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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN MARCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in March 1944
(Report for March 1944)

Each section of this Report may be taken out separately.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION.

Government of India:

The Factories Amendment Bill,
1944.

A Bill to make certain amendments in the Indian Factories Act, 1934, was introduced by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, in the Central Legislative Assembly on 3-3-44. The amendments proposed are:

1. The occupier of a factory should, before commencement of work in a factory, send to the Factories Inspector information on such particulars as may be prescribed in addition to those already specified by the Act.

2. Washing facilities should be ~~provided~~ provided in all factories without distinction as to whether workers come in contact with injurious or obnoxious substances or not.

3. Rules may be made for providing sufficient means of escape in case of fire. (A recent Bombay High Court decision had held that existing rules are ultra vires of the Act) ; and

4. Evening time limit up to which women and children may be employed in factories should be extended by one hour from the existing limit of 30 P.M. to 8.30, for the period of the war.

(Gazette of India dated 4-3-1944,
Part V, pages 54-55).

The Coal Mines Safety (Stowing)
Amendment Act, 1944, (Act No. III
of 1944).

Reference was made at page 1 of our report for February, 1944, to the passing of the Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Amendment Bill by the Central Legislature. The Bill as passed by the Legislature received the assent of the Governor General on 7-3-44 and has been published as an Act at page 17 of the Gazette of India dated 18-3-44, part IV.

(Gazette of India, dated 18-3-44,
part IV, page 17).

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SOCIAL POLICY.

Labour Policy of Government of India:
Cut Motion in the Central Assembly . ✓

On 16-3-1944, Mr. N.M. Joshi moved a cut in the General Budget to discuss the Labour Department's policy. He declared that labour conditions worsened during the war, and objected to the permissive increase in the hours of work in industries, and said that labour was so plentiful in India that if the Government wanted to increase war production they could have introduced the system of shifts and paid the workers better. He complained that the Dearness Allowance Committee's report had not yet been published. Seasonal unemployment resulted in this country, he said, because of shortage of coal or other reasons, for which labour was not responsible; Government should pay compensation in these cases. A strong representative committee should be appointed to consider labour questions and to suggest bold measures for a "Beveridge Plan" for labour. He also wanted a full-time Labour Minister.

Mrs. Subbaroyan, as one of the advisers to the Government of India, participated in the I.L. Conference in 1934 which banned employment of women underground in coal mines, spoke of the "grave breach of international convention" committed by the Government of India when they permitted women to work underground in coal mines. She complained that Government ignored workers' grievance until they made a sufficiently strong demand, and then put the leaders in prison. She went on to describe the conditions of women engaged in making ball-thread in Delhi, who, she said, worked from seven in the morning to seven at night to earn not more than six or eight annas a day. She demanded the enforcing of the Factories Act in these ball-thread institutions.

Mr. Jemmedas Mehta urged that the tripartite conference of employers, workers and the Government should be brought up to the level of the International Labour Conference, so that its decisions would be binding on the Government. He went on to deal with the grievances of men in certain departments of the Central Government.

Dr. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, pointed out that conditions of labour in this country were largely governed by the industrial development of the country, over which the Government had hardly any control. He said that when he examined the Government of India's war-time labour legislation, which had the effect of restricting the liberty of labour, he found that two new principles had emerged. The first was that Government of India for the first time had taken upon itself the responsibility of fixing conditions under which labour might be employed. The second important principle was compulsory arbitration, which, he suggested, was a great advance on conditions in which the working classes resorted to strikes and after months of misery were in many cases forced to go back to work on the employers' own conditions.

Dr. Ambedkar reiterated that he was indeed unhappy about the permission given for the employment of women underground and that he assured the House once again that he was taking every possible step to increase the labour force and increase coal output so that he might be in position to reimpose the ban.

Mr. Joshi withdrew his motion.

(The Statesman, dated 17-3-1944). ✓

Labour Welfare work in the United
Provinces. ✓

In his annual review of the welfare work of the U.P. Labour Department, Mr. M.C. Pant, Labour Officer, United Provinces Government, points out that, apart from initiating welfare work inside mills and workmen's settlements, employers could help the Labour Department a great deal by constructing buildings and providing other necessary requisites for their workers. He emphasises the need of setting up machinery for co-ordinating Government's and employers' welfare activities and suggests that all those engaged in welfare work should meet periodically for exchange of views.

During the year the number of labour welfare centres rose from 7 to 24. A Lady Welfare Superintendent had been appointed to look after the needs of women workers and a game supervisor to encourage sports and scouting among workers' children. Of the 4 A class centres 3 were at Jawnpore and one at Agra.

(Vanguard, dated 10-3-1944) ✓

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General.

