills covered by the survey since January 1948.

In Mysore the minimum basic wage of an adult male worker was raised from 7 annas to 10 annas per day and some six grades of wages were fixed for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers. The recommendations involved an increase of 25 per cent in the wage bill of the mill.

In the Upper India Couper Paper Mills, Lucknow, and the Star Paper Mills, Saharanpur the minimum basic wages were fixed at 7 annas per day and dearfood allowances were fixed on a slab system linked to the working class cost of living index. The minimum rates of dearfood allowance in July 1949 ~~was fixed~~ worked out to 1 rupee 5 annas per day in Lucknow and 2 rupees 3 annas per day in Saharanpur.

In the Paper Mill at Dalmianagar the dearness allowance was raised from 20 rupees to 30 rupees per month with effect from November 1948 and a corresponding increase was granted in the daily rates of wages paid to casual workers.

The minimum basic wage of the workers of the Straw Products Ltd., Bhopal was fixed at 25 rupees per month and a dearness allowance was granted at 25 rupees per month. An increase of 7 rupees was also granted in the monthly wages of all workers.

In the Titaghur Paper Mills, an increase of 12 1/2 per cent was given in the ~~piece~~ piece rates for Finishers and the scales of pay for clerical staff were revised. The wage rate for women workers was raised to 12 annas per day and a house rent allowance was granted at a flat rate of 2 rupees per month to all workers.

The following table shows the position regarding the minimum basic wages, dearness allowance and other allowances in various centres in July 1949.

Centre	Basic Wage	Dearness allowance	Other payments and concessions.
I. West Bengal			
Titaghur and Kankinarah..	Rs.30 per month	Rs.30 per month	Rs.2 (House Allowance per month
Raniganj...	Rs.1-4-6 perday	Rs.0.3.0per day (15 per cent)	Rs.0-7-9 (Ration subsidiary)perday. Rs.0-4-9 (Attendance bonus)per day.
Naihati....	Rs.30 permonth	Rs.30 permonth	Rs.2 (House allowance)per month.
II. Bombay			
Poona....	Rs.0-10-0perday	Rs.1-1-0per day	--
Ahmedabad.	Rs.25 permonth	Rs.25 permonth	--
BombayCity.	Rs.0-8-0perday	Linked to cost of <del>living</del> living index.	--
III. U.P.			
Lucknow....	Rs.7 per day	Rs.1-5-0perday (linked to cost of living).	--
Sabarapur.	As.7 per day	Rs.2-3-0perday (linked to cost of living).	--
Meerut....	Rs.55 permonth	--	--
IV. Bihar			
Dalmianagar.	Rs.21 permonth	Rs.30 permonth	Rs.24permonth (House allowance).
V. Punjab			
Jagadhri.	Rs.42 permonth	Rxx --	Rs.10 permonth - \$Special compensatory allowance).
VI. Orissa			
Brajrajnagar.	Rs.24-6 permonth	Rs.8-2-0permonth	Rs.24-6-0permonth (Profit bonus).
VII. Madras			
Rajahmundry.	Rs.0-8-0 perday	Rs.16 permonth	--
Moodbidri.	Rs.20 permonth	Rs.5 per month	--
VIII. Hyderabad			
Sirpur....	Rs. 25 permonth	Rs.22-8-0 permonth.	--
IX. Mysore			
Bhadravati.	Rs.10 per day	Rs.12 per month	--
X. Travancore			
Punlur.	Rs.0-14-6 perday	Rs.20 per month	--
XI. Bhopal..			
	Rs.25 per month	Rs.25 per month	--

The earnings of workers in occupations requiring greater skill were, however, much higher depending upon the degree of skill and other factors.

Bonus.- The mills at Poona, Dalmianagar, Bhadravati, Sirpur, Bhopal and Meerut pay annual bonuses while the mill in Orissa pays a bonus called profit bonus which is equivalent to 100 per cent of the basic wages earned. The Deccan Paper Mills paid 2 1/4 months' wages as bonus for 1948. The Rohtas Industries Ltd., paid 1 1/2 months' wages as bonus in accordance with the award of an Adjudicator for 1947-48. The Mysore Paper Mills paid one-twelfth of the total earnings during 1948-49 as bonus for that year to all workers on rolls at the end of the year. One month's pay was given as bonus in the Sirpur Paper Mills, for 1948. The Straw Products Ltd., Bhopal distributed in 1948 over Rs 20,000 rupees as bonus to their employees at 25 per cent of basic wages. The mill at Naihati pays a half-yearly production bonus to machinemen and beaters. In the Gujerat Paper Mills, Ahmedabad no regular profit bonus is paid, but during 1947-48 one-twentyfourth of eight months' earnings was paid as Independence Bonus.

