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January, 1943.

1.

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India.

Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1943.

The Government of India has adopted the Mines Maternity Benefit Rules, 1943, to administer the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941 (vide pages 1 to 2 of our November 1941 report).

(Notification No. M1285 dated 7-1-1943.
The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec. 1,
dated 16-1-1943, pages 91 to 93).

NOTE:

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attached are full versions of two speeches:

- (a) B.R. Ambedkar on Labour and the War
- (b) H.C. Prasad on Labour and the Government

SOCIAL POLICY

Labour in War-Time:

Broadcast Speeches of Dr. Ambedkar and Mr. Prior.

In December 1942, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Mr. H.C. Prior, Member and Secretary, respectively, of the Department of Labour, Government of India, gave broadcast talks from the All India Radio on Indian labour problems; Dr. Ambedkar, spoke on the "Ideals of Indian Labour" from Bombay, and Mr. Prior on Government-Labour relations from Delhi. The main points made out in these important pronouncements by the heads of the Labour Department of the Central Government are summarised below:-

Dr. Ambedkar's Speech:- Ideal of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.- Dealing with the Ideals of Indian labour, Dr. Ambedkar pointed out that during the war, labour has already secured many gains and will secure many more. It has obtained the right to safety, care and attention, through the conditions of welfare which have been enforced by the Central Government upon employers for the benefit of labour. But labour is not content with securing merely fair conditions of work; what labour wants is fair conditions of life. 'Conditions of life' for the Indian worker are made of several ideals. First, he wants liberty, not in the sense of absence of restraint or the mere recognition of the right of the people to vote, but the government of the country by the people; this means more than Parliamentary Democracy. Parliamentary Democracy is a form of government in which the function of the people has come to be to vote for their masters and leave them to rule. Such a scheme of government, in the opinion of labour, is a travesty of government by the people. Labour wants government which is government by the people in name as well as in fact. Secondly, liberty as conceived by labour includes the right to equal opportunity and the duty of the State to provide the fullest facilities for growth to every individual according to his needs,

Secondly, labour wants equality. By equality labour means abolition of privileges of every kind - in law, in the civil service, in the army, in taxation, in trade and in industry; in fact, the abolition of all processes which lead to inequality. In the third place, labour wants fraternity. By fraternity it means an all-pervading sense of human brotherhood, unifying all classes and all nations, with "peace on earth and goodwill towards man" as its motto.

The New Order.- These are the ideals of the Indian worker on which he wants the New Order to be reared. As to nationalism, labour's attitude is quite clear; it is not prepared to make a fetish of nationalism. If nationalism means the worship of the ancient past - the discarding of everything that is not local in origin and colour - then labour cannot accept nationalism as its creed. Nor will it allow it to be cramped in a narrow jacket of local particularism. Labour must insist upon constantly renovating the life of the people by being ever ready to borrow in order to repair, transform and recreate the body politic. If nationalism stands in the way of this re-building and re-shaping of life, then labour must deny nationalism. Labour's creed is internationalism. Labour is interested in nationalism only because democracy - such as representative parliaments, responsible executive, constitutional conventions, etc., work better in a community united by national sentiments.

(The Indian Listener, 7-12-1942). .

Mr. Prier's Speech:- Need for Healthy Trade Unionism.- Mr. Prier, referring to the "era of true peace based on social justice" which would follow the defeat of the Nazis, stressed the need, to achieve that end, of "full and free contact between Government, employer and labour, steady production and fair conditions of work for all. Such collaboration which is the very antithesis of the Fascist creed involves free contacts, consultations and discussions between the employer and the employee, which are essential to industrial progress. From such contacts follow naturally collective bargaining and consultation between organised bodies of employers and employed. To secure such consultation, it is necessary that labour should develop a sound trade union movement. India's trade union movement is not yet strong and many trade unions that exist are not affiliated to the main All-India Association, but Government recognized that the development of sound trade unionism would result in speedy settlement of disputes between employer and employee - which is the ideal of trade unionism".

Government's Policy towards Labour.- Mr. Prier said that the Central Government was fully committed in its policy to encourage such a movement, the aftermath of which would be continued production and fair conditions of work for all. Besides central guidance and central legislation in the matter of labour problems and disputes of an India-wide importance which provincial Labour Commissioners cannot adequately deal with, the Central Government has already adopted two methods of securing further contacts to get the earliest information and the best advice to help them in dealing with such problems. The first of these methods is the appointment of Labour Welfare Officers - Mr. Fincher and his assistants - to explain to labour and to employers what Government is doing, and to bring to the notice of the Government what employers and labour are thinking.

The second method which the Central Government has adopted for maintaining the closest contact with labour problems is the recent establishment of the Tripartite Plenary Conference and the Standing Labour Committee following closely the lines of the International Labour Organisation at Geneva. The Tripartite Plenary Conference is a purely advisory body composed of representatives from Provinces, States, employers and employees with a smaller body, the Standing Labour Committee, having a similar tripartite composition. Its representatives, following in many ways the Geneva precedent, will sit round one table and consider all matters concerning labour of all-India importance. At its deliberations labour will be able, through its approved representatives, to bring its point of view prominently to the notice of Governments (whether Central, Provincial or States) and of employers in connection with the various problems of labour conditions in wartime.

War Production and Industrial Disputes.- War industry means a large increase in industrial output, and it is certain, where such an increase occurs, some adjustments in conditions, some disputes and some cause of friction between labour and employer must inevitably occur. To ensure steady production such disputes should be settled without resort to direct action, which in many cases entail unnecessary loss of wages to labour. The procedure which Government has laid down provides: (1) A period of notice within which discussion and conciliation can take place; and (2) a definite formulation of grievances and time-limits within which the Government can consider the advisability or otherwise of referring those grievances to adjudication.

Conditions of Work in War Production.- The maintenance of war production necessitates exemptions from certain provisions of the factory laws, or some restrictions on movements of labour, but the Government must be sure that such exemptions and restrictions do not impose undue hardship on labour.

In wartime there is industrial expansion followed by an increased demand for an unexpanding supply of consumption goods, and it is the duty of the Government to protect the lowest category of wage-earners, as far as possible, against any lowering of ~~the~~ standard of living. This means "dearness allowance" and at the 1st meeting of the Standing Labour Committee frequent reference was made to the advisability of arriving at some measure of uniformity in "dearness allowance" policy.

Food Supply.- For an adequate food supply to workers, employers' associations have opened fair price grain shops and Government and employers are doing their best to secure stocks of grain for these shops and where it proves impossible, Provincial Governments have been asked to do what they can to help.

A.R.P. in Factories.- Some two years ago, Government recognised its responsibility for seeing that under war conditions workers in factories were adequately protected from the risks of air raids and has provided a team of experts to ensure that adequate protection designed on the latest approved lines is available for all.

Labour Legislation.- Some changes in the peace-time labour code are engaging the attention of the Government; the most important of these is a scheme of sickness insurance. A proposal to introduce legislation to provide for some holidays with pay to labour is under examination and "it is in matters such as these that the collaborative machinery now set up will enable the Government in the Labour Department to achieve more rapid progress."

H.S. In the course of the radio talk, Mr. Prior also read out the message of greetings sent by him by the Acting Director of the I.L.O., Montreal, on the inauguration of the Tripartite Conference and Committee.

(summarised from the text of Mr. Prior's speech supplied to this Office and Bulletin issued by the Indian Central Jute Committee, Calcutta, December, 1942). †

Second Session of the Tripartite Standing Labour Committee,
New Delhi, 22-2-1943: Distribution of Food Supplies to Labour
during War Period Discussed.

The methods by which industrial workers can be assured adequate supplies of essential food commodities - wheat, rice and sugar - were discussed at a meeting of the Standing Tripartite Labour Committee held in New Delhi on 25-2-1943. The committee considered what agency should be employed for food distribution - employers' grain shops, Government grain shops or ordinary retailers - and what arrangements should be made for ensuring supplies to them, how prices should be fixed by employers' grain shops and whether any allowance should be made for the benefits obtained by workers from such shops in fixing dearness allowance. The basis on which rations for workers and their families should be calculated and the possibility of a census of workers and their dependents to ensure adequate rations for families; the eligibility of workers for rations and the making of provision for those absent from work owing to sickness; the best form of grain shop, methods of supervision, checks on impersonation and other administrative difficulties, were also considered.

Decisions of the Committee: Distribution of Food Supplies.- The following resolutions was adopted by the Committee on the subject of distribution of food supplies: (1) In order to relieve the strain on and overcrowding in Government grain shops, distribution should be through employers' grain shops in the case of factories employing more than 50 workers and there should be an adequate number of shops. (2) It is considered desirable that employers should associate members of recognised trade unions or other representatives of employees in the working of such shops. (3) Such shops will be open to inspection by a Government agency. (4) Supplies should be made available to employees by a provincial agency, (i) through large associations, when existent, for their shops within the province, and (ii) direct to factories when factories are not members of such associations. (4) Employers' shops should sell whatever commodities appear necessary and in any case more items than rice, sugar and wheat. (6) Co-operative grains shops of industrial labour should be encouraged and they should be supplied in a manner similar to that in which employers' shops are supplied in the various places. In the discussion, emphasis was on the distribution aspect, and not on the ensurance of supplies as this was outside the scope of the meeting.

Joint Adjudication of Industrial Disputes.- A further proposal, discussed at the meeting and approved in principle aims at reducing industrial disputes by joint adjudications. Under this, where an adjudication relates to an industrial dispute likely to affect industrial concerns or industrial labour not directly involved, Government would be empowered to add other parties to the adjudication proceedings.

The Labour Member, Mr. B.R. Ambedkar, presided, and delegates from provinces and States, and representatives of employers and workers all over India attended. Sir Shri Ram, Sir Frederick Stones, Mr. Bamanlal Lallubhai and Mr. Burdor represented the employers. Messrs. Jannadas Mehta, R.A. N Khedgikar, V.B. Karnik, Bunkim Mukerjee and R.R. Bhole were the workers' delegates.

(The Statesman, 7-1-1943 and
Hindustan Times, 26-1-1943). +

Labour Legislation Programme of the
Government of India in Budget Session.

According to the Special Correspondent of the Times of India in New Delhi two Bills dealing with labour problems are expected to be introduced in the Budget session of the Central Legislature which begins on 10-2-1943.

Holidays with Pay.- The Factories Act is to be amended to ensure 15 days' holidays with full pay to labourers every year. It is argued that the calendar holidays keep the labourers engaged in celebrations and do not provide total rest. The proposed holiday will, however, be governed by conditions against abuse of the right through temporary employment during the holiday.

Compensation for War Injuries.- Another Bill relates to war injuries insurance. It is stated that the existing ordinance is not liberal and that the Indian law should be modelled on the provisions in the English Act. The Labour Member has preferred to have the proposed changes enacted by the Legislature rather than by ordinance.

Improvement of Conditions in Plantations.- It is gathered that when the Tea Cess Act comes up for extension during the forthcoming legislative session, the Labour Member will make a statement promising separate

legislation to improve labour conditions in the tea plantations. It is proposed to have a wages board to determine the minimum wage for labourers employed by tea planters. It is also desired to extend to the tea plantations the provisions of the Wages Payment Act and certain sections of the Factories Act, such as those relating to sanitary conditions. Expert investigation of labour conditions on the tea estates will be undertaken to gather data for legislative enactment.

Sickness Insurance and Amendment of Trade Disputes Act.- The programme relating to legislation on sickness insurance has been delayed. Mr. Gadgil, who was selected for expert examination of the scheme, has been unable to take up the work and the special inquiry has been now entrusted to Professor Adarkar of the Allahabad University. The proposed revision of the Trade Disputes Act is also being deferred to a later session of the Legislature.

(The Times of India, 2-2-1943.) +

CONDITIONS OF WORK.

Forced Labour.

Forced Labour and Services in Jodhpur State:
Various Cesses Abolished.

In June 1941 the Government of Jodhpur State had appointed a Central Lag Bag (Cesses and Open lands) Committee to inquire as to which cesses realised by the Jagirdars (Landholding nobles) of the State have been declared illegal by the Jodhpur Government on the executive side or under decisions of Government Courts and to report on the propriety of prohibiting their imposition by the Jagirdars. H.H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur in Council has accepted the recommendations made by the Committee in respect to the following cesses:

The kharkhar lag which required the cultivators to render free labour to their Jagirdars in sowing and reaping 'moth' crop and cutting grass in thikanas (territory or estate of a noble) by providing one plough and one man per house for a few days a year has been abolished, but the thikana has been allowed to take the services of plough, transport, labour, etc., on payment at rates prescribed in the Marwar Supplies Transport and Labour Rules.

The kansa lag imposed on the people the obligation to supply cooked food to Jagirdars on marriage occasions. This lag has been abolished and it has been ordered that the privileges enjoyed by the villagers in return also will be discontinued.

The shakrana lag levied for opening of windows, sky-lights, etc., has been abolished, but the permission of the thikana would be necessary where doors, windows, or skylights open on the Jagirdar's land or affect his rights in any way. The order says that ordinarily permission to open windows, doors, etc., on public thoroughfares should not be refused, and if refused, on any specific grounds, the matter should be reported to the Government with reasons for such refusal.

The lhas lag which meant rendering of service collectively for cutting grass, reaping 'moth' crop, embanking fields, fetching building materials, etc., for the thikana, has been abolished, but the thikana may take these services, provided the persons engaged are paid their full wages according to the rates prescribed in the Marwar Supplies, Transport and Labour Rules.

The mapa lag, that is, tax levied on sales of goods within the Jagir (territory or estate of a noble) limits, may be levied by the Jagirdars on sales of goods effected within the Jagir limits. The imposition by Jagirdars of any tax which corresponds to the customs duty realised by the State, on either import or export, has been prohibited.

The present order abolishing the various lags or cesses is tentative until an equitable adjustment of taxation and cognate matters in Jagir areas is arrived at by the new Jagir Land Revenue and Bag Enquiry Committee appointed in December 1942.

{ "Federal India and Indian States",
dated 6-1-1943). +

General.

Labour in Assam:
States Legislation to Improve Conditions.

Delhi correspondent of the Hindu, Madras, it is
sent of India has under consideration amendment
which is due to expire in March 1943, for the
living and working conditions for labour.

(The Hindu, 7-1-1943). +

Dispute in Bombay Oil-Workers' Dispute:
Benefits and Gratuity Scheme to be Instituted.