Conditions of Work in Indian
Railways, 1942 - 1943.*

The following details regarding the conditions of work of railway
employees in India during 1942-1943 are taken from Vol.I of the Railway
Reports for the year on Indian Railways.

Number of Employees.- The total number of employees (permanent and
temporary) on all Indian Railways and in the office of the Railway Board
and other offices subordinate thereto (excluding staff employed on construc-
tion) at the end of the year 1942-43 was 826,046 as compared with 757,706 at
the end of 1941-42. The total route mileage at the end of the year was
15,000 miles. The following table shows the number (revised) of employees by
nationalities on the 31st March 1942 and 1943.

	31st March 1942	31st March 1943
Employees	1,918	1,833
Classes other than Depressed Classes.	427,154	464,091
Depressed Classes	117,706	133,277
Others	172,685	190,352
Indians and Domiciled Europeans.	12,260	12,271
British Christians	8,705	9,368
Muslims	20,039	20,848
Hindus	1,566	1,572
Other Communities	1,703	2,434
Total	757,706	826,046

The total number of staff employed (excluding contractors' labour) on
open lines of State and Company-managed Railways increased by 67,371
during the year, and the number of construction staff increased by 310 while
the number of staff on loan from the Indian Audit and Accounts Service
increased by 1. The total cost of staff including that of staff on loan from
the Indian Audit and Accounts Service increased by Rs. 72,972,504 during
the year. Increases were recorded both in the numbers and cost of staff
on State-owned Railways. The general increase in numbers was due to
employment of additional staff to cope with the increased traffic and the
increase in cost was due to the grant of enhanced rate of dearness allowance
and the payment of military compensatory and ration allowances to staff
employed in Defence of India Military Units in certain areas.

Indianisation of Staff.- The Indian element in the superior services
has risen from 41.14 per cent. on State-managed and 33.76 per cent. on
Company-managed Railways in 1934 (revised due to the transfer of management
of the B. Railway and B.B. & C.I. Railway to the State in that year) to 65.43
per cent. on State-managed and 60.04 per cent. on Company-managed Railways
in 1943. In subordinate services the Indian element has risen from

Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). Report by the
Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1942-43, Volume I. Published by the
Director of Publications, Delhi. 1943. Price: Rs. 1-10-0 or 2s.6d.
lv + 36.

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50 per cent on State-managed railways and 80.23 per cent in Company-managed railways in 1934 (revised) to 89.43 per cent on State-managed railways and 93.3 per cent on Company-managed railways in 1943.

Representation of Minority Communities in Subordinate Services.- During the year under review, the Muslim and Anglo-Indian communities did not obtain their quotas of the permanent and temporary appointments. The Muslims could also obtain their full quota of permanent appointments, though they obtained more than the percentage prescribed for them in temporary posts. The reason for their deficiency in the former category was the failure of Bengal & North Western and Bengal Nagpur Railways to recruit Muslims up to their respective quotas. The State-managed Railways were, however, able to recruit Muslims in excess of their reservations, in respect of permanent posts, though not in regard to temporary posts. The general shortage in the percentage of recruitment of these minority communities is due to the poor response from members of these communities to advertisements. It was mentioned in last year's report that orders could not be issued during that year on the recommendations of Mr. Frank D'Souza, who was placed on special leave in 1939 to review the working of the rules and orders relating to the representation of minority communities in the services of State-managed railways. During the year under review, orders were issued to Railway Administrations on the recommendations contained in the report after making due consideration the views of the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

One of the recommendations of Mr. Frank D'Souza was to the effect that separate machinery should be set up for the recruitment of Railway subordinates. This recommendation was discussed with the Central Advisory Council for Railways, after which it was decided to establish, as an experimental measure for two years in the first instance, a Commission directly under the Railway Board to deal with the recruitment of subordinates on the North Western Railway. The Commission which consists of a Chairman and two members is located at Lahore and it commenced functioning with effect from 1st July 1942. The periodical reports received from the Chairman of the Commission show that this machinery is being established on a sound basis. At the end of two years, the position will be reviewed before deciding on the final policy in the matter.

Anti-corruption Drive.- Special steps were taken during the year for the apprehension and punishment of railway officials guilty of corrupt practices in the discharge of their duties. Special police and railway staff have been employed for this purpose and a number of convictions have been obtained in the courts while some cases have been put up before Special Tribunals set up by Government to deal with cases of corruption on Railways and in other departments.

Meetings with A-I.R.F.- Two meetings were held between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation during the year under review - special meeting on the 13th April 1942 and the 21st half-yearly meeting on the 16th August 1942. The responsibilities of railway workers during war-time were discussed at the former meeting and the Federation offered the whole-hearted co-operation of all railwaymen in maintaining the normal working of the railways. At the latter meeting, (a) dearness allowance, (b) extension of provident fund benefits, (c) staff problems in the present emergency, (d) pass rules, (e) application of the hours of employment regulations to running staff and (f) the grievances of certain categories of staff on the Bengal and Assam, the North Western and the East Indian Railways were discussed.