Housing and welfare.- With the exception of 4 mills in Madras, Uttar Pradesh, and Travancore the rest had provided some housing accommodation for their workers. The Titaghur Paper Mills Co. had provided housing for about 20 percent of their workers at Titaghur free of rent. The Bengal Paper Mills at Raniganj had some 221 quarters accommodating about 13 per cent of their labour force free of rent. At Naihati the Indian Paper Pulp Co. had provided 121 single room quarters for bachelors and 21 family quarters of four rooms each. These accommodated about 30 per cent of the labour employed in the mill free of rent. About 80 per cent of the labour employed in the Shree Gopal Paper Mills, Jagadhri was provided with electrified houses free of rent. In Orissa about 85 per cent of the labour employed in the Orient Paper Mills was provided with pucca and semi-pucca housing well ventilated, electrified and provided with water supply. Rent was charged according to the type of the quarter provided. In the Bombay State the proportion of labour provided with housing was comparatively small being 8 per cent at Poona, 8 1/2 per cent at Ahmedabad and 10 per cent in Bombay City. The Star Paper Mills, Saharanpur had provided 246 quarters where 50 per cent of their workers were housed free of rent. At Dalmianagar housing was provided for 18 per cent of the Paper mill workers. The Mysore Paper Mills had also provided housing accommodation for about 50 per cent of their employees but rent was charged at 3 rupees 8 annas per tenement. At Sirpur 83 houses were provided by the Sirpur Paper Mills Co. where 45 per cent of their workers were housed free of rent. Houses were provided by the

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Straw Board Mills at Meerut and Bhopal also where the proportion of workers accommodated was 20 per cent and 35 per cent respectively.

The type and extent of the welfare activities provided by the Paper Mills for their workers varied considerably. Canteens were provided by almost all the mills surveyed. A majority of the mills had provided rest shelters for their workers. Medical facilities were available in most of the mills and creches were provided in a few cases.

Systems of provident fund were in force in nine of the mills. While in three cases the membership of the fund was open to all employees and in two cases restricted to permanent employees in four cases the membership was restricted in terms of length of service, pay, etc. The employees' contribution was generally one anna in the rupee of wages earned while in one case the contribution was as high as one-twelfth of the wages. Schemes of gratuity were in force in two of the mills. The Titaghur Paper Mills had in addition, a system of widows and family pensions.

Industrial relations.- Workers in most of the paper mills had organised themselves into trade unions, almost all of which were registered and recognised by the employers. There were no fewer than 20 such unions connected with the workers employed in the mills surveyed. While in most cases there was only a single union connected with each mill, in some of the bigger mills there were rival unions with different affiliations. ~~Th~~ There were not many major strikes or lockouts either in 1948 or in the first half of 1949 in the mills surveyed. In 1948 there were some 12 strikes in these mills which resulted in a loss of over 200,000 man-days. The most important of these strikes was the one which occurred in Dalmiagar for about two months in 1948 involving 3,800 workers and a time-loss of about 190,000 man-days.

With a view to avoiding industrial disputes internal machinery of some type or the other such as, works committees, negotiating committees, etc., was set up in most of the mills.

There ~~were~~ were a few cases in 1948 in which disputes were referred to conciliation, arbitration or adjudication.

General.- During the past five years or so, many improvements are reported to have been made in the layout of machinery, ventilation and lighting, provision of sanitary arrangements and water supply, etc. in the paper mill industry. With a view to increasing the output, the plants have been modernised in some of the bigger mills and mechanical aids such as electrical hoists, etc. have been provided. As an incentive to labour, one of the mills has started paying an efficiency bonus. There has been a steady improvement in the working conditions as well as in the remuneration. However, while in some mills, it is reported that the per capita production is on the increase, in others it has fallen. The total production of paper and paper board has, however, steadily increased since 1947 as indicated in the following figures:-

Year.	Total production (tons)
1947 .....	93,090
1948 .....	97,905
1949 .....	103,194

(Indian Labour Gazette, June, 1950 ).

Labour Conditions on Tea Estates in Punjab.

There are nearly 2,000 tea estates in the Kangra district of the Punjab, employing about 15,000 workers. Recently a survey of labour conditions in the industry was conducted by the Punjab Labour Department. A note, based on the results of the survey, which covered 37 units, is published in the June 1950 issue of the Indian Labour Gazette. The following is a summary of the note.

Employment.- The labour required for the tea plantations is recruited from adjoining villages. A majority of the workers are landless labourers and part time farmers. A large number of villagers, men, women and children, work on tea estates all the year round. Many cultivators also get jobs on tea estates during the rainy and winter seasons when an extra number of workers is required and farm work is slack. Most of the labour employed in tea plantations is temporary.

Adult male labourers form about 43 per cent women ~~labourers~~ labourers 24 per cent and children



33 per cent of the total labour force.

Wages.- The wages of workers employed on the estates have increased considerably as compared to the pre-war period. The pre-war rates of wages of men, women and children were 2 annas 11 pies, 2 annas and 1 anna 10 pies per day respectively while the present rates amount to 9 annas, 6 annas 2 pies and 4 annas 9 pies per day respectively.