Page 9 of our October 1942 report to the award
of the award is published at pages 3709-3719 of
the report, Part I, dated 22-10-1942) in the disputes
between the managements of the Standard Vacuum Oil Company,
Bombay and (a) Ltd., Bombay. At the Adjudicator's request,
by the Government of Bombay for further
with particular reference to the issues relating
and (b) the gratuity, pension and death benefit
heard on 7-12-1942; the workers were represented
by the Workers' Union, and the final award was given on
the condition is that the Standard Vacuum Oil Co., and
to institute Pension, Death Benefit and Gratuity
of hours, it was stipulated that the one month's
allowance as follows by both Companies: "one-twelfth of
(including dearness allowance) received by each workman
prior to ending 31st December 1941, should be paid to
him fully in employment on the 14th July 1942, the date
when the award was given in this dispute." (Full texts of the
Government's Order thereon are published at
Bombay Government Gazette, Part I, dated 21-1-1943). +

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

6th Session of Indian Statistical Conference, 4-1-1943. +

The 6th Session of the Indian Statistical Conference was held at Calcutta on 4-1-1943 under the presidentship of Mr. N. R. Sarker, Member in Charge, Commerce Department, Government of India. The proceedings were formally opened by Dr. B. C. Roy, Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University.

Presidential Address. In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Sarker explained the reasons for India's backwardness in statistical services. He said: "Our problems are peculiar and often much more complicated. The vastness of the country is in itself a great handicap. The illiteracy and ignorance of the people and their failure to understand the utility of statistical inquiries combine to render the task of the statistician much more difficult and expensive. There can, however, be little doubt that, unless we make rapid headway in making good the present deficiencies with regard to our statistical information, we shall have to fumble for sound social and economic policies in many spheres and the pace of our national progress will be adversely affected." He stressed the urgent need for organising an efficient statistical service, as without it, India will experience great difficulty in initiating sound social and economic policies and thereby the pace of the country's national progress will be adversely affected. He said: "The need for statistical research will be even greater after the cessation of the present war. Post-war reconstruction is a problem very much in the forefront. The termination of hostilities will bring in its wake a host of new problems, which could be effectively tackled only if one carefully builds up the statistical background of each specific question. Moreover there is now much greater general awareness of the economic and social needs of the country. There is more anxiety than ever before in the country to undertake the great works of development in various fields so that the country's resources may be better and more fully utilised and production of wealth may increase to a much higher level, thus ensuring a progressively higher standard of living. Absence of political freedom has so far hampered nation-building activities but one can see sure signs of a great improvement in India's political status which would leave the people free to mould their own economic destiny after the war. If the work of development is to proceed along rational lines, the people must have a well-thought-out plan in advance and for this a vast amount of statistical information on many aspects of socio-economic life would be an essential pre-requisite. Statistics constitute the very foundation of planning".

Reviewing the work already undertaken by the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, he said that it had undertaken with great success a large number of enquiries on behalf of the Government of India, as well as ^{for} various provincial governments, such as the enquiries into the production of important food crops like paddy and wheat and cash crops like jute and sugarcane. It has also dealt with problems of flood control and irrigation, tackled questions relating to anti-malaria measures, nutrition programmes, development of forests, and increased production of cinchona. This was not an exhaustive list of the subjects investigated by the Institute, but it showed the growing recognition of the importance of statistical science in India.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 7-1-1943). +

Indians Mining Industries :
Dr. Dann suggests Nationalisation

Dr. J. A. Dann, Superintending Geologist, Geological Survey of India, presiding over the annual general meeting of the Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India on 15-1-1943 declared that nationalisation of the mineral industry appeared to be inevitable sooner or later. He reminded those who might be critical of State management in this industry, that it could not always be in the interests of the State to make a profit; a mineral deposit worked at a loss might be responsible for the development of other important dependent industries and for the employment of a vast number of people. Dr. Dann added that beyond nationalisation, there was the further goal of Internationalisation. Problems of mineral raw materials would be discussed at the eventual Peace Conference when India's view point must be adequately represented. Discussing the effects of taxation and tariffs on the Indian mineral industry, Dr. Dann observed that tariff protection had given powerful stimulus to some Indian mineral industries, but it might be contended that subsidies might provide a more suitable support.

Further reconstruction of Government's organisation, according to Dr. Dann, should have as its basic principle the grouping of all phases of mineral development in India ultimately under a single portfolio of a Member for Geology and Mines. The departments under the administrative control of this ministry would be the Geological Survey, the Mining Department, and the Department of Inspection. ~~The Geological Survey, under a Director-General, would be divided into four specialised branches each under a Director: the Geological Maps branch, the Mining Geology and Prospecting branch, the Agricultural Geology and Soil Conservation branch and the engineering geology and water supply branch.~~

Dr. Dann discussed certain developments in the present system of company management. He made the plea that mine proprietors should give their technical staffs a fuller measure of control, and give the latter a far-sighted policy such financial backing as was within their means. On the board of Directors of mining concerns there should be a considerable sprinkling of mining engineers of experience. Co-operation between companies in mining, treatment and marketing was desirable. In marketing some form of mineral and metal exchange under the Government control would be invaluable under the marketing section of the Mines Department.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 17-1-1943.)

Industrial Effort in Mysore State :
Decisions of Board of Industries and Commerce of the State.

The question of starting a plastics industry in Mysore State was discussed in January 1943 by the Board of Industries and Commerce. An ad hoc committee was appointed to go into the details and submit a definite scheme to the Government. The need for improving the position of the handloom weavers in the State was also considered, in this connection the Board had, it is understood the advice of Rao Bahadur K. S. Rao, Textile Expert to the Government of Bihar, who was present at the meeting at the invitation of the Government. It was suggested that the existing competition could be mitigated by linking handlooms with the spinning and finishing mills, which would be,

which would result in a combination of the economies of large-scale machine production with the economies of a cottage industry. The Board considered this suggestion well worth a trial and directed the Director of Industries and Commerce to go into the question of bringing about such co-ordination.

The Board also recommended the adoption of a more liberal scheme in the State for granting financial aid to educated unemployed to start industries or develop and expand existing ones, and also favoured the appointment of a committee of inquiry to review the industrial progress made in the State during the last 30 years and make concrete suggestions for post-war development.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-1-1943.)

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for
Various Centres in India during August and September, 1942.

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during August and September, 1942, as compared with the preceding month:

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>July 1942</u>	<u>Aug. 1942</u>	<u>Sept 42.</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	168	168	170
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	117	123	117
Shahapur	Year ending January 1928	112	115	118
Nagpur	August 1939*	181	183	183
Ludhiana	1931-1935	219		
Cawnpore	August 1939	190	208	207
Patna	Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914)	131	208	204
Jamshedpur	Ditto	208	228	230
Baria	Ditto	206	234	255
Madras	Year ending June 1936	133	137	146
Madura	Ditto	139	139	148
Coimbatore	Ditto	140	141	145

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions
in India for September 1942.)

Provident Fund for Industrial Workers:
Views of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

At pages 12 to 13 of our June, 1942, report reference was made to certain recommendations issued by the Government of India to industrial interests in the country for encouraging the institution of provident fund schemes where these suit particular concerns. Invited to express its views on the recommendations of the Government of India, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in a letter addressed to the Government of Bengal, expresses the following opinions:

While appreciating the move on the part of the Government for the institution of provident funds and accepting the suggestions issued in this connection, the Chamber considers that the whole problem of providing for the old age and invalidity of industrial workers is one which will ultimately call for legislation of a more comprehensive and fundamental character than that envisaged in Government's proposals. The Chamber feels, as did the Royal Commission on Labour over 10 years ago, that the state should take as much interest, and share as much responsibility as the employer and employee. According to the Chamber, the problem is too vast and complex to be tackled in a piece-meal manner. Nor is it a problem upon which legislation can be restricted or rushed. It calls for a comprehensive co-ordinated scheme based upon a full enquiry into the facts and requirements of the actual situation and an enquiry which will investigate the merits and demerits of different schemes, whether of a provident fund, gratuity or pensionary nature, and which will have to envisage the co-ordination and integration of legislation covering eventually all types of social risks, if the serious economic consequences of divergent labour standards are to be avoided. The unity of social risks such as incapacity for work, unemployment, loss of bread-winner and sickness has constantly been emphasised in all specialist studies and reports on the subject of social insurance schemes. The latter, far from sinking into insignificance in Great Britain, have come more than ever to the fore-front because of the need for the adaptation of them to war conditions which have intensified the physical and economic risks to which workers are exposed. Only through such an enquiry can there be brought to light the reasons for the hesitancy of certain workers to participate in schemes afforded to them by certain employers, though enquiry among jute mill workers, on a limited scale, indicated no objection to their making contributions to a scheme for pensions and/or gratuity payments if these are freed from the control of employers.

In broaching the matter to employing interests, the Chamber has come to learn that employers are not all generally agreed on the efficacy of provident fund schemes, while there is considerable variance in the practice which prevails in different industries. The Tea and Mining Industries consider Government's proposals for provident funds hardly applicable to the agricultural and migrant types of labour they employ. Some employers, in other industries, think that, at the present juncture, provident funds instead of strengthening the bonds between employers and workers and making the labour force more contented and stable, have the opposite effect. They cite the case of the Calcutta Tramway trouble of 1942 as an illustration of this point. There have been many cases, they state, of workers besieging employers with requests for the payment of

considerable sums representing workers' contributions, so that if the facility were generally granted, the position of many provident funds would be seriously impaired, while a source of trouble between employers and employees would also be created. On the other hand, several commercial and industrial concerns have instituted or are willing to institute provident funds. In place of provident funds, a few employers recommend either a gratuity scheme - which averts demands made under threat of a strike - or an employee's contributory scheme. The Indian Jute Mills Association have under consideration at present, a scheme for a deferred war bonus or pension fund to which both employers and employees are to contribute, and to which, it hopes the State will not only contribute, but will undertake the administration too. The Chamber points out that precedents for contributions from the public authorities are almost universal and that most Governments when replying to the questionnaire issued on the subject by the I.L.O. in 1932, expressed agreement with the principle of State participation, while the management of insurance funds has been entrusted either to institutions founded by the public authorities or to institutions founded on the initiative of the parties concerned.

The reply of the Chamber concludes: "These various considerations make it evident that the mere recommendation of provident fund schemes, such as is under contemplation by Government is a step which will serve no particular purpose, for it will take no further a subject which, as the Royal Commission on Labour foresaw, needs to be both comprehensively and consistently tackled, nor will it succeed in establishing that degree of uniformity, consistency and co-ordination which the industrial situation in India, rural as well as urban, demands."

(Excerpts from the Abstract of Proceedings for the months of September, October and November, 1942, issued by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

MIGRATIONIndian Labour for Ceylon Rubber Estates:
Progress of Negotiations with Government of India.

Reference was made at page 21 of our December 1942 report to the request of the Ceylon Government for 30,000 Indian workers for work in the rubber estates of Ceylon. The Ceylon Planters' Association has, for some time, been urging on the Ceylon Government the urgent necessity to obtain more immigrant labour not only to increase the output of rubber but also to replace those labourers who, taking advantage of the recent relaxation by the Government of India of Emigration rules permitting them to return to Ceylon after visiting their homes in India, are expected to go back to India. The despatch of labourers from India before a satisfactory settlement is reached about the treatment of Indians in Ceylon, has been vehemently opposed in India by the press and interested parties and organisations. Sir Baron Jayatilaka, the Ceylon Government Representative in India, met Mr. M. S. Aney, Member in charge of the Overseas Department, Government of India, on 12-1-1943 in this connection. It is understood that Mr. Aney apprised Sir Baron of the reactions of the Indian public to the request and explained the various aspects of the problem of the post-war status of Indians in Ceylon. The question was considered by the Standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature on 25-1-1943. The decision of the Government of India on the request of the Ceylon Government has not yet been announced.

(The Hindu, 1-1-1943, and the
Statesman 13-1-1943.) +

Indian Emigrants Abroad:
Review of Developments during 1941-42.*

The annual review of important events affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the period 1-4-1942 to 31-3-1942 has recently been published by the Government of India; below are given brief notes on the more important of these events.

A:South Africa: (1) Asiatic Penetration-Broome Commission. The Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act, 1939, has been extended for a further period of two years, i.e., until 1-5-1943. The Act seeks to peg the position in regard to Asiatic occupation and trading in the Transvaal. Its administration has given rise to a certain amount of friction since in a few cases the Act has been used to remove Indians from sites which they have occupied or traded upon a number of years. Representations made by local Indian bodies against the decisions taken have, in some instances, been successful. Mention was made in last year's review (vide pages 31 to 33 of our November 1941 report) of the appointment by the Union Government in May 1940 of a judicial Commission with Justice F.N. Broome as Chairman to ascertain whether and, if so, to what extent Asiatic penetration of ~~predominantly European~~ areas both in regard to property and trading rights had taken place in Natal and Transvaal. The report of the Commission was published shortly after the close of the period under review. ~~The two main findings of the Commission, whose enquiry related to Indians only, are that in the Transvaal, the extent of penetration since 1927 does not appear to be alarming or even surprising and in Natal the extent of penetration into European areas is little more than a trickle.~~

(2) The Feetham Resolutions.— As far back as in September 1938, The Minister of the Interior introduced in the House of Assembly a resolution to give effect to the recommendations of the Feetham Commission regarding the areas in Johannesburg and its surroundings to be set aside for the use and occupation of Asiatics. Action was, however, postponed and the Anti-Asiatic campaign of December 1938, which resulted in the passing of the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act, 1939, compelled the Union Government to defer introduction of the resolution until such time as they had formulated their final proposals on the question of racial segregation. The importance of implementing the recommendations of the Feetham Commission was brought to the notice of the Union Government and there were indications that the necessary resolution would be passed by the Union Parliament in 1941-42. On 31-3-1941, the Prime Minister succeeded in persuading the United Party caucus to adopt the Feetham Resolutions. After an interesting debate the resolutions were adopted by 61 votes to 40 and later passed through the Senate without debate.

(3) Motor Carrier Transportation (Amendment) Act.— This Act affected two classes of business in which Natal Indians had established something of a monopoly. These are (1) the provision of long distance taxis prepared to go anywhere in Natal or even further afield at short notice and (2) the private bus services in Durban catering for the city's non-European population. One of its main objects was to prevent Indian and Native taxis in Natal running to a schedule and competing with buses.

(4) Labour Legislation.— Two important measures were adopted from which Indians will benefit along with other classes; these are the

Workmen's Compensation Act and the Railway and Harbours Pensions (Amendment) Act. The former provides for the transfer of workmen's compensation from ~~Review of important events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1941-42 (Department of Indians Overseas, Government of India), pp. 24.~~ the Insurance Companies to a State Fund, and the latter, annuities and gratuities for casual labourers and temporary employees of the Railway Administration who do not contribute to a pension scheme.

(5) Enquiry into Trade Licences in Natal.— The appointment by the Administrator of Natal of a Committee to enquire into and report upon all aspects and conditions of rural trade, storekeeping, and the licensing thereof in Natal and Zululand caused some anxiety to the Natal Indian Association who feared that the enquiry might develop into another anti-Indian campaign. An assurance was, however, given by the Chairman that the Association's fears were groundless and that the Committee intended to investigate without any racial distinction the whole question of trade licences in Natal.