Grain Shops.- By the end of 1941-42 scarcity conditions in many parts of the country dictated a wide expansion of the grain shops organisation which had begun to operate on two railways in the middle of 1941. Early in the year under review, detailed instructions were issued to all railway

Administrations on the general lines on which the organisation should be set up. In February 1943, the Central Government announced the principle that essential personnel had a ~~pre~~ prior claim in the distribution of available supplies as a corollary to the principle which had already been laid down as to the ultimate responsibility of the Provincial Government for feeding of ~~the~~ the population within the Province, including all ~~municipal~~ municipal services. During the year under review, there was considerable difficulty in obtaining supplies through Provincial Governments, but railways through their own efforts and through some ad hoc allotments made by the Central Government, were enabled to expand the organisation of grain shops and their systems. At the end of the year there were about 160 grain shops including some mobile vans catering to about 500,000 employees. The commodities dealt with were mainly staple foodgrains, although other miscellaneous articles were also put on sale on some railways. ~~From~~ Towards the end of the year it was also decided to obtain special allotments of hard cloth for sale to the lower-paid employees of railways.

Dearness Allowance.- It was mentioned in last year's report that dearness allowance at certain revised rates was sanctioned with effect from November 1941, the scope of the allowance being also considerably extended. In view of further rise in the cost of living, after consultation with representatives of organised labour as on the previous two occasions, rates were issued in August 1942 further raising, with effect from 15th August 1942, the rates of dearness allowance and again enlarging its scope, bringing them up to the following:-

- (1) Within the municipal limits of a city having a population of not less than 250,000 inhabitants according to the census of 1941. Rs. 10-8 per mensem to those drawing pay of Rs. 120 per mensem and under.
- (2) Within the municipal limits of a town having a population of 50,000 or more but less than 250,000 inhabitants according to the census of 1941, and certain other selected areas. Rs. 8-12 per mensem to those drawing pay of Rs. 90 per mensem and under.
- (3) Other areas Rs. 7 per mensem to those drawing Rs. 60 per mensem and under.

In view of the further rise in the cost of living, the above rates of dearness allowance were again raised with effect from the 1st February 1943, as follows:-

- (1) Within the municipal limits of Bombay, Calcutta and Cawnpore and such of their suburbs as had previously been included in the areas referred to in (1) above. Rs. 16 per mensem to those drawing pay of Rs. 200 per mensem and under.
- (2) Areas other than those specified in (1) above, within the municipal limits of a city having a population of not less than 250,000 inhabitants according to the census of 1941 or an area specially so declared. Rs. 14 per mensem to those drawing pay of Rs. 175 per mensem and below.
- (3) Within the municipal limits of a town having a population of 50,000 or more but less than 250,000 inhabitants according to the census of 1941 or an area specially so declared. Rs. 11 per mensem to those drawing pay of Rs. 120 per mensem and below.
- (4) Areas not included in (a) to (c) above. Rs. 8 per mensem to those drawing pay of Rs. 90 per mensem and below.

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At the close of the year the scale of allowance stood as indicated by which time relief in kind of the staff was developing by the organization of cheap grain shops.

Railway Military Units.- During the early part of 1942 when India was ~~confronted with invasion~~, the question of maintaining railway operation assumed supreme importance. One of the vital factors in this connection was morale of the staff, and all measures that could be taken to sustain and improve it received anxious consideration. In consultation with, and the suggestion of, the War Department, Government, decided that the most effective course was to organise the staff on a military basis. A scheme **Railway (Defence of India) Units** was therefore introduced in certain parts of the country.

As the primary aim was to maintain railway services, the liabilities which men undertook on enrolment were limited to the needs of the situation. Enrolment was voluntary and the men were made liable to serve only on the particular railway to which they belonged. They were to continue to perform their normal railway duties and work under the supervision of their own railway officers. They were also given elementary military training. For undertaking these restricted duties and obligations, the staff were given the following benefits in addition to their regular railway emoluments:-

(i) in the case of officers up to and including District rank, a military compensatory allowance of 12½ per cent of pay, (ii) in the case of non-gazetted staff (a) a military compensatory allowance of 25 per cent of pay; (b) a ration allowance at scales fixed by the army; (c) Batta when working in a field service area; and (iii) military uniforms on a modified scale.

The response to the scheme was satisfactory and it is considered that it has achieved the end in view.