The following table shows the position regarding minimum, average and maximum wages of the estate workers:-

Occupation	Total number of units for which information collected.	Wages paid		
		Minimum	Average	Maximum
		Rs.A.P.	Rs.A. P.	Rs. A.P.
Carpenters.....	3	1 8 0	2 2 0	2 8 0
Labour-Mate....	37	0 6 0	0 10 9	1 0 0
Labourers-				
(a) Men* .....	36	0 5 6	0 9 0	1 0 0
(b) Women .....	37	0 4 6	0 6 2	0 8 0
(c) Children.....	36	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 7 6

\* The Wages of men labourers, engaged in 'colouring' and 'cutting' of tea leaves in the tea factories at Amritsar varied from 1 rupee to 1 rupee 8 annas perday, giving an average of 1 rupee 4 annas, per day.

Plucking and sorting of tea leaves is generally done by women and children. In the plucking season the pluckers are required to gather from 10 to 16 pounds of plucked leaves per day for their usual daily wages. If the pluckers pluck more leaves than the fixed quantity, every extra pound of tea leaves brings them 1/2 anna per pound as an efficiency rate. In the season a good plucker can earn from 4 to 6 annas a day over and above his daily wages.

There is no regularity about the period of wage payment. The intervals after which payment is made vary from 3 to 12 months at the discretion of the employer. It is reported that the payment of wage is delayed by the employer with a view to preventing labourers from leaving the estates and seeking work elsewhere. However, advances against the wages due are generally granted. Tea garden workers can supplement their cash earning by collecting free fuel etc.

Housing and welfare.- Housing accommodation is provided on the estates to only about 10 per cent of the workers and the majority live in the villages nearby.

In addition to housing facilities, workers on most of the tea estates also ~~receive~~ receive medical facilities. The majority of the workers get three days leave with wages in a month and those not availing of the leave are paid wages in lieu thereof.

(Indian Labour Gazette, June 1950 ).

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CHAPTER 6. GENERAL RIGHTS OF WORKERS.

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

61. Civil and Political Rights of Workers.

The Preventive Detention (Amendment) Bill, 1950  
passed by Parliament.

The Parliament adopted on 9 August 1950, the Preventive Detention (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to replace an Ordinance promulgated in June 1950 (vide page 60 of the report of this Office for July 1950), providing for the deletion of Clause 14 of the Act, which was declared ultra vires of the Constitution by the Supreme Court.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, pointed out that the Preventive Detention (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, repealed section 14 of the Preventive Detention Act which had been declared by the Supreme Court to be ultra vires of the Constitution. Two other minor amendments were made. The first conferred on additional district magistrates specially empowered in this behalf by State Governments the power to issue detention orders under section 3 of the Act. This was necessary as, in certain parts of the country, officers designated as additional district magistrates held independent charge of a district or part of a district and it was considered desirable that in such cases the only local officer with the authority to issue a detention order should not be the sub-divisional magistrate. The second amendment conferred the powers of ordering detention on Civil Administrators in the State of Hyderabad. The reason in this case was that, under the administrative structure that is in vogue in that State, law and order are the responsibility of the Civil Administrators, who, in this respect, correspond to district magistrates in all other States. It is necessary now to convert the Ordinance into an Act since, under article 123(2) of the Constitution, the Ordinance will cease to be valid six weeks after the assembly of Parliament.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-Section 2, dated 5 August 1950, pages 235-236; The Statesman, dated 10-8-1950 ).

The Madras Maintenance of Public Order  
(Amendment) Bill, 1949.

The Government of Madras has published a Bill to amend the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1949. The amending Bill, among other things, repeals the clause relating to preventive detention and the section relating to control of essential services.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that consequent upon the passing by Parliament of the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, certain provisions of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1949, relating to preventive detention, have become unnecessary and certain others require modifications. The Bill makes the necessary omissions and modifications. The opportunity has been taken to bring the Act into accord with the provisions of the Constitution as interpreted in some recent judgments of the Supreme Court.

Section 8 of the Act is considered to be unnecessary in view of the provisions contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Central Act XIV of 1947), and has been accordingly omitted by clause 12 of the Bill. Section 10 of the Act in so far as it relates to the payment of compensation for movable property requisitioned or acquired under the Act has also been brought into accord with the provisions of Article 31(2) of the Constitution.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part IV-A,  
Extraordinary, dated 3 August 1950,  
pages 345-347 ):

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66. Strike and Lockout Rights.

India - August 1950.

Madras: <sup>III</sup>Transport by Boats in Minor Ports  
declared Public Utility Service under the  
Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

By a notification under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Madras has declared the industry of transport by boats in minor ports in the State of Madras to be a public utility service for the purpose of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for a period of six months with effect from 11 July 1950.

(The For<sup>A</sup> St. George Gazette, Part I,  
dated 11 July 1950, page 2336 ).

67. Conciliation and Arbitration.

India - August 1950.