(6) Enquiry into Conditions in South African Sugar Industry.— As the result of representations made by the Natal Indian Cane-growers Association, the Minister of Commerce and Industries directed the Board of Trade and Industries to investigate the position of the non-Europeans in the South African Sugar Industry.

At Burma: (1) Immigration into Burma.— In last year's review it ~~was mentioned that the Indian community in Burma~~ continued to suffer from the after-effects of the Indo-Burman riots of 1938 and the Hindu-Muslim riots of January-February, 1939. In discussing in its interim report ~~some of the underlying causes of the disturbances which occurred in 1938,~~ the Riot Enquiry Committee made special mention of widespread uneasiness about Indian penetration into Burma. That Committee believed and hoped that an authoritative statement of the facts would go far to remove the dangers of anti-Indian feeling and anti-Indian propaganda. To ascertain the actual facts with regard to the alleged penetration of Indian labour into Burma, the Government of Burma appointed in June 1939 a Commission, with the Hon'ble Mr. J. Baxter as Commissioner and U. Tin Tut and Mr. Ratilal Desai as Assessors, to enquire into the ~~facts~~ concerning Indian immigration into Burma. The problems relating to the immigration of Indians into Burma began to engage the attention of the Government of Burma and the Government of India more and more. At the end of May, 1941, it was considered that a stage had been reached when personal discussion offered a reasonable prospect of success. The Government of India despatched in June 1941 a delegation to Burma to arrive at a settlement. The negotiations resulted in the initialling of a Draft Agreement which was subsequently accepted by the two Governments without material alteration and published on the 22nd July, 1941, together with a joint statement by the two Governments. The Baxter report was also published on the same date. (For details of the agreement, and the Baxter Commission's recommendations, vide pages 21 to 26 of our July 1941 report.) The opposition both in India and in Burma led to protracted negotiations between the two Governments. The negotiations could not be concluded as the development of the military campaign following the Japanese invasion of Burma rendered further consideration impossible.

(2) Evacuation of Indians.— Following the heavy air raids on Rangoon in December 1941, a large exodus of the local Indian population set in. In the evacuation by sea, attention was first directed to ~~arrang-~~

arranging for the return to India of women, children and sick and elderly persons. The evacuation of the entire Indian population, estimated at over 8 million, was obviously impossible, but the numbers evacuated up to 1-9-1942, by all routes, have been estimated at some 500,000 or just less than 50 percent of the Indian population in Burma. A separate report on the evacuation of Burma is being prepared, but the following brief summary is of interest. Evacuation was carried out by sea, by air and by land. Before the fall of Rangoon, between 75 and 80 thousand Indians were transported by sea to India. In spite of the limitation imposed by the shortage of shipping, every available ship including military transport was being utilized.

Evacuation by air was organised entirely by the Government of Burma. The Government of India helped in chartering some aircraft and urged that the facilities should be available to Indians and Europeans alike. Of some 11,000 evacuated by air, the number of Indians was 4,025. Evacuation by land was the most important. The first land route which leads into Bengal through Chittagong is partly by land and partly by sea. Refugees using this route had to cross the hills between Prome and the Arakan coast and reach Chittagong either by land on foot or by sea. This involved a trek by land of nearly 100 miles through mountains and jungle where water and food are scarce. The inaccessibility of this area to motor transport and the want of sufficient time for the necessary preparations made this route particularly difficult to organise. A medical party was despatched from Madras to Taungup. Sea transport was provided to clear the arrivals at Akyab, Kyaukpyu and Taungup. It is estimated that some 200,000 including those from the Arakan came into Chittagong by this route. The development of the second route or rather series of routes on the Assam border, the setting up and the staffing of camps and the organisation of necessary transport and porters were mainly the result of the Refugee Organisation brought into being early in March, 1942, by Major General Wood who was appointed Administrator General, Eastern Frontier Communications. On the Burma side, the arrangements were undertaken by the Government of Burma. Tamu on the Assam-Burma border is the focal point for the routes along the Chindwin valley. From Tamu to Palel refugees had mainly to do on foot the hill journey covering some 36 miles. A slightly longer path through Mintha, Heirok and Wangjing was also opened to take the inflow of the very large number of refugees. From Palel and Wangjing to Imphal and Imphal to Dimapur (133 miles) lorries and buses were used, the journey beyond Dimapur being by railway. The total number of refugees by these and other land routes leading into Assam up to 1-9-1942 was about 220,000.

C. Ceylon (1) Cost of Living and Wages.— There was a general rise in commodity prices following the outbreak of war and a corresponding increase in the cost of living of the Indian labourers. Revised rates of minimum wages, which meant a 10 per cent. increase over those prevailing previously, were brought into force with effect from 1-2-1941. The Special Officer appointed to conduct an enquiry into the family budgets of Indian estate labourers completed his investigations and submitted a report which was published on 8-10-1941. The figures adopted in the Report were based on the prices prevailing in April-May 1940 and were generally low in many respects. A sub-committee of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour was appointed soon after the publication of the Report to consider the question of fixing a basic wage for Indian labourers and of granting a "dearness allowance" to meet the increased cost of living. As a result of the deliberations and recommendations of the sub-committee, the basic minimum wage was increased, but the increase was not given effect to until the end of the year. A scheme for the grant

of dearness allowance based on the cost of living index prepared by the Labour Department was also approved and was brought into force with effect from March 1941. The rate of the allowance granted in March was 13 cents for an adult labourer and 8 Cents for a child for each working day.

(2) Wages Boards Ordinance.- The draft Ordinance to regulate the wages and conditions of employment of persons engaged in various occupations, including estate labour, which was first published by the Government of Ceylon in March 1940 was finally passed on 8-7-1941 and was brought into force with effect from 19-9-1941. All the suggestions made by the Government of India were accepted and incorporated in the Ordinance.

(3) Strike in Colombo Harbour.- The ban on emigration to Ceylon made itself felt in Colombo harbour where there was a shortage of labour for loading and unloading cargo and local labour proved insufficient. The labourers whose earnings had been considerably reduced due to irregular intervals at which ships arrived in the harbour owing to war conditions, struck work in July, 1941, demanding an increase of wages and certain other benefits. Almost simultaneously there was a strike in the granaries in Colombo involving about 1,000 labourers. A Commission was appointed to inquire into the grievances of the labourers. The recommendations of the Commission for payment of higher rates of wages to almost all classes of workers in the Colombo harbour were given effect to soon after. ~~The inconvenience caused by the sudden cessation of work at the Harbour necessitated the issue of a set of Regulations, under the emergency powers of His Excellency the Governor, with a view to securing that a sufficient supply of labour was available in undertakings engaged in "essential work" and prohibiting absence of workers in such undertakings without reasonable cause.~~

(4) Labour Conditions on Estates.- The ban on the emigration of unskilled labour imposed by the Government of India tended to "freeze" the labour force on estates as labourers were deterred from coming to India on their usual visits for fear that their return to Ceylon would be prevented by the operation of the ban. At the beginning of the period under review the labour force on estates was, if anything, more than adequate for the needs of the tea and rubber industries. Some estates discharged large gangs of labourers who were considered surplus to requirements, while in other cases Superintendents did not hesitate to discharge labourers whom they considered to be unsatisfactory. This led to much discontent and the outbreak of strikes. Towards the close of the year under review, the general position with regard to labour on estates improved as the tea and rubber industries continued to be prosperous and an increase in the export quotas for these commodities gave a fillip to production with the result that it was possible for surplus labour to be absorbed and work was generally easier to find.

A new Maternity Benefits Ordinance was brought into operation with effect from the 28th July, 1941. Maternity benefits are payable to a woman worker at the rate of 50 cents a day for two weeks before and for four weeks after confinement, but there is a proviso authorising the Controller of Labour to exempt an employer from liability to pay if he is satisfied that the employer has provided for female labourers resident on estates such alternative benefits as regulations in this regard prescribe.

(5) Indo-Ceylon Relations.- Reference was made in this office's

November and December 1940 reports to the failure of the Indo-Ceylon Exploratory Conference to settle outstanding problems between the two countries. This was followed in Ceylon with a fresh burst of anti-Indian feeling. Two Bills were introduced, one to restrict immigration into Ceylon and the other for the registration of non-Ceylonese resident in Ceylon, both of which aroused considerable anxiety in the minds of the Indian community. The Governor, however, disapproved of these discriminatory measures, when the wave of anti-Indian feeling quietened towards the middle of 1941, negotiations were resumed and an Indian Delegation was sent to Ceylon in September 1941. The resulting agreement is still under consideration of both Governments. Non-Official opinion in India vehemently criticised the agreement as unjust to Indians in Ceylon.

(6) Immigration and Registration Bills. - Two bills, one to make provision for the regulation and control of the entry of non-Ceylonese into Ceylon, and the other to provide for the registration of persons in Ceylon who do not possess a Ceylon domicile of origin were introduced in the State Council on 4-3-1941. The two bills passed their first reading on the same day and on the following day copies were sent to the Government of India. When communicating their views on the proposed measures, certain objections of principle and stressed the desirability of maintaining friendly relations between the two countries at a time when the Empire was engaged in a struggle for its very existence. The Bills were, however, pushed through. They passed their second reading in the state Council on the 26th and 27th March, respectively and were referred to Standing Committee. Both measures were still under consideration at the close of the period under review.

See below

Di Malaya: (1) Wages and Increased Cost of living. - Employers of Indian estate labour in Malaya voluntarily raised the wages of Indian labourers to 50 cents a day for men and 40 cents a day for women with effect from 1-10-1939, i.e., shortly after the outbreak of war when there was an increase in the production quota and the price of rubber. Indian estate labourers were also granted, in consideration of the increased cost of living, a temporary cost of living allowance called 'actualising allowance' of 5 cents a day with effect from 1-1-1941, which was subsequently increased to 10 cents a day with effect from 1-4-1941. In Pahang, a further increase of 5 cents a day in the temporary allowance was granted with effect from 1-10-1941. The Malayan Governments sanctioned temporary cost of living allowances also for low paid employees in Government departments and public bodies. The scale of these allowances varied from month to month in accordance with the rise in the cost of living and rose, in respect of employees in receipt of less than ~~Rs 1~~ \$ 1 a day, from \$ 2.95 per month in April 1941 to \$ 5.75 in December 1941.

(2) Labour Unrest. - There were several strikes in the Klang District in the beginning of 1941, the reason being that estate labourers demanded higher wages due to increased cost of living and to the fact that Chinese labourers had been granted an increase in wages. As a result, however, of negotiations between the Central Indian Association of Malaya and the United Planting Association, an agreement was brought about and the trouble subsided. In May 1941, however, fresh labour disturbances occurred and these were believed to have been precipitated by the arrest, under the Emergency Regulations, of the President of the Klang District Union. These troubles led to stern measures, including firing by the military on the Indian workers.

** The Government of India made no detailed comment. They, however, reiterated*

In July 1941, Major G. St. John Orde Browne, Labour Adviser to the Colonial Office, arrived in Malaya to investigate and report upon local labour conditions. The Agent of the Government of India had an interview with him and also submitted a written memorandum dealing with Indian labour problems.

(3) Japanese Attack and Indians in Malaya.— It is certain that a number of Indians lost their lives due to air bombing by the enemy, but no reliable estimate of the number of casualties or of those killed could be obtained due to the suddenness and the rapidity with which the military situation changed from day to day. As regards evacuation from threatened areas, only very meagre information based on press reports and stories narrated by evacuees is available. Only a very small number of Indians were evacuated.

E: East Africa.— At the instance of the Governments of the East African territories (including Nyasaland and Zanzibar) certain restrictions have been placed on the grant of passport facilities for entry into those territories. They are mainly intended to relieve those Governments of problems arising from the presence of persons who are not essential or who cannot be absorbed or whose presence might prove an unnecessary embarrassment during the present emergency. Reference was made in last year's review to the feelings of anxiety expressed by the Indian community in Tanganyika in connection with the scheme for the organisation of motor transport in the Southern Highlands Province. As it was feared that by the control proposed a large number of Indians would be eliminated from their established motor transport trade, representations were also made to the Government of India who addressed His Majesty's Government in the matter. An assurance to the effect that genuine cases of hardship arising out of the reorganisation would receive their sympathetic consideration has been received from the Government of Tanganyika.

F: Aden.— Certain restrictions have been placed by the Government of Aden on the entry of Indians into Aden. These restrictions are of general application to all British subjects and are intended purely as a temporary measure for the present emergency.

G: Fiji.— Three important Ordinances bearing on labour were passed during the period under review in Fiji. The first of these measures—The Industrial Association Ordinance (No. 18 of 1941)—provides for the formation, registration and regulation of Industrial Associations. Registration has been made compulsory and the constitution and rules of the Industrial Associations are required to conform with the requirements set out in the Ordinance. The right to form associations has been extended to peasant farmers also, who are not employees. The second—The Industrial Disputes (Conciliation and Arbitration) Ordinance (No. 19 of 1941)—provides for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes. If machinery for settlement does not exist in any particular industry in which a dispute occurs, the Governor has power to bring the parties together or refer the matter to a Conciliation Board for settlement. But in case the conciliation methods fail or if the parties so request, the Governor in Council may require the parties to submit their dispute to a Court of Arbitration, whose decision will be binding on both the parties. The third—the Labour (Welfare) Ordinance (No. 20 of 1941)—authorizes the appointment of a Commissioner of Labour to safeguard and promote the general welfare of workmen in the Colony. He has been given certain powers of

entry and inspection necessary to enable him to carry out the duties prescribed in the Ordinance.

Education in general and Indian education in particular has made considerable progress in the last few years.

H: West Indies.— The report of the West Indies Royal Commission (1930-39) is not likely to be published before the end of the war. During the period under review, the British Government decided to re-constitute the Legislative Councils on the lines recommended by the West India Royal Commission by the withdrawal of all official members, except the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and Treasurer. The unofficial members will now form a majority on the Councils. Representations were made by the Government of India to His Majesty's Government for the nomination of one East Indian to one of these vacancies. The franchise questions in the case of Trinidad and British Guiana were referred to local franchise Commissions, neither of which had reported by the end of the period to which this review relates.

A Labour Ordinance (No.2 of 1942) providing for the appointment of a Commissioner of Labour, for the regulation of the relations between employers and employees and for the settlement of differences between them was passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor in January, 1942. It replaces the Apprenticeship Ordinance, 1854, the Employers and Servants Ordinance, 1853, and the Accidents Investigations Ordinance, 1900, all of which contained many out-dated provisions and attempts to bring the labour laws of the colony in line with modern conceptions of labour legislation. The Government of India were given an opportunity to comment on the provisions of the Ordinance at the Bill stage and certain modifications suggested by them have been incorporated in it.

