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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIA

Industrial and Labour Developments in November, 1945.

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

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Amendment to Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1943:
 Draft.

The Government of India gazetted on 17-11-1945 the draft of certain further amendments it proposes to make to the Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1943. In addition to minor amendments a new rule is proposed to be added requiring the owner, agent or manager of every mine coming under the purview of the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, to submit to the Chief Inspector of Mines in India annual returns in four additional forms - Forms E, F, G and H. Form E requires, among other details, the name of the Medical Officer attached to the mine and his qualifications and information as to whether the mine has a hospital, a lady doctor, a qualified midwife and a creche. In Form F the owner, agent or manager of the mine has to submit figures relating to the employment, dismissal, payment of bonus, etc., of women workers employed during the year; and in Form G, details of payments made during the year to or on behalf of women workers; and in Form H figures relating to the number of prosecutions during the year with the reasons for them. The returns have to be submitted before 31 January in the year following that to which they refer or within one month from the date of abandonment or change in ownership or within four months from the date of discontinuance of a mine.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 15-12-1945.

(The Gazette of India dated 17-11-1945,
 Part I, Sec. 1, pages 1555-1558).

Provinces

Statistics to be collected under Industrial Statistics Act, 1942; Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules

A number of Provincial Governments have gazetted during the month certain rules made by them in exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (1) of section 12 of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942 (vide page 2 of the report of this Office for April 1942) for the collection of statistics relating to a number of industries mentioned in a schedule annexed to the Rules. The list includes the sugar, paints and varnishes, soap, cement, glass, paper, matches, cotton, woollen and jute textiles, chemicals, aluminium, copper and brass, iron and steel and general and electrical engineering industries. The rules are termed the Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945, and are to come into force at once.

The appropriate gazette references are given below:-

- Bengal: The Calcutta Gazette dated 29-11-1945, Part I, pages 1999-1992.
 Bihar: The Bihar Gazette dated 28-11-1945, Part II, pages 756-757.
 Central Pro-) The Central Provinces and Berar Gazette
 vinces and) Extraordinary dated 20-11-1945, pages 169-170.
 Berar:)
 Madras: The Fort St. George Gazette dated 27-11-1945, Rules Supplement to Part I, pages 94-96.

Punjab: The Punjab Gazette Extraordinary dated 20-11-1945
pages 101-102.

(Copy of the 'Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945'
gazetted by the Government of Orissa on 22-11-1945 has not yet been
received in this office.)

Bengal

Amendment to Bengal Factories Rules 1940—Draft: Managers of Non-Seasonal Factories to submit Half- Yearly Returns.

The Government of Bengal gazetted on 29-11-1945 the draft of certain amendments it proposes to make under section 77 of the Factories Act, 1934, in the Bengal Factories Rules 1940. The proposed rule requires the Manager of every non-seasonal factory to submit to the Inspector or such other officer as the Provincial Government may specify, half-yearly returns in a prescribed form - the return for the first half of the calendar year not later than the following 15th of July and for the second half of the calendar year not later than the following 15th of January. Among other details the manager of the factory has to specify in the return the nature of the industry he engages in; the average number of workers employed daily showing ~~separately the number of men, women, adolescent boys, adolescent girls, boys and girls;~~ and the number of days worked in the half-year.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 1-3-1946.

6 (The Calcutta Gazette dated 29-11-1945, Part I, page 2017).

Bihar

Bihar and Orissa Factories Rules, 1936: Amendments providing for water supply for washing and Erection of Staircases in Factories.

The text of certain amendments to the Bihar and Orissa Factories Rules 1936 providing for wash places in factories according to certain prescribed standards and for at least two sets of stairs or steps in factory buildings of more than one storey has been gazetted by the Government of Bihar. Reference was made to the notification introducing the draft of these amendments at pages 1-2 of the report of this office for June 1945.

(The Bihar Gazette dated 28-11-1945, Part II, pages 755-756.)

Bombay

Bombay Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1945: Labour Officers empowered to convene Workers' Meetings in Hill Companies.

The draft Bill to amend the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, to which reference was made at page 1 of the report of this Office for September 1944 received the assent of the Governor of Bombay on 29-10-1945, and is now published as the Bombay Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1945. (Bombay Act No. XIX of 1945.) It provides

that a Labour Officer may, after giving reasonable notice, convene a meeting of the employees of an employer, for any of the purposes of this Act, on the premises where the employees are employed for work and may require the employer to affix a written announcement of the meeting at such conspicuous places in the premises as he may order. The announcement shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting, the employees or class of employees affected, and the purpose for which the meeting is convened.

(The Bombay Government Gazette dated 3-11-1945, Part IV, pages 170-171.)

Bombay

Notification under Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923:
Employers to submit Annual Returns.

The Government of Bombay issued on 1-11-1945 a notification under section 16 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, requiring every person employing workmen coming under the scope of the Act to submit annual returns in a prescribed form to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bombay. The return which shall relate to the calendar year is to be furnished on or before 1 February of the year following that to which the return relates. The first return to be furnished under this notification shall relate to the year 1945.

(The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 2-11-1945, Part IV A page 187-189).

Madras

Draft Rule under Factories Act, 1934:
Managers of Non-seasonal Factories to submit Half-Yearly Returns

The Government of Madras has gasetted on 6-11-1945 the draft of a rule which it proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 77 of the Factories Act, 1934. The rule requires the manager of every non-seasonal factory to furnish to the Inspector of Factories on or before 10 January and 10 July each year a half-yearly return in a prescribed form giving the following details:- the nature of industry the factory engages in; the average number of workers employed daily under the following heads - men, women, adolescent males, adolescent females, boys and girls; number of days worked in the half-year; and the number of man-days lost during the half-year due to sickness.

The draft is to be taken into consideration on or after 6-2-1946.

(The Port. St. George Gazette dated 6-11-1945, Rules Supplement to Part I, page 82.)

Madras

Notification under Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923:
Employers to submit Annual Returns.

By a notification published in the Fort St. George Gazette dated 6-11-1945, the Government of Madras has, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 16 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, directed that every person employing workmen coming under the scope of the Act should submit an annual return in a prescribed form to the secretary to the Railway Board (Railway Department), Government of

India, in the case of workmen employed as railway servants otherwise than in a factory or a mine, and to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Madras, in all other cases. The return which shall relate to a calendar year shall be furnished on or before 1 February following the year to which the return relates, and the first return shall relate to the year, 1945.

(The Port St. George Gazette dated 6-11-1945
Part I, pages 738-739.)

United Provinces

Amendment to United Provinces Factories Rules, 1935.

A notification issued by the United Provinces Government dated 2-11-1945 announces some amendments and additions to the United Provinces Factories Rules, 1935. These relate to the definition of a workman, the ventilation and height of workrooms, the number and size of exits from workrooms, the situation and construction of latrines, and a certificate of stability of the building or part of the building which has to be submitted to the Chief Inspector before any manufacturing process carried on with the aid of power is begun therein.

(Government Gazette of the United Provinces,
dated 10-11-1945, Part I A, page 315.)

SOCIAL POLICY.

New Organisation for Labour Welfare: Government of India's News.

The Labour Department, Government of India, has recently set up a new organisation to advise the Central and provincial Governments on the improvement of working conditions in factories. The Chief Adviser, Factories, is the head of this organisation. It will not only give technical advice on the design and lay-out of factories, on standards of housing, on the most suitable working conditions to assure efficiency of production and welfare of the workers, but will also arrange for the training of managements and workers in safety measures and welfare methods adopted in progressive countries.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-11-1945).

Conference of Regional Labour Commissioners, Conciliation Officers and Labour Inspectors: Functions of Industrial Relations Machinery to be Considered.

It is understood that a Conference of Regional Labour Commissioners, Conciliation Officers and Labour Inspectors will be held at Bombay on 6 and 7-12-1945. The Conference will, inter alia, consider questions relating to the functions of the newly-created industrial relations machinery and the working of the Payment of Wages Act, the Hours of Employment Regulations, the Employment of Children Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act and other labour laws.

('Dawn', dated 15-11-1945).

Seventh Labour Conference, New Delhi, 27 and 28-11-1945.

The Seventh (Plenary) Labour Conference was held at New Delhi on 27 and 28-11-1945 with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, as Chairman. The Conference was, as usual, attended by (i) representatives of the Labour Departments of the Government of India and provincial governments and of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Indore, Bhopal and Cochin among Indian States; (ii) representatives of the Chamber of Mines; (iii) representatives of the Employers Federation of India, the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers and independent employers and (iv) representatives of the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Indian Federation of Labour and independent workers. A representative of the Ceylon Government and Dr. P.P. Pillai representing the I.L.O. attended the Conference as Observers.

1. Items on the Agenda:- The following subjects constituted the agenda of the Conference. 1. Unemployment - (i) involuntary unemployment resulting from controls; (ii) in transition period; 2. Reduction of Working Hours under the Factories Act; 3. Minimum Wage Legislation; 4. Attitude of Management Exchanges during strikes and lock-outs; 5. Industrial Control; 6. Proposed amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; 7. Proposed legislation for compelling employers to frame rules regulating service rights of employees in industrial concerns; and 8. Proposed amendment of the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

Details regarding items 2, 4 and 5 on the agenda were given at pages 6 to 8 of the report of this office for 22 October, 1945. In addition the Department of Labour of the Government of India also placed before the Conference a Draft Bill amending the Indian Factories Act 1934 giving effect to the proposed reduction of working hours from 54 to 48. The memoranda on the other items on the agenda prepared by the Labour Department of the Government of India are summarised below.

Unemployment; Involuntary Unemployment resulting from Controls.- The question of unemployment due to controls, had arisen even during the war and had been discussed at the Tripartite Labour Conference in September 1943 (vide pages 4-16 of the report of this office for August 1943). Under the scheme drawn up subsequently the scale of benefit is fixed either (i) at 75 per cent of the ordinary rate of pay for the first fortnight and 50 per cent for the second fortnight with a flat rate for persons earning lower levels of income, or (ii) at a flat rate which would be about 70 per cent of the average of lower range of wage rate in the industry. A period of seven days is prescribed (benefit, however, to start from the first day of unemployment, provided the unemployment lasts longer than the waiting period). Benefit is made conditional upon the worker's accepting the offer fully. Unreasonable refusal by a worker of work even of a different sort operates as a disqualification for obtaining benefit. The liability to pay is placed on the employer. All industries, whether engaged in war industry or otherwise, are included, but closures of factories or of departments (i) due to special Governmental orders, and (ii) of which adequate notice has been given, do not come under the scheme. Under the scheme the provincial Government has to use its own good offices or conciliatory powers to persuade the employer to pay compensation to the workers and in suitable cases disputes in this regard could be referred to adjudication under Rule 51-A(i) (b) of the Defence of India Rules.

But, according to the memorandum, the moral liability created and the recommendatory powers conferred on the provincial Governments under the scheme seem to have been of little practical value. Since June 1944 a number of factories and concerns in different provinces have been closed on several occasions due to the shortage of coal, etc., and in most cases no compensation has been paid to the workers affected. The Mill Owners' Association of Bombay and Ahmedabad in expressing their views on the scheme have contended that the burden imposed on industry was unfair and unjust. The unemployment could be ascribed to the failure on the part of Government; and employers had no share in it and could not be held responsible for it. Also, the method suggested for ensuring payment of benefits was not satisfactory and was not calculated to secure uniformity in the matter of benefits. They further hold that "the procedure outlined would perhaps lead to different conditions and rates of payments in different provinces, as there is nothing to prevent the Adjudicators and Conciliators concerned from proceeding on the estimation that the scales suggested by Government are only the minimum and that they are free to compromise at or award rates which may be substantially higher than those suggested by Government". In conclusion, they express the

that "the best course would be for government to issue an Order fixing the rates and conditions of payment which can be statutorily enforced throughout British India and Indian States". The workers organisations, on the other hand, have expressed resentment at the failure to pay compensation to ~~some~~ workers in cases where closures have taken place and have urged the necessity of taking immediate legislative action to make compulsory provision for the payment of compensation.

The Labour Department's scheme, the memorandum concludes, has not proved to be of much value because of the following reasons: (i) There was no legal liability to pay compensation imposed either on the employer or anybody else; (ii) The compensation was payable only in cases where the closure was for more than seven days; and (iii) The employers feel aggrieved for being required to shoulder the entire responsibility, although the closure was due to reasons beyond their control. Also, experience has revealed that a considerable number of concerns and undertakings had been closed for less than seven days at a time, although the closure in the course of a month was of a much longer duration, in some cases even more than a fortnight in the course of a month. In disputes relating to such cases the conciliator was confronted with the terms and conditions as laid in the scheme, which provided inter alia for the payment of compensation only where the period of ~~closure~~ was in excess of seven days.

Though the war has terminated, it appears that the shortage of coal, electricity, raw material, etc. will continue for some time and with it the problem of involuntary unemployment. The memorandum lists the following points for consideration: (1) Whether the matter should be pursued even at this stage; (2) Whether the liability to pay compensation for involuntary unemployment should be made legal; (3) On whom such liability should be imposed; and (4) Whether the waiting period of seven days should be counted for a period of six months in the case of each closure.

Unemployment during Transition Period.- The transition from war to peace will give rise to many problems of employment readjustment, as industrial and commercial activity is switched over to peace-time ~~needs~~ needs; an effective machinery will be needed for facilitating the transfer of large numbers of workers from one job, occupation, industry and area to another. The following categories of persons are likely to become unemployed immediately after the war: (1) Officers, V.C.O's, N.C.O's and other ranks, demobilised from the Navy, Army and the Air Force; (2) Civilian labour employed by the fighting forces or through contractors; (3) Civilian labour employed on war construction works; (4) Civil and Military labour units; (5) Civil gazetted officers and ~~an~~ clerical staff, etc., employed by the Central and provincial Governments in connection with the military organisation, the civil war effort, civil supplies and food administration; and (6) Skilled and unskilled labour released from war industries. The Government is collecting detailed information regarding the total numbers which may be expected to become surplus in each of the above categories as a result of the cessation of war activities. The memorandum points out that a well-organised and coordinated employment service will be needed to help workers to find the most suitable employment, to assist employers to secure the most suitable workers and to ensure that the available workers and available jobs are brought together as promptly and as satisfactorily as possible; and briefly describes the integrated resettlement organisation which the Government of India has decided to set up to promote the resettlement and re-employment in civil life of demobilised members of the Defence Services and discharged war-workers (vide pages 55-57 of the report of this Office for May 1945).

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The Government hopes that by early next year, the Resettlement Organisation of the Department of Labour will take over complete and full responsibility for the resettlement of all categories of demobilised persons. The memorandum points out that the successful functioning of the new Resettlement and Employment Organisation will largely depend on the active co-operation and support of employers and workers. This co-operation can be given by utilising the employment exchange organisation for purposes of securing employment and finding workmen. Also employment exchanges will be able to render effective service if employers could intimate to the Regional Employment Exchanges their estimated requirements for various categories of workmen indicating the qualifications and experience required for each post. The employment exchanges will then keep the employers informed from time to time regarding the availability of persons possessing the requisite qualifications and will also advise Government to take timely steps for the training of personnel in those trades or occupations for which the demand is in excess of the available supply.

Minimum Wage Legislation.- As regards minimum wage legislation it is pointed out that India needs such legislation particularly at the present juncture on account of the necessity of affording protection to the large numbers of demobilised personnel and discharged war workers seeking employment in industries against a progressive lowering of wages which will be the inevitable tendency when, as seems likely, the supply of labour will be ~~unusually~~ considerably in excess of demand. A Draft Bill which the Department of Labour placed for consideration before the ~~Government~~ ~~provincial~~ ~~governments~~, within a period of two years from the date on which the Bill becomes law, to fix minimum wages for different industries, trades and other employments detailed in a ~~schedule~~ ~~annexed~~ ~~to~~ it. The schedule contains eighteen categories of undertakings in which minimum wages could be fixed. These undertakings include textiles, engineering, minerals and metals, paper and printing, transport by land, air or water, food, drink and tobacco, gins and presses, chemicals and dyes, shops and commercial establishments, construction and building work, docks and ports, stone-breaking and crushing and agriculture. The Bill further provides that the Central and provincial Governments will have power to add to the schedule. There will be provision for periodical revision of the rates, at least once in every five years. The rates fixed can be different for different industries, trades and occupations, as well as for different areas. As the wages prescribed will be the minimum, they will primarily apply to unskilled workers. In fixing the rates for the first time it will not be compulsory for the provincial Governments to constitute Advisory Committees to make recommendations.

Amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act.- This subject was discussed at the seventh meeting of the Standing Labour Committee (vide page 3 of the report of this Office for August, 1945) and the proposal has been accepted by the provincial governments. A Draft Bill giving effect to the proposal prepared by the Labour Department was placed before the Conference as a basis for discussion.

Standing Orders for Large Industrial Concerns.- The question of standing orders for large industrial concerns was discussed at the Fifth Labour Conference in September 1943 (vide pages 4-10 of the report of this Office for August 1943) and again at the Sixth Labour Conference in October 1944 in connection with proposals to amend the Trade Disputes Act 1929 (vide pages 3-6 of the report of this Office for October 1944). The consensus of opinion was in favour of making statutory provision requiring the framing of such Orders. The Department of Labour accordingly placed before the Conference a Draft Bill giving effect to the

conclusions of the Conference on the subject. The Bill proposes that industrial establishments employing not less than 250 workmen a day, should draw Standing orders. Government undertakings will not be subject to the proposed legislation; but the appropriate officer will have to certify that Standing Orders have in fact been drawn up in conformity with the provisions of the Act and that they cover all the matters included in the schedule to the Act.

Amendment to Indian Trade Unions Act.- A Bill for recognition of Trade Unions was introduced in the Autumn session of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1943 (vide pages 1-2 of the report of this Office for November 1943), and circulated for eliciting public opinion. It was also placed before the Standing Labour Committee at its fifth meeting held in June 1944. In the light of the opinions received on the Bill it became necessary further to amend it. As the amendments are of a substantial nature, the Government consider it advisable to introduce a revised Bill in the legislature instead of proceeding with the old Bill. A Bill drafted for this purpose by the Labour Department was placed for consideration before the Conference. This Draft Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 ~~amendment~~ seeks to add a new Chapter on the 'Recognition of Trade Unions and Rights and Liabilities of Recognised Trade Unions' to the original Act. It provides for the setting up of an Industrial Court by the appropriate Government and for the recognition of a trade union satisfying certain prescribed conditions by the Appropriate Government on the recommendation of the Industrial Court. It further prescribes the conditions for recognition of trade unions, outlines the procedure for obtaining recognition, defines the duties and rights of trade unions so recognised and specifies the various types of action which shall be deemed to be unfair practices on the part of recognised trade unions on the one hand and employers on the other.

II. Mr. Ashokkar's Memorandum Opening Address: Slow Progress of I.L.O. Recommendations. Welcoming the delegates to the Conference, Mr. Ashokkar, Member for Labour, Government of India, entered upon what he termed a 'stock taking' with regard to labour legislation in India. He began with the liabilities first. These were derived, firstly from the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour which reported in the year 1930; and secondly from the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation of which India has been a member from the very beginning. The Royal Commission on Labour had made 137 recommendations. Of these 133 involved legislation, in whole or in part and no less than 126 were accepted by the Government. Out of these, 106 have generally been given effect to. Of the remaining 27, 10 relate to legislation for workshops for which discretionary powers already exist with the provincial Governments under section 5 of the Factories Act. Only ten recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour were, therefore, outstanding. As regards the second source, however, India's liabilities were much greater. Between 1919 and 1943 the ILO has adopted 63 Conventions and India has ratified only 14. India's Royal Commission account is therefore better than her I.L.O. account. It is of course true that the Royal Commission recommendations are specifically related to the conditions of India while the I.L.O. Conventions are general in character. The fact, however, remains that there is very little outstanding liability on account of the Commission and the magnitude of India's liability on account of the 63 Conventions is great. Among the Conventions not ratified by India there are some which are very important and India should examine these most carefully and raise her labour standards, in so far as national conditions allow, to standards laid down internationally.

India cannot escape discharging this obligation, nor does she wish to escape it .

Refuting the arguments of those who expressed misgivings about the necessity and urgency of labour legislation in India, Dr. Ambedkar, pointed out that the fact that the British took 100 years to have a proper Code of labour legislation is no argument that we should also in India take 100 years. History is not always an example. More often it is a warning. Nor did he agree with those who point to the example of Russia where the working class was forced to accept very low standards in order to enable industries to grow. Unlike in Russia, in India industry is not state enterprise and it will be difficult to ask the workers to agree to reduce standards of life in an economy in which the profits which result from such reduced standards go to private individuals. Nor is there much strength in the plea that India has no administrative machinery to give proper effect to labour laws. The State maintains a large body of police force to maintain law and order; the State maintains a body of Revenue Officers to collect taxes and labour may well ask, ~~why~~ why should not the State maintain a force to see that labour laws are given effect to? The argument about the capacity of Indian industry to bear the burden of the cost involved in labour legislation is however an argument of very serious import, and labour will have to take note of it. Labour, however, may well ask ~~united classes~~ a very pertinent question saying, if you do not mind paying taxes to meet ~~expenses~~ expenses on war, why do you object to raising funds when their purpose is to raise labour standards? India, therefore, cannot escape ~~the obligation of labour legislation which is outstanding.~~

Items on the Agenda. - Of the items on the agenda, Dr. Ambedkar ~~mentioned~~ item II which deals with reduction of working hours, item III which deals with minimum wage legislation and item VIII which deals with the Recognition of Trade Unions. Peace had brought with it the dreadful problem of unemployment and it was essential to mitigate it and to prevent it from lowering labour standards. Three things according to Dr. Ambedkar were necessary to ease the situation. Firstly, to reduce hours of employment so as to provide employment for many. Secondly, to provide machinery for fixing minimum wages. The absence of such machinery combined with unemployment is bound to cause labour standards to slump, which ought to be prevented. Thirdly, to provide the employers and ~~united workers~~ workers with a resolve to collective bargaining and learn to work together in the solution of other common problems. Nothing, in his judgment, can bring this about more effectively than sound and responsible Trade Unions.

Need for Provision of Stages in ILO Conventions. - The Labour Department was ~~not~~ not ~~hesitant~~ to go forward with Indian legislation, but there was one great handicap arising from the provisions of the ILO with regard to Conventions. The rule which requires that a Convention must be adopted without change or modification, is not very helpful, as it does not permit vast and backward countries like India to realise the ~~good goal~~ goal by progressive stages. A modification of this rule, is very necessary for Asiatic countries which have a long and a different journey to cover and Dr. Ambedkar felt that it should be possible for the I.L.O. to draft a Convention as to provide for stages. It should also be possible for the I.L.O. to lay down that the Convention should be carried out stage by stage, coupled with the provision that the whole list of Conventions should be carried within a given period. Such a change which permits progressive realization of International Conventions is to be preferred to a rule which makes them so many dead letters.

Undertaking to Place before the Labour Conference all ILO Recommendations and Conventions. - In conclusion, Dr. Ambedkar, referred to the Committee appointed by the Conference last year to consider some of the proposals he had made for changing the Constitution of the Conference. As recommended by the Committee, Government do not, at present, propose to make any changes in the Constitution of the Conference. The Committee had however recommended that the Conference should be called the 'Labour Conference'. The Government of India had decided to call it the Indian Labour Conference. At the last I.L.O. Conference held in Paris the delegate of the Government of India had given an undertaking to place all recommendations and Conventions passed by the I.L.O., before the Conference for discussion. Dr. Ambedkar announced that the Government of India has decided to honour this undertaking and hoped that the Conference will welcome this extension of its powers and functions. It will enable the Provinces and States to know what was done at each Session of the I.L.O. and profit by the views of the employers and employees in regard to it.

III. Decisions of the Conference:- Reduction of Working Hours. - The Conference unanimously supported the principle of the 48-hour week in India's factories.

Industrial canteens and Amendment of Workmen's Compensation Act. - ~~There~~

There was also, more or less, complete agreement in regard to the Government's proposals for the statutory provision of industrial canteens and for the amendment of Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

Legislation for Fixing Minimum Wage and Amending the Indian Trade Union Act. - ~~A Committee to be set up.~~ - The principles of ~~these two measures~~ were agreed to by the Conference, but ~~many~~ many speakers emphasized that in view of the importance of these two measures they should be examined in detail. At the conclusion of the Conference, therefore, Dr. Ambedkar announced that a Committee consisting of two representatives of employers and two of employees will be formed shortly to advise the Government in drafting legislation for fixing minimum wages for labour and for amending the Indian Trade Unions' Act, 1926.

Standing Orders in Industrial Concerns - Attitude of Employment Exchanges during Strikes and Lock-outs. - The Conference was unanimous in its attitude regarding the framing of standing orders in industrial concerns and on the attitude that should be adopted by the employment exchanges during strikes or lock-outs. It was agreed that during strikes or lock-outs employment exchanges should accept vacancies and inform suitable applicants of the existence of the trade dispute before submission. They should similarly register workmen and submit them for other employment, informing the prospective employers that they are unemployed as the result of an existing trade dispute.

(Memoranda on the items on the Agenda sent to this Office by the Department of Labour, Government of India; Note giving the full text of Dr. Ambedkar's speech issued by the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India; and News, dated 29 and 30-11-1945).

Whitley Councils for Ceylon: Recommendation of Special Committee.

A Central Whitley Council and Departmental Whitley Councils for all Government employees in Ceylon, on the model of the National Whitley Council and Departmental Councils in the United Kingdom, are recommended by a special committee appointed by the Government of Ceylon to consider this question. The objects of the National Council will be to secure the greatest measure of co-operation between the State, in its capacity as employer, and the general body of civil employees in matters affecting the civil service, with a view to increased efficiency in the public service combined with the well-being of those employed. The functions of the National Council will comprise all matters which affect the conditions of service of the staff. The Council will consist of 20 members, one half to be appointed by the Government (the official side) and the other half by groups of ~~xxxxx~~ Associations on the staff side.

(The Dawn, Delhi, 1-11-1945).

Expenditure on nation-building Departments in Indian States.

Roughly 30 per cent of ~~xxxxx~~ their total revenue is spent by Indian States as a whole on nation-building departments such as education, public health and public works, according to figures issued by the Directorate of Public Relations, Chamber of Princes. Comparable figures for British India according to the Directorate are 19.3. Cochin heads the list with an expenditure of 47.09 per cent. Figures for the other states are Travancore 39.56 per cent, Baroda 38.96 per cent, Hyderabad 35.68 per cent and Mysore 32.64 per cent.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-11-1945).

Industrial Health and Safety.Measures to check Fire Menace in Coal Fields: Report of Coal Mines Stowing Board for 1943-1944.

According to the report of the Coal Mines Stowing Board for 1943-44, blanketing and flushing operations to check the spread of fires in the Jharia, Bagdidi and Kusunda coal fields were continued during the year, and assistance for carrying out protective works was given to several collieries.

In the Jharia field fire threatened to spread in September 1942, but vigorous action by the Board and valuable assistance rendered by the neighbouring collieries stopped the menace. In the Kusunda area, blanketing operations in the vicinity of Kari Jore made good progress, while on the southern boundary of the fire area they were much retarded on account of shortage of labour. Nearly 8,800 cubic yards of 'mattee' (earth) and ash were flushed down the galleries through bore holes and inclines to strengthen the barriers on the western side of the fire area. In all, Rs. 185,635 were spent for such protective works in this and other fields.

Stowing operations.- Compulsory stowing operations, ordered under the ~~Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Act~~, were continued in the Singaran, Khas Kirkend and Motiran Khasanial Kirkend collieries. Owing to labour shortage and high cost of stowing, sufficient progress was not made in the Kirkend group of mines. Compulsory stowing was ordered during the year in respect of the Toposi Colliery and operations commenced in September 1943. Voluntary stowing operations were in progress in many collieries and 3,076,794 tons were stowed. The assistance given by the Board came to over Rs. 631,906. The Board has sanctioned assistance towards stowing 7,013,998 tons in 53 collieries during 1944-45.

He
(Vanguard, dated 7-11-1945). +

South Indian Railways⁺ Plans to promote Workers' Health.

Mr. J.F.C. Reynolds, General Manager, South Indian Railway, outlined the policy which the Railway intended to follow in the matter of health and welfare while inaugurating a Health and Baby Week celebration at Trichinopoly on 25-10-1945.

Medical Department to be bifurcated into 'Preventive' and 'Curative' Sections. Preventive Clinics to be set up.- Mr. Reynolds said that the Railway recognised that far more would be required to be done in the future than had been attempted in the past over the whole of this wide field. It was felt that the first step, which was being recommended to the Railway Board, should be to divide the Medical Department under the Chief Medical Officer into two separate but co-ordinated parts, the new part to function generally as "preventive" and the existing Medical Department to function as "curative". As part of the post-war reconstruction scheme, considerable extensions of the existing hospital and

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dispensary facilities were being recommended to the Railway Board. In the matter of preventive functions, it was intended to set up, as a commencement at any rate, clinics at major centres like Tambaram, Villupuram, Erode, Golden Rock and Madurai, as also at stations such as Shoranur and Mandapam where ordinary civilian medical facilities were more noticeably lacking. These clinics would form an important part of the preventive side of the medical organisation which would be concerned generally with pre-natal, midwifery and post-natal attention, medical examination of and attention to children, especially children studying in railway schools; and with the whole subject of sanitation covering water supply, drainage, housing conditions and the cleanliness and orderliness of the house and premises generally. It would also deal with the general education of the staff in matters concerning nutrition and a balanced dietary. A start had been made with the setting up of a clinic at Golden Rock, and it was hoped that the Railway Board would agree to the rest of the whole of the preventive side of the Medical Department forming a standing debit to revenue.

(The Hindu, dated 2-11-1945).+

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Forced Labour.

Systems of Forced Labour in India: Central Government appoints
Committee of Enquiry.

The Government of India ^{is} learnt to have appointed recently a Committee with Mr. V.V. Giri as Chairman to enquire into the systems of forced labour in India. It is pointed out that forms of forced labour are still found in certain areas in British India, including some Zamindari areas, and in the Indian States, where agricultural labourers are generally compelled to work often without payment of wages.

(The Hindu, 24-11-1945). +

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in British India during the Quarter ending 31-3-1945.

According to the statistics published by the Department of Labour, Government of India, the total number of stoppages during the quarter ended 31-3-1945 (including 9 in progress at the close of the quarter) was 177, and the number of workers involved 134,281, as against 159 stoppages involving 163,126 workers for the same quarter of the previous year; the total number of man-days lost was 587,332 as against 1,180,877. There were 4 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers. In one stoppage more than 10,000 workers were involved.

Provincial Distribution.- The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay, where there were 69 disputes involving 52,245 workers and entailing a loss of 317,022 working days; followed by Bengal with 45 disputes involving 42,039 workers and entailing a loss of 191,430 working days; C.P. and Berar with 21 disputes involving 16,953 workers and entailing a loss of 38,686 working days; the United Provinces with 19 disputes involving 7,010 workers and entailing a loss of 10,461 working days; Madras with 12 disputes involving 10,521 workers and entailing a loss of 18,433 working days; Bihar with 8 disputes involving 1,633 workers and entailing a loss of 8,129 working days; and Delhi, North West Frontier Province and Sind with 1 dispute each involving 3,695, 149, and 34 workers and entailing losses of 6,023, 40 and 108 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.- Classified by industries, the largest number of disputes occurred in cotton, woollen and silk mills, where there were 40 disputes involving 39,991 workers and entailing a loss of 262,305 working days; followed by engineering industries with 20 disputes, involving 31,923 workers and entailing a loss of 157,382 working days; jute mills with 6 disputes involving 9,576 workers and entailing a loss of 30,669 working days; Railways including Railway workshops with 4 disputes involving 4,624 workers and entailing a loss of 29,691 working days; mines with 2 disputes involving 2,080 workers and entailing a loss of 4,160 working days. There were 177 disputes in miscellaneous industries, involving 46,087 workers and entailing a loss of 103,105 working days. Thus the textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 26 per cent of the number of stoppages, 37 per cent of the workers involved and 50 per cent of the man-days lost.