Central Appellate Tribunal set up under  
Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal)  
Act, 1950.

In exercise of the powers conferred under sections 4 and 6 of the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950 (vide page 52 of the report of this Office for June 1950), the Central Government has constituted, with effect from 8 August 1950, a Labour Appellate Tribunal, having its principal seat in Bombay. Mr. J.N. Majumdar, retired judge of the High Court, Calcutta is the chairman of the Tribunal and Mr. F. Jeejeebhoy, chairman of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal, member.

(Notification No. IR.91(2)/1 dated 8 August, 1950; The Gazette of India, Part I-Section 1, Extraordinary, dated 8 August, 1950, page 511 ).

Disputes  
The Industrial ~~Tribunal~~ (Appellate Tribunal)  
Rules, 1950.

*Disputes*

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 35 of the Industrial ~~Tribunal~~ (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950, the Central Government has gazetted the Industrial ~~Tri~~ Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 1950, inter alia, prescribing the forms of appeal, procedure for presentation of memorandum or appeal, procedure on hearing etc.

(The Gazette of India, Part I-Section 1, Extraordinary, dated 8 August 1950, pages 511-513 ).

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Draft Industrial Statistics (Industrial and Labour Disputes) Rules, 1950, published by the Governments of Assam and Uttar Pradesh.

The State Governments of Assam and Uttar Pradesh have published the draft of the Industrial Statistics (Industrial and Labour Disputes) Rules, 1950, proposed to be made under section 12 of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, for the purpose of collection of statistics in respect of industrial and labour disputes in specified establishments, including factories, mines, railways, plantations, post and telegraph department, municipalities and local boards, banks and insurance companies and oil fields.

(The Assam Gazette, Part II-A, dated 19 July, 1950, pages 1241-1246;  
Government Gazette of the Uttar Pradesh, Part I-A, dated 22-7-1950, pages 326-329).

Working Conditions of Bank Employees:  
All-India Industrial Tribunal's Award:  
Minimum Pay Scales, Dearness Allowance  
and Bonus fixed.

The All-India Industrial Tribunal (Bank Disputes) (vide page 50 of the report of this Office for June 1950) appointed by the Central Government in June 1949, has published its final award, covering various issues including scales of pay, dearness allowance, house rent allowance, provident fund, bonus, pension, leave rules and medical facilities for bank employees. The award applies only to banking companies which had "branches or other establishments in more than one province" on June 13 and September 28, 1949.

The Tribunal has classified the banks, both scheduled and non-scheduled, for purposes of the award as follows: A. Banks having average working funds of 250 million rupees and ~~not below 75 million rupees~~ above. B. Banks having average working funds below 250 million rupees and not below 75 million rupees. C. Banks having average working funds of less than 75 million rupees. It also classified the places at which employees are stationed, according to the cost of living. Bombay, Delhi, ~~Calcutta and Ahmedabad~~ Calcutta and Ahmedabad constitute the Class I area. Towns having a population of 50,000 or more in the Punjab and of 100,000 or more elsewhere constitute the Class II areas. Others are treated as Class III areas. And the Tribunal has prescribed separate time scales of pay for each class of banks in each area.

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Minimum pay scales and dearness allowance.-  
The minimum pay prescribed for staff in Class A banks in Class I areas is 96 rupees, in Class II area, 82 rupees and in Class III area, 70 rupees. The minimum pay prescribed for staff in Class B banks stationed in Class I area, is 92 rupees, in Class II area, 78 rupees and Class III area, 66 rupees. The minimum pay for staff in Class C banks in Class I area, is 86 rupees, in Class II area, 73 rupees and Class III area, 62 rupees.

The scales are related to the cost of living in 1944 and dearness allowance will be payable on the following slab system, that is, a certain percentage on every rise of ten points in the cost-of-living index figure above the level of 1944 (Indices being converted to the base in 1944-100). On salaries ranging up to 50 rupees a month, dearness allowance will be paid at the rate of  $9 \frac{3}{8}$  percent on every rise of ten points in the cost-of-living index figure; on salaries up to 100 rupees a month  $8 \frac{1}{2}$  per cent; on salaries up to 150 rupees a month  $7 \frac{1}{2}$  per cent; and on those upto 200 rupees a month  $6 \frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Where the monthly pay exceeds 200 rupees the dearness allowance payable is five per cent.

Certain categories of employees, for example, graduates, banking diploma holders, head clerks supervisors, etc., will be entitled to special allowances in addition to pay. Employees of Class A Banks in the cities of Calcutta, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Delhi and Kanpur will also be entitled to house rent allowance.

The directions regarding scales of pay and allowances apply to banks in Class A from a date six months prior to the publication of the award to banks in Class B from the date of publication, and to banks in Class C from a date six months after such publication.

Rate of bonus fixed.- The award lays down that bonus shall be paid to the employees on the following scale: Up to 4 percent dividend-Nil; ~~dividend~~ For every increase of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in the dividend over 4 per cent -  $\frac{1}{6}$  month's pay.