War and Indians Abroad. The report also contains a detailed review of measures taken to protect the interests of Indians in enemy occupied countries, to assist evacuees by monetary allowances and the provision of employment facilities, to settle claims of evacuees from Malaya, Burma, Hong Kong, etc., and to promote the education of evacuee students. (For fuller details about these activities, see section: Social Policy in War Time : Emigration).

Review of important events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1941-42. (Department of Indian Affairs, Government of India) Pp. 24.

CONTROL of Textile Trade in Ceylon:
Representation of Indian Traders against
Discrimination.

The Ceylon Textile Merchants Association, composed mainly of Indian traders, has sent a memorandum to the Governor and the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, Ceylon, in which the Association protests against certain clauses of the proposed regulations for the control of the textile trade in Ceylon. The Association points out that ~~the~~ of the regulations empower the Textile Controller in his discretion to withhold the issue of licenses to those merchants who suspended their business shortly after the Easter air raid on Colombo in 1942, and it contends that 'this will severely affect the position of those traders, who through unprecedented circumstances, suspended their business for a short while and returned to their homes in India in accordance, as it seemed to them, with advice tendered from the highest quarters in the Island.' The Association points out that certain statements made by the Governor, the Commander-in-Chief and

other high officers led people to believe that a timely evacuation of vulnerable areas was neither discreditable nor irrational. Textile merchants did not think and could not have thought that their services were 'essential' within the meaning of the word as used by the Commander-in-Chief when he advised certain classes of people to leave the Island. The Association also points out that quite apart from this fact those merchants, who temporarily suspended business, could not possibly have done otherwise. Following statements from authoritative quarters, it was impossible to keep their staff at their employment, nor was it possible to secure suitable employees locally.

Mr. Salay Mohamed Ali Mohamed, Acting President of the Ceylon Textile Merchants' Association, who is now in India in this connection, points out in the course of a statement that the proposed action of the textile controller in Ceylon to withhold the issue of licences to those Indian traders who had temporarily closed their business after the Easter air raid in Colombo is likely to be regarded in India as a measure savouring of class legislation. The measure had come upon the Indian community in general and on members of the Textile Association, in particular, as a shock, especially as it followed swiftly after the appointment of Sir Baron Jayatilka as Ceylon's ambassador in New Delhi to secure the goodwill of India.

(The Leader, 19-1-1943.)

NAVIGATIONRules re. Grant of Certificates of Competency to
Engineers in Merchant Navy.

In exercise of the power conferred by Section 21 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, the Government of India has adopted a set of rules to regulate the grant of certificates of competency to engineers (including motor engineers) in the merchant navy. Three kinds of certificates are to be granted: Certificates of Competency, First and Second Class, and Certificates of Service. The Rules lay down the qualifications required for the various grades of certificates and the nature of examinations for them.

(Notification No. 101 M. II (18)/38 dated
2-1-1943: The Gazette of India, Part I,
Section I, dated 2-1-1943, pages 6 to 26.)+

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTSIndian Civil Service Provident Fund Rules, 1942.

The Secretary of State for India has adopted the Indian Civil Service Provident Fund Rules, 1942 (in supersession of the Rules of 1924, 1932) which require every member of the Indian Civil Service other than a member appointed before the 1st April, 1937, to be a Judge of a High Court, to subscribe monthly to the Fund an amount, which is to be a sum of whole rupees, fixed by himself, but not less than four nor more than ~~the sum of rupees fixed by himself~~ 12½ percent. of his emoluments for the month.

(Notification No. D.13-S.D/42 dated 7-1-1943:
The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1,
dated 9-1-1943, pages 50 to 52.) r

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIESSalt Manufacture to be encouraged as Cottage Industry:
Bengal Government's Scheme for Coastal Areas.

In order to give relief to the people in the coastal areas affected by the recent cyclone (a cyclone of great severity swept over the coastal areas of Midnapore and Twentyfour Parganas in Bengal in September 1942) and also to meet, in some measure, the present shortage of salt in the province, the Government of Bengal has undertaken a scheme for developing salt manufacture as a cottage industry in those areas.

Under the scheme, the Government has already sanctioned the establishment of seven salt warehouses-five in the coastal belt of Midnapore district and two in Diamond Harbour in 24-Parganas district. Salt will be purchased from local producers at the warehouses at a price not exceeding Rs. 2 per maund (82 lbs.) for the present, and will be sold to dealers at Rs. 2-12 per maund, including duty, the extra twelve annas covering the loss due to dryage, freight and overhead charges.

According to the scheme, an average family is expected to supplement its income by at least Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 a month by taking to salt manufacture. It may be recalled that under the Gandhi-Irwin agreement, the people in these areas can manufacture salt for local consumption, but are not permitted to export the commodity. Government now proposes to arrange for increased production and export of the surplus from these areas.

(The "Industan Times, 14-1-1943.)

EDUCATION.Annual Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education, Lucknow, 14 and 15-1-1943.
Minimum Salary Scales for School Teachers Recommended.

The annual meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held at Lucknow on 14 and 15-1-1943 under the presidentship of Sir Jogendra Singh, Member in Charge of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India. Educational authorities connected with several Provincial and States Governments, as also of several Universities attended the session.

The Board adopted the reports of the committees on recruitment, training and conditions of service of teachers and recruitment of education officers for the administration of education. These two reports, it is learnt, recommended ~~minimum national~~ far-reaching changes and if adopted will, go a long way to improve the present state of education in the country. The Board have inter alia recommended minimum national scales of salaries for teachers from the primary to the higher stage of school education.

The Board also appointed a special committee to investigate possibilities of bringing out text books in Indian languages in all subjects for high school, intermediate and university standards.

~~It is understood that the Board also discussed the questions of maintenance of discipline in schools, and colleges and students participating in politics, and approved free discussion of political subjects within the college and university precincts, but did not favour students participating in political activities of a subversive type.~~

The Board accepted ^{the} invitation of the Government of Baroda to hold the next session in 1944 in Baroda.

(The statesman, 15-1-1943, and
The Hindu, 16-1-1943).

(For a brief report of the 1942 session of the Advisory Board of Education, vide page 43 of our January 1942 report).+

Meeting of the Inter University Board; Setting up of Employment Bureaus recommended.

The 18th meeting of the Inter-University Board of India held at Mysore on the 8th January 1943, adopted a resolution, among others, recommending the setting up of employment Bureaus. The resolution ~~is~~ states that "in view of the increasing unemployment among those who have received university education, the Inter-University Board recommends that each university should organise an employment bureau which shall, with the cooperation of Government departments, make constructive efforts to find suitable posts for them in the departments of Government and other agencies".

The Board also adopted several resolutions regarding recruitment from Universities to the fighting forces.

(The Hindu, 9-1-1943, and
The Leader, 26-1-1943).+

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.WagesDemand for Higher Dearness Allowance by Postal Employees.,

The All India Postal and R.M.S. Union has for some time past been making representations to the Government of India about the inadequacy of the dearness allowance granted to postal workers and demanding its increase. (In August 1942 the Government of India increased the rate of Dearness Allowance to Rs.6 for postal employees drawing upto Rs.40 and to Rs.9 to those drawing Rs.40 and above upto to Rs.100.) At its meeting held on 15 and 16-11-1942, the Council of the Union adopted a resolution drawing the immediate attention of the Government of India to the inadequacy of the dearness allowance and requesting its early and equitable revision. The Union has made the following demands:-

(1) abolition of the discrimination made between employees drawing pay upto Rs.39, and drawing Rs.39 to Rs. 100, or between those drawing Rs.100 and Rs.200; (2) sanction of dearness allowance at a rate in no case less than that sanctioned by the Railways to the subordinate and inferior employees (The Railway dearness allowance rates are: Rs.10-8 for employees drawing upto Rs. 120 in cities of more than 250,000 inhabitants, ~~Rs.9-12~~ for those drawing upto Rs. 90 in towns of 50,000 inhabitants and Rs. 7 for those getting upto Rs. 60 in other areas -Vide pages 20-21 of our August 1942 report); (3) fixing of a standard by which there will be automatic adjustment in the rate of the dearness allowance to the ~~variations in the cost of living index figure.~~

(Extracted from the Indian Post, January, 1943.).

Increased Dearness Allowance for Low-Paid Central Government Employees.,

According to a Notification (No. F.2(40)-W/42 dated 19-1-1943) gazetted by the Government of India, the Government has increased the rate of the dearness allowance granted in August 1942 for low-paid Central Government employees (vide page 20 of our August 1942 ~~for~~ report) ~~for~~ The increased rates in force from 1-1-1943 are as follow:-

	<u>Emolument of Government Servant.</u>	<u>Rate of allowance.</u>
Area A	Below Rs.40 per mensem	Rs. 7 per mensem
	From Rs.40 up to Rs.120 per mensem.	Rs. 10 per mensem
Area B	Below Rs.40 per mensem	Rs. 6/8 per mensem
	From Rs.40 up to Rs.100 Per mensem.	Rs. 9 per mensem
Area C	Below Rs.40 per mensem	Rs. 5 per mensem
	From Rs.40 up to Rs.70 per mensem.	Rs. 7/8 per mensem

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Section I, dated 23-1-1943, pages 111 to 112). +

Andhra Teachers Demand Dearness Allowance.

The Andhra Provincial Elementary Teacher-Managers' Federation has, on 5-12-1942, submitted a memorandum to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, demanding, inter alia, grant of dearness allowance to teachers. In the course of his reply, the Director stated that he was still pressing on the Government the necessity for paying a dearness allowance to teachers working in aided schools. As to an increase in the scale of grants to ~~aided~~ aided schools, the Director stated that within the last five years the Government had already raised the scale twice, and that it would be considered again in due course. The Director pleaded inability to pay monthly grants to schools as it involved additional staff and heavy work to the Department.

(The Hindu, 14-12-1942)..

Revised Scale of Dearness Allowance for
Low-Paid Government Servants in the U.P.

The Government of the United Provinces has sanctioned a higher scale of dearness allowance to its employees; the scheme came into force on 1-1-1943. According to the new scale, in the municipal and cantonment areas of the more important towns in the Province (about 10 in number) the monthly dearness allowance will be Rs. 6-8-0 for Government servants drawing less than Rs. 40/- per mensem, and Rs. 9/- for those drawing between Rs. 40/- and Rs. 100/- & In other areas the allowance is Rs. 5/- for those getting less than Rs. 40/- and Rs. 7-8-0 for those getting between Rs. 40 and Rs. 70 per mensem. Marginal adjustments will be allowed in all the categories to the extent necessary to secure that a Government servant is not worse off in total emoluments than one who draws the full amount of the allowance under the scheme.

(The Leader, 24-1-1943)..

Deferred Bonuses to Employees.

Government of India's suggestion for checking Inflation..

A proposal that the higher paid wage earners should agree to defer till the postwar period some part of the extra purchasing power derived from bonuses granted by the employers, is made by the Government of India in a circular letter addressed to all the interests concerned, who have also been asked to give their views in the matter. In its letter, the Government points out:- "A tendency to inflation is already apparent in India and the result of inflation cannot but prevent industrial labour from receiving full value for the increased earnings. It is, therefore, incumbent on industrial labour, partly in its own interest and partly for the good of the country as a whole, to take its part in the prevention of inflation by agreeing to defer till the post-war period some part of purchasing power derived from the receipt of bonuses. It is proposed that the higher-paid industrial wage earners should agree to defer till the post-war period some part of the extra purchasing power derived from bonuses granted by the employers. The Government of India considers that the wage figure of Rs. 50 may be fixed as the level of wages below which no deferment should be considered payable. It is proposed that 50 per cent. should be payable ~~to the employees~~ in cash and that the remaining 50 per cent. should be payable to the credit of the employee in a defence savings bank's account opened for him in the post office. Employees would not be allowed to draw on such accounts until one year after the conclusion of hostilities, except under authority of some Government official in the case of prolonged unemployment."

(The Hindustan Times, 17-1-1943)..

Supply of Essential Commodities at Reduced Price and
Grant of Increased Dearness Allowance to Employees:
Scheme Adopted by Calcutta Corporation.

Emergency allowance at the rate of Rs.3 per month was granted to its menial and labour staff by the Calcutta Municipal Corporation with effect from 1-7-1942 (vide page 25 of our August, 1942, report). Owing to the steadily increasing rise in prices of all essential commodities - foodstuffs, fuel kerosene, etc. - the employees of the Corporation have been agitating for grant of more comprehensive and adequate economic relief. The labour Commissioner, Bengal, was therefore directed to make the necessary investigation on the subject and draw up a scheme. In his report submitted in December 1942, the Commissioner recommended two measures: one, to supply all the employees of the Corporation drawing salaries up to Rs.250 per month with essential commodities at reduced prices, and the other, the grant of dearness allowance on an enhanced scale.

With regard to the supply of essential articles at cheap prices, it has been estimated that the number of employees that will be benefitted by the scheme will be about 25,000 and that the quantity of the various essential articles to be supplied will be: rice-25,000 maunds (1 maund = 82 lbs); dal -6,375 maunds; salt-3,187 mds, kerosene-4,500 tins, and coke-51,000 mds. On the Corporation approaching the Government of Bengal for sanction and the supply of the articles, the Government has pointed out that the ration scale adopted is too liberal (the Government was of opinion that in no case should the scale of rations exceed the scale fixed for the Calcutta police). The concession of rations, it was emphasized by the Government, at reduced cost must be limited to one ration per individual employee and no individual can receive more than one ration on the ground of extra family members. The issue shall be the same for every one in scale, but may vary in kind according to the normal custom of the individual concerned (e.g. as between the cooly and scavenger on the one hand and the clerical assistant on the other). As regards the supply of these foodstuffs, the Government states that the Director of Civil Supplies will be able to furnish from stock under control a fair proportion of one week's supply but after that the Corporation will have to purchase in the open market. The Government has asked the Corporation to make enquiries of the Director of Civil Supplies and in the open market about price of these foodstuffs and let it know at what price the Corporation would be able to sell the commodities to the employees for the purpose of giving effect to the award of the Labour Commissioner.

With regard to the grant of dearness allowance to the employees, the Provincial Government has advanced to the Corporation a sum of Rs.620,000 including a sum of Rs.220,000 to cover the allowances for January and February 1943. A certain section of the employees, however, has drawn the attention of the Corporation to the fact that since, with the grant of the proposed dearness allowance, their income will rise to the level of the minimum taxable income and a certain reduction will have thus to be made as tax from their earnings, the dearness allowance does not in fact serve any real purpose so far as they are concerned.