Causes and Results of Disputes.- Of the 177 disputes, 119 arose out of questions of wages and bonus, 24 on account of personnel, 9 on account of leave and hours and 22 due to other causes; in the case of 3 disputes, were wholly successful, 32 partly successful and 79 unsuccessful; no definite results were obtained in respect of 33 disputes, and the result was not announced in respect of 1 dispute by the end of the quarter; and 9 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(Communiqué dated 8-11-1945, issued by the Department of Labour, Government of India).

Calcutta Corporation Employees' Strike, 23-27-11-1945:
Corporation Accepts Demands: Holidays with
Pay for Unskilled Workers.

About 20,000 workers of the Calcutta Corporation drawing salaries up to Rs. 300 per month struck work on 23-11-1945, owing to failure of the Corporation to accept certain demands put forward by the Corporation Employees' Association. These, included revision of the basic scales of pay and rates of wages, granting of leave facilities and free medical aid to all the employees, including the labour staff, and maternity benefits to the women unskilled workers. On 25-11-1945, the Mayor of Calcutta and the President of the Employees' Association reached a settlement, and the latter agreed to call off the strike. On 26-11-1945, however, the conservancy and labour staff did not resume work. After renewed negotiations a fresh settlement was arrived at a conference held by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer with labour leaders and secretaries of different sectional unions of the employees at the Corporation Office, and was ratified at a workers' meeting. In addition to the terms of settlement already arrived at on 25-11-1945, the new terms include a flat rate wage increment of Rs. 3 per head unskilled with effect from 1-12-1945 for all employees drawing a salary up to Rs. 100 per month, in addition to the present dearness, grains, compensation and good conduct allowances. Moreover, all unskilled labour will be entitled to annual 30 days leave with pay after six months' work and a 14 days' leave with pay after one year. A special committee will also consider a scheme of provident fund after retirement for unskilled labour.

All the employees resumed work on 28-11-1945.

(The Statesman, 24-11-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 29-11-1945;
The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 27 and
28-11-1945).

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Plan to Develop Orissa Rivers: Agreement at a Joint Conference.

On 8-11-1945, the Government of India convened at Cuttack a ~~conference~~ conference to consider the possibility of developing the rivers of Orissa for ~~multi-purposes~~ multi-purposes of flood control, navigation, irrigation and drainage, soil conservation and power development. The conference was attended by representatives of the Central Government and the Governments of Orissa, Central Provinces and the Eastern States; Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member to the Government of India, ~~president~~ presided.

In his presidential address, Dr. Ambedkar said that the people of Orissa were constantly exposed to floods causing damage to life and property, and to draughts and famines. In the draught of 1866 nearly 40 per cent of the population of Puri district perished. Deterioration in health and the want of internal communication, were two other additional afflictions from which the people of Orissa suffered. Orissa was a locked up country, and except for a solitary railway line running along the eastern sea-coast there was no means of communication to connect the vast hinterland with the coast. But the natural resources of the province were by no means meagre. Besides mineral resources, the ~~province had water wealth and the delta~~ delta comprising Cuttack, Puri and Balasore covered an area of 8,000 square miles traversed by a network of ~~distributaries~~ distributaries arising mainly from the rivers Mahanadi, Brahmini and Baitarani. Dr. Ambedkar suggested that the application of the "Stage Scheme" to the rivers of Orissa would have the special feature of not only giving irrigation and electricity, but also providing a long line of internal navigation. He was told that it might be possible to connect Chandbali with Sambalpur and beyond by a navigable inland waterway by the construction of three dams. This would provide a navigable channel of 350 miles which could be maintained all the year round.

The conference decided to undertake a preliminary survey of Orissa rivers with a view to preparing schemes of unified and multi-purpose development.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-11-1945).

Indian States' Plans to develop Hydro-electric Power:
Rs. 500 Million to be spent on New Schemes.

Schemes to develop hydro-electric energy in Indian States by ~~erecting~~ erection of new plants at a cost of Rs. 500 million are announced in a press note issued by the Chamber of Princes. Among the new schemes to be undertaken are the Jog Falls scheme in Mysore, costing Rs. 40.8 million; the Dhirangarh project by Kashmir State, the Sind river project by Gwalior, and a number of projects by the Eastern States Agency, ~~Travancore~~ Travancore, Hyderabad and Cochin.

Kashmir.- Kashmir has a plan which visualises (a) the construction of a high head dam about 700 feet in height, forming a lake nearly 40 to 50 miles long and utilising the water to supplement the flow of the Jhelum in the winter; (b) the construction of a large powerhouse; and

© the construction of a railway line from Jammu via Akhnur to the dam site at Dhirangarh. The scheme is being jointly undertaken by the Kashmir and Punjab Governments.

Travancore.- Travancore has a project to increase the capacity of the Pallivasal station, and new generating sets are expected to be ready by the middle of 1946.

Hyderabad.- The Tungabhadra project, which is being worked out by the Madras and Hyderabad governments, when completed, would, apart from the generation of hydro-electric power, irrigate the entire district of Raichur and free it from the ravage of famine by bringing about 625,000 acres of land under cultivation. The project will cost approximately Rs. 200 million. Among the other important schemes which are proposed to be developed in the state are the Godaveri project, the Jaldrug Falls project and the Lower Kistna project.

Gwalior.- Gwalior plans the erection of a dam on the Sind river at Nandani. It will be a combined irrigation and hydro-electric scheme costing Rs. 70,000,000.

Gwalior, Indore, Jaipur, Udaipur and Kotah have entered into an agreement to undertake jointly the harnessing of the waters of the Chambal by throwing a dam across the narrow vally of the river, thus creating a huge lake. Jaipur has chalked out another hydro-electric scheme involving the construction of a dam ~~across~~ with across the river Banas at Charno-ka-deh. Mayurbhanj proposes to construct a dam at Banspahari across the ~~Banspahari~~ Banspahari River to produce about 8,000 h.p.

(The Times of India, 12-11-1945).

Working Class Cost of Living Index for Various Centres in India during April and May, 1945.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during April and May, 1945, as compared with March, 1945.

Name of Centre	Base = 100	Mar.45	Apr.45	May 45.
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	225	226	250
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	187	187	191
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	195	194	196
Nagpur	August 1939	247	248	252
Ludhiana	1931-35	378	385	370
Cawnpore	August 1939	302	311	294
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceeding 1914.	298	297	306
Jamshedpur	Ditto	301	307	315
Jharia	Ditto	329	351	371
Madras	Year ending June 1936	224	220	222
Madura	Ditto	221	221	222
Coimbatore	Ditto	222	222	223

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for April-May, 1945).

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Meeting of National Planning Committee, Bombay,
8, 9, 10-11-1945.

A three-day session of the National Planning Committee was held at Bombay on 8, 9 and 10-11-1945, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presiding. At the conclusion of the first day's session, Pandit Nehru revealed that the Government of India had agreed to make available to the Committee such reports and material as may be useful for the planning work of the Committee. Also, Prof. C.N. Vakil, Economic Adviser to the Planning Member, attended the session and participated in the discussions, under instructions from the Government of India.

The main item on the agenda of the meeting was the special note on wartime economic developments in India, (~~A copy of the note of the Sub-committee was sent to Montreal with my minute No. P.2/ /45 dated 12-1945~~) prepared by the Sub-committee appointed by the National Planning Committee at its last meeting held in September 1945 (vide pages 9-10 of our September 1945 report). The note of the sub-committee referred, inter alia, to the tremendous importance that was now being given to scientific and technological research, the large amount of public control of industries that had taken place, the general demand for international co-operation in economic matters and the acceptance of the principle of fixing minimum wages and prices.

~~During its three day session~~ the Committee adopted resolutions relating to the sterling balances, the dollar pool, foreign investments in India, disposal of surplus factories and equipment constructed for war purposes, and utilization of war-time camps, hospitals, buildings, etc., for purposes of rehabilitating village life. It further reconstituted some of the sub-committee on food, housing and education, so that detailed schemes may be prepared which may be given immediate effect as soon as opportunities are available. The various sub-committees have been asked to review their previous reports and submit their final conclusions within three months or earlier, if possible. The National Planning Committee will meet again to consider these reports.

Instructions to Sub-Committees.— A memorandum drawn up by the Committee, containing comprehensive instructions to its various sub-committees to supplement its previous instructions, deals with the following points:— the form of the future government of India; the objective of national planning; industrialization; research; public economy control in its various forms; labour control; conciliation; social problems; trade barriers and international co-operation in economic matters; national economy; sterling balances; foreign capital; defence industries; wartime developments; rapid industrialization on the Russian model; social economy; consumer goods; protection to special industries; agricultural policy; irrigation; hydro-electric projects; food; housing; cottage and handloom industries; and distribution.

The concluding portion of the memorandum ~~sums~~ up the ~~main~~ opinion of the National Planning Committee on the following points:—

Need for National Government.— The National Planning Committee believes that proper scientific, all-round planning and development of the aggregate economy of the country can only be achieved satisfactorily by a National Government of India commanding the full confidence of the people of the country and their hearty co-operation. The Committee assumes that, in all probability, the future constitution of the country will be democratic in which the claims of the federating

units, whether British Indian provinces or Indian States, will be impossible to ignore.

Regional Planning and Full Employment.- Regional planning, mutually co-ordinated in all respects, must also be part of the national programme in order not only to ensure the fullest development of the available resources but to provide employment for all adult citizens, competent to work, and also to guard against any outbreak of inter-provincial jealousies or rivalries, resulting in avoidable impediments or dissipation of energy. The Committee has taken special note of the existing demand in all countries for providing full employment to all capable adult citizens and ensuring social security of the entire working-class community against normal contingencies of life and work.

Technological Advance, Scientific Research, and Technical Training:- The various sub-committees should pay adequate attention to the new inventions and discoveries made during the war regarding material, processes, scale of production, etc., which in many cases have revolutionized important industries, both in regard to production and distribution. The Committee has emphasized the need for making scientific and technical research an integral part of planned economy. Industrial research, the Committee maintains, should be comprehensively planned and linked with the development of industries, and industrial research organisations created best suited to the needs of individual industries. Also India should build up, as rapidly as possible, institutions which can give the highest type of scientific training of the most varied types, and should send its men abroad for scientific training to meet the industrial needs of the country in the immediate future. It will be the duty of the National Government to adopt necessary ways and means of securing the use of such processes or equipment invented during war for planned industry in India. Trade treaties negotiated through usual diplomatic channels, the Committee says, must concern themselves increasingly with such matters to make up India's leeway in this respect.

State Control.- It is also necessary for the sub-committees to take due note of important changes that have taken place in the organisational and administrative sides of public economy in every country. The most outstanding example of such changes is in the matter of public control of industry and business, such as price control, fixing of maximum and minimum prices, rationing, regulation of transport and other utility services, licensing system, control of labour organisation, etc. The principle of control has come to stay, especially under planned economy. The Committee has, therefore, instructed its appropriate sub-committees to take note of this most important change and make recommendations accordingly.

Labour Problems.- As regards labour problems, the Committee holds that a system of conciliation and compulsory arbitration in all labour disputes may be necessary and machinery for this should be devised with adequate safeguards and protection for labour. It is also in favour of the principle of minimum wages as part of the social security system. Guaranteed minimum prices, in the opinion of the Committee, is one of the means of ensuring social security of the large mass of the agricultural workers in this country. Landless labourers will have to be assured the minimum wage.

International Co-operation.- The Committee feels that if the ideal of international co-operation is accepted difficulties of the trade barriers can be overcome, and it does not apprehend that increasing stress on international co-operation will materially prejudice the primary claims of national development.

Post-War Reconstruction: Emphasis on Food and Housing. Dealing with the post-war reconstruction plans of the provincial and Central Governments, the Committee says, that these plans are ad hoc proposals without proper inter-relations as part of a common national plan of development. The plans, moreover, put forward by certain departments of the Central and provincial governments would involve heavy outlays in relation to development of railways, roads, education, promotion of public health, etc., which, though essential and indispensable, need to be carefully correlated as part of a common scientific and integrated national plan, so as to avoid lop-sided development and unbalanced economy. The Committee holds food and housing to be of immediate importance, and ~~and~~ considers that self sufficiency can be gained by intensive cultivation and reclamation of waste lands. The Committee, further regards that adequate housing for the entire population is essential. In the case of industrial workers, the primary responsibility for housing should be placed on the industry but the financial burden of that responsibility should be equally shared between the State and the industry.

Cottage Industries. On the question of cottage industries, the Committee feels that until the country reaches the ideal of self-sufficiency the planning authority will have to pay every possible attention to this section of the country's industry. It may even have to be protected or safeguarded against competition from machine goods. The Committee emphasizes the important role of cottage industries in national ~~an~~ economy, as in the opinion of the Committee, ~~maxim~~ these will provide a very considerable proportion of cottage goods and employment ~~for a very large number of workers.~~

In addition to the above measures special efforts will also have to be made for the rapid and intensive expansion, improvement and development of public health, education, facilities for travel and entertainments, and other directions of cultural growth, social amenities and public utilities, which must be attended to simultaneously in accordance with a pre-determined programme with specific targets and ~~times~~ time-tables.

Among the other subjects dealt with in the concluding portion of the memorandum are: foreign capital in India, power development and development of key industries, the need for a proper agricultural policy and survey of river systems.

(The Hindustan Times, 10, 12 and 22-11-1945).

All-India Sugar Board: Indian Sugar Mills' Association's Demand.

The Indian Sugar Mills' Association at its annual general meeting held at New Delhi on 10-11-1945, urged the Government of India to give effect, at an early date, to their policy of centralising the sugar industry. The Association asked for the establishment of an All-India Sugar Board, consisting of representatives of manufacturers, cane-growers and the Governments of the various sugar-producing provinces and States, to advise the Government of India on all matters connected with the ~~indus~~ industry.

(The Hindu, 11-11-1945).

Indian Tax Structure not on Scientific Basis: Committee
of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce suggests
Inquiry.

In a letter to the Government of India, the Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce alleges that the present tax structure in India has grown without any scientific basis and without any scientific basis and without any regard for the economic development of the country. There is scarcely any policy behind the levy of any of the taxes by the Government, and these taxes have been in force at a high level and surcharges have been added from time to time as the Central Government's requirements needed finance. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The Committee has, therefore, urged the Government of India to appoint an ad hoc committee, consisting of a majority of Indian non-officials to examine the present tax structure and its effect on the agricultural and industrial interests, with special reference to trade, industry, employment, standard of living, savings and capital formation.

(The Statesman, 18-11-1945).

India Supply Commission set up in U.K.

The Government of India has set up in London a special organisation known as the "India Supply Commission" to help in procuring from the U.K. the capital and other goods needed by India.

(The Statesman, 6-11-1945).

Industries Delegation to purchase American Surplus Capital
Goods: Government of India's Proposal.

It is learnt that the Government of India proposes to send to the U.S.A. an Industries Delegation, in connection with the purchase of American surplus capital goods. The delegation will consist of representatives of the various industries in India and advise the Government of India's Supply Mission in America on the question of capital goods required by India in the immediate future. The Government has asked various commercial organisations in India to furnish it with their considered recommendations on the question of purchase of American war surplus material and to suggest names of representatives to be included in the industries delegation to be sent to the U.S.A. The Government also proposes to depute their own technical experts to locate and examine ~~from~~ plants available in U.S.A. for purchase by India.