Provident fund, pension and gratuity.- The Tribunal has recommended that where no provident fund has been instituted one in accordance with the Model Rules prepared by the Government of India in 1945 shall be instituted within six months of the publication of the award. The award also contains directions for payment of gratuity where there is no pension scheme in the following cases: (a) on the death of a bank employee while in service; (b) on his being physically or mentally disabled to continue further in service



or on termination of employment by the bank after ten years' service; and (c) voluntary retirement or resignation after 15 years' service.

Leave rules and medical facilities.- Leave rules for bank employees have been formulated more or less on the lines of the revised leave rules applicable to Central Government employees. Under the terms of the award, the bank managements are responsible for providing medical aid to, and for meeting certain medical expenses of, their employees.

The award becomes enforceable on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication. It is not subject to appeal in view of the provisions of Section 7 (2) of the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950.

(The Hindu, 17 and 26 August, 1950).

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CHAPTER 7. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

71. Organisation of the Labour Market.

Work done by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during July, 1950.

Employment situation.- According to the Report of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during the month of July 1950, shortages of technical personnel such as high grade fitters, machinists, civil and mechanical engineers, wiremen, electricians, draughtsmen, overseers and tractor drivers continued to be widespread. There was a dearth of doctors, nurses, compounders, trained teachers, typist and stenographers in most regions. On the other hand, the general overall surplus of unskilled and semi-skilled labourers, carpenters, motor drivers, fresh matriculates and graduates, unskilled office workers and clerks, continued.

Registration and placings.- The total number of registrations for employment and the total number placed in employment during the month are shown below:-

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	July 1950	June 1950	July 1949
Total Number of registrations....	121,017	109,334	108,161
Total Number placed in employment....	29,393	29,850	22,240

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Of those registered in July 1950, 10,677 were ex-Service personnel, 16,579 were displaced persons (including 10,498 from Eastern Pakistan) and 6,418 discharged Government employees. Of those placed, 3,188 were displaced persons (including 1,761 from Eastern Pakistan), 1,464 were ex-Service personnel and 1,655 discharged Government employees. 17,280 (59 per cent) were placed with private employers and 12,113 (41 per cent) in Union and State Government Departments. The number of vacancies notified by employers during July 1950 fell for the second consecutive monsoon month, being 34,900 as compared with 36,901 during the

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previous month, i.e., a fall of 2,001. Of the vacancies notified, 15,343 were by Government establishments and 19,557 by private employers. The number of employers who used the exchanges during the month of July was 6,919 as against 5,948 during June, the figure being the highest ever reached. Of those, 64.4 per cent were private employers.

Placings by wage groups.- Figures relating to placings during July 1950, analysed according to wage groups were as follows:-

<u>Wage groups: basic monthly pay</u>	<u>Number of placings</u>
Above 101 rupees .....	474
61 to 100 rupees .....	3,049
30 to 60 rupees .....	21,425
Below 30 rupees .....	4,445

Employment of retrenched Government servants.- The re-employment of discharged Union and State Government employees again improved slightly but progress was still slow. The local offices reported that better results could not be achieved for various reasons, among them being that many discharged Government employees seeking employment assistance were, despite the relaxation of age limits, over-aged for Government service. Many lacked adequate educational qualifications and others were unwilling to be considered for jobs lower than those which they held prior to retrenchment. The fact that no State Government (unlike the Union Government) had accorded any priority to retrenched Union and State Government employees, also stood in the way of their re-employment. At the end of July there were 17,172 unemployed discharged Government employees registered with exchanges. Of these 12,765 had been discharged from Union Government establishments and 4,407 by State Governments. During the month, 6,418 fresh registrations took place of which 4,685 were Union Government and 1,733 State Government employees. 1,655 discharged Government employees were placed in employment during the month, 1,253 of whom were ex-Union Government employees and 402 were ex-State Government employees.

Employment of displaced persons.- During the month, 16,579 displaced persons were registered as against 16,899 in June. 3,188 were placed in employment in July as against 2,929 in June. Assam registered 778 displaced persons and placed 92 in employment. Bihar registered 140 displaced persons (out of which 131 were from Eastern Pakistan) and placed 48. The review says that employment officers in the Bihar region complained that most

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of the displaced persons were reluctant to accept jobs involving manual labour. It was reported that 94 displaced persons who had been trained for work in the mica industry and who had been found employment after completion of training had left their jobs. The various exchanges in the Punjab region registered a total of 3,009 displaced persons and placed 732 in employment. Heavy registrations of displaced persons from Eastern Pakistan continued in West Bengal. It was reported that the employment situation had declined for these registrants because Pakistan Muslims who had left West Bengal at the beginning of the year were returning in large numbers and were being reinstated in their old jobs. During the month under report the exchanges in West Bengal registered 8,598 displaced applicants and placed 1,496 in employment. The placement of displaced persons in iron and steel processing establishments against additional steel quotas from the Industrial Rehabilitation Board was reported to have been rather slow. Only 609 such placements were reported to have been secured against 1,373 vacancies notified upto 31 July, 1950.