Pointing to this fact, the Calcutta Corporation has addressed a communication to the Labour Commissioner, expressing the view that it is desirable that the relief contemplated in the shape of dearness allowance should not be taken as an increase in pay and should not make the employees enjoying the allowance assessable for income-tax. The Corporation in this connection points out that conveyance allowance is not assessable for income-tax. The Labour Commissioner has been requested by

by the Corporation to take up the matter with the proper authorities.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 4, 9, 13, 19 and 20-1-1943)..

Further Extension of Scale of Dearness Allowance by Bombay Textile Mills..

In July, 1942, the Millowners' Association, Bombay, extended the sliding scale of dearness allowance so as to cover variations in the Bombay working class cost-of-living index numbers between 164 and 183 (vide page 27 of our July 1942 report). The index number for December, 1942, rose to 188. To meet this and any further increase in the cost of living, the Millowners' Association, Bombay, has decided to extend the scale of allowance up to index number 203, the rate of increase being the same as before. According to the scale as extended, the allowance payable when the index number is 188 is Rs. 19-11 for a month of 26 working days, and Rs. 23-4 when the number is 203.

In view of the rise in the working-class cost of living in Bombay, the Board of Directors of the Silk and Art Silk Mills' Association, Bombay, also have resolved to extend the existing scale of dearness allowance applicable to the employees of their member mills so as to cover variations in index numbers up to 203. The rate of dearness allowance per head per working day sanctioned by the Association for index numbers 188-189 is Re. 0-9-9 and for index number 203, Re. 0-11-6.

(The Industrial Bulletin dated 11-1-1943 issued by the Employers' Federation of India)..

Employment
Militarising Madras Port Trust Services..

The Madras Port Trust is at present contemplating a scheme for militarisation of its services. It will cover labour as well as other categories of its servants and, according to present indications, may come into effect towards the beginning of February, 1943. This will involve bringing the entire body of labour-part of it directly employed by it and part of it in the employ of shippers-under a centralised control. The increases in remuneration of the services may vary from 12½ per cent. in the case of superior servants to 25 per cent. in the case of the lower ranks and labourers plus a ration allowance of Rs. 15 and free clothing. Details of the scheme are now being worked out by the authorities concerned.

The Hindu, 8-1-1943)..

Production

Progress of Indian Industries during War:
Projected Enquiry by Government of India.

In the course of his reply to a memorandum presented by the Southern Indian Chamber of Commerce, early in January 1943, Sir H. P. Mody, Member in charge of the Supply Department, Government of India, stated that he was considering the collection of information about the progress achieved by industries in India during the war and that a scheme was being framed for the purpose. He added that, as materials were very difficult to obtain, the planning of major industries had to be postponed until after the war.

(The Leader, 11-1-1943)..

Rubber Production in Ceylon: Measures to Intensify Tapping.

An important conference was held at Colombo in the middle of January, 1943, for considering measures for intensifying rubber tapping in Ceylon. Field Marshall Wavell presided, and among those who attended were the Governor of Ceylon, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Labour. The Conference decided that all rubber estates of 25 acres and over should be asked to increase tapping to an intensity not less than the double-three system, that in addition 20 per cent. of the trees must be 'slaughter-tapped', and that all managers and proprietors who are prepared to tap during the wintering period are to be encouraged to do so. The authorities are believed to be taking steps to recompense proprietors of estates and small holdings liberally for rubber produced by more intensive tapping and 'slaughter-tapping' methods.

(The Leader, 28-1-1943.).

War Risk Insurance

War Risks (Goods) Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1943, and war Risks (Factories) Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1943.

Two ordinances amending respectively the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance and the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance were promulgated on 27-1-1943, by the Viceroy.

War Risks (Factories) Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance.— Under the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance, as amended, mill stores meant for use as motive power, or for the maintenance of the factory's plant and machinery, or for use in the construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of factory buildings, have now become insurable. Owners or occupiers of factories should therefore take out before the 28th February 1943, supplementary policies of Insurance in respect of such stores.

The existing provision which enables the Central Government to postpone, in accordance with prescribed principles, payment of admitted claims has been clarified. Under the new provision, the Central Government has the power to postpone payment for one year after the termination of hostilities or to any subsequent date subject, however, to the condition that if payment is postponed for more than a year after the termination of hostilities, the Government would allow interest at the rate of two per cent. per annum on the amount of the admitted claim for the end of such year.

Under the Ordinance, as it stood prior to the amendment, the insured party had to bear the first Rs. 1,000, or 20 per cent. of the claim, whichever is greater, in respect of each claim. As it was considered that this might cause hardship to owners of small factories, the insured party's liability to bear a portion of the loss has been reduced and will vary in accordance with a graduated scale to be prescribed. Power has also been taken to provide for war risks insurance of plant and machinery either above or below ground of mines, buildings appertaining to mines and within a radius of two miles from the mine excavations, and to mine stores.

War Risks (Goods) Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance.— The existing War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance provides cover for goods situated in British India or in a participating state. There was no provision for cover for goods imported into India but discharged at a port not situate in British India or a participating State.

The war risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance has now been amended so as to enable sellers of goods in British India or a participating State to insure goods imported into British India or participating states through any port not in India. Cover will be provided while the goods are situated in such a port prior to their transit and during transit.

(The Government of India Gazette Extraordinary, dated 27-1-1943, pages 124 to 130 and the Hindu, 27-1-1943)..

Food Policy

Results of "Grow More Food Campaign" in 1942: Government's efforts for more intensive Production Drive.

An appeal to Provincial Governments to prepare plans for all-out food production in 1943 and a promise to give financial assistance, where necessary, for giving effect to these plans have been announced on 11-1-1943 by the Government of India. Such assistance may take the form of loans to finance the purchase of machinery, or grants for distribution to growers or grants to meet part of the cost of any scheme.

Increased Acreage in 1942.- Official figures are now available to show the progress of the "grow more food" campaign last year. The increase aimed at was 2.6 million acres in rice - from 73 millions to 75.6 millions and 5 million acres in millets - from 51 millions to 56 millions. Figures have been received only from five provinces - Bombay, C.P., Punjab, Bihar and U.P., but they show that the increase in those areas alone has been 4.1 million acres. This increase has been secured by substituting food crops for other crops like short-staple cotton and jute. The position as regards jute is that the jute acreage was reduced in 1941 from 4 millions to 2.3 millions. This was raised the following year to 2.5 millions, but it is expected that in 1943 they would go back to the 1941 figure - thus releasing a million acres more for food crops. As regards cotton, it is revealed that there has been a reduction of 4 millions in the cotton acreage - from 22.2 million acres to 18.2 millions. About Rs. 3.5 millions have been spent in subsidizing the conversion of short staple cotton to food crops.

Production Difficulties.- Food production plans are, however, faced with a number of difficulties. Firstly, as all land with reasonable irrigation facilities is already under cultivation, there is no large prospect of bringing new areas under cultivation. Secondly, there is the difficulty in arranging manuring. According to an official estimate, it is possible to increase the yield of food crops by 25 per cent. if adequate manuring is available. There is, unfortunately, now an insufficiency of indigenous manure - nor is it possible to get imported manure owing to existing shipping difficulties. Thirdly, in certain areas agricultural labour is drifting to more lucrative employment like road-making, factory work, etc. So far as rice is concerned, there appears to be no possibility of increasing the rice acreage sufficiently to cover the loss of supply from Burma and Siam. The only thing that can be done to wipe out the deficit is to supply other crops like wheat.

Large-Scale Production of Vegetables.- For the purpose of meeting military needs, a scheme for large-scale cultivation of vegetables has been introduced. It is said that, as vegetables lend themselves to mass production if special facilities are provided in areas selected for the purpose, it is now possible to go ahead with an intensive campaign.

The proposal is to leave normal production for the civil population and organize mass production areas for supplying vegetables to Defence forces. A beginning has already been made in Bombay.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-1-1943.)

Bengal Government's Food Measures :-
Distributing Trades Tribunal-Special Facilities for Workers-Canteens
for Middle Classes.

The decision of the Government of Bengal to set up an organisation of selected importers and distributors throughout Bengal to ensure equitable distribution over the whole province at fair prices of essential commodities imported at known prices was announced by the Minister of Agriculture and Industries, Government of Bengal, at a press conference held at Calcutta on 20-1-1943. The Government have also decided to appoint a Distributing Trades Tribunal with Sir A. G. Fazlur Rahman, Sheriff of Calcutta, as President. The function of the tribunal will be to examine the existing trade system in various commodities, make the necessary selection of dealers in the higher grades, allot them quotas and areas of operation and to link up the dealers thus selected with local dealers to be selected on approved principles by local officers of Government.

Special Facilities for Workers. - The question of supplying rations, or alternatively, providing facilities to essential employees in the twenty municipalities in the Calcutta industrial areas for the purchase of food-stuffs and other necessary articles at fair prices is now engaging the attention of the Government of Bengal. The Government, after examining the question in all its aspects, will formulate a general scheme to be applied to all the municipalities in these areas.

Food Canteens for Middle Classes and Office Workers. - The first of the "Popular Canteens" in Calcutta, where food can be had at four annas per meal was opened on 6-1-1943, by the Hon'ble Mr. N. R. Sarker, Commerce Member, Government of India. In his opening remarks, Mr. Sarker said that in recent weeks, with the scare caused by Japanese bombing in the city, the servants have started an exodus and middle class establishments in the city have been badly affected. Poor people, especially the workers in factories, are being cared for by the industrial concerns which supply food-stuffs at control prices. The richer sections of the community can fall back on their stock of foodstuffs and also can afford to pay higher prices to keep them going. There has thus been felt increasingly the need of a widespread network of popular canteens, supplying food at moderate prices and catering to this widely felt need of the middle class public, particularly office-workers. The canteens are organised by the Calcutta Relief Committee, which is planning to set up a number of such canteens for different centres in the city.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 8-1-1943, 22-1-1943
and 29-1-1943.)

Food Rationing in Bombay City to start from April 1943.

According to a statement made by the Supply Commissioner, Bombay, at a press conference on 20-1-1943, food rationing will be introduced in Bombay during the first week of April 1943. In the meantime, Government hope to get sufficient supplies of foodstuffs from the surplus provinces.

As a preliminary to the rationing of food grains, all houses in Bombay City have been numbered. For this purpose, Inquiry Officers have been allotted specified areas of the city. Under the Bombay Rationing Preparatory Measures Act, every person occupying any premises ~~xxxxxxx~~ had to allow the Inquiry Officer such access to the premises as he may require for the purpose of his work, and answer all legitimate inquiries regarding food supply, such as details of stocks of provisions kept, number of consumers in each house, etc.

(The Times of India, 22-and 27-1-1943.)

Food Policy of Government of India: Statement
by Member in Charge, Food Department.

An elucidation of the Government of India's food policy was given on 25-1-1943 by the Hon'ble Mr. N. R. Sarker, Commerce and Food Member, Government of India, at a press conference. Three measures are proposed by the Government to combat the food crisis—first, the procurement of supplies to the extent possible both in India and from outside; secondly, the establishment of Government purchasing agencies who will have the monopoly of purchase and send stocks to deficit provinces; and thirdly, the removal of the price control on wheat in order to get the stocks out. The purchases will be made by the Provincial Governments through ordinary trade channels at market rates. The Food Member also said that a food expert would in the near future come from England to advise the Government on rationing and other problems. With regard to rationing, he ~~said, the difficulties of rationing the whole population of India are obvious.~~ The rationing of urban and industrial areas is, however, a more practicable proposition and Provincial Governments have been requested to make preliminary arrangements so that they may be in a position to introduce rationing without undue delay, should this course be found necessary.

(The Hindustan Times, 26-1-1943.)

Compensation for War Injuries.

Award to Workmen of Assam Oil Co.

The directors of the Assam Oil Company have decided that in cases where injury or death results to employees owing to enemy action, and the compensation payable to them or their dependents under the War Injuries Ordinance, 1942, is less than the compensation which would have been payable had the said injury or death been suffered in circumstances in which the Workmen's Compensation Act would be applicable, the company will make up the difference.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13-1-1943.)

Madras Government's Relief Scheme.

To afford relief to persons sustaining war injuries, the Government of Madras has formulated a scheme providing temporary allowance, if the injury sustained by a person incapacitates him for work for not less than 7 consecutive days, disability pension if the injury sustained causes the person serious and prolonged disablement, and family pension and children's allowance if the person dies as a result of the injury.

Person eligible for relief under the scheme include Government servants, members of Civil Defence organisations and A.R.P. Services,

and persons engaged in any trade, business, profession or avocation, who are dependent thereon for a livelihood. Relief will also be given to persons dependent on a person, who dies as a result of the injury caused and who has been substantially dependent for his livelihood on a pension, annuity or other income ceasing with his death.

The Chief Judge of the Court of Small Causes, Madras, and District and Subordinate Judges in the districts have been appointed Claims Officers under the Scheme. The whole cost of relief grant will be borne by the Central Government.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-1-1943.)

Emigration

Government Action re. Evacuees and Indians in Enemy Occupied Territories.

In the Review of Important Events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1941-42, recently published by the Government of India, a brief account of the action taken by the Government in respect of Indian evacuees from territories under enemy occupation and of dependents of Indians stranded in enemy occupied territories is also given. A brief summary of the measures taken by Government in this sphere is given below:-

Appointment of Protecting Powers.- British and Indian interests in Japan, Japanese-occupied China, French Indo-China and Thailand are being looked after by the authorities of Switzerland. The Japanese Government have refused to recognise the appointment of a protecting power in the territories of the United Nations occupied by Japan.

General reports regarding conditions of British Subjects in the Japanese occupied territories.- Information of a general character has been received in respect of Japan, Indo-China, Shanghai and other treaty ports in occupied China. In Shanghai and other treaty ports in occupied China, the general situation was reported to be satisfactory though public utilities were functioning on a restricted basis and withdrawals from British deposits in Banks were limited to 2,000 local dollars per month per person. British subjects other than officials, were not interned, and were reported to be fairly well treated. Indians in Indo-China have not so far been disturbed and no restrictions have been placed on their movement. In Hong-Kong the condition at the prisoners of war camps is said to be not unsatisfactory. The rations are fair but are expected to dwindle in a few months.

Arrangements made to assist Indians stranded in enemy occupied territories.- In Shanghai arrangement has been made to afford through the protecting power monetary assistance up to £ 10 per head per month to all British subjects who are in indigent circumstances, against undertakings to repay wherever considered necessary. Supplies of food-stuffs and clothing to the limit allowed by the Japanese are being distributed to the prisoners of war camps in Hong-Kong and Singapore under the supervision of local missionaries. Necessary funds for the purpose have been made available by the Government of India. Recently, postal communications with prisoners of war and civilian internees in occupied territories through neutral countries have become possible. The manner in which such letters should be addressed and despatched has been given wide publicity throughout India.