The Planning Member to the Government of India, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, who toured the United Kingdom and the United States of America recently has also arranged with the Supply Mission at Washington to keep in touch with the disposal authorities there and to inform the Government of India and industrialists in India of the quality and quantity of material that may be available for disposal from time to time.

(The Hindustan Times, 29-11-1945).

Indian Steel Industry: Dr. John Matthai, on Post-War Prospects.

In an interview to the Associated Press of India, Dr. John Matthai, a Director of Tatas, states that although war demands are rapidly ceasing and the steel industry the world over is switching over to peacetime civilian requirements, the outlook for the steel industry is reasonably good for the next three to five years. New demands which would help to sustain the world market would arise out of two sources—the normal demands for steel which have been in abeyance during the last six years because of the war, and new demands for steel for the implementation of various reconstruction plans and industrial projects in many countries of the world.

In the next three to five years there is not likely to be anything in the nature of a real slump in the steel market, although there may be a decline in prices during the time lag which will intervene between the end of war production and the inflow of peacetime demands.

He added that, considering her resources and population, India's consumption of steel is at present absurdly low, that there is little doubt that with a rising tide of economic development, India could consume several times more steel than she does now. The Government of India seemed to be basing its plans of industrial development on the possibility of doubling India's steel production from 1.5 to 3 million tons a year within the next five to seven years.

(The Hindu, dated 28-11-1945).

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bombay during 1944.

Number of Accidents.- According to the annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Bombay, during 1944, the total number of cases (both applications and agreements) dealt with during 1944, including 379 pending from the previous year, was 2,251 as against 1,789 during 1943—an increase of about 26 per cent. The number of cases disposed of also increased from 1,410 to 1,819, of which 410 related to fatal accidents, and 1,387 to non-fatal ones resulting in 1,345 cases of permanent disablement and 42 of temporary disablement. The remaining 22 were ~~miscellaneous~~ miscellaneous.

Accident Reports.- In addition to the 94 reports of fatal accidents under investigation at the beginning of the year under report, 275 reports were received during 1944—187 from employers and 88 from other sources. Liability was denied in 65 cases. Applications were received from dependents in 53 of these cases, of which 44 were successful and nine were dismissed. Investigations were not complete in 124 cases at the end of the year.

Amount of Compensation.- The total amount of compensation for these cases was Rs. 1,007,010 as against Rs. 626,285 paid during 1943. This amount is exclusive of the compensation paid directly by employers in respect of injuries of a temporary nature as such cases need not necessarily be referred to the Commissioner.

The total number of applications for registration of agreements disposed of during the year was 1,062 of which 1,050 were in respect of compensation for permanent disablement and 12 were for temporary disablement. Of the 1,062 agreements, 1,006 were registered without any modification, 25 after modification and in 31, registration was refused for inadequacy of compensation or for other reasons. The total compensation paid in respect of the 1,031 agreements registered during the year amounted to Rs. 346,008 as against 211,882 in 1943.

The total number of persons in respect of whom compensation was awarded during the year was 627 as against 446 during the previous year, of whom three were minors, 34 women and 590 male adults. In 322 cases the injuries resulted fatally, in 281 (including 3 cases of minors) in permanent disablement and in the remaining 24 in temporary disablement. The wage group most numerously represented was Rs. 60 with Rs. 40, Rs. 45 and Rs. 200 as the next groups. "The wage class in the past generally ranged between Rs. 20 and Rs. 24 but the abnormal rise to Rs. 60 and Rs. 200 is solely due to the payment of increased dearness allowance and bonus which form part of wages for the purposes of calculating average monthly wages of workman".

Bombay Docks Explosion.- The severe explosion in the Bombay Docks in April 1944, resulted in innumerable loss of lives among dock workers and among persons from fire fighting services. The Bombay Explosion (Compensation) Ordinance was therefore promulgated by the Government of India under which compensation approximately one and a half times that admissible under the Workmen's Compensation Act was provided. The definition of permanent total disablement and the table of percentages in Schedule I of the Act were accepted as a basis for the

assessment of the extent of incapacity. In cases where compensation was awarded under the ~~Workmen's~~ Workmen's Compensation Act the difference between the compensation admissible under the Ordinance and ~~that~~ that under the Act was to be claimed from the Claims Commissioner under the Ordinance. The workmen in the service of the Municipality, Port Trust and the Crown were not covered by the Ordinance; the Bombay Port Trust sanctioned compensation on the basis of the rates admissible under the Ordinance in those cases where the service of the victims did not qualify for pension. In other cases pension was also sanctioned in addition to compensation payable under the Act. As a special case the additional amount admissible under the Ordinance was accepted for distribution among the dependents at the request of the Port Trust with the sanction of Government. In the case of the fire fighting services the Port Trust deposited 15 per cent over and above that admissible under the scales of the Ordinance.

Trade Unions' Share in Handling Claims.- The Textile Labour Association, which was the only trade union to take interest in handling claims under the Act, was reported to have handled 180 claims including 33 pending from 1943, of which 109 were successful, 6 were compromised, 3 were unsuccessful, 21 had to be given up for various reasons and 41 were pending at the end of the year. The amount of compensation secured by the Association was Rs. 52,292 as against Rs. 20,230 during the previous year.

(~~the~~ Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1945).

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

"Employment for All" Conferences held at Bombay and Delhi.

The Radical Democratic Party announced on 6-11-1945 that at an "Employment for All" conference held at Bombay under the auspices of the party, the following resolution was adopted:-

"This conference regrets to find that neither the Government of India nor the provincial Governments have any plans ready for providing alternative employment to the thousands that will be rendered unemployed. While strongly condemning this failure and criminal negligence, this Conference urges upon the Government to take immediate steps for providing employment by initiating huge schemes of public works and by stimulating, in general, the industrial activity of the country. This Conference further demands that no ~~minimum~~ worker or employee should be discharged and no soldier, sailor or airman should be demobilised, unless provision is made for alternative employment and that ~~during~~ during the period of unemployment every unemployed person should be paid an unemployment allowance equal to ~~xx~~ his earnings (if he had been employed)".

Resolutions to the same effect were also passed in an "Employment for All" conference convened by the Radical Democratic Party at Delhi on 27-11-1945.

(The Statesman, 7-11-1945;
The Vanguard, dated 29-11-1945).

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MIGRATION.

Conditions of Work in Ceylon: Annual Report of the
Commissioner of Labour, 1944.

The Administration Report of the Commissioner of Labour, Ceylon, for 1944 consists, as usual, of two parts: the first part dealing with the conditions of labour in the Island in general, and the second, exclusively with Indian immigrant labour. The main features of the report are briefly noticed below:-

Part I - General

Labour Legislation.- (a) Industrial Disputes.- The introduction of a new Industrial Disputes Ordinance to replace the existing Ordinance was under consideration.

(b) Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.- By regulation made by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, under Section 55 of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance and published in Government Gazette No. 9,264 of April 28, 1944, Schedule II to the Ordinance was amended increasing the number of occupations to which the Ordinance should apply. The Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce also approved a number of proposals to amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance and instructions were issued to the Legal Draftsman to draft a bill embodying the proposals.

(c) Trade Unions Ordinance.- A draft Bill to introduce certain amendments to the Trade Unions Ordinance which had been approved by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, was in course of preparation. Meanwhile, further amendments to the Ordinance have been under consideration consequent on certain suggestions made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(d) Shops Ordinance.- The experience gained in the working of the Shops Ordinance revealed certain defects in the law which made it difficult to secure full compliance with the provisions of the Ordinance. A number of proposals to amend the Ordinance were, therefore, recommended to the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce and approved by it. Instructions were accordingly issued to the Legal Secretary for the preparation of the necessary amending Bill. A preliminary draft of the Bill was sent by the Legal Draftsman in June, 1944, for the Commissioner's comments. The final draft had not been completed by the end of the year.

(e) Maternity Benefits Ordinance.- The administration of the Maternity Benefits Ordinance revealed that certain amendments would be useful for its smooth operation. It also became necessary to remove an existing anomaly whereby estate employers, unlike other employers, were

* Part I—CIVIL (O). Administration Report of the Commissioner of Labour for 1944: (A.E. Christoffelsz, Esq., C.C.S.), November, 1945: Printed on the orders of Government: Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo; To be purchased at the Government Record Office, Colombo; price Re. 1: 1945, Pages 52.

required to provide benefits both under the Maternity Benefits Ordinance and under the Medical Wants Ordinance. All these amendments were approved by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce in September 1944 and instructions were issued to the Legal Secretary for the necessary draft bill to be prepared.

(f) Legislation to regulate conditions of employment in mercantile establishments. - There were three motions introduced in the State Council, one on 30-11-1943, and two on 9-2-1944, having as their object the regulation of conditions of employment of mercantile employees. Motions had also been introduced previously in the State Council bearing on the same subject and the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce had considered them. The State Council at the time was debating the Wages Board Bill and the Executive Committee recommended that Wages Boards set up under the Wages Boards Ordinance might deal with salaries, hours of work, etc., of mercantile employees. Subsequent consideration, however, revealed that it would not be appropriate to regulate conditions of employment of mercantile employees by means of a Wages Board and the Department was during the year considering proposals for the introduction of legislation for mercantile employees on the lines of the Shops Ordinance.

(g) Legislation to obtain powers for Controller of Labour to collect statistics on labour matters. - The absence of accurate statistics on labour matters has been a serious handicap to the development of the activities of the Department and the introduction of labour welfare and social insurance schemes. The difficulty is that the Department has no power to collect data on the various subjects from employers and other sources capable of supplying information. The need for such powers was keenly felt, especially during the early part of the year when employers of labour showed no disposition to co-operate with the Department in supplying statistics considered necessary in connexion with post-war unemployment. The question of introducing the necessary legislative provision therefore was receiving consideration during the year. It was first proposed to obtain the necessary powers by means of Defence Regulations. A memorandum on the provision necessary was prepared and approved by the Minister and instructions were issued to the Legal Secretary to prepare ~~the~~ a Defence Regulation for the purpose. The Legal Secretary, however, was of the opinion that it would be improper to deal with the matter by way of Defence Regulation since it referred to peace-time problems. It was ~~thereupon~~ decided to have an Ordinance enacted making provision, inter alia, for the powers necessary for the collection of statistics. A memorandum on the subject was accordingly prepared by the department and approved by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce on 14-9-1944, and the Legal Secretary was instructed to prepare the necessary draft legislation.

Application of I.L. Conventions. - An annual report is furnished to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the application in Ceylon of the I.L. Conventions ratified by Great Britain. The draft bill to give effect to convention No. 50 (re. Regulation of certain Special ~~and~~ Systems for Recruiting Workers) in Ceylon had not been completed during the year; and the necessary legislation to give effect to convention No. 64 (re. Regulation of Written Contracts of employment of Indigenous Workers) in Ceylon was in course of preparation.

Workmen's Compensation Statistics. - 7,233 accidents were reported to the Commissioner during the year as against 7,006 in 1943. Of these 140 were fatal as against 151 in 1943. The returns furnished by

employers showed that Rs. 302,996.12 was paid out during the year as claims in respect of 5,925 cases, as against Rs. 269,431.75 and Rs. 202,588.95 in respect of 5,972 and 5,917 cases for 1943 and 1942, respectively. 92 inquiries were held during the year, while proceedings were taken in 183 cases. Liability was admitted by the employers and compensation deposited with the Commissioner in 60 cases. Compensation deposited with the Commissioner was Rs. 128,844.11 as against Rs. 123,878.69 in 1943. Of the 999 agreements registered during the year, 249 were in respect of permanent disablement, 749 in respect of temporary disablement and one in respect of commutation of half monthly payments due for the period of temporary disablement. The total amount of compensation paid in respect of the 249 cases of permanent disablement was Rs. 125,168.65. Fifty cases where civilian employees of the Fighting Services met with fatal and non-fatal accidents arising out of and in the course of their employment were brought to the notice of the Commissioner during the year. These cases were dealt with through the appropriate Service authorities.

Trade Unions.- 32 unions applied for registration during the year; of these 24 were registered as against 29 registered in 1943. The total number of trade unions that have been registered in Ceylon during the ten years since 1935 when the Trade Unions Ordinance was adopted is 168. At the end of 1943 the number of unions functioning was 72. The registration of 9 was cancelled and 3 were amalgamated during the course of the year under review. The number of unions operating at the end of the year was, therefore, 84. Annual returns were due from 60 unions only as the rest were registered during the year.

According to the report most of the unions were active during the year. Demands were made on employers for the improvement of terms and conditions of employment of workers, and in a large number of cases with success. In many cases disputes were ~~settled~~ settled by direct negotiation between the employers and the unions; wherever settlements ~~were~~ were not possible disputes were referred to the Labour Department. Referring to the formation of a number of unions sponsored by diverse political parties in the same industries, the report points out that multiplicity of unions in the same trade or industry is undesirable especially when their leaders hold different, and sometimes mutually intolerant, political views. Further, most of the unions were still guided by outsiders who functioned as officials. The report emphasizes that workers must show greater enthusiasm and ability in the management of their unions if a broad-based movement is to thrive.

With the registration of the All-Ceylon Tea and Rubber Workers' Union the smaller unions established at different Tea and Rubber Stores in Colombo ceased to function. This Union claimed over 80 per cent of the workers in these trades as members.

Industrial Disputes.- During the year 66 strikes in trade or industry other than on estates were reported to the Department as against 31 during the previous year. The commonest grievance of strikers was that their earnings were insufficient to meet effectively the increase in the cost of living. Some strikes were due to dismissal or punishment of union members. The Department inquired into these strikes and in a large number of cases the disputes concerned were settled.

Industrial Labour.- With the increase in the cost of living there were ~~insistent demands~~ for higher wages and war allowances by unions on behalf of their members. The intervention of the department was freely sought by the unions and employers with a view to adjusting differences. Employers were as a rule ready to attend conferences for the purpose of exchanging views and settling disputes. Where disputes could not be settled amicably in essential services, petitions were presented under the Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, 1942, for adjudication by Special Tribunals. Recourse was also had to Special Tribunals by unions in cases where their members employed in essential services were dismissed.

Clerical Workers.- Unrest amongst clerical workers both in Government and private employ prevailed. The Government clerical servants presented a petition asking that a dispute between them and the Government be referred to a Special Tribunal for adjudication under the Strikes and Lockouts Order. The petition was not referred to a special tribunal as it did not appear that a trade dispute as defined in the Essential Service (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, 1942, was disclosed. The bank clerks made representations to their employers asking for increased wages and better conditions of employment. As no satisfactory reply was received, the clerks struck work. A conference was called by the Commissioner, which the parties agreed to abide by the decision of a Board of Conciliation appointed under the Industrial Disputes Ordinance and the clerks resumed work the next day. Substantial improvements in their terms and conditions of employment were awarded by the Board of Conciliation.

ESTATE LABOUR.- The Commissioner records with satisfaction that better understanding prevailed between planters and trade unions' representatives during the year under review. Both superintendents of estates and union representatives freely sought the advice of the officers of the department when difficulties occurred, and as a result a more cordial relationship existed. A majority of trade disputes were successfully settled under the 7 point agreement which continued to serve a most important purpose in bringing employers and union representatives together for discussion and settlement of disputes. Employers were ready to co-operate with unions though they often displayed desperation at the types of cases sponsored by them and the methods employed by some representatives.

Essential Services: Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lockouts) Order, 1942.- During the year the commutation of a free midday meal by payment in cash was declared unlawful. The order was amended so as to exclude its application to Government employees.