Railway Staff and the War.- The ~~imminent~~ threat of invasion in the early part of the year focussed attention on methods of keeping staff steady at their posts. Certain concessions like evacuation concessions to induce staff to evacuate their families to safer areas, family allotments to such families, emergency conditions allowances during periods of enemy attack, actual or threatened, were sanctioned as required. Dispersal camps to which essential staff could be evacuated were also organised and reserve stocks of food to be used in emergencies collected. Relief grant for war injuries was increased and beyond that provided under the War Injuries Scheme by making staff eligible for the benefits under the extraordinary pension rules or Workmen's Compensation Act. The cumulative effect of these and certain other measures like dearness allowance and the Defence of India Scheme resulted in the maintenance of morale among the staff who continued to carry out their duties with devotion and energy.

Side by side with the problems arising out of the emergent conditions, staff always also increased their efforts to meet the growing demands of the war. Munitions production which had been undertaken in railway workshops from an early stage of the war was continued and increased, there ~~undoubtedly~~ being at the end of March 1943 over 20,000 railway servants engaged on munitions and other war work in railway workshops. While, in the earlier part of the year under review, staff, both gazetted and non-gazetted, were being spared for work in other Departments in connection with the war, the increasing traffic on railways in the latter half of the year made it necessary to call a halt to this dissipation of railway technical staff, especially in the case of officers. The scheme for the training of transportation troops put into effect in the previous year remained in operation throughout the year and by the end of March 1943, 1,000 trainees had been handed over to the military authorities at Jullundur. Staff always also continued to participate in the scheme for the training of

icians, about 6,000 trainees being under ~~taxi~~ training on railways
by one time.

(The 1941-42 Report was reviewed at pages 4-6 of our report for
h, 1943). +

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Fourth Annual Meeting of the All-India Manufacturers' Conference, Nagpur, 18 and 19-3-1944.

The fourth annual meeting of the All-India Manufacturers' ^{Gyanisahn} ~~Conference~~ s held at Nagpur on 18 and 19-3-1944, Sir M. Viswesvaraya presiding.

Presidential Address.- Sir M. Viswesvaraya, in his presidential dress, stressed the urgent importance of industrialization of India in y plan of post-war reconstruction ~~xxxx~~ and expressed the opinion that e Government of India should chalk out a five-year plan based on the statistics given in the non-official fifteen-year plan (vide pp. 41-45 of r report for February, 1944) and work up detailed schedules. He felt at there was urgent need for starting new industries and also for making tive preparations early enough for establishing heavy industries as soon the war was over.

He pointed out that the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation had awn up for every province a statement of the heavy industries that were ready established in them and of those for which facilities existed. s aim was to induce leaders of each province to choose at least two w heavy industries and begin working on them so as to be ready to tablish them in the province as soon as the war was over.

Government's Unpreparedness.- Referring to the work of the recons- ution committees set up by the Government of India, he pointed out at, compared to the non-official plan, what they had brought out were stly patch work proposals and fragmentary schemes. And even before tting forward a complete plan, orders seemed to have been issued for eparation of schemes for construction of roads, provision of electric wer supply and health amenities, while industrial plans were given only condary importance. Large sums of money were being proposed to be ent on certain comparatively less important services and those were kely to lead to unproductive debt.

Productive Undertakings to be given Greater Prominence.- The proper urse, Sir M. Viswesvaraya suggested, was to spend the largest grants first productive undertakings, namely, industries, agriculture and remunerative mmunication works. The income earned from these works would go partly the public and partly to Government. x Some of the money earned by e people would utilized for making additions to the capital on productive rks. The revenue which the Government derived would help to meet the st of nation-building services like education, health services and using.

Separate Department of Industries.- He urged the setting up of a arate department of industries in the Central Government, working in ose association with an economic council or development board, special evelopment staff to carry out the directions of the organization, adequate rriff protection, special effort to make preparations for the early arting of a dozen heavy industries, and working out a detailed scheme r investment on industries of not less than Rs. 10,000 million by both e Government and the public. He added that the programme should elude measures calculated to double the value of output from both ndustries and agriculture in five to seven years' time.

Support to Fifteen-year Plan.- Referring to the fifteen year plan, e said work on the plan could commence within a period of three months. n initial capital of Rs. 100 million should be set apart for expenses uring the first year. From the time the construction work was put in und investigation should be proceeded with simultaneously under all ranches of reconstruction. Results of the single-year plans as well as e five-year plans should be subjected to review from time to time and ecessary amendments should be made in the plan for the remaining period

accordance with the success already attained.

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Resolutions: Immediate Industrialisation.- The main resolution passed by the Conference deplored Government's policy of not encouraging ~~large~~ any large-scale industry in spite of the war, and stated that this policy had led to the recent tragic conditions in Bengal on account of the growth of population, decrease of purchasing power, lack of economic security for the average citizen and the low level of the average per capita income in India compared to that in the United Kingdom or America. The resolution urged Government to announce a policy of immediate and rapid industrialisation and recommended to that end the formation of a Department of Industries with a full-time member of Government at its head with an adequate staff, and similar departments in the provinces, the allotment of Rs. 100 million to help entrepreneurs who might be willing to undertake new industrial schemes, and the appointment of a predominantly non-official committee including some of the authors of the fifteen-year plan to recommend schemes and, in general, to help to raise new industries.