Total number of persons remaining unemployed.-  
The number of persons still seeking employment assistance on the last day of July 1950 was ~~54~~ 345,395 as against 322,958 in June. Of these, 61,322 were displaced persons (including 41,620 from Eastern Pakistan), 38,231 ex-Service personnel and 17,172 discharged Government employees. Among discharged Government employees, 12,765 were Union Government and 4,407 State Government employees.

Inspections of exchanges.- During the period under review one regional employment exchange and ten sub-regional employment exchanges were inspected. The standard of work at the exchanges visited showed considerable improvement since the introduction of central inspections. Special care was taken to safeguard against any form of favouritism in submission work or falsification of placing figures.

Tripartite conference at Ajmer to discuss decasualisation in textile mills.- Under the chairmanship of the ~~Regional Employment Exchange~~ Deputy Commissioner, Ajmer, a tripartite conference of the representatives of textile mill owners, workers and the employment exchange organisation was held at Beawar on 17 July 1950 to discuss a scheme for the decasualisation of labour in the textile mills in that area.

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Technical and vocational training.- The Technical and Vocational Training Scheme for Adult Civilians made further progress during the month. The number of trainees on the rolls, as on 31 July 1950, increased to 6,083, of whom 5,007 were undergoing training in technical trades and the rest in vocational trades. 829 displaced persons were undergoing training at the end of July 1950 in the States in which the training has been sanctioned. In addition, 276 "policial sufferers" and Harijans were undergoing training in Uttar Pradesh under arrangements made with the State Government. The Technical, Vocational and Apprenticeship training schemes for ex-servicemen came to an end on 31 July 1950. 185 Technical, both ex-servicemen and displaced persons, passed the prescribed trade tests during the month, bringing the total of passed out trainees to 31,098. A total of 322 women were undergoing training at the three Women's Training Centres at New Delhi, Dehra Dun and Madras.

Training of Instructors.- 114 Instructors and supervisors including nominees of some of the State Governments were undergoing training at the Central Training Institute for Instructors, Koni, Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh, on 31 July 1950. In addition, 207 primary school teachers were undergoing training in wood work at the Industrial Training Institute, Aundh, under arrangements made with the Government of Bombay.

(Review of Work done by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment during the Month of July 1950, issued by the Government of India ).

Special Employment Bureau to be closed:  
Work taken over by Employment Exchanges.

A Government of India Press note states that the Special Employment Bureau, which was set up in March 1948, for assisting in the speedy resettlement of highly qualified displaced persons, will be closed from 31 August 1950 and its work transferred to the employment exchanges.

The Bureau was at first under the administrative control of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. Later, it was transferred to the control of Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment. Upto 31 July 1950 the Special Bureau had found work for 1,177 out of 3,505 displaced persons. ~~Among~~ Among those placed in employment were a large number of lawyers, engineers, architects, teachers and scientific workers.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-8-1950).

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CHAPTER 8. SOCIAL SECURITY.

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

81. Social Insurance.

Orissa: Draft Employees Insurance Courts  
Rules, 1950.

The Government of Orissa State published the draft of the Employees Insurance Courts Rules, 1950, proposed to be made under section 96 of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. Among other things, the Rules relate to the Constitution of employees insurance courts to be set up under the Act, conditions of service of judges, administrative control, and execution of orders and costs and decrees. The draft will be taken into consideration after 5 September 1950.

(The Orissa Gazette, Part III,  
dated 28 July 1950, pages 765-784).

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CHAPTER 9. LIVING STANDARDS.

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

93. Co-operation.

Co-operative Movement in U.P.: Committee to  
review work suggested.

A meeting of the Standing Committee of the Co-operative and Development Departments of the Government of Uttar Pradesh was held at Lucknow on 10, 11 and 12 August 1950. The ~~XXXXXX~~ Committee recommended the appointment without delay of a committee to review the work done, the progress made and the drawbacks experienced and to plan for the future in connection with the co-operative movement in the State. The proposed committee, it was suggested, should also examine the Co-operative Societies Act and the rules framed thereunder with the view to suggesting amendments, where necessary, and it should also go into the whole question of financing the co-operative movement and suggest ways and means to improve the working of the co-operative banking institutions.

The meeting also suggested that immediate steps should be directed to develop the existing co-operative organisation in undertaking the following activities: improvement in the quality of seed; distribution of manure and implements; supply of implements on a co-operative basis on hire, developing facilities for irrigation, raising finance for these and other activities, and starting small savings scheme for members; undertaking co-operative marketing of produce, wherever feasible and distribution of essential consumers' goods. It recommended that the expansion of new co-operative organizations should not be undertaken except to a very limited extent, and then only in such areas where there is a genuine urge in the people for such activity.