Safety of Workers in Mines and Factories.- The Revenue Officer of each district is entrusted under the Ordinance with certain powers in regard to the operation in his district of the Mines and Machinery Protection Ordinance. According to the reports received from the ~~various~~ various Revenue Officers (except from the Revenue Officers, Colombo and Anuradhapura, from whom no reports were received) there were at the beginning of the year 1,381 factories in the Island. During the year 20 factories were registered and 23 were closed down leaving at the end of the year 1,378 factories as duly licensed. Five factories inspected during the year were reported unsafe. Eleven accidents were reported in factories during 1944 as against 13 in 1943. As a result of these accidents, three persons were killed and 11 persons injured. Mines were supervised by the Inspector of Mines. At the beginning of 1944

there were 199 registered mines. Forty new mines were registered during the year and 161 mines were closed down. The reduction in prices and the shortage and high cost of labour resulted in a large number of small mines closing down and the number of declarations to open new mines was the lowest for the last 20 years. The total number of mines at the end of the year was 78. 94 mines were inspected during the year. Six serious accidents were reported in which 4 persons were killed and 3 injured. The Factories Ordinance (No.45 of 1942) was passed by the State Council on 1-10-1942, and when it is proclaimed it will replace the Mines and Machinery Ordinance so far as the latter relates to factories.

Employment.- During the year under review the demand for labour of all types exceeded the available supply and attention had once again to be drawn to the problem of the equitable distribution of the available labour resources of the Island between competing needs. Although this was stressed from the commencement of the war in the Far East no central organisation was set up to direct available labour into essential employment as in other countries. A suggestion was made during the year that a National Register should be compiled which would facilitate the canalising of the available man-power resources of the Island for post-war development purposes. This proposal was however not accepted by the Board of Ministers. Inter-Service competition was however mitigated to some extent by the activities of the Services Standing Wages Board. Several complaints from private employers of labour were looked into by the Board, but it soon became evident that little could be done to secure the means by which the requirements of all employers could be met at the same time. The acute shortage of labour resulted in complaints being made that more attractive terms were diverting labour from civilian employment to work under the Services. This was inevitable as Service work had of necessity to have priority. The recruitment of labour units from outside the Island however helped to ease the general shortage to some extent. The shortage of labour on tea and rubber estates continued during the year as the Government of India's ban on the emigration of unskilled labour still remained in force.

Rehabilitation of the Disabled.- The Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce to investigate the problem of ~~the~~ the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled members of the Forces and civilian war victims issued its report during the year under review. The Committee recommended, inter-alia, the appointment of an inter-departmental Committee consisting of representatives of the Labour Department, Department of Medical and Sanitary Services and the Education Department with power to co-opt representatives of other Government Departments and private organisations (a) to inaugurate the Scheme of rehabilitation outlined in the report; and (b) to explore the possibilities of the provision of suitable training in the technical institutions of Government, such as the Technical College, and under private auspices, such as the School for the Blind. Steps were being taken at the close of the year to set up the inter-departmental Committee.

Unemployment.- There was no unemployment in the various districts of Ceylon during the 1944. In most places the demand for labour exceeded the available supply. A general shortage of labour for food production, and other essential work was reported from all areas in consequence of the exodus of labour to Service Works.

Employment of Indigenous Labour.- At the end of 1944 the number of ~~non-resident~~ ~~labourers~~ employed on estates was 130,518 of which 48,586 were resident.

Working of the Colombo Employment Exchange.- The Colombo Employment ~~Exchange~~ continued to be used as before by Government, the Services and private employers. Since its establishment in September, 1938, the Exchange has registered 8,697 orders for workers. Of these 986 were registered during the year 1944.—Government Departments 791 and other employers 195.

Registration.- The number of workers registered for employment during the year was 2,755 comprising: Professional and Technical 35, Clerical 780, Skilled 719, Semi-skilled 517 and Unskilled 702. Of these 388 were women. (The registrations for 1943 totalled 4,405.) There has been a considerable drop in registrations during the year and this can be attributed to better employment conditions. The number placed in employment since the establishment of the Exchange in 1938 is 31,987; of these, 1,875 were placed during the year.

Administration of the Wages Boards Ordinance.- Although Part I of the ~~Wages Board Ordinance, No. 27 of 1941~~, which applies to all trades came into operation in 1941, the enforcement of Sections 2 and 3 of the Ordinance relating to authorised deductions from wages, and the maintenance of records, could not be undertaken by the Department owing to the absence of an adequate inspectorate. Action was taken by the ~~Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce~~ early in the year to apply the provisions of Part II of the Ordinance to the following trades: (1) The Tea growing and manufacturing trade; (2) The Rubber growing and manufacturing trade; (3) The Coconut trade; (4) The Engineering trade; (5) The Plumbage trade; and (6) The Printing trade. Wages Boards for each of the above-mentioned trades were also set up by the Minister in May, 1944. The Boards are constituted on the basis of an equal number of employer and employee representatives with nominated members—the numbers however vary from 7 in most of the trades to 11 in the Coconut trade. Each of the trades has only one nominated member. The Controller of Labour is Chairman of all Boards but has no vote. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in finding suitable nominated members, and the requisite number of workers' representatives who could look after the interests of unorganised labour. Employer representatives have in practice been appointed on the recommendations of their respective ~~Association~~ Associations. Workers' representatives have in the main been drawn from the leaders of Registered Trade Unions, but a few non-trade union representatives have been appointed to represent unorganised workers. The Provisions of Part II of the Ordinance were also applied towards the end of the year to (1) The Tea Export Trade, (2) The Rubber Export Trade, and (3) The Toddy, Arrack and Vinegar Trade. The Wages Boards appointed earlier in the year published their tentative decisions in December and called for objections from the public. In a number of cases the decisions were arrived at by compromise; in others the vote of the nominated member had to be cast. Progress in arriving at decisions was very slow at the commencement because a number of members were not familiar with Wages Boards procedure. The most protracted discussions took place in the Tea and Rubber Growing and Manufacturing trades.

Services Standing Wages Board.- This Board was set up by the ~~General Manager~~, in order to advise him on matters relating to conditions of employment of labour employed on Service works either directly by the Services or by Civilian Government Departments on behalf of the Services. Fourteen meetings of the Board were held during the year under review. Besides dealing with rates of wages, etc., for labour engaged on Service projects, the Board was also concerned with the co-ordination of the rates of pay of labour employed by the Services, the civil Government Departments and by large employers of labour in the island. Representatives of the Planters' Association, the Employers' Federation and the Low Country Product Association were invited to attend meetings whenever subjects on which interested them were discussed by the Board.

Administration of the Shops Ordinance.- The Shops Ordinance has been in force only in the three municipalities and its extension to the Urban Areas awaits the provision of an adequate staff of inspectors. While large numbers of shops assistants are in enjoyment of the benefits provided in the Ordinance, only the early provision of more inspectors can ensure that the benefits afforded by the ordinance are in fact given to all employees. 1588 shops in Colombo were inspected for the first time in the course of the year. A larger number of re-inspections were also made. Inspections of shops in ~~Handy and Galle~~ could not be taken up until about December as the inspectors at those stations were engaged in other urgent work. There were 672 cases of prosecutions or ~~cases~~ ~~of~~ ~~violations~~ in ~~connection~~ ~~with~~ ~~infringement~~ of the provisions of the ordinance. Fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 9,577.

Sanitary Benefits.- The inspections revealed that in the majority of cases the ~~provisions~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~ordinance~~ were complied with. Some difficulty about the maintenance of the required records appeared to have been experienced by employers which might have been partly due to the acute paper shortage. However, after due investigation adequate adjustments were made.

Basic Minimum Wages.- The following basic minimum wages which came into operation from 1-5-1943, remained in force during the year:

	Up-country Cents.	Mid-country Cents.	Low-country Cents.
Men	57	55	53
Women	46	44	43
Children	35	34	33

In addition a dearness allowance varying with the Cost of Living Index was payable. The above rates of wages were paid on the understanding that rice of good quality would be supplied to the estates labourers in specified quantities at specified rates. But in view of the rationing of foodstuffs the requisite quantity of rice could not be issued, and the actual cost of rice and substitute foods was used in the calculation of the dearness allowance.

Part II - Indian Immigrant Labour.

Migration Statistics.- The flow of labour between Ceylon and India experienced in the previous year, continued with little change during the year under review though the movement of labour in both directions showed a tendency to increase. Those emigrating to Ceylon numbered 51,977, an excess of 7,224 over the figures shown in the previous year;

and similarly, the return movement to India was also greater, the number being 59,885 in comparison with 59,577 during 1943. Due to the relaxation of the ban on emigration, it had been anticipated that a large return movement to India would ensue for a time, estate labourers having been given the opportunity to renew and restore the former social and domestic ties with their Villages. It was thought, however, that after a certain period, this return movement would decrease, but to date this has not proved to be the case, figures continuing to show a contrary tendency. As the number of despatches to Ceylon has also risen, the ebb and flow of labour would appear to have remained normal throughout the year.

Immigration

The notification in terms of sub-section (1) of section 30A of the Indian Emigration Act, 1932 (VII of 1932), prohibiting the departure by sea out of British India to Ceylon of all persons proceeding for the purpose of unskilled work continued to remain in force. For all such persons who were not eligible to proceed under the relaxed conditions of the ban on emigration, exemptions were sought from the Government of India on their behalf under the relative Government orders covering this subject.

The Madras Government continued to act as Agents for the Central Government of India in regard to emigration matters until the end of September, 1944. On October 1, emigration came under the direct control of the Central Government, this subject being dealt with by a Controller-General of Emigration, appointed for the purpose. All references by the Ceylon Emigration Commissioner thereafter were submitted directly to the Controller-General of Emigration, but no other change in procedure was made.

(The Administration Report of the Controller of Labour, Ceylon, for 1943, was summarized at pages 14-18 of our report for December, 1944).

**Government Proposals for Land Colonization in Kenya:
Rural Settlement and Urban Housing Schemes for Indians.**

Indians in Kenya are vitally affected by the comprehensive proposals for land utilization and land settlement in the colony covering all races, which were published recently in a Kenya Government paper.

A Settlement Bill is to be introduced by Government in the Legislative Council as soon as possible, making provision for the establishment of a statutory Central Settlement Board, with functions of advising Government on policy and on schemes for settlement or resettlement of all races on land in Kenya. The Board will scrutinize and control expenditure of such funds as may be made available for settlement purposes and subsidiary boards will be set up to deal with Indian, African, Arab and European settlement.

Land Settlement: Indian and Arab Settlement Board.- In pursuance of this scheme it is proposed to set up an Indian and Arab Settlement Board. It will be under the control of the Member for Agriculture and will be identical in character to those proposed in the paper for promoting the interests of African and European settlement within the area available to these races. Its appointment will necessitate the abolition of the present Indian Land Settlement Board which was set up

in August 1941 under the chairmanship of the Commissioner of Lands. The duties of the Board when constituted under an Indian chairman will be (1) to report on the activities and economic position of Indian farmers in those areas at present occupied by Indian agriculturists; (2) to discover what demand exists among local Indian and Arabs for opportunities to take up an agricultural career and particularly to ascertain the demand among locally born Indian and Arab youths; (3) to suggest to the Government what land in those areas of the colony which are open to occupation by persons of all races it considers to be suitable for Indian and Arab settlement in order that the Government may appoint technical officers to examine and report on this land; (4) when the Government has received reports from its technical officers and has made available suitable area or areas for Indian and Arab settlement, to devise schemes including financial recommendations for beneficial occupation of land by Indian and Arab farmers; and (5) to administer under the direction of the proposed Central Settlement Board such financial provisions as may be approved and arrange the training of prospective farmers.

Indian Urban Settlement: Proposed Investigation into Employment Opportunities for Indians. - As regards Indian urban settlement, the paper states that the Government is fully alive to the urgent needs of the Indian urban population for increased accommodation, and to the congestion that at present exists in residential areas. Indeed, it is much more preoccupied with and very anxious concerning problems that face the Indian community in obtaining adequate employment and reasonable standard of living for a rapidly increasing population. As far as housing is concerned, the far-reaching plan for urban housing and the Government will confer with other municipal councils with a view to procuring, if necessary with financial assistance, adequate provision of housing in all municipal areas for Indians, who are employed or who are trading in these places. But the urban housing problem, the Government paper stresses, is only incidental to the real problem which is that of discovering what opportunities are available in future for local Indians in those activities in which they prefer to engage and also of discovering what other opportunities might be opened to the Indian population without unduly competing with the legitimate aspirations of the African population. The Government, therefore, proposes to make an investigation into these problems. Leading members of the Indian community will be associated with this investigation.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 30-11-1945). +

AGRICULTURE.

Economic Conditions of Agricultural Labour: Bengal Government undertakes Enquiry.

An enquiry into the economic condition of agricultural labour in Bengal has been undertaken by the Government of Bengal. The results of the enquiry will be used as a basis to devise ways and means for promoting the efficiency and welfare of labour and for fitting it into post-war schemes for development of agriculture in the province. It is proposed, to carry out a statistical survey of the economic condition of agricultural labour for collecting information in respect of several thousands of families selected from about 160 centres in different parts of the province. The work will be done under the guidance of Prof. P.C. Mahalanabis, of the Indian Statistical Institute.

The enquiry is designed to elicit reliable data regarding the working hours and working conditions of agricultural labour, the nature and extent of employment, conditions of wages in different parts of the year, alternative employment, if any, and wages earned, the manner in which labourers maintain themselves during non-harvesting seasons, housing conditions and any other important supplementary information which may be useful in the future agricultural development of the province. The enquiry will be carried out along with the statistical crop survey now in progress.

("Dawn", Delhi, 15-11-1945).

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Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1939:
Amending Bill.

Under the provisions of the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act, 1939 (vide page 25 of the report of this office for February 1940) the normal method of repayment of adjusted debts is by annual instalments fixed on the basis of the net annual income of the debtor. Under the provisions of sections 51 and 52 of the Act, the paying capacity of the debtor is taken at sixty per cent of the value of his assets (both immoveable and moveable) and his debts are to be scaled down to such paying capacity. Representations have been made to Government that the existing land mortgage banks, whose main business it is to supply long-term credit to the agriculturists, should take over the awards in all cases where the total amount awarded is 50 per cent or less of the value of the debtor's immoveable property and the creditors should be compelled to receive payment from these banks so that the adjusted debtor may be indebted to the land mortgage banks for his long term credit and to the co-operative societies to be authorised under section 78 for his short term credit. The land mortgage banks have since agreed (1) to take over all awards where the total amount awarded is 50 per cent or less of the value of the debtor's immoveable property as defined in the Act or where the creditors agree to scale down the debts of the

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debtor to a sum not exceeding half the value of the immoveable property of the debtor, and (ii) to pay, at the option of the creditor, either in cash or in bonds. The amending bill aims at achieving the above objects.

(The Bombay Government Gazette dated 2-11-1945; part V, pages 60-62).

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PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Dearness Allowance to Teachers in Private Institutions on same Scale as Government Servants: Madras Government's Order.

On representations made by the South India Teachers' Union and other organisations urging the Government that the managements of aided secondary schools and first and second grade colleges should be encouraged to give teachers under them the same scale of allowance as that given to Government servants, the Government of Madras has passed orders bringing the scale of dearness allowance to teachers and lecturers in private educational institutions to the same level as that granted by Government and Local Bodies. The order directs that in future the expenditure incurred by the managements of such aided educational institutions on payment of dearness or war allowance to the members of the staff up to the limit referred to above should be taken into account in assessing the teaching grants payable to them by Government. If all the managements pay the dearness allowance as per this order, the total amount the Government would have to meet is approximately ~~Rs. 1.25 million~~ Rs. 1.25 million.

(The Hindu, 11-11-1945).

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COOPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Plans for absorbing Demobilised Personnel in Cooperative
Department's Bombay Government Sanctions Scheme.

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned a scheme for the resettlement of ex-servicemen in the Cooperative Department. Batches of demobilised soldiers will be trained for a period of at least six months, both in theoretical and practical work in the districts under officers of the Co-operative Department. Those with a good grounding in Marathi who have passed the sixth standard, or corresponding army certificate, will be given stipends of Rs. 45 a month each and provided with rent-free accommodation. Ex-servicemen who possess an adequate knowledge of English and academic qualifications will be recruited to existing vacancies in the Co-operative Department and then sent for training. During the training period they will be given the initial starting salary of the posts for which they are recruited and will be charged Rs. 5 a month as rent for hostel accommodation.