The Conference recorded its sense of regret and frustration at the present serious ~~and~~ situation created by the shortage of coal supplies resulting in a partial breakdown of the country's transport system and manufacturing activities, and urged Government to adopt ~~various~~ measures to exploit every available source of power supply under its control.

Improvement of Labour Conditions.- With a view to improving the social and economic conditions of labour, the Conference recommended the introduction of schemes like provident fund with contribution from employers; annual holidays with pay; cost-price provision shops and canteens; co-operative credit societies; free medical aid; housing; technical education; and profit sharing and production bonuses.

Other resolutions were passed on the proper utilisation of India's foreign exchange balances, the need for associating representatives of industries with measures like control of capital issues and transport restrictions, the necessity to establish a National Government as such a Government being the essential pre-requisite for the successful execution of financial and industrial plans.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-3-1944,
and The Hindu, dated 20-3-1944) ✓

1st Session of All-India Textile Conference,
Bombay, 10 and 11-3-1944. ✓

The first Session of the All-India Textile Conference, organised by the Textile Association (India) in collaboration with the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, was held at Bombay on 10 and 11-3-1944. The opening session was presided over by Sir Victor Sassoon, Bart. and the Conference was attended by nearly 900 delegates and visitors.

Dr. Nazir Ahmed's Address: Textile Association (India).- Dr. Nazir Ahmed, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in his welcome speech said that the Textile Association (India) was started in 1939 and its present membership is about 1,000 drawn from all sections of the industry and extending to all parts of India. It runs a journal of its own called the Textile Digest. It has organized a large number of meetings at which various textile subjects dealing with organization, administration, finances, technical developments, etc., are fully discussed, thereby

rding an opportunity to the technical men employed in the industry
 keep abreast of the times, to pool their knowledge and give one another
 benefit of their experience. Last year it introduced a scheme for
 stitutive essays on textile subjects. Very recently it has framed rules
 regulations for the ~~of award~~ ~~diplomas~~ of ~~the~~ Associate and the Fellows ~~of~~
 the Textile Association to the technical staff employed in mills. It
 organized this session of the All-India Textile Conference, which is the
 t of its kind to be held in India, so that not only the technical
 f employed in Bombay, but also those working in other towns, may come
 ther, for at least three days, and deliberate upon subjects of deep
 rest. Along with this conference, it has arranged a Textile Exhibi-
 ; it has also arranged visits to technical institutions and a few
 esentative mills in Bombay for the benefit of the delegates from up-
 try.

Post-war Position of Textile Industry.- Speaking about the need for
 ising an All-India Conference, Dr. Ahmed pointed out that the textile
 try of India is entering an important phase internationally. When
 e comes, the textile industry, in common with many other industries,
 be faced with a huge and difficult task. The most important aspect
 his ~~task~~ task will be the diversion, without dislocation, of war
 lces and war supplies to the needs of the reconstruction and require-
 s of the civilian population. In this task ~~the~~ industrialists, ~~the~~
 icians, the research workers and the labour will all be called upon
 t play their part and make their contribution; the Conference should
 its serious attention to such aspects of the matter as primarily
 ern ~~the~~ technicians and ~~the~~ research workers. Clothing forms one of the
 e prime necessities of life, and in India, there is a huge population
 is not only underfed but underclothed as well, and the problem which
 face the textile industry, in the years of post-war reconstruction,
 be essentially one of providing adequate supplies of suitable fabrics
 his vast population. For this purpose, the experience gained during the
 in the production of cheap kinds of cloth, in working the mills at
 e maximum capacity in order to achieve specified targets of production
 in getting up organizations for the quick despatch and distribution of
 e supplies over large areas may prove extremely useful if harnessed to
 lian needs in the post-war years of reconstruction. The industry will
 lled upon to supply in India clothes for nearly 400 million people at
 ate levels. Britain and the U.S.A. may make a bid for India's huge
 et.

How poorly clothed the Indian population is may be judged from the
 that for many years past the average consumption of cloth has remained
 the neighbourhood of 16 yards per head as compared with 23 yards in
 Africa, 27 yards in Australia, 33 yards in Norway and 38 ~~year~~ yards
 eden, not to mention more advanced countries, such as the United
 es of America. Even in countries like Malaya, West Indies, Gold Coast,
 , etc., which, from other considerations, might be regarded as being
 developed, the consumption of cloth per head of population was greater
 in India. Curiously enough, while the great mass of the Indian
 lation was not able to procure sufficient clothes for themselves, India
 faced with the problem of disposing anything from 40 to 50 per cent of
 total cotton crop to foreign markets like Japan, who used this position
 lever to extract agreements from India, which, in other circumstances,
 might not have been willing to concede. By developing the Indian
 le industry, the country will become better placed for bargaining.