Arrangements made to obtain information about British civilian subjects in Japanese occupied territories.-As the Japanese could not see their way to accepting a neutral country functioning as protecting power for British interests in the British territories occupied by them, the International Red Cross is the only organisation available for obtaining information in answer to enquiries about internees. The Red Cross has its delegates functioning in Tokio, Shanghai and Hong Kong. Switzerland is the protecting power for British and Indian interests in Japan, Japanese-occupied China, French Indo-China and Siam. It has been possible through this source to obtain information about a number of individuals in these countries, but the absence of a Red Cross Delegate or a protecting power in Singapore, Malaya, the East Indies and Burma, has resulted in lack of news from these places. As regards Burma, it has been found useful to refer enquiries regarding Burma Government employees to the respective Departments of that Government now established in India (Simla). The information received in response to such references is encouraging. But it has not been possible to obtain information in regard to non-Government employees who have not come to India. Enemy stations are also broadcasting welfare messages from Indians stranded in those parts, but they relate mostly to prisoners of war. Messages from the relatives of persons stranded in Malaya and Burma are also being broadcast from the all India Radio.

Assistance to evacuees and dependents of Indians stranded in enemy-occupied territories.- Prior to the arrival of large numbers of Indian evacuees from Malaya and Burma, the problem was mainly one of assistance to a handful of Indians evacuated from Aden, Somaliland and Eritrea. The grant of such assistance as was necessary was being administered by the Home Department under the terms of a letter issued by it on 26-7-1941. The terms included payment of repayable advances at rates not exceeding normally Rs. 15, 25 and 6 per month for a single adult, a couple and a child respectively belonging to the artisan class and at rates not exceeding Rs. 20, 35 and 6 per month for those belonging to a better class. When the Indians Overseas Department assumed charge of the welfare of Indian evacuees after their influx in large numbers, it first extended the principle of the payment of the allowances mentioned above to all evacuees of Indian origin from whatever war zone and then sanctioned the grant of similar allowances to dependents in Indian of Indians stranded in enemy-occupied territories. Closely connected with the question were the arrangements for the despatch to their homes of evacuees arriving at ports by sea or by land routes, and though the Government of India at first decided to advance necessary funds for railway tickets, they later on gave the discretion to Provincial Governments to dispense with the requirements of undertakings to repay if the number of evacuees to be dealt with was large. In addition to granting such railway tickets at Government expense, the Provincial Governments were also authorised to grant necessary out-of-pocket expenses for journeys involving travel for over six hours. The scale of allowances granted to evacuees and to dependents of those stranded in enemy-occupied territories has also been under review so as to relate the allowances to the varying requirements of the different classes of evacuees as judged from their pre-evacuation incomes. Revised scales have since been sanctioned on these lines.

Employment facilities for evacuees.-The problem of employment of evacuees has received the consideration of the Government of India. For unskilled workers many openings have been provided in new camps; aerodrome and road construction and building and relief works have also been opened by certain Provincial Governments in some areas.

Skilled workers, for whom there is considerable demand, have been invited to register with National Service Labour Tribunals with a view to their being placed in employment in industry. In respect of other workers Provincial Governments have been requested to register applications from evacuees and put them in touch with prospective employers. Evacuees have been declared to be eligible for Government employment though not in preference to local employed. Government employees from Burma, Malaya and the Far East have been permitted by their respective Governments to take up temporary employment under Government in India.

Representatives in India of Malaya, Burma and Other territories under Enemy Occupation.-With a view to securing the prompt settlement of claims of pay, pension, leave salaries, provident funds and the like, of ~~Government~~ Government servants evacuated to India and the grant of family allotment to dependents in India of Government employees stranded in Malaya and Burma, Representatives of the pre-war Governments have been appointed. The existence of a number of persons in India who were dependents of employees of the Hong-Kong Police and whose breadwinners were stranded in these territories was brought to the notice of the Government of India. The Colonial Office has agreed to necessary payments being made on their behalf by the Government of India at rates equivalent to 50 per cent of the pay of the employees concerned. Claims from the other employees of the Hong-Kong Government in India are also being settled in consultation with the Colonial Office.

Miscellaneous.- One of the problems confronting evacuees from Malaya and Burma has been the payment of the money standing to their credit in the post offices in those countries and necessary arrangements have been made to permit closure of these accounts at post offices in India. Postal cash certificates issued in Burma after its separation from India have also been made payable in India. Other directions in which ~~India~~ relief has been provided to evacuees from Burma and Malaya are by way of exemption from customs duty on personal baggage and moratorium of income-tax on assets left behind in those territories.

Educational facilities for evacuee students.-In order to remove the difficulties of the evacuee students from Burma and Malaya, the Government of India requested all the Universities and Provincial Governments to afford these students special facilities. All the Universities and Provincial Governments have agreed to recognise, the period spent by the evacuee students in schools and colleges in Malaya and Burma for the purpose of continuing their studies in India.

Relief for Burma Refugees:
Scheme of Financial Assistance. +

The steps taken by the Government of India for the relief of Indian refugees from Burma and other enemy occupied countries, were reviewed by the Hon'ble Mr. M. S. Aney, Member-in-Charge, Indians Overseas Department, Government of India, at a press conference at Puri on 31-12-1942.

Mr. Aney, who had recently inspected the reception arrangements for evacuees in Assam, the Indian province adjoining Burma, said that the arrangements were complete, but the number of refugees coming down was not large. He ascribed the slowing down of evacuation from Burma partly to the military operations now going on and partly to the doubts entertained as to the need for evacuation owing to gradual res

reoccupation of parts of Burma by the British army. He added that this Department had appointed four refugee officers whose duty it was to keep in touch with refugees now settled down in various parts of India and to assist local officers in steps taken to help evacuees. Dealing with the fresh problems raised by internal evacuation, for example, evacuation of Calcutta consequent on air raids, he said that the subject belonged to the domain of the Civil Defence Member, and that the Government of India was considering the advisability of setting up a new organisation to deal with the problem of internal evacuation.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-1-1943). 4

Scheme for Financial Assistance to Refugees.— The Government of India's scheme for financial assistance to refugees provides that provincial authorities should grant loans to these refugees to help them till such time as they are able to find employment. The amounts so advanced are to be debited to the account of the Government of India. The Special Correspondent of the Hindustan Times points out in its issue dated 14-1-1943 that provincial authorities are not taking full advantage of the scheme for helping refugees, either because they have not the necessary staff to deal with the large number of refugees in their areas or because of unwillingness to meet the expenses from their own funds, though the Government of India have promised to re-imburse them later. It is also stated that there has been some difficulty in differentiating between genuine refugees needing assistance and those who are merely using it as a convenient means for begging. The result, however, is that though the Government of India have sanctioned a scheme for financial assistance and are prepared to bear the whole cost of it, the Provincial authorities have not been able to give full effect to the scheme and provide monetary assistance to all who need it. It is understood that the Government of India have again brought to the notice of Provincial Governments the need for giving all the help necessary to stranded refugees.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-1-1943). 4

Labour Welfare

Labour Welfare Measures to retain Workers in Factories during Enemy Raids in Calcutta: Discussion between Government and Workers.

The Government of Bengal has appointed Regional (Labour) Advisory Committees for Calcutta and the industrial areas surrounding Calcutta to advise Government as to the steps to be taken in regard to the labour problems and welfare of the workers. A meeting of the Calcutta Committee was held on 15-1-1943 at the office of Mr. A. Hughes, Registrar of Trade Unions and Labour Commissioner. The following labour groups were represented: the Trade Union Congress, the Communist Party, the National Chamber of Labour, and the Federation of Labour (M.N. Roy Group). Several unattached (independent) Unions were also represented. The Labour Commissioner presided. Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, representing the Trade Union Congress, opened discussion on the items on the agenda, which included food situation, protective measures and propaganda measures. On the food situation, Mr. Bose suggested the introduction of food rationing by coupons for each household, the licensing of as many of the existing shops as possible to sell food and other necessaries at controlled prices, the compulsory giving of vouchers by shop-keepers, arming of Corporation Market Superintendents with the power to hear complaints on the spot about excessive charges, the appointment of superintendents

with similar powers for non-municipal markets, the supply of coal, fuel, rice and other necessities of the production of coupons, the utilisation of the services of the A.R.P. staffs in distribution and rationing, ascertaining by the Government of the requirements of food in every locality, the wards of the city being taken as units, and the revision of the census figures of each house for issuing coupons. He urged that the practice of making people wait in queues for supply should be stopped as soon as the system of rationing is introduced. As for protective measures, Mr. Bose suggested requisition of houses for shelters in greater number, accommodation of ~~the~~ scavengers, mill workers and other labourers of essential service in pucca houses as near as possible to their respective work places and the commandeering of houses for the purpose. As to propaganda, Mr. Bose suggested that on the radio workers should be told, from as many convenient centres as possible and at meetings, the arrangements made for their accommodation, shelter against bombing raids, and food supply and of the advantages they would have by sticking on to their jobs. The Government of Bihar, Orissa and U.P. should be asked to take similar measures to induce workers to return to Calcutta. A general discussion followed. Representatives of unions generally agreed with the suggestions of Mr. Bose which they considered were quite practicable.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-1-1943.)

Government Proposals for Workers' Grain Shops and
Deferred Bonus: Criticism of Bengal Trade Union Council.

At a meeting of the General Council of the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress, held at Calcutta on 18-1-1943, several resolutions dealing with the food problem, particularly in so far as workers are concerned, were adopted. As regards the memorandum circulated by the Government of India among employers suggesting the opening of cheap grain shops for workers (vide page 25 of our October, 1942, report) the meeting was of opinion that the management of workers' grain shops should be left in the hands of the local trade union or to representatives of workers concerned; where there were no unions, under the joint supervision of a Committee, consisting of an equal number of representatives of workers and employers, with a chairman nominated by the Labour Commissioner. The most suitable grain shop, according to the meeting, was one that would sell all necessary articles at pre-war rates at the cost of employers and the Government. The meeting did not support the recent proposal made by the Government of India that higher paid wage-earners should agree to defer part of their bonus till the post-war period (vide page 29 of this report) for, it felt that inflation had not been caused by any increasing earnings of workers or any increasing purchases made by them, and that, not only had there been no increase in their basic wages, but also the total amount of war-time allowances and bonuses taken together does not make up in full the losses suffered by them owing to the rise in prices of commodities.

(The Statesman and Hindustan Times, 20-1-1943.)

Cost Price Food Grain Supply in Orissa Factories.

By notification No.190-Com.(c) dated 5-1-1943, the Governor of Orissa has authorised the supply of food-grain at cost price by any employer of a factory to which the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, applies, from a grain shop or store operated by him, to his employees for their private use and at their will, up to a maximum of 50 per cent of their wages, as an amenity for which deductions from the wages of such persons may be made.

(The Orissa Gazette, dated 8-1-1943.)

Control MeasuresThe Punjab Supply of Electricity Order.

With a view to economising the use of diesel oil by reducing the hours of supply of electrical energy by power supply undertakings operated by oil in the Province, the Punjab Government has, on 4-1-1943, promulgated the Punjab Supply of Electricity Order, by which the power houses in the Province (divided into six classes), are required to cut off energy during certain specified hours each day. Over 50 power supply undertakings are affected by the Order.

(Notification No. 5841-E1-42/333 dated 4-1-1942, Punjab Government Gazette, Part I, dated 8-1-1942, page 26.)

The Typewriter Control Order, 1943.

In view of the great shortage of typewriters in the country, the Government of India has adopted the Typewriter Control Order, 1943, which prohibits the sale of typewriters to any one not holding a permit granted by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India.

(Notification No. A 755 dated 29-12-1942, The Gazette of India, Part I, Section I, dated 2-1-1943, pages 33 and 34.)

Control of Motor Transport:Government of India's directions to Provincial Governments.

The prolongation of the war and the difficulty of obtaining fresh consignments of motor vehicles have made it necessary for the Government to conserve all existing vehicles, particularly goods trucks, and to ensure that those already in the country are utilised to the best advantage of the State and the owner, and are not subjected to stresses which would shorten their life. With a view to bringing about this rationalisation, the Government of India has directed that all motor traffic should be controlled and Transport Controllers be kept in touch with their use.

In accordance with this policy, the Government of Bombay has decided, to exercise control, to start with, over the use of goods trucks and lorries. The Control will be exercised through Provincial and Regional Motor Transport Controllers. The Secretary, Provincial Transport Authority, Bombay, has been appointed the Provincial Motor Transport Controller and four Regional Motor Transport Controllers also have been appointed under him. Under the Defence of India Rules, the Government has authorised these Controllers to call upon every owner of goods transport vehicles, whether for public or private use, to furnish information in prescribed forms regarding the use to which they put their vehicles.

(Press Communique dated 14-1-1943 of the Director of Information, Bombay.)

Bombay Rationing Preparatory Measures Act, 1943.

The Bombay Government has adopted the Bombay Rationing Preparatory Measures Act, 1943, to provide for the numbering of premises and collecting information about residents as measures preparatory to the rationing of articles essential to the life of the community. The Statement of Objects and Reasons stresses the desirability of being prepared for the introduction of a system of rationing of foodgrains and other articles

or things essential to the life of the community in any area in the Province in which it may become necessary to do so. In some areas, particularly in large cities, it may not be possible systematically to collect information about all persons unless all premises in the area are numbered. The Act provides for powers to carry out these preparatory measures. As any action prejudicial to the carrying out of these measures will seriously affect the interests of the community, a penalty of rigorous imprisonment with fine has been provided for a breach of the provisions of the Act.

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV,
dated 8-1-1943, pages 19 to 22.) +

The Bengal Sugar Licensing Order, 1943.

The Government of Bengal has adopted the Bengal Sugar Licensing Order, 1943, according to which no person is to engage in any undertaking which involves the purchase, sale or storage for sale, in wholesale quantities of sugar except under a license issued by the Provincial Government. The licensee is to submit fortnightly returns of his transactions and to keep accurate and detailed accounts.

(Notification No. 112 D.C.S. dated 6-1-1943;
The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary,
Part I, dated 7-1-1943.) +

The Bombay Essential Articles Restricted
Acquisition Order, 1943.

The Bombay Government has, on 19-1-1943, issued the Essential Articles Restricted Acquisition Order, 1943, which provides that no person shall, except under the authority of a licence granted by the Provincial Government, acquire any "essential article" if by so doing the quantity thereof in his possession or under his control shall exceed the normal requirement of his household or establishment for a period of one month, or such other period as may be justified by special circumstances. Dealers and stockists are also required to see that their customers do not acquire the articles in excess of their quota. "Essential articles" covered are wheat and wheat products, rice, Jowar and bajra. The Order comes into force in the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District from 19-1-1943, and may later be extended to other parts of the Presidency

(Notification No. 401-I, dated 19-1-1943,
The Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary,
dated 20th January 1943). +

The Sind Passenger Lifts Control Order, 1943.