("Bombay Information", 24-11-1945).

Housing.Housing of Mine Labour in Bihar: Hazaribagh Mines Board
Frames Bye-laws.

The Governor of Bihar has confirmed certain bye-laws framed by the Hazaribagh Mines Board in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the Hazaribagh Mines Board Act, 1936 (vide page 22 of the report of this office for February 1937). One of these provides that no owner, agent or manager of a mine shall, except with the written approval of the Board, construct for the housing of labourers a building which does not comply with the following among other conditions: (a) The minimum dimensions of each of the rooms shall be, floor space—150 sq. ft.; air space—1,500 c. ft.; average height—10 ft.; and width—10 ft. ~~and~~ (b) No more persons shall be accommodated in any room than will allow to each adult a floor space of 50 sq. ft.; air space—500 c.ft. and half such space for each child. The bye-laws further include provisions for the proper flooring and ventilation of the workers' living rooms, the proper ~~drainage~~ drainage of existing houses and proposed building sites, the licensing of existing and new houses, proper sanitation, drainage and conservancy in ~~the~~ colliery areas, ensuring the cleanliness of markets, and the provision of ~~medical relief~~ relief by the owners of mines to sick and injured employees.

(The Bihar Gazette date 21-11-1945,
Part II, pages 734-737).

Employees Tax to finance of Housing Schemes: Madras
Corporation Commissioner's Proposal.

To make it possible to wipe out the 200 slums in the city and to provide housing accommodation for the poor, the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras has, in a note, requested the City Council to pass a resolution recommending to the Government to amend the City Municipal Act so as to provide for the levy of an employee's tax at a rate not exceeding Rs. 5 per month, the intention at present being to levy the tax at Rs. 2 per month on every employee drawing a salary or monthly wage not exceeding Rs. 50 per month. Every employer shall pay this tax in respect of all his employees for whom housing has not been provided by him and whose monthly wage or salary does not exceed Rs. 50. The Corporation shall be bound to provide housing accommodation to employees, in respect of whom the tax has been paid, within a period of three years, and in case it fails to do so, the tax collected shall be refunded with 4 per cent interest in respect of all servants for whom it has failed to provide accommodation within the statutory period. It is hoped that the Corporation would be able to raise a loan of Rs. 40 million repayable in 20 years. The cost of the tenements for 75,000 people is expected to be about Rs. 40 million or Rs. 533 each. The cost of the land it is proposed should be shared by the Corporation and

the Government. Every employee who is accommodated in a Corporation tenement shall pay a monthly rent fixed by the Commissioner, and the employers shall be bound to deduct this amount at the source and pay it to the Corporation.

The above proposal was considered at an informal meeting of leaders of parties in the City Council convened by the Mayor on 26-11-1945. The proposal, it is gathered, was objected to by one of the members on the grounds, that the employer was not solely responsible for the housing of his employees, that the questions of housing and slum clearance should not be ~~galled~~ ^{galled} up, that the loan for slum clearance, being unremunerative, ~~should~~ should be limited to the minimum and that the programme of housing should be spread over 10 years.

The question is to be discussed further at another meeting.

(The Hindustan, dated 21 and 28-11-1945).
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Workers' Organisations.Progress of Trade Unions in Sind during 1943-1944.

Numbers of Unions.- The number of registered Trade Unions in Sind during 1943-1944 remained constant at 39. Six new unions were registered and the registration of an equal number was cancelled in the course of the year. Only 12 unions submitted their annual returns by the prescribed date, though 15 others submitted them subsequently. Six others submitted returns after notices had been served on them and their officers had been prosecuted but of these one was later reported to have ceased functioning. Four other unions were found to be non-existent and the remaining two were granted an extension of time as a special case. The objects of one of the 39 unions were not confined to the province. The following figures relate to the 33 unions which submitted returns.

Membership.- The total membership of the 32 unions whose objects were confined to the province increased from 8,722 to 10,677 or by 22.41 per cent. The increase was mainly confined to the 'Miscellaneous' group (from 5,205 to 4,280) though the 'Railways', 'Tramways', 'Municipal' and 'Engineering' groups also registered slight increases. On the other hand membership declined in the 'Seamen' (from 225 to 182) and 'Docks and Port Trusts' (from 1,584 to 1,194) groups. The total number of female members in all the unions rose from 460 in 1942-1943 to 487 in 1943-1944. In the case of the union whose objects were not confined to the province, the membership declined from 1,542 to 1,020.

Financial position. Position.- During the year 9 unions spent more than their incomes. Three had debit balances at the close of the year. In the case of 18 unions, however, the closing balances were higher than what they started with. The total assets of all the 32 unions whose objects were confined to the province amounted to Rs. 36,459, but this figure included Rs. 6,674 on account of unpaid subscriptions due. In the case of the ~~union~~ union whose objects were not confined to the province, the assets consisted of Rs. 3,200 cash and Rs. 88 under the heading Miscellaneous.

No union maintained a political fund.

(Indian Labour Gazette,
October, 1945).

Progress of Trade Unions in Central Provinces and Berar during 1943-1944.

Number of Unions.- At the beginning of 1943-1944 there were 50 registered trade unions in the Central Provinces and Berar but in the course of the year six of these ceased to exist and five new unions were registered. At the end of the year, there were 49 registered unions, and the objects of all but one were confined to the province. 19 unions failed to submit the prescribed returns and of these the registration of 10 was cancelled subsequently. The following figures relate to the 30 unions which furnished annual returns.

Membership.- The total membership of the 29 unions whose objects were ~~not~~ confined to the province decreased during the year from 28,029 to 14,883. The heaviest fall was in the 'Miscellaneous' group (from 13,034 to 1,680) and the 'Railways' group (from 2,811 to 1,073). Membership, however, increased, in the 'Textiles' (from 9,137 to 9,684) and 'Municipal' (from 2,587 to 2,614) groups. Female membership during the year stood at 2,112 as against 5,996 in 1942-1943. In the case of the union whose objects extended beyond the province, membership decreased from 16,485 to 16,470.

Financial Position.- As regards the financial position of the unions whose objects were confined to the province, the closing balance stood at Rs. 40,560 as against an opening balance of Rs. 29,700. One union had a debit balance and in the case of 2 unions the closing balance stood at Rs. 3 only. The one union whose objects extended beyond the province had a closing balance of Rs. 8,796 as against an opening balance of Rs. 7,609.

(Indian Labour Gazette, October, 1945).

Employment of Demobilised Naval Personnel:
Association Formed.

As association of demobilised naval personnel has been formed in Bombay under the "Ex-Naval Association of India". Its primary object is to seek suitable avenues for accordng employment to such of its members as are technically or by experience qualified for certain trades; this it will endeavour to do by keeping in direct contact with the various labour exchange centres, and private owned concerns. In addition, the Association proposes to engage itself in participating, directly, together with individual industrialists, in commercial enterprises, such as motor bus companies, fisheries etc.

(The Vanguard, 13-11-1945).

Trade Unionism in India during War.

The progress of trade unionism in India during the World War II is reviewed in an unsigned article published in the Eastern Economist, New Delhi, dated 23-11-1945. The following is summary of the article:-

Growth of Trade Unionism.- The trade union movement in India gained impetus during the war period for two principal reasons: (1) the rising cost of living necessitated organised effort for raising wage levels; and (2) the increase in the volume of employment led to a corresponding rise in the membership of trade unions. On 31-3-1939, the number of registered unions stood at 562 and their membership at 399,159; the following figures indicate the progress of trade unionism during the war period:-

Year	No. of Registered Trade Unions	Total Membership
1939-40	667	511,138
1940-41	727	513,832
1941-42	747	573,520
1942-43	693	685,299
1943-44.	458	382,183

The 1943-44 figures exclude Bengal and the Punjab for which statistics are not available. Figures for 1943 for Bengal and the Punjab, however, were 229, and 24 (trade unions) and 175,595, and 7,191 (membership) respectively. This might suggest a total figure for 1943-44 of about 708 trade unions and 564,969 members. It might also be borne in mind that though the year 1942-43 saw a decline in the number of trade unions from 747 in the previous year to 693, the membership of unions, as compared with 1941-42, increased from 573,520 to 685,299, the highest figure recorded since 1927-28. This is probably due to the fact that it coincided with the year of the real impact of war on Indian economy and the consequent unparalleled rise in the cost of living. While on the whole these figures indicate a continuous progressive trend, for a correct idea of the development of trade unionism in India we may also bear in mind the extent of unregistered trade unions. No figures relating to the unregistered unions are available except for the Province of Bombay where the labour office collects them both in case of registered and unregistered trade unions. The strength of unregistered trade unions, is not inconsiderable. In Bombay, for instance, on 1-12-1942, while the registered trade unions were 89 with a membership of 155,782, the unregistered trade unions numbered 100, with a membership of 29,574. In Assam the only industry which engages the biggest labour force is tea plantation, and the labourers engaged in this industry are mostly illiterate. But there also, a trade union of tea-garden labour with a large membership existed although it was unregistered. In ~~some~~ some cases, however, the wartime increase in earnings seems to have retarded the incentive of labour to organise in trade unions. For instance in the Province of Delhi, this period was described as one of 'comparative apathy to trade unionism due to rapid improvement in the economic ^{position of the working classes, the unorganised} organise themselves in trade unions ceased to operate with the same intensity as in the preceding years when a trade union was looked upon as the sole guardian of labour interests'.

Defects of Indian Trade Unions.- In spite of the progress made during war time, the ~~author~~ author points out, trade unions in India still continue to be handicapped by the evils of victimization at the hands of the management, mass illiteracy and the migratory character of the labour force. Nor is their financial position and working entirely satisfactory. The total income of registered trade unions increased from Rs. 1,121,797 in 1939-40 to Rs. 1,212,927 in 1940-41, and to Rs. 1,767,446 in 1941-42; in 1942-43, however, this decreased to 1,596,984. Figures of the balance in hand, increased during the period from Rs. 739,937 in 1939-40, to Rs. 786,120 and to Rs. 1,226,900 during 1941-42; in 1942-43 this was Rs. 1,210,630. But the impression conveyed by these figures, fades away when the structure and composition of the assets are examined. First, the assets of many unions include a considerable proportion of unpaid subscriptions due. In Bombay, for instance, of the total assets, 28.36 per cent in 1940-41, 25.20 per cent in 1941-42 and 27.59 per cent in 1942-43, represented the amount

of unpaid subscription due. Secondly, in ^{the} case of several unions, the expenditure is out of all proportion to their income and had it not ~~been~~ for the large donations which they received, they would hardly have been able to keep functioning. The 1943-44 report ~~for~~ Bombay mentions that 'a feature of certain unions was that expenditure was mainly financed not by members' subscriptions but by donations from unspecified sources'. While donations may be available for the activities of the unions, they are no index to the real strength of the union because they are voluntary and can in no case be relied upon. Thirdly, every annual Trade Union Report mentions the difficulties of the Registrars of Trade Unions in collecting annual returns, which under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, the registered trade unions are required to submit. Every year, a considerable number of unions fail to observe this rule. For the four years 1939-40 to 1942-43 the number of registered trade unions was 667, 727, 707 and 693, respectively. Out of these, only 450, 483, 455 and 489, respectively, submitted their annual returns. Consequently there are many cases of prosecution and cancellation.

(The Eastern Economist, 23-11-1945).

Bombay Provincial Trade Union Conference, Sholapur,
30 and 31-10-1945: Fundamental Demands of Workers
Formulated.

The Bombay Provincial Trade Union Conference was held at Sholapur on 30 and 31-10-1945, Mr. R.K. Bhogle presiding. The Conference adopted a charter formulating the fundamental demands of all workers in Bombay Province. These are:- (1) A statutory enactment providing for a 44-hours week (a seven-hours day for night shift). (2) Minimum living wage on the scale Rs. 50 to Rs. 55/- per month, excluding dearness allowance. (3) One month's ~~leave~~ annual leave with full pay. (4) Unemployment, sickness, and old age benefits. (5) Maternity benefit to women workers equal to six weeks' wages before delivery and six weeks' wages ~~after~~ after confinement. (6) Compulsory recognition of trade unions for collective bargaining. (7) The establishment of Industrial Councils consisting of the representatives of the workers, employers and Government for each industry for settling all industrial disputes. (8) The establishment of Labour Exchange Boards consisting of employers, Government and trade union representatives.

(The Trade Union Record, November, 1945).†

PUBLIC HEALTH.Plans to combat Epidemics: Madras Government sets up
Expert Advisory Committee.

The Government of Madras has constituted a Central Expert Advisory Committee with the Surgeon-General, as President, to tender advice for "combating serious epidemics of unexpected magnitude which might occur as a result of various adverse conditions created by the war". The Director of Public Health, the Director of the King Institute and the Superintendent of the General Hospital are the other members of the Committee. The Collectors of districts have been asked to form small epidemics' committees in their places to tackle this question and to prepare skeleton plans to meet the situation. The committees in the districts will be guided by the Central Committee.

(The Hindu, dated 9-11-1945).

Conference of Medical and Public Health Officers at New Delhi:
Plans for Improved Medical Aid for the Poor.

The general policy and methods to be pursued in tackling India's health problems were discussed at a four-day conference of Administrative Medical Officers and Directors of Public Health in the various provinces held at New Delhi in the latter half of November 1945, under the chairmanship of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service. Plans have been prepared to raise the standard of the existing medical facilities and public health measures, and to extend them, with special reference to their availability, to the poorer classes. Among the other problems the conference discussed were, the present inadequacy of the nursing services, measures for the control and treatment of malaria, medical education, post-graduate training, supplies of drugs and equipment, and the possibilities of utilizing war surplus materials.

(The Statesman, 21-11-1945).

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THE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE.

Wages.

Bombay Cotten Mill Workers to get War Bonus for 1945.

The Bombay Millowners' Association has announced that though the war has ended, cotten mills of Bombay have, as a special case, decided to grant a war bonus to their operatives for the calendar year 1945, on the same scale as in 1944, namely, one-sixth of their total earnings (excluding dearness allowance and bonus), or two months' basic wages for one complete year of service.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-11-1945).

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Employment.Labour Recruitment Control Order 1944, Cancelled.

By a notification dated 25-10-1945 the Government of India has cancelled, with effect from 15-11-1945, the Labour Recruitment Control Order, 1944 (vide page 39 of the report of this Office for November 1944), and all orders issued thereunder.

(The Gazette of India, dated 3-11-1945,
Part I, Sec.1, page 1504).

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Holidays.

Staggering of Mill Holidays: Bombay Millowners' Association's
Plan for Withdrawal of War-time Measure.

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has requested the Government of Bombay to withdraw the scheme for staggering the mill holidays (vide page 21 of the report of this Office for July 1943). In a letter addressed to the Government, the Association points out that the scheme was introduced as a war-time measure and has, since its introduction in 1943, dislocated the domestic and social life of all persons dependent on textile industry in the city for their livelihood. It further points out that a very large section of the mill work workers and mill staff have resented the continuance of the scheme when the emergency, which had caused its introduction, has disappeared.

(The Times of India, 21-11-1945).

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Production.

Protection to War-time Industries during Transition Period:
Government of India sets up Tariff Board to examine Claims.

In pursuance of the announcement made by the Government of India in its statement on industrial policy dated 23-4-1945, that pending the formulation of a tariff policy appropriate to the postwar needs and conditions of the country and the establishment of permanent machinery for the purpose, Government would set up machinery for investigating claims from industries, which have been started or developed in war time and which are established on sound lines, to assistance or protection during the transition period (vide pages 53-54 of the report of this Office for April 1945), the Government of India has now set up a Tariff Board. Its composition and terms of reference were announced in the first week of November, 1945.