Installation of new Textile Machinery.- In the immediate post-war
 , the Indian textile industry must be facing the serious problem of
 cement of redundant, obsolete, worn-out and antiquated machinery by
 and up-to-date plant. Even before the war, as a result of the years
 ession, many mills were not able to replace some of their old

achines with new ones for want of sufficient capital. In the post-war years some of the foreign countries, which not only manufacture textile goods, but also fabricate textile machinery, will be in a very strong position to manufacture new and improved types of machines and supply them at door to their textile mills, thus enabling them to produce attractive and new types of fabrics for export to the foreign markets. Unless the Indian mills are able to produce equally attractive materials at competitive prices, they may steadily lose ground.

Competition from Synthetic Fibres.- In addition to the competition which the textile industry must expect to face from the manufacturers of cotton machinery and cotton piecegoods in other countries, the Indian textile industry is likely to meet with severe competition in the post-war years from the Synthetic ~~fibres~~ fibre industry. Rayon, artificial silk, wool, protein fibres, plastic materials, etc. will challenge the position of natural textiles. All these synthetic fibres possess certain advantages over the natural fibres; they can be made extremely uniform and their properties can be varied at will over a wide range by suitable modification of the chemical or mechanical treatment. The plant for their manufacture can be located from beginning to end in a small area, and does not have to depend upon the large area under cultivation in the hinterland. They can be produced in ~~the~~ absolutely clean condition, and the dyes can be built into them during manufacture so that some of the processes relating to ~~spinning~~ cleaning, washing or dyeing can be dropped, thereby reducing the cost of manufacture of finished goods.

Need for Intensifying Technological Research.- One way of meeting these and other problems of the industry is the intensification of fundamental and technological research on the natural fibres so that it may be possible to prepare from them new and attractive types of goods which may compete successfully, both in respect of quality and price, with those made from synthetic fibres. It is necessary that such researches should be carried out on a large scale in India in all directions, in the botanical and physiological side, in the chemical field, in the physical properties of the fibres, in the mechanical processing of the fibres so that by an understanding of the constitution and properties of the natural fibres, India may be in a position to find new and attractive uses for them. Research is required not only on the raw material but also in the technological field in order to simplify, rationalize and improve the methods of manufacture. The effects of the various mechanical treatments and of different atmospheric conditions should be studied and the effect of surroundings and atmospheric conditions on the efficiency and output of the mill is worthy of special consideration and should be studied not purely from the humanitarian but also from the scientific point of view. Finally, there is need for examining closely India's present systems of training of technicians to find out in what respects they satisfy the present and future requirements and in what manner this system can be improved to produce a better type of technician who will play an important part in the post-war development of the industry.

Inaugural Speech.- In his inaugural speech, Sir Victor Sassoon referred to Government controls affecting the industry, especially export control. He said, particularly, must, in the post-war years, depend more than ever on maintaining an export market, but this cannot be done if care is not taken to see that first-class goods leave this country made under first-class conditions and at prices competitive with any other part of the world. His thought is therefore necessary to form a system under which cotton textiles exported from this country ~~are~~ able to give the buyers complete satisfaction. Sir Victor stressed two other points; firstly, the necessity of utilizing the raw materials, man-power and technical skill of ~~the~~ this country to the best advantage in meeting the needs of this and other countries, and, secondly, the fact that, no matter what natural advantage this country has for the foundation and development of a textile industry, it

will be unable to meet competition unless research is made the keystone of all effort.

Light Power Looms and Calico Printing.- He drew attention to the policy that the Central and Provincial Governments have all been committed to, namely, the provision of cheap electric power to villages and to rural industries, and to the possibility of the development of the manufacture of light power looms with small electric motors, so that the purchase of a small number of these looms and motors would be within the reach of any small capitalist, particularly one with technical knowledge of the industry. By establishing a combination of the light power loom industry with a central preparatory system, an advance will be made in the productive capacity of the rural districts, and labour will not be herded into the big cities with the accompanying development of slums. Small plants of this type, taking advantage to the full of technical skill and knowledge, would enable India to compete in quality and price with any country, especially if such enterprises were marshalled into a co-operative movement whereby the financing of supplies of yarn and the marketing of the finished cloth could be done from one centre. For many cloths it would be necessary to set up central co-operative finishing plants. In spite of the desire of so many people to revive the handloom cotton textile industry to its original importance, it is certain that the handloom industry as such must lose ground, whereas the domestic power loom industry will progress.