The meeting further urged the Government to consider the desirability of training the presidents and secretaries of co-operatives in co-operative law, accounts, etc., with a view to improving the management of co-operatives.

(The Indian News Chronicle, dated  
14-8-1950 ).

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CHAPTER 10. INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

101. Prevention of Accidents.

The Marking of Heavy Packages Bill, 1950:  
Measures to implement I.L. Convention No. 29.

Mr. Sri Prakasa, Minister for Commerce, Government of India, introduced in the Parliament on 11 August 1950, the Marking of Heavy Packages Bill, 1949, designed to give effect to the I.L. Convention No. 29 concerning the marking of the weight on heavy packages transported by vessels. The Bill would, on adoption, extend to the whole of India and come into force on a date to be notified by the Central Government.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, points out that the Convention concerning the Marking of the Weight on Heavy Packages transported by Vessels adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1929 has been ratified by India. The Convention requires that any package or object of one thousand kilogrammes (one metric ton) or more gross weight consigned within the territory of any Member country for transport by sea or inland water-way should have its gross weight plainly and durably marked upon it on the outside before it is loaded on a ship or vessel. This will prevent heavy unmarked packages from being lifted by mechanical means which are intended for ~~handling~~ smaller loads. The purpose of the Bill is to give effect to the Convention in India.

(The Gazette of India, Part II-Section 2,  
dated 15 July 1950, pages 233-234 ).



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

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

111. Agriculture.

U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms  
Bill: Third Reading passed by Legislative  
Assembly, 4 August, 1950.

On 4 August 1950 the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the third reading of the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Bill, 1949 (vide pages 63-69 of the report of this Office for June 1949). The Bill was first published in June 1949, and after a short debate, it was committed to a joint select committee of the two Houses. It remained before the committee for four months and the amended Bill was presented to the House in January 1950. The Bill, which consists of 341 clauses, originally had 310 clauses, ~~provided~~ but a large number of changes were made in the select committee and also during the second reading in the Assembly.

The Bill, as passed, provides for acquisition of intermediaries' rights on payments of compensation at eight times their net assets. For rehabilitation of smaller zamindars, who constitute the overwhelming majority, it further provides for the payment of a graded rehabilitation grant, ranging from two to 20 times their net assets. At the same time to overcome the financial and legal difficulties the tenants were asked to make voluntary contributions of 10 times their annual rent to the Zamindari Abolition Fund which now stands at over 260 million rupees. This Fund - which, however, has failed to reach its target of 1800 million rupees - it was expected, would provide the finance for speedy abolition of zamindari. The tenants who contribute to the fund are, in terms of the Bill, entitled to transferable rights in holdings and will be called bhumidars and will pay 50 per cent their existing rent.

The Bill also substitutes the "bewildering variety of existing land tenure by a simple and uniform scheme". Under it there are to be only

two main forms of land tenures - bhumidars and sirdars. The former include the zamindars who are to be removed but would remain in possession of their sir and khudkasht lands and also those who contribute to the Zamindari Abolition Fund. The remaining tenants are to be called sirdars with permanent heritable rights in land and the right to use their land for agricultural and allied purposes. A third category would consist of asamis, that is, persons to whom land is let in ~~future~~ future by those exempted under the Bill from the need to cultivate it themselves.

(The Statesman, dated 5-8-1950).

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113. Navigation.

India - August 1950.

National Harbour Board set up.

By a resolution dated 19 August 1950, the Government of India has set up the National Harbour Board, to advise on matters of general policy relating to port management and development, including their effects on industry, commerce, shipping, railways, etc., so as to ensure ~~xxxxxxxx~~ integrated consideration of all important port matters.

The Board will, for the present, consist of representatives of the Central Ministries of Transport, Communications, Commerce, Defence and Finance, of the maritime states of West Bengal, Orissa, Madras, Travancore-Cochin, Bombay, Saurashtra and Kutch and of the port authorities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin and Kandla. The Minister for Transport is the chairman of the Board.

The First meeting of the Board: Selected minor ports to be surveyed.- The first meeting of the National Harbour Board was held on 28 August 1950, Mr. N. Gopaldaswamy Iyengar, Minister for Transport, presiding. Explaining the need for the board, he stated, that there were, 200 ports in ~~xxxxxx~~ the country widely differing in various aspects of their administration, management and working, and it was necessary for a national plan of development to co-ordinate various matters concerning port administration and development. There was also need to co-ordinate naval requirements in so far as survey of the ports was concerned.

Decisions.- The meeting urged that the ~~xxxx~~ strength of the Board should be increased by four so as to provide for representation for trade and industry, shipping interests, countrycraft owners and labour. The representatives of these interests will be nominated by the Governments.