Composition of Tariff Board - Terms of Reference.- The Tariff Board, which has been set up for two years, in the first instance, will consist of Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty (President), Mr. C.C. Desai, C.I.E., I.C.S., Prof. H.L. Dey, D.Sc. (London), and Dr. Nazir Ahmad, O.B.E., Ph.D. (Members). It is requested to undertake, in such order as it thinks fit and as expeditiously as possible, the investigation of claims for assistance or protection which have been submitted by a number of industries, and to submit a report as soon as the investigation of the claim of each industry is concluded. With regard to each industry, the Board will report whether the industry satisfies the following conditions: (1) that it is established and conducted on sound business lines; and (2) (a) that, having regard to the natural or economic advantages enjoyed by the industry and its actual or probable costs, it is likely within a reasonable time to develop sufficiently to be able to carry on successfully without protection or State assistance; or (b) that it is an industry to which it is desirable in the national interest to grant protection or assistance and that the probable cost of such protection or assistance to the community is not excessive. Where a claim to protection or assistance is found to be established, i.e., if condition (1) and condition (2) (a) or (b) are satisfied, the Board will recommend— (i) whether, at what rate and in respect of what articles, or class or description of articles, a protective duty should be imposed; (ii) what additional or alternative measures should be taken to protect or assist the industry; and (iii) for what period, not exceeding three years, the tariff or other measures recommended should remain in force. In making its recommendations the Board is required to give due weight to the interests of consumers in the light of the prevailing conditions and also consider how the recommendations affect industries using the articles in respect of which protection is to be granted.

Industries to be investigated.- The claims of the following industries for assistance or protection have been referred to the Tariff Board for detailed examination: (i) non-ferrous metals, including antimony; (ii) grinding wheels; (iii) ~~making~~ caustic soda and bleaching powder; (iv) sodium thiosulphate, sodium sulphite anhydrous, sodium bisulphite; (v) phosphates and phosphoric acid; (vi) butter colour, aerated water powder colour; (vii) rubber manufactures; (viii) fire hose; (ix) wood screws; and (x) steel hoops for baling. In addition, the Board will also enquire into the claims of the bichromates, calcium chloride and starch industries for assistance or protection during the

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transition period. These industries were developed in India during the war period under a specific assurance given by the Government of India early in 1940 that they would be protected against unfair competition from outside India in the postwar period, if they were conducted on sound business lines.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated
5-11-1945, pages 918-219).

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Control Measures.

Export Control Relaxed: Over 100 commodities released
from Control.

With a view to stimulating export trade, the Government of India has decontrolled a large number of commodities and liberalised control over a wide range of others. A Press communiqué issued by the Government of India early in November 1945, states that the Government feels that the time has come for a comprehensive review of the export control policy with a view not only to rebuild the old export trade but also to capitalize the present opportunities and develop old markets and cultivate new ones. The object is not only to review the pre-war trade in agricultural products but also to market abroad, particularly in the adjoining countries, the products of industries that have developed in India ~~are~~ during recent years.

Accordingly more than 100 commodities have been removed from the list of controlled items. These include natural indigo, a number of chemicals and chemical preparations, scientific instruments of indigenous origin, cashew nuts, lac, many essential oils, cigarettes of indigenous manufacture and unmanufactured tobacco including fluecured tobacco, raw cotton, essential oilseeds, and a number of metals and ores. ~~More than 20 commodities, the export restrictions of which was hitherto totally prohibited, have now been transferred to control and can now be exported in small quantities.~~ This category includes agar-agar, bees-wax, certain classes of buttons, candles, cinematograph films, cutlery, and stationery etc.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-11-1945).

Increased Supply of Steel, Coal, Cement and Timber for
Civilian use in 1946.

Steel.- ~~Excluding~~ the quantities required for the heavy rehabilitation programmes of the Railways and other Central Departments, and of the provincial and State Governments, it is officially estimated that 585,000 tons of steel will be available for civil purposes in 1946. The allocations of steel against actual civil demands for the first half of 1946 total 271,000 tons, representing 92 per cent of the immediate pre-war consumption over a corresponding period.

Coal.- There have ~~also~~ been in recent months welcome indications of a ~~return~~ to normal with regard to coal. Up to the end of September over 1,700,000 tons more have been raised and despatched this year than in the first nine months of 1944. In 1946, given favourable transport conditions, despatches might exceed 29,500,000 tons. Deducing what is required for all Government purposes - principally the railways - the coal available in 1946 for all provincial, Indian State and industrial purposes should be of the order of 16 million tons, as against 11.3 million tons in 1944.

Cement.- As regards cement, allocations for civil purposes depend to ~~an~~ extent on the take-off for military and government purposes, but a broad figure of 125 to 130,000 tons a month is in view. ~~xxxxxxx~~

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Timber.- The chief point ~~with~~ in connection with timber supply will be ~~the~~ diversion to civil uses of the 540,000 to 600,000 tons of timber of types hitherto utilized for defence and Government purposes.

The Timber Control Order, 1945 (vide page 53 of the report of this Office for January, 1945) has been cancelled.

(The Times of India, 6-11-1945;
The Hindustan Times, 6 and
7-11-1945).

Sind Cotton Cloth Rationing Order (Rural), 1945.

The Government of Sind has gazetted on 29-11-1945 the Sind Cotton Cloth Rationing Order (Rural), 1945, with a view to controlling distribution of cloth. The order extends to the whole of the province, is to come into force in any local area on such date as the provincial Government may notify and is to apply, in the first instance, to all cotton cloth manufactured in India. Adult residents in any rationed area are entitled to seventeen yards of all varieties of cloth and children ~~under~~ under twelve years of age to eleven yards in one year. Provision has been made for special issues of cloth in connection with birth of a child, death or marriage, to the extent specified in the order. The distribution of the rationed cloth is to be in the hands of 'retailers' authorised for the purpose by the provincial government in accordance with the provisions of the order.

(The Sind Government Gazette dated 29-11-1945,
Part I, pages 1279-1282)

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Food.

Food Grains Storage Scheme of Government of India.

Mr. B.R. Sen, Director-General of Food, inaugurating at Delhi on 13-11-1945 an instructional course on storage of food grains for officers from provinces and States, explained the five-fold storage programme of Government of India. The main features of the programme were:- Firstly, to increase, with all possible speed, both temporary and permanent storage accommodation under the control of the Government, in markets, at rail-heads and in consuming centres.

Secondly, to establish reserves in producing areas, for long storage, e.g., of paddy or wheat in bulk, which will serve, during emergency, as buffer stocks to meet local shortages, to support the minimum prices guaranteed to producers, to provide a means of expanding agricultural credit and generally help in preventing the appalling wastage which has been a feature in food economy in India in the past.

Thirdly, to encourage set up officially-controlled inspection agencies, and analysis laboratories as a means of establishing and enforcing high quality standards for food distributed to the people.

Fourthly, to encourage by all possible means, such as assistance with material and advice, the construction by private interests of good food grain storage, whether for commercial, agricultural or domestic purposes.

Fifthly, to inculcate as widely as possible in all members of the public who grow, handle or consume food, the main principles of hygienic conservation of food grains and, with that view, to run courses at the Centre for the training of officers nominated by provincial and State Governments.

He added that while some progress had already been made in the construction of storage by the Central and provincial Governments, the necessity of a wide and continuous campaign, using all methods of ~~mass~~ publicity, the precept and example of leading citizens and the initiative of Government departments, to increase the conservation of food grains and to improve their quality remained as urgent as ever.

(The Statesman, 14-11-1945). +

Salaried Employees and Public Servants.

Resettlement of Demobilised Medical Personnel: Medical
Employment Bureau in Provinces and Indian States.

An Indian Army Order published in the second week of November 1945, describes special organisations that have been set up to assist in the resettlement of medical and auxiliary medical personnel on their release from the Army.

Central Medical Resettlement Committee.- The principal feature of the scheme is a Central Medical Resettlement Committee which will deal with resettlement policy matters and will also serve as a medical employment bureau for medical and auxiliary medical personnel such as nurses belonging to centrally administered areas and for appointments under Central Government administrations. This Committee will also act as an inter-provincial clearing house and assist the Indian States to obtain ex-Army medical officers and nurses.

Resettlement Organisation in Provinces and Indian States.- Many of the provinces have also constituted medical employment bureaux, while others have arranged to discharge the functions of these bureaux through their administrative medical officers. Generally, their function will be to supply information, to ascertain vacancies in Government and other services, and to maintain lists of personnel desiring civilian employment, by this means helping demobilised doctors and nurses to obtain employment in the medical and public health fields. Medical employment bureaux have also been set up in Hyderabad (Deccan), Dholpur, Jaipur, Kota, Bundi (Rajputana), Cooch Bihar and Mayurbhanj (Eastern India) and subjects of these States will receive assistance towards resettlement through these bureaux.

(The Statesman, 14-11-1945).

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Demobilisation and Resettlement.

Technical Training Centres to train 30,000 Ex-Servicemen
per year: Demobilised Technicians to be trained for Civil
Industry.

In order to facilitate resettlement in civil life of demobilised technicians and secure an adequate supply of skilled personnel for post-war development plans, both Government and private, the Labour Department in the Government of India has decided to utilise the existing ~~technical training~~ centres, under the Technical Training Scheme, to provide 30,000 seats a year for training demobilised servicemen. The scheme, which has been sanctioned for three years, in the first instance, embraces a large number ~~for~~ engineering and building trades and the average period of the training will be 12 months. Some adjustments will also be made in the capacity of the training centres to include certain new trades which are not catered for in the existing schemes.

The following categories of demobilised persons who have completed six months' approved service will be eligible for training:- (i) Those whose training was interrupted as a result of war service; (ii) those who have acquired a new trade during their war service and need further ~~training for suitable civil employment;~~ (iii) those who need up-grading or higher training in order to secure suitable civil employment; (iv) those who wish to take up a trade for which there is an urgent demand, provided they have the basic qualifications for undertaking such training; and (v) those who need apprenticeship and industrial or practical training before they could be effectively employed.

Trainees will be given free board, lodging and workshop clothing, a monthly allowance of Rs. 15, free travel facilities from the demobilisation centre or their homes to the training centre and facilities for recreation, games, physical training and medical treatment.

('Dawn' , dated 12-11-1945).

Rehabilitation of Disabled Soldiers: Government of India's
Scheme.

According to a Press note issued in the third week of November 1945, a scheme for the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled Services personnel has been sanctioned by the Government of India. It aims at equipping them for skilled work and securing civil employment for them.

Post-Hospital Rehabilitation Centres.- Post-hospital Rehabilitation Centres, now being set up by the War Department, will treat disabled personnel who have not yet been discharged from the Services and such disabled ex-Servicemen as wish to utilize these facilities. Resettlement Advice Officers will guide convalescents in the selection of suitable occupation and employment. Training at the Labour Department's centres will be given in clerical and commercial occupations; engineering, building and other technical trades; agriculture, cottage industries and allied occupations; and professional or semi-professional ~~occupations~~ occupations. After the training, the employment exchanges will register

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their names and help them to find suitable employment. Those requiring apprenticeship or professional training will be sent to appropriate government and private factories or establishments.

Board, Lodging and Allowances.- During post-hospital treatment and training, disabled ex-Servicemen will receive, in addition to their pension, free board, lodging, workshop clothing and special allowance admissible for a period of 18 months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan. Disabled Servicemen will continue to draw their pay and other concessions for the same period of 18 months. After this, disabled Servicemen and ex-Servicemen under training will be given a stipend in addition to their pension. During the period of training, they will, under certain conditions, be entitled to free travel facilities. The disability pension will not be affected in any way by their increased earning capacity.

(The Statesman, 21-11-1945).

Plan to combat Post-War Unemployment: Employment Advisory Committee to be set up in Bengal.

Likely Volume of Unemployment.- A survey conducted by the Bengal Government reveals that Bengal's unemployed during the next six months will total 415,000. This includes ex-servicemen estimated at 55,000, discharged war workers, persons likely to be unemployed from various civil defence organizations and persons likely to be unemployed as a result of the closing down of registered industrial establishments and miscellaneous wartime consumer services. The classification of the unemployed includes 173,000 skilled, 123,000 un-skilled and 98,000 clerical personnel. It is estimated that the Government's provincial post-war development schemes will provide employment to roughly 92,500.

Proposal to set up Employment Advisory Committee.- At a conference convened at Calcutta on 6-11-1945 by the Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment to consider the problems arising in connexion with the resettlement and re-employment of ex-Service personnel and discharged war workers, representatives of various trade, commerce, transport and communications organisations agreed to a proposal to set up an Employment Advisory Committee in Calcutta.

(The Statesman, 3-11-1945; and 'Dawn', dated 8-11-1945).

Bombay Government's Scheme to train Demobilised Servicemen as Agricultural Workers.

As part of its scheme for the resettlement of demobilised servicemen the Government of Bombay has directed that the government agricultural training centres at four places in the province (viz., those at Manjri, Dhalia, Bhawa and Devhosur) should be utilised for the training of men with "approved war service". While under training the trainees will receive a stipend of Rs. 45 a month without dearness allowance, and thereafter will be absorbed, if they are found fit and if they so desire, as assistants in the Agricultural Department on Rs. 40 a month in the scale of Rs. 35—Rs. 100, and dearness allowance.

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The Presidents of the District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Boards have been asked to have these facilities brought to the notice of suitable men who have been released from the Services.

(The Times of India, 16-11-1945).

Hyderabad to set up Directorate of Resettlement and
Employment: 3 Civil Labour Units set up.

The Government of H.E.H. the Nizam is planning the establishment of a Directorate of Resettlement and Employment in Hyderabad. In addition, three Civil Labour Units are to be created with the two-fold object of resettling demobilised military personnel in civil life and tackling the general problem of unemployment in the State.

The Directorate of Resettlement and Employment will popularise, among the younger generation, fields of employment other than Government or private service and will encourage people to develop business mentality. People will be induced to take up such pursuits as agriculture, horticulture, fruitfarming, cattle-breeding and poultry-farming. The Directorate will also secure the co-operation of Government departments and business concerns for finding jobs for the unemployed.

The resettlement work done in Hyderabad will be co-ordinated with similar work done in British India.

(The Times of India, 3-11-1945).

Resettlement Schemes of Travancore State: Employment
Exchange set up at Trivandrum.

Measures designed to receive ex-service personnel on demobilisation and provide them with suitable opportunities for settlement have been undertaken by the Government of Travancore. A sub-regional exchange on the lines of the scheme adopted by the Government of India has been opened at Trivandrum for co-ordinating and implementing necessary arrangements.

With a view to utilising the training and experience of ex-service-men to the best mutual advantage of both the men and the Government, the State Government has taken on hand a number of schemes for execution forthwith. The Public Works Department has an elaborate programme of reconstruction works which would absorb almost all available labour immediately. The State Government has also schemes to start a number of small-scale industries on a co-operative basis which will afford excellent opportunities for employment for technically trained personnel.

(The Times of India, 2-11-1945).

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Demobilised Soldiers to be settled on Waste Land:
Bengal Government's proposed Collective Farming
Experiment.

In a talk given to the Royal Asiatic Society on 1-11-1945, Mr. N.M. Khan, I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, Bengal, described a scheme proposed by the Government of Bengal to settle demobilised soldiers on land. According to Mr. Khan, the Government proposes to take over a total area of 200,000 acres of waste lands for the settlement of demobilised soldiers. It would be divided into 191 blocks. 190 would each have 1,000 acres and one block would have 10,000 acres. The scheme would provide scope for testing out the possibilities of collective farming in Bengal with the aid of tractors and machines. Each block of 1,000 acres was expected to support 50 families of ex-service men. 100 acres in each block would go under tanks, grazing grounds, roads, village site, schools, dispensaries, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ etc. Each family would have 1 acre for individual farming. The balance of 850 acres would be collectively worked. The rights to the land would vest in a society consisting of all the settlers and not in any individual. Linked with this was a scheme for the establishment of agricultural headquarters for the benefit of ex-service men in their districts of origin.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 3-11-1945).

Demobilised soldiers to have First Option on
Agricultural Land for Sale: Bombay Government's
Plan.