Power-loom factories will probably tend to the production more and more of standardized styles, and one can look forward to a period when mills will be on one quality of printing cloth. Now given a supply by mills of large quantities of standard cloths of this type, there must be an equally big field for the development by the artistically minded young men of printed cloths by screen, block, spray or machine, in many colours. The Chippa' printing of Ahmedabad can be expanded in a large number of ways, and any technical artist of character can develop in the villages the calico printing industry of this country to the front rank among the world's calico printers. Any schemes for post-war development in this country should include provision of finance for the domestic industries of this type, if necessary on the hire-purchase system.

Value of Research.- He surveyed the progress of industrial research and suggested that a Textile Research Laboratory to work on the lines developed by the Shirley Institute in Manchester must be established.

The other chairmen of the various sessions of the Conference were : Mr Sorab Saklatwala, Dr. Nazir Ahmad and Mr. Camar S. Tyabjee.

Papers presented to Conference: Papers read at the Conference related to (1) Post-war problems facing the textile industry; (2) Post-war problems facing the Ahmedabad mill industry; and (3) Technical education in relation to the textile industry, besides several papers on the technical aspects of the textile industry.

(The Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, March, 1944 issue). -

Working Class Cost of Living Index
For Various Centres in India during
July and August, 1943. ✓

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during July and August, 1943, as compared with the preceding month: ~~June 1943:-~~

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>June 43</u>	<u>July 43</u>	<u>August 43</u>
Amby	Year ending June 1934	232	236	238
Medabad	Year ending July 1927	211	210	214
Chhapur	Year ending January 1938	184	194	194
Chhapur	August 1939	361	361	354
Chhiana	1931-35	378		
Chhapore	August 1939	336	341	339
Chhanna	Average cost of living for five years preceding 1914.	577	483	513
Chhapur	Ditto	449	463	496
Chharia	Ditto	607	396	486
Chhiras	Year ending June 1936	179	181	181
Chhura	Ditto	196	199	192
Chhambatore	Ditto	199	208	200

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for July and August, 1943). ✓

15

MIGRATION.

Increased Pension Scales for
Indians in South Africa. ✓

According to a statement issued by the office of the High Commissioner of India in South Africa early in March, 1944, a substantial increase in the pension scale of Indians in South Africa has been provided for in the recent Union Government Budget: It is pointed out that in 1937, Indians were entitled to old age pensions of ~~£5.00~~ only ~~£6.00~~ six pounds per annum. This was raised in April 1943 to 5 pounds for urban and 12 pounds for rural areas. It is now raised to the coloured level of 21 pounds, plus 3 pounds added in the present budget to the coloured level, making 24 pounds per annum.

It is also pointed out that on 29th February, 1941, the Union Government assented to a proclamation excluding Indians from the definition of "Asiatic" in the Liquor Act of 1928 (No. 30 of 1928), thus offering to Indians the same concessions as to the Chinese.

(Reuter message dated Capetown
7-3-44 — The Bombay Chronicle
dated 10-3-1944). ✓ +

Welfare of Indians in Natal: Inquiry
Commission Appointed. ✓

Reference was made at page 20 of our report for December 1943, to the South African Union Government's proposal to appoint a Commission to inquire into the health and housing facilities of Indians in Natal. It is now understood that the Commission has been appointed and that it consists of five members: Justice Broome, Chairman; Mr. W.M. Power, Member, Executive Council of the Natal Provincial Administration; Senator G. Shepstone, Mr. S.R. Naidoo and Mr. A.I. Kaje; the last two are Indians.

The terms of reference are: to inquire into and report upon matters affecting the Indian community of the province of Natal with special reference to housing and health needs, civic amenities, civic status and provision for adequate residential, educational, religious and recreational facilities; and to make recommendations generally as to what steps are necessary further to implement the 'uplift clauses' of the Capetown Agreement 1927 and as to all matters affecting the well-being and advancement of the permanent Indian population of Natal.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 9-3-1944). ✓

East African Ban on Return of Emigrant
Indians. ✓

A new ordinance has been promulgated by the Government of East Africa banning the return to the country of Indians who left for India at the East-African Government's suggestion at the time when the Italian armies threatened East Africa in 1940-41.