In order to minimise the consumption of electrical energy in the Province, the Government of Sind has adopted the Sind Passenger Lifts Control Order, 1943, according to which no licensee should supply energy for the purpose of a passenger lift in any building, serving up to two floors or under (excluding the ground floor) and no consumer should use any energy for such purpose. Lifts in Government buildings, hospitals and nursing homes are exempted from the Order. It comes into force on 10-2-43 in the Municipal and Cantonment limits of the City of Karachi in the first instance, but the Provincial Government may bring it into force in any other area from such date as may be notified later.

(Notification., No. 5060-M, dated 28-1-1943;
The Sind Government Gazette, dated 28th January
1943). +

The British Baluchistan Motor Transport Control Order, 1943.

The Chief Commissioner, British Baluchistan, has gazetted the British Baluchistan Motor Transport Control Order, 1943, according to which owners of motor transport vehicles are required to get permits from the Provincial Motor Transport Controller for engaging their vehicles in specified trades. No alteration is to be made in the specific trade in which any motor vehicle is engaged without the sanction of the Controller.

(Notification No. 82/2-42/M.V., dated 21-1-1943;
The Gazette of India, Part III-A, dated 30-1-1943)

Government Scheme for Production and Distribution of Standard Cloth: Decisions of Bombay Meeting.

As the result of discussions between the Commerce Member, Government of India, and textile interests in Bombay in December, 1942, a draft was prepared of a statutory order dealing with the production and distribution of standard cloth and forwarded to the provincial Governments and textile interests to ascertain their reaction to the scheme; for final consideration of the matter a meeting took place in Bombay on 31-1-1943, between the Standard Cloth Advisory Panel and the Government of India.

Government Proposals.— The Indian Standard Cloth Board, which it was proposed to form, is to have statutory powers to require any mill to produce a prescribed quantity of standard cloth and sell it to approved dealers on a terms determined by the Board with the consent of the Central Government. An interesting feature of the scheme is the proposal to establish a price equalization fund to enable the price of cloth to be maintained over the specified period. The Board is to create this fund by charging dealers a fee not exceeding 5% of the price charged by the mill for standard cloth. The Board is to allot quotas for distribution in various areas and will maintain a register of approved dealers. Only approved dealers are to receive supply from the mill or offer it for retail sale. No person authorised to buy and use standard cloth is to be allowed to have at a time more than 10 yards of standard cloth per person; such persons can obtain a fresh supply only after a prescribed period. Only an authorized person is to have legal right to receive or sell standard cloth.

The two executive officers of the Board are to be the Standard Cloth Commissioner and the Secretary of the Board. Both will be Government officers. The Board may constitute local boards to arrange for the distribution of cloth among approved dealers, to make such dealers open shops in convenient centres, to supervise and inspect the distribution of cloth by approved dealers, and to inspect mills producing standard cloth. The local boards may appoint their own staff and guaranteed brokers.

Decisions of Bombay Meeting.— The meeting was presided over by the Hon. Mr. N. R. Sarker, Commerce Member, Government of India, and was attended by officials of the Cotton Textiles Directorate and representatives of millowners from all over India.

An agreement to reserve sixty per cent. of the capacity of the Indian cotton textile industry to meet the demands of the Government of India on account of defence requirements and standard cloth for the poor and the lower middle class was reached at this meeting. It is estimated that on the basis of the present requirements of the Supply

Supply Department, 35 percent of the loom capacity of the cotton mills will be available for manufacturing standard cloth amounting to about 1,500 million yards a year. At a beginning, it has been decided to manufacture 50 million yards of standard cloth during the quarter ending April 30, 1943, and to increase the orders progressively in the light of experience gained. The purchase price will be reviewed by the Government of India every quarter in the light of the changes in the cost of production. Efforts will be made to secure the co-operation of Indian States with a view to their eventual participation in the scheme. The scheme is expected to be in operation within a month before which minor details will, it is hoped, be worked out in consultation with Provincial Governments.

The main features of the scheme, which was approved unanimously at the meeting, envisage the constitution of a Standard Cloth Advisory Panel on the lines of the Textile Advisory Panel attached to the Cotton Textile Directorate. The panel will consist of representatives of the industry and a maximum number of four nominees of the Central Government to represent other interests. Its main duty will be to advise the Government of India on questions affecting the manufacture, transport, distribution and sale of standard cloth. The executive officer will be known as Standard Cloth Commissioner. He will work in coordination with the officers of the Department of Supply. There will be Regional Commissioners under him to supervise administration of the scheme in various provinces. The responsibility of distributing the cloth will be that of the respective Provincial Governments, though the Central Government has reserved the ~~right~~ right of direction and supervision. Provincial Advisory Committees consisting of both official and non-official representatives will be ~~set up to advise the respective Provincial Governments on the question of distribution.~~ Though no decision has been taken on the method of distribution, it is learnt that efforts will be made as far as possible to distribute the cloth through existing trade channels and through industrial and employers' organisations.

(The Statesman, 5-1-1943, and
The Times of India, 2-2-1943). +

Industrial Disputes.

Industrial Disputes in Bengal: Employers' demand minimum intervention by Government. +

The present policy of the Government of Bengal regarding industrial disputes in the province was discussed when a deputation on behalf of the Bengal Millowners' Association met on 7-1-1943 Mr. M. K. Kripalani, Joint Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce and Labour Department. It was stressed by the deputationists that Governmental intervention in the matter of industrial disputes should be kept at the indispensable minimum and that action should on no account be taken under the special powers conferred by the Defence of India Act or Rules, except in extreme cases where no settlement was possible without the exercise of these powers. It was also emphasised that the employers and their associations should be given adequate notice for submission of their explanation before any action was taken by the Government in such matters.

Mr. Kripalani agreed with the views expressed by the deputationists and give them the assurance that their suggestions would be borne in mind when dealing with such cases in future.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-1-1943). +

Joint Adjudication in Industrial Disputes: Government to amend
Defence of India Rules.

Legislation for joint adjudication in a trade dispute affecting a number of undertakings under different managements in the same industry or type of business is sought in an amendment proposed to be made by the Government to the Defence of India Rules. Government thinks that the proposal will avoid loss of time and dislocation caused by emergence of separate disputes covering similar issues in a number of similar undertakings. It considers that discretion might be given to an ~~adjudicator~~ adjudicator to include, subject to certain conditions, any other undertaking in adjudication proceedings if the employer or an association representing the workers of the undertaking applies for such inclusion despite the fact that no trade dispute actually exists at the time in that undertaking.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-1-1943).r

Safety Measures

Civil Defence Conference, New Delhi, 25 and 26-1-1943:
Labour's Plea for Adequate Air-Raid Shelters and Food Supply

A Civil Defence Conference, convened by the Government of India, was held at New Delhi on 25 and 26-1-1943, the Hon'ble Sir J.P. Srinivastava, Civil Defence Member, Government of India, presiding.

At the Conference, the whole subject of co-operation between public and the official organization for civil defence was discussed. There was general agreement that the already wide contact between the official and non-official sides of the movement should be further widened. Various suggestions for attaining this end were made, but no formal resolutions were passed.

Maj.-General E. Wood placed before the conference the plans of the Central Government for dealing with the food situation, and these also were discussed. Mr. R. Mukherji, speaking on behalf of the workers, pointed out that labour demanded two things, namely, a sense of security from air raids and adequate food supply. He pleaded also for adequate air-raid shelters which, he said, were an important factor which inspired a sense of security.

(The Hindustan Times, 25-1-1943 and
The Statesman, 27-1-1943.).

List of the more important publications received in this office during
January 1943

Conditions of Work.-

Government of India: Department of Labour, Annual Report on the working of the Payment of Wages Act (IV) of 1936 on Railways, including a Note on the Employment of Children Act, 1938, during the year 1940-42 by Mr. Abbas Khaleeli, I.C.S., Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1942. Price As. 7 or 8d.

Migration.-

- (1) Annual Report of the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa for the year ending 31st December, 1941. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. Re. 1 or 1s. 6d.
- (2) Review of important events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during the year 1941-42. (Publication of the Department of Indian Overseas, Government of India).

Public Health.-

Asansol Mines Board of Health - Annual Administration Report for 1941-42. Printed by Minerva Press, Asansol. 1942.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) An Essay on the Nature and Purpose of Economic Activity (Being the text of an Inaugural Lecture) by Professor V.K.R.V. Rao, University of Delhi, Delhi. 1943.
- (2) Bulletin No. 1 - Thirty-Eighth. Department of Statistics. Statistical Abstract of the Baroda State from 1931-32 to ~~1939~~ 1940-41. Baroda. Printed at the Baroda State Press. 1942. Price Re. 1/6/-.

(in December 1942)

The following is the full text of the broadcast talk of the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on "Why Indian Labour is determined to win this War" from the Bombay station of A.I.R.:-

There is to be a series of broadcasts by persons who are connected with and interested in Labour. My talk tonight is the first of this series. The subject of my talk is of a general sort. It is to serve as an introduction to the series. The title I have chosen for the subject is "Why Indian Labour is determined to win this War". There is one fact which must arrest the attention of all. It relates to the attitude of Indian Labour towards the War. In the midst of this sudden surge of non-cooperation with and opposition to the war effort which we are witnessing in India, Labour has been actively co-operating in the prosecution of the war. Of this there can be no question. This, Labour has done and is determined to do notwithstanding the many efforts that are being made to dissuade it from doing.

WHAT LABOUR WANTS

During the war Labour has secured many gains and will no doubt secure many more. As pointed out by me recently, Labour has obtained security through legislation. It has obtained the right to safety, care and attention, through the conditions of welfare which have been enforced by the Central Government upon the Employers for the benefit of Labour. But, if Labour is determined to do its utmost to accelerate the war effort, it is not simply because of the lure of these immediate gains. There are other and stronger reasons which are at the base of this determination. Labour is not content with securing merely fair conditions of work. What Labour wants is fair conditions of life. Let me explain what Labour means by fair conditions of life.

LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY.

Labour wants liberty. There is perhaps nothing new in this. What is new is Labour's conception of liberty. Labour's conception of liberty is not merely the negative conception of absence of restraint. Nor is Labour's conception of liberty confined to the mere recognition of the right of the people to vote. Labour's conception of liberty is very positive. It involves the idea of Government by the people. Government by the people, in the opinion of Labour, does not mean Parliamentary Democracy.

Parliamentary Democracy is a form of Government in which the function of the people has come to be to vote for their masters and leave them to rule. Such a scheme of Government, in the opinion of Labour, is a travesty of Government by the people. Labour wants Government which is Government by the people in name as well as in fact. Secondly, liberty as conceived by Labour includes the right to equal opportunity and the duty of the State to provide the fullest facilities for growth to every individual according to his needs.

Labour wants equality. By equality Labour means abolition of privileges of every kind - in law, in the civil service, in the Army, in taxation, in trade and in industry: in fact the abolition of all processes which lead to inequality.

Labour wants fraternity. By fraternity it means an all-pervading sense of human brotherhood, unifying all classes and all nations, with "peace on earth and goodwill towards man" as its motto.

THE NAZI NEW ORDER

These are Labour's ideals. They constitute the New Order, the establishment of which alone can save humanity from destruction. How can this New Order be established if the Allied Nations lose the war? That is the

supreme question which Labour knows it would be fatal to shirk or to avoid. Can this New Order be established by sitting idle and refusing to fight? Labour believes that Victory for the Allied Nations is the only hope of such a New Order coming into being. If the Allies fail, sure enough there will be a New Order. But the New Order will be no other than the Nazi Order. It will be an Order in which liberty will be found to be suppressed, equality denied, and fraternity expurgated as a pernicious doctrine.

This is by no means the whole of the Nazi New Order. There are parts of Nazi Order which must compel every Indian to give anxious thought to its dangers, no matter what his religion, his caste and his political faith. The most important part is the one which enunciates the creed of racial gradation. This is the principal dictum in the Nazi Order. The Nazis regard the German Race as the Race of Superman. They are pleased to place the other White Race below the German race. But to the Brown Races - and Indians are included in this category - they give the last place in the gradation. As though this is not humiliating enough, the Nazis have declared that the Brown Races shall be the serfs of the Germans and the White Races. They are not to have education, they are not to have any liberty - political or economic.

"A DIRECT MENACE"

The fury with which the British Government has been denounced by Hitler in his Mein Kampf for having given Indians education and political liberty, is quite well known. The Nazi ideology is a direct menace to the liberty and freedom of Indians. Given this fact, there is the strongest reason why Indians should come forward to fight Nazism. No one who compares the Nazi Order with the New Order which Labour has in view, can have any doubt that Labour, in making up its determination to fight for the Allies and to defeat and destroy Nazism, has taken up a position which is the only position which all sensible people can take. There are, however, people who refuse to take this view.

There are some who think that they do not mind a Nazi victory and the coming of the New Nazi Order. Fortunately, not many of these are to be found in the country. Those who take this view are not serious themselves. Nobody takes them seriously. They are embittered politicians who will not be satisfied unless they are allowed to dictate their ways and whose motto is "allier nothing".

There are pacifists who argue that all wars are wrong. They argue that the troubles of the world are largely due to the wars that have devastated and defaced human civilisation which men have built up at the cost of so much human effort. This is true. But in spite of all this, Labour refuses to accept pacifism as a principle of life. Wars cannot be abolished by merely refusing to fight when attacked. Peace obtained by surrender to the forces of violence is not peace. It is an act of suicide for which it is difficult to find any justification. It is a sacrifice of all that is noble and necessary for maintaining a worthy human life to the forces of savagery and barbarism.

Surrender is not Labour's way to abolish war. Only two things will, in the opinion of Labour, abolish war. One is to win the war and the other is to establish a just peace. In the view of Labour both are equally important. Labour holds that the origin of war does not lie in man's thirst for blood. The origin of war is to be found in the vile peace that victors often impose upon the vanquished. According to Labour, the duty of the pacifist is not to sulk and to refuse to fight when war is on. Labour believes that the duty of the pacifist is to be active and alert both when the war is on and also when the terms of peace are being forged. The

pacifist fails to do the right thing at the right time. The pacifists are active against war when war is on. They are inactive and indifferent when the war is over and peace is being made. In this way pacifists lose both, war as well as peace. If Labour proposes to fight this war, it is because pacifism is not the Labour's way of abolishing war.

FRENCH REVOLUTION RECALLED

There are pessimists who say that there is no guarantee that victory will be followed by a New Order. There is perhaps room for this pessimism. The New Order, which is the ideal of labour, has its roots in the French Revolution. The French Revolution gave rise to two principles - the principle of self-government and the principle of self-determination. The principle of self-government expresses the desire of the people to rule ~~themselves~~ rather than be ruled by others whether the rulers be absolute monarchs, dictators, or privileged classes. It is called 'democracy'.