According to the Special Correspondent of the Times of India, the Government of Bombay is framing legislation which will give the demobilised soldier the first option on all agricultural land offered for outright sale or on short-term leases. It will be introduced in the form of a Governor's Act in the near future. The Act would make provision for the setting up of numerous District Boards to which landholders must compulsorily notify any decision to part with their holdings. The Boards, acting as agents for servicemen wishing to acquire agricultural land, will purchase plots offered, either with funds provided by the men or from loans made by the Boards.

^{the}
(Times of India, 22-11-1945).

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Schemes for Resettlement of Demobilised Services
PERSONNEL IN BIHAR.

Schemes for the employment of services personnel returning to civil life who are Biharis or domiciled in the Province are under consideration of the Government of Bihar.

Resettlement in Bihar will be achieved in three stages: First, for those released up to June 1946; secondly, for those subsequently released who may be absorbed in priority and pilot schemes of the post-war development plan; and thirdly, for those who will ultimately be released and absorbed in the development plan proper.

The total recruitment in Bihar is roughly about 100,000, it is officially stated. Most of these men are in the labour units and are not specially trained and therefore not likely to be absorbed in specialised trades. Most of the men of this type already released are reported to have found employment.

(Dawn, Delhi, 30-11-1945).

Details of Temporary Men in Railway Service:
Number of A.I.R.F. to be trained in Employment
Exchange Work.

The Railway Board has informed Mr. S. Guruswami, Secretary, the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, that according to the latest available figures, 56,000 temporary men in permanent vacancies and 230,000 temporary ~~employees~~ employees in temporary vacancies are working in the State railways. The board emphasises that this figure has nothing to do with the number of staff who may become surplus. In September, 1945, there were nearly 7,500 on the railways working in the munition and other departments. Since the termination of hostilities, 8,000 men have become surplus and a number of them are in the process of being discharged. Sixteen thousand men are employed in the railway grain shops. Three thousand permanent railway servants were released for war service and only a small portion of them have so far returned.

Government offer to train Nominees of the A.I.R.F. in Employment Exchange Work. - The All India Railwaymen's Federation has been informed by the ~~Public~~ Department of the Government of India that the Government is prepared to admit not more than twelve nominees of the Federation for training at Employment Exchange Staff Centre, Delhi. The nominees will be charged no tuition fee but will have to bear their own boarding, lodging and other incidental expenses.

(The Hindu, dated 27-11-1945).†

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Post-War Reconstruction.

Central Government to build and maintain National Highways:
Transport Advisory Council and Transport Policy Committee
Discussions.

Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, Government of India, disclosed at a Press conference held at New Delhi in the first week of November 1945, that the Government of India has proposed, subject to the vote of the legislature, and without prejudice to the future constitutional position, to accept liability for the construction and maintenance of a system of main trunk roads to be known as national highways. Side by side, new railway schemes with a total mileage of about 5,000 miles are to be investigated and the Government of India contemplates the construction of 2,800 miles of new lines at an estimated cost of Rs. 600 million during the next seven years. These figures do not include projects in certain Indian States which have yet to be examined. A statement issued at the conference on the discussions at the meetings of the Transport Advisory Council and the Transport Policy Committee held just prior to the press conference is summarised below.

Central Government to maintain National Highways.- Subject to ratification by Provincial Governments and subject to the approval of the Central Legislature, the Central Government proposes to take over liability for the maintenance of national highways in British India with effect from 1-4-1947. In the meantime if any works on national highways have to be put in hand urgently to provide employment or to off-set slump tendencies, the Central Government will, subject to certain conditions, accept the liability for such works commenced from now onward.

The national highways comprise the main inter-provincial and trans-continental roads 15,000 miles of which are in British India and about 3,000 in ~~British~~ Indian States. Steps are to be taken to bridge important gaps in the trunk ~~car~~ road system, such as the 300 miles gap between Sambalpur in Orissa and Calcutta on the Bombay-Calcutta national highway. The possibility of completing a highway between Rajputana and Hyderabad (Sind) to connect with another highway projected from Bombay to Delhi, is to be investigated and a virtually new North Bengal Highway is to be constructed from Calcutta to Siliguri, linking with the existing road from Siliguri into Assam. Major bridges are projected across the Ganges at Garhmukteswar and possibly in connection with a railway bridge at Patna; and investigations are in hand regarding the possibility of bridging the ~~the~~ Indus between the south-west Punjab and Baluchistan. The relief thus afforded to provincial road budgets will, it is hoped by the Government, together with such future financial help as the Central Government may be able to give, enable provincial Governments to carry through schemes of development of district and village roads, as well as of provincial highways, on a scale not hitherto attempted. Practically all provinces are, however, now ready with schemes for construction of roads other than national highways which can be put into early effect, and further preliminary work is proceeding apace.

Shortage of Road Construction Machinery.- One handicap to the rapid execution of road works on a large scale in the immediate future is the shortage of road rollers and other plant. Orders have been placed abroad, for 1,000 power-rollers out of the total of over 3,000 estimated to be necessary during the next three or four years. Tenders are being invited for the manufacture in India of power-rollers on the basis of the steady recurring market of the future, and plans are also being examined for the temporary manufacture against the immediate demand in munition factories in India.

Post-Development.- The meeting of the Transport Policy Committee also considered the report of an inter-departmental Port Development Committee placed before it. The Port Committee concluded that the present capacity of the major ports of India, which has been increased by as much as 25 per cent during the war, would be generally adequate to meet forecasted requirements in the immediate post-war period, but they made certain recommendations regarding improvement schemes and indicated that more deep sea ports might eventually be needed on the coast of India to meet anticipated expansion of trade and in particular one of easy access to large ships on the East coast. The Policy Committee generally endorsed the main conclusions of the Port Committee and resolved that a technical committee should be set up to advise the Central Government on the need for more deep sea ports to provide sheltered berths for large modern vessels and on other matters on which technical advice is required.

Among other measures discussed at the meetings of the Transport Policy Committee and the Transport Advisory Council were the steps necessary to ensure a proper co-ordination between road and rail transport.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-11-1945).

Speedy Acquisition of Lands for Post-War Projects:
Land Acquisition (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1945 .

The draft Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, in its application to the Province of Bombay, to which reference was made at pages 69-70 of the report of this Office for August, 1945, received the assent of the Governor of Bombay on 30-10-1945 and has now been gazetted as the Land Acquisition (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1945, (Bombay Act No. XX of 1945).

(The Bombay Government Gazette, dated
3-11-1945, Part IV, pages 171-173).

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Provincial Post-War Schemes to be speeded up to maintain
employment during transition; New scheme of Central
financial aid.

As a result of the sudden termination of the war, and the recognition of the fact that the active prosecution of the measures necessary for maintaining and developing the economic condition of the people should not be frustrated by the financial consideration that the Central surpluses out of which the Central grants to provinces were expected to be made are not yet in sight, the original plan to begin the Central and provincial post-war development programmes in 1947 has been altered and it has now been decided that Governments should commence work on selected schemes immediately. In the selection of the schemes to be started in the current year and the next, special emphasis is to be laid on those which add to the national income and at the same time create the maximum employment.

It is further understood that a technique of Central financing of provincial schemes has been evolved in this connection to enable the provinces to go ahead immediately pending the finalisation of their five-year plans and the formulation of a co-ordinated master plan for the whole of India which will necessarily take some time with their schemes, self-financing and otherwise. These will be selected from their five-year plans with the main object of ensuring a high employment level during the transition period. This selective method of planning and execution for the immediate transition period will be in keeping with the fundamental objective of both would be the same, namely, raising the standard of life of the people and providing them with widening scope for remunerative employment.

Provincial Governments have been asked to furnish the Central Government by the middle of December, 1945, with a list of schemes which they propose for immediate commencement. This will enable the Government of India to examine such schemes from an all-India perspective and give their general approval to them as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, provincial Governments have been asked to go ahead with all the necessary preliminaries.

To enable provincial Governments to take immediate action to tackle the problem of general employment in the transition period, the Government of India, it is understood, has offered the provincial Governments the following assistance: (1) Loans to the extent necessary for financing projects which the provincial governments may decide to debit to loan money. All self-financing schemes, that is, schemes which on completion and the lapse of the necessary time for their full operation will yield adequate revenue to cover the interest and capital charge, working expenses and maintenance and depreciation charges, are likely to be so debited. (2) Pending a decision on the methods to be adopted for the distribution of Central grants for the provincial development plans, payments to the extent desired by the provincial Governments during the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 for the execution of unproductive schemes selected from the Provincial plans and approved generally by the Central Government, but not exceeding the expenditure actually incurred up to and inclusive of 1946-47. Unproductive schemes are those which, while considered to be of economic importance, are not likely to be self-financing. Such schemes are, for instance, minor irrigation, roads, anti-erosion, agricultural measures, afforestation, etc. Payments by the

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Central Government in regard to schemes of this nature will be treated as advances made to provincial Governments. They will not be recoverable but will be adjusted against the scheme for grants for post-war development as a whole. With this assistance it is anticipated that the provincial Governments will immediately go ahead, instead of from 1947-48 as originally contemplated, with their schemes designed to secure economic progress and to provide high employment, counteract any deflationary tendency and ensure smooth transition to peacetime conditions.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-11-1945;
The Hindu, dated 1-12-1945).

Development of Industries in Bombay: Sub-Committees
appointed to carry out surveys.

Reference was made at page 59 of our report for June 1945 to the appointment by the Government of Bombay of a Provincial Industries Committee. At the first meeting of the Committee held in Bombay on 19-7-1945, it was decided that in order to give effect to the terms of reference of the Committee, it would be necessary to allot the work of the main committee to six sub-committees. Each sub-committee thus appointed is entrusted with the task of carrying out a rapid survey of the different groups of industries and of investigating the position of particular industries, with a view to determine the steps which require to be taken for the industrial development of the Province. The sub-committees and the important industries they will have to deal with are:-

Metals and Engineering Industries Sub-Committee.- Iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, electro-metallurgical products, Machinery (power), machinery (electrical), textile machinery, machinery (miscellaneous), machine tools, agricultural implements, refrigerators, printing plant and machinery, scientific, engineering and surgical instruments.

Textile Industries Sub-Committee.- Cotton, woollen, silk, artificial silk, hosiery, yarn and fibre, gunstread and coated fabrics.

Chemical Industries Sub-Committee.- Heavy chemicals, fine chemicals, dyestuffs, electro-chemical products, Fertilisers, bone meal, glass, pottery, refractories, cement, mineral oils, soap, paints, colours, lacquers and varnishes and plastics.

Food and Forest Industries Sub-Committee.- Food-stuffs, processed and canned products, vegetable ghee, dairying, sugar, alcohol, wood distillation, paper and matches.

Miscellaneous Industries Sub-Committee.- Rubber, leather, leather goods and gums and guttine.

Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Sub-Committee.- All cottage and small-scale industries.

A special sub-committee has been appointed to suggest suitable sites for the location of various industries after taking into consideration the availability of labour, water supply, electric power, raw materials and markets.

The sub-committees have been authorised to co-opt, as members, industrialists and experts if and when necessary.

(Bombay Information, 17-11-1945).

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Development of Indian Ports: Recommendations of
Special Committee Appointed by War Transport
Department.

A Special Committee was appointed by the War Transport Department of the Government of India for the purpose of considering the steps required to expand India's port facilities to cope with the expansion of trade between India and other countries in the post-war period. The Committee was asked to report on the maximum capacity of the existing ports in India and their improvement and the expansion of facilities to tackle the increasing overseas trade.

The Associated Press of India reports that the Committee has recommended the immediate extension of the existing small ports at Madras, Visagapatam, Cochin and Chittagong, so as to equip them with facilities for meeting enhanced import and export trade during the coming years. The Committee has taken particular note of the long distances between the major ports, especially on the East Coast, and is of the opinion that this factor greatly handicaps the all-round industrial development of the country. The Committee has, therefore, suggested that apart from developing the existing minor ports on the West Coast, it is essential to open new ports on the East Coast. As to where these ports should be located, will largely depend upon the industrial development of the areas on the East Coast on the one hand and the possibilities of new industries springing on the other.

(The Hindu, dated 30-11-1945).

80th Session of Indian Railway Conference, New Delhi,
Speeches: Sir Edward Benthall on Post-war Problems of
Indian Railways.

Addressing the 80th session of the Indian Railway Conference at Delhi on 29-11-1945, Sir Edward Benthall, Member for Railways and War Transport, Government of India, gave the assurance that if the Government's plans for rehabilitation go on, the number of workers to be discharged will, in the end, prove to be a very small percentage of the war staff.

Mr. Wanda's Presidential Address.- Mr. J.N. Wanda, General Manager, the Indian State Railway, presiding over the Conference referred to the investigation being carried out by the Association in connection with the post-war rating policy and pointed out that the proposed change over from the flat class rate scales applying today to telescopic scales to be applied on continuous mileage was of fundamental importance. The tapering scales would be expected to bring the rates structure closer to what the traffic can afford to pay for transport. As regards road transport no one realizes better than the railways that road services must play an essential part in the future economy of the country or that properly conducted road services can be a source of considerable benefit both to themselves and to the railways. All that the railways ask is that the supervision of the road services in the future will be just as strict as the Railway Act enforces on the railways. Turning to welfare plans, Mr. Wanda referred to the plans of railways to meet the needs of the staff in respect of housing, health, welfare and education. The Board has also decided on the formation of separate Personnel Departments on the railways which must inevitably result in the better and speedier

handling of representations with a corresponding growth of confidence. Concluding, Mr. Nanda urged that the railways should adopt more scientific methods of recruitment, methods which have met with such remarkable success elsewhere in determining the job for which a person is most suitable. He also suggested the setting up of a group of specialist trained men whose duty it would be to investigate the clerical work on railways and ensure that effort was not wasted in unnecessary labour.

Railway Rates and Road-Rail Coordination.- Addressing the Conference Sir Edward Benthall pointed out that the acquisition by the State of the major railways in British India clears the way in many respects for a more rational rates structure. But he felt that it was not quite the time to settle finally what the post-war rates would be, because the Government was still faced with the inescapable fact that railway rates had not been raised during the war to any thing like the general level of prices and it remained to be seen whether the increased post-war volume of traffic would more than balance the rise in operating costs due to the continued increase in the ways and all other costs of operation. As regards road-rail coordination the Railway Member said that a stage had been reached when the policy laid down would be carried out in the respective fields. This was a petrol age and the immediate development of transport lay mainly on the roads and the decisions now offered a very reasonable compromise between State and private ownership.

Assurance to Staff: Exaggerated Reports of impending Retrenchment.- Turning to the question now relating to railway workers, the Railway member said that he had seen references in the Press to the impending discharge of 250,000 railway workers—a figure based apparently on the difference between the labour strength in 1939 and today. He felt that it was impossible to believe that the number for whom the railways would eventually be unable to find work would be anything like this figure. It was impossible to prognosticate with precision, but so far not more than 2500 workers, largely workers engaged on direct war work such as munitions and aeroplane repair, were in the process of being discharged. This was less than one per cent of the total strength and it did not appear as if many more would become surplus up to the end of December. The railways were doing their very best to provide alternative work for those whose posts had become surplus, while close contact with the newly formed employment exchanges set up by the Labour Department would, it was hoped, assist discharged workers in finding employment outside the railways.

Sir Edward Benthall assured that the Government had every sympathy with the anxieties of railwaymen and intended to do its utmost to take care of its servants, who had served it well in times of crisis. So long as the railwaymen played the game by the Government, the latter would play the game by them and the process of transition from war to peace conditions would be handled with the maximum consideration for the man, having due regard to the railway's obligation to the country.

(The Hindustan States Times, 30-11-1945;
The Statesman, dated 30-11-1945).

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

Conditions of Work

Administration Report of the Commissioner of Labour, Ceylon,
for 1944. November 1945. Printed at the Ceylon Government
Press, Colombo. Price Rs.1/=.

Public Health

Assassol Mines Board of Health: Annual Administration Report
for 1944-45. 1945.