The Board also decided that in due course it would consider in detail matters of importance, such as the management of minor ports and the part to be played by the Central Government and major ports in the development of minor ports, the creation of a central organization for giving

expert advice and guidance and the pooling of technicians and equipment; the problems relating to the hinterland of various ports; the survey of coastal waters; entrance to the ports; the principles relating to dues, charges, labour relations and other matters of common import concerning ports; and the collection and dissemination of statistics relating to ports, etc.

As a first step, the Board ~~recommended~~ recommended that an officer should be appointed to collect detailed information regarding the administration of minor ports and also information relating to the quantity of traffic handled, the number and nature of ships visiting them, the facilities for handling goods, staff, financial conditions, etc. The officer will also formulate proposals for reorganization of the administrative set-up of minor ports wherever needed. It was considered essential to have the minor ports surveyed with an order of priority, the organization that should be set up for the purpose etc.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1,  
dated 19 August, 1950, page 263;  
The Statesman, dated 29-8-1950 ).

116. Handicrafts.

India - August 1950.

Adequate Assistance to Cottage Industries:  
Survey of Villages to be undertaken.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cottage Industries Board was held in Delhi on 5 and 6 August 1950. The Committee decided to undertake a special survey ~~will be undertaken~~ of a "typical group of villages" to determine the extent of unemployment and the extent to which the needs of the rural population could be fulfilled by local production and co-operative effort. It also decided to train workers in the use of improved machinery for small-scale industries and in the improvement of the technique of production irrespective of the machines used. This type of training might be duplicated wherever necessary with reference to the availability of suitable raw materials. The Committee further decided that adequate assistance should be given to those village industries which have to compete with large-scale industries. For this purpose a few selected industries should be taken up immediately for special examination. These should include tanning of hides and skins and the disposal of dead animals and leather craft; cotton, hand-spinning and weaving; wool, spinning and weaving; jute spinning; edible oils; pottery; bee keeping; hand tools and small tools; metal work; rice husking and threshing; coir and gur making. In the case of hand-made paper, assistance will be given to existing centres only.

To advise the Ministry of Industry and Supply in the implementation of the immediate programme, a sub-committee was appointed. As regards the machinery required to implement its recommendations, the Committee suggested that the work should be centralized in a Directorate with suitable staff. The main functions of the staff would be to tour the States to study the problems relating to cottage industries peculiar to each State, to keep in constant touch with the developments taking place in this ~~field~~ field all over the country and to take such steps as might be necessary to popularize the use of improved machinery and technique of production.

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The Committee also recommended that the Central Cottage Industries Emporium and the Central Training Institute with both its wings for men and women should be continued. To bring the work being done in the States for the development of cottage industries in line with the national programme, the Committee resolved that the States should be asked to constitute bodies within their areas on the lines of the Cottage Industries Board and that the work of these bodies might be co-ordinated by the Central Board. The Committee also recommended that financial assistance might be given to States to induce them to undertake development of cottage industries on the lines that might be suggested by the Central Board.

As regards the functions of the Board, the Committee decided that they should be: (a) to administer on behalf of the Central Government the funds available for the development of cottage industries, including any grants that might be made to the States for the purpose; (b) to initiate, execute and supervise schemes for the development of cottage industries; (c) to assist and advise, on behalf of the Central Government, the various State Governments in framing and executing their schemes relating to cottage industries; and (d) to assist in co-ordinating the activities of the State Governments relating to cottage industries.

Industry and Supply Minister's address.-

Addressing the Committee, Mr. Hare Krishna Mahatab, Minister for Industry and Supply, stressed the need for starting production activities in rural areas and said that unless some employment was given to the rural population, there would be famine in spite of there being enough food. Referring to the marketing of rural products, Mr. Mahatab pointed out the need of starting an organization wholly on commercial lines. Its work would be to collect unsold goods and try to sell them. It was not likely that all the output would find a ready market. If necessary, the Government might subsidize the sales.

Mr. Mahatab also stated that the Government also proposed to enact legislation to make the Cottage Industries Board an autonomous statutory organisation.

LIST OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED  
IN THE NEW DELHI OFFICE DURING AUGUST, 1950.

INDIA - AUGUST 1950.

Economic Questions

- (a) Government of India: Ministry of Rehabilitation: ~~Report~~ Report on the Working of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, 1949-50. Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi, pp.28.
- (b) "Concerning Evacuee Property" Issued on behalf of the Ministry of Rehabilitation by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, pp.63, price 8 annas.
- (c) "Is Interlocking Harmful" Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, pp.11.
- (d) Statistical Abstract of Madhya Bharat, 1950. Issued by the Department of Economic Intelligence and Statistics, Madhya Bharat, Indore, pp.67.
- (e) One Year Plan of Madhya Bharat, Government Press, Indore, pp.16.
- (f) Madhya Bharat in 1949-50: An Economic Review. Published by the Department of Economic Intelligence and Statistics, Madhya Bharat, Indore, pp.26.

Working Conditions

Annual Report on the Working of the Factories Act, 1934 in the United Provinces for the year 1947. Allahabad, Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, Uttar Pradesh India; price Re.1, pp.94.

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