The principle of self-determination expresses the desire of a people united by common ideals and common purposes to decide, without ~~xxxx~~ external compulsion, ~~its~~ political status - whether independence, interdependence, or union with other peoples of the world. This is called nationalism. The hope of humanity was centred on the fructification of these principles. Unfortunately, after a lapse of nearly 140 years, these principles ~~x~~ have failed to take root. The old regime has continued either in all its nakedness or by making sham concessions to these two principles. Barring a few countries, there was neither self-government nor self-determination in the world. All this, of course, is true. But this is no argument against the attitude taken by Labour - namely, that the preliminary conditions for the establishment of the New Order is victory over the forces of Nazism. All that this means is that Labour must be more vigilant and that the war must not stop with victory over Nazis, but there must be no peace unless there is victory over the Old Order wherever it is found.

LABOUR AND NATIONALISM

More serious opponents of Labour are, of course, the Nationalists. They accuse Labour of taking an attitude which is said to be inconsistent with and injurious to Indian nationalism. Their second objection is that Labour agrees to fight for the war without getting any assurance about India's independence. These are questions so often posed and so seriously argued that it is necessary to state what Labour thinks of them.

As to nationalism, Labour's attitude is quite clear. Labour is not prepared to make a fetish of nationalism. If nationalism means the worship of the ancient past - the discarding of everything that is not local in origin and colour - then Labour cannot accept nationalism as its creed. Labour cannot allow the living faith of the dead to become the dead faith of the living. Labour will not allow the ever expanding spirit of man to be strangled by the hand of the past which has no meaning for the present and no hope for the future; nor will it allow it to be cramped in a narrow jacket of local particularism. Labour must constantly insist upon renovating the life of the people by being ever ready to borrow in order to repair, transform and recreate the body politic. If nationalism stands in the way of this rebuilding and reshaping of life, then Labour must deny nationalism.

Labour's creed is internationalism. Labour is interested in nationalism only because the wheels of democracy - such as representative Parliaments, responsible executive, constitutional conventions, etc. - work better in a community united by national sentiments. Nationalism to Labour is only a means to an end. It is not an end in itself to

which Labour can agree to sacrifice what it regards as the most essential principles of life.

INDEPENDENCE: A WRONG APPROACH

As to independence, Labour fully recognises its ~~and~~ importance. But Labour thinks that there is a wrong approach to the question of independence and a misunderstanding about its importance. The independence of a nation ex hypothesi does not tie it up to any particular form of government or organisation of society. External independence is quite compatible with internal slavery.

Independence means nothing more than that a nation has liberty to determine its form of government and its social order without dictation from outside. The worth of independence depends upon the kind of government and the kind of society that is built up. There is not much value in independence if the form of government and the order of society are to be those against which the world is fighting today. Labour thinks that more emphasis ought to have been placed on New India - and less on 'Quit India'. The appeal of a New India with a New Order is bound to be greater than the appeal of independence. Indeed the vision of a New Order in a New India would very greatly strengthen determination to win freedom. Such an approach would certainly have stopped the many embarrassing questions which are being asked, namely, freedom for what and freedom for whom.

Secondly, immediate realisation of independence as a condition for support to the war effort, Labour finds it difficult to understand. This condition marks a sudden development in the attitude of some people to the war effort, and could be justified only if there was any sudden conspiracy to rob India of her right to freedom. But there is no evidence of any such conspiracy. Nor can such a conspiracy, if there were any, succeed no matter who the conspirators are. In the view of Labour no one can deprive India of her right to freedom if she demands it with the combined strength of a united people. If India's independence is in the balance, it is because of disunity among Indians. The enemies of India's independence are Indians and no others.

LABOUR AND WAR

Labour's attitude to this war is framed after a full realisation of what is involved in the war. Labour is aware that it must win the war as well as peace, if war is to be banished from the world. Labour is aware that it is not enough to defeat the Nazis and to destroy the possibilities of the New Nazi Order coming into being. Labour is aware that, if this is a war against the New Nazi Order, it is not a war for the Old Order. It is a war on both the Old Order and the Nazi Order. Labour is aware that the only compensation for the cost of this war is the establishment of a New Order in which liberty, equality and fraternity, will not be mere slogans but will become facts of life. But the question of all questions is how can the hope of this New Order materialise? On this question labour is quite emphatic. Labour insists that for the materialisation of all these ideals there is one condition that is primary - and ~~that~~ that is success in the war. Without success in the war there can be no self-government and self-determination for India. Without victory in the war, independence will be idle twaddle. This is the reason why Labour is determined to win this war.

TWO FEATURES OF PRESENT WAR

This war is full of potentialities for good. It promises to give birth to a New Order. Labour finds that this war is different from other wars. There are two features which distinguish it from other wars. In the

first place, this war is not altogether a war for the division of the world's territory amongst the most powerful nations of the world as the preceding wars have been. In this war, the division of the world's territory is not the only cause. This is a war in which there is a conflict of ideologies relating to the forms and systems of Government under which humanity is to live. In the second place, this war is not altogether a mere war as other wars have been. Its object is not merely to defeat the enemy, to march on to his capital and to dictate a peace. This war besides being a war is also a revolution - a revolution which demands a fundamental change in the terms of associated life between man and man and between nation and nation. It is a revolution which calls for a revision of the terms of associated life - a replanning of the society. In this sense it is a people's war, and if it is not, it could and should be made into a people's war.

Given these facts, Labour cannot be indifferent to this war and to its outcome. Labour is aware how the efforts in the past for the establishment of a New Order have been frustrated time and again. That is because democracy, after it was brought into being, was left in Tory hands. If the people of the world take care to see that this mistake is not committed again in future, Labour believes that by fighting this war and establishing the New Order the world can be made safe for democracy.

CORRECT LEADERSHIP

The country needs a lead and the question is who can give this lead. I venture to say that Labour is capable of giving to the country the lead it needs. Correct leadership apart from other things requires idealism and free thought. Idealism is possible for the Aristocracy, though free thought is not. Idealism and free thought are both possible for Labour. But neither idealism nor free thought is possible for the middle-class. The middle-class does not possess the liberality of the Aristocracy, which is necessary to welcome and nourish an ideal. It does not possess the hunger for the New Order, which is the hope on which the labouring classes live. Labour, therefore, has a very distinct contribution to make in bringing about a return to the sane and safe ways of the past which Indians had been pursuing to reach their political destiny. Labour's lead to India and Indians is to get into the fight and be united. The fruit of victory will be independence and a New Social Order. For such a victory all must fight. Then the fruits of victory will be the patrimony of all, and there will be none to deny the rights of a united India to share in that patrimony.

("Indian Information", January, 1, 1943.)

The following is the full text of the broadcast talk of Mr. H.C. Prior on "Government and Labour" given on 7-12-1942 from the Delhi Station of A.I.R.:-

Today I am giving the third of a series of talks by representatives of Government on labour matters - and my subject is "Government and Labour". In the first two talks reasons have been given why Labour is, and must remain, determined to aid by its work the task of the allied nations, the defeat of the Nazis, and the establishment of that peace which (in the words of the International Labour Organization) "can be established only if it is based on social justice". That is Labour's aim and this evening I want to try and explain to you the steps which Government is taking to help labour to work alongside of Government and employers to achieve that end.

2. I must explain first what I mean by Government. In this vast

country of India there are three distinct types of Government - the Central Government, Provincial Governments, and State Governments - all three have responsibilities in Labour matters, all three - as I shall subsequently show - now meet together to evolve a common policy and the manner of carrying it out, but it is of the Central Government that I must mainly speak and of what they are trying to do and of the broad lines of policy they are trying to develop. That policy must in war time, and in view of the avowed policy of labour and of us all, clearly be a policy ~~conducive~~ conducive to maximum war production, and I think it can be summed up in these few words -

"Full and free contact between Government, Employers, and Labour, steady production and fair conditions of work for all."

That is a comprehensive policy and I intend to discuss separately the two parts into which it falls.

3. First, "full and free contact between Government, employer, and labour" - or, to use a different phrase, collaboration and the development of collaborative machinery. Collaboration is the very antithesis of the Fascist creed; it involves contacts, consultation and discussions. The collaboration I refer to is tripartite, between Government, employer and labour. Such collaboration is however not possible unless there is full and free contact between employer and employee - such contact is essential to industrial progress and from such contact follows naturally collective bargaining and consultation between organised bodies of employers and employed. But if such consultation is to be secured it is necessary that labour should develop a sound trade union movement. The development of trade unions on sound lines ensures the development of contact between employer and employee. By such development labour can be more easily bring its point of view to the notice of the management, while the management itself can explain matters more easily to its labour. India's trade union movement is not yet strong and many trade unions that exist are not affiliated to the main All-India Associations - but Government recognise that the development of trade unionism means more opportunities for contact and they are therefore fully committed in their policy to the encouragement of a sound trade union movement. Such a movement will encourage the settlement of matters that arise for decision directly between employer and employee - that is the ideal - but there are inevitably other matters which at times need attention and which may become the responsibility of Government.

Many of these matters, the settlement of individual disputes and such like are (except in the case of Central Government undertakings) the responsibilities of the provinces dealt with by their Labour Commissioners, but others may raise matters of policy which have an India-wide importance and which may require central guidance and central legislation. In such matters the Central Government have always had the advantage of advice from Provincial Governments, but they have recently adopted two methods of securing further contacts so as to have the earliest information and the best advice to help them in dealing with such problems.

The first of these methods is the appointment of Labour WELFARE Officers - Mr. Nimbkar and his assistants. These officers will help Government to keep contact with labour and with employers; they are not there to settle any individual disputes that may have arisen between employers and labour - that is for the Governments concerned, but they are there to explain to labour and to employers what Government is doing, and to bring to the notice of Government what employers and labour are thinking.

The second method which Government have adopted for maintaining the closest contact with labour problems is the establishment of the Tripartite Plenary Conference and the Standing Labour Committee. This is an important development, one following closely the lines of the International Labour Organisation at Geneva, and at our meeting of the Standing Labour Committee last week our Chairman, the Labour Member, read out the following message from the Director of the International Labour Office:-

"Have read with great interest of establishment Tripartite Organisation. Desire offer warm congratulations all parties concerned accomplishment this important step and assure you International Labour Office will be glad to give any possible assistance new organisation which cannot fail influence whole eastern world." The Plenary Conference is composed of representatives from Provinces, States, Employers and Employees, who will sit round one table and consider all matters concerning labour of all-India importance - it is essentially a tripartite in character and follows in many ways the Geneva precedent. It is a purely advisory body, but its deliberations labour will be able through their approved representatives to bring their points of view prominently to the notice of Government (whether Central, Provincial or State) and of employers. The Plenary Conference is however a large body and cannot meet very frequently, and there has therefore been created a Standing Labour Committee - smaller in size but having a similar tripartite composition. We had last week the first meeting of that Committee, and prominent labour leaders and representatives of ~~Government~~ employers sat together and discussed with representatives of Government the various problems of labour conditions in war-time, and I can assure you that those discussions were of the greatest interest and value, and will give us here in the Labour Department much to think about and act upon.

That then is one side of our policy - full and free contact by the development of sound trade unionism and collaborative machinery - but such development is not an end in itself, it is only a means by which to secure what I have referred to as the second half of our Government policy - continued production and fair conditions of work for all.

Mr. Nimbkar in his talk gave some account of the statutory labour code of this country. He has shown that that code is a fairly advanced labour code, and I do not propose to traverse that ground again. But I want to deal more with the manner in which Government is trying to adjust the conditions of that labour code to the conditions of war industry. War industry means a large increase in industrial output, and it is certain that where such an increase occurs some adjustments in conditions, some disputes and some causes of friction between labour and employer must inevitably occur. But the necessity of maintaining war production makes it essential to devise some system to ensure that disputes when they arise are settled without the necessity of resort to direct action. Any such system must give time to the interests concerned to get together and understand each other's point of view and attempt to arrive at a settlement. It must give time to Government to consider whether there are matters that can suitably be referred to some outside authority for an authoritative opinion. The procedure which Government have laid down provides for all of this - it requires a period of notice within which discussion and conciliation can take place; it requires a definite formulation of grievances and a period of time within which Government can consider whether it is advisable to refer those grievances to adjudication. It gives, therefore, the employee a double benefit - it prevents him from the loss of wages that so often follows direct action which ultimately proves unnecessary, while it gives him the opportunity of having any legitimate

grievances properly and quickly considered.

But though the procedure for a quick settlement of disputes is an important part of Government's policy, an even more important part is that of ensuring that conditions of work are such that labour can reasonably be expected to carry on working without resorting to disputes. Where, for instance, maintenance of war production necessitates exemptions from certain provisions of the factory laws, or some restrictions on movement of labour, it is necessary to be sure that such exemptions and restrictions do not impose hardship on labour- and provisions for this purpose are provided in our code.

Again a period ~~and~~ of industrial expansion inevitably means some increase in prices, and it is clear that, while care must be taken not to create an increased demand for an unexpanding supply of consumption goods, the lowest category of wage-earner must as far as possible be protected against any lowering of his standard of living. This means "dearness allowance" and the problem of dearness allowances is one which is constantly engaging the attention of Government. It was discussed at the meeting of the standing Labour Committee to which I ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxxx~~ have referred where frequent reference was made to the advisability of arriving at some measure of uniformity in dearness allowance policy.

Another matter of almost equal importance is to ensure to workers an adequate food supply. This too is engaging the constant attention of Government. They have asked Employers Associations to advise their ~~members to open fair-price grainshops~~ and numbers of such shops have been opened, and Government for their part are doing what they can to secure for such fair-price grainshops adequate stocks of grain. Employers must of course continue to use their best endeavours to secure grain for these shops, but where this proves impossible Provincial Governments have been asked to do what they can to help.

Again some two years ago when the dangers of war were still far from the coasts of India Government recognised their responsibility for seeing that under war conditions workers in factories were adequately protected from the risks of air raids. Adequate ~~protection is~~ the Government policy and Government have provided a team of experts to ensure that adequate protection designed on the latest approved lines is available for all.

These are some of the matters specially concerned with war industry which constantly claim our attention, but Government are not forgetting their continued responsibility for improving their peacetime code. Sickness may occur in war as in peace and we are pushing on our examination with the possibilities of a scheme of sickness insurance. A proposal to introduce legislation to provide for some holidays with pay is under examination, and it is in matters such as these that we hope that the collaborative machinery we have now set up will enable us to achieve more rapid progress.

The war has led to a spread of collaboration in labour matters throughout all countries that oppose the Fascist powers. I think I have shown that India is sharing with other countries in that progress which we all hope will lead the way to a true "peace based on the principles of social justice."

(Reproduced from a copy of the text supplied to this Office by Mr. Prior).