The implications of the ordinance and its effect on Indian settlers in the country were explained at a press conference at New Delhi on 1-3-44 by a deputation led by Mr. Hussain Shoy Laljee, M.L.A., and Dawood Hajee Nassur, president, African Shippers' Association. It was

explained at the conference that the ban, under which no Indian who had been away from the colony for more than two years is to be permitted to return to the colony, affects about 10,000 Indians mostly born in East Africa, but who had left the country at the suggestion of the Government in 1940-41 when there was a growing threat from the Italians. These 10,000 Indians formed the most influential element among the 200,000 Indians in that territory and the new move taken against them, it was pointed out, was born of the anti-Indian tendencies of the Government of East Africa. Mr. Hussain Ghoy Laljee also pointed out that, unlike South Africa which was a dominion, in East Africa the British Government had more constitutional rights for effective intervention in the present circumstances. Referring to the allegation that the Government's motive was to relieve shortage of food and accommodation, Mr. Laljee said that in 1942 the colonies had a surplus of about 7,000,000 cwts. food grains and that there was no housing shortage to justify the measure, a deputation has made a representation about the Ordinance to Dr. N. B. Khare, Member, Department of Commonwealth Relations (originally Department of Indians Overseas), Government of India. Government is understood to be taking necessary measures to safeguard Indian interests.

(The Statesman, dated 26-3-1944, and the Hindustan Times, dated 27-3-1944). ✓

Franchise for Indians in South Africa:
Debate in Union Senate. ✓

The policy of the Minister of the Interior in regard to the question of municipal franchise for Indians in South Africa was debated in the Union Senate recently.

Senator Sir Alfred Hennessy stated that the status of Indians in the Union could not be considered satisfactory so long as the principle 'no taxation without representation' was not applicable to them, and urged that Indians should be given rights of representation in public bodies as early as possible so that they could feel that they were true South Africans and had a voice in the management of the affairs of the country. Supporting him, Senator P. H. Taylor pointed out that the time had come for Indians to be given representation on public bodies in South Africa. Indians in Natal, he said, were paying a considerable amount of money to the revenues and yet they had no voting right, although many European women over the age of 21 who paid no taxes enjoyed it.

The Minister of the Interior, Mr. Clarkson, in his reply, emphasised that the first Indians had come to Natal at the request of the then Natal Government and the people of Natal. Indians had at that time been accepted as desirable immigrants and Government had given them land on which to settle. The great bulk of the present Indian population of Natal were descendants of those original immigrants. "They are South Africans; this is their home; they are not 'foreigners'; they are Union Nationals; the European population must realise that, 'we have the obligation to play the game'. As Minister, I intend to see that justice shall prevail". Indians, he said, had mostly given up their uncompromising attitude which they had held for the past 20 years and if he could get the small minorities of both the communities - European and Indian - also to come to terms, the problem could be settled to the satisfaction of them both. He blamed the Durban Municipality for not carrying out their promise to set aside seats for Indians as well as Europeans; the Municipality had marked out seats for Europeans but it had done nothing for Indians. He was hopeful of evolving a scheme under which the two communities could live side by side without conflict.

(The Hindu, dated 31-3-1944). ✓

17

AGRICULTURE.

The Bihar District Development Fund
Bill, 1944. *

The Governor of Bihar proposes to enact a District Development Fund Bill, to provide funds ~~for~~ and make adequate provision for control of the agencies for carrying out, planned development in districts, particularly as regards educational, public health and medical facilities and communications. The Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act, 1885, makes these matters the primary responsibility of local bodies. Under modern, and particularly post-war, conditions, however, wider planning and greater co-ordination between different parts of the province may be necessary than can be ensured by the present limited powers of the Provincial Government in the initiation and carrying out of schemes of improvement. The responsibilities of local bodies are mainly met by the proceeds of the local cess, on the principle that the people of the district should get the full benefit of their general contribution. On the same principle Government has considered it desirable to constitute District Development Funds for each district out of an increased cess (equal to the present cess on the annual value of lands) which is being provided in a separate Act, to be spent on schemes of ~~re~~ development and improvement of districts in consultation with local opinion through District Development Committees, and with the local body who may be called on to carry out the scheme.

The Governor ^{also} proposes ^{to} enacting, to supplement the above measure, another Bill to amend the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act, 1885, and the Bihar and Orissa Cess Act, 1880, to provide that, while the existing financial provision for district boards shall continue, a sum equal to the local cess at present levied on the annual value of lands shall be made available to be constituted into a separate district development fund in each district. In view of the creation of this new fund and to guard against district boards being tempted to reduce their commitments in any direction, it is also proposed to enable Government ~~to~~ prescribe the minimum expenditure to be incurred by them on objects within their competence.

(The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary
dated 7-3-1944, pages 1 to 14).*

Grants to the Punjab Peasants' Welfare
Fund and Special Development Fund:
Punjab Budget Proposals for 1944-1945. *

In introducing the Budget for 1944-45 in the Punjab Legislative Assembly on 3-3-1944, Sir Manohar Lal, Finance Minister, Punjab, announced the allotment of Rs. 6 million to the Peasants' Welfare Fund and Rs. 4 million to the Special Development Fund. As regards promoting the industrialisation of the Punjab, Sir Manohar Lal said that the question was under examination of a Committee. Two large cotton textile mills are likely to be established soon and plans for ~~th~~ other industries are under active examination. While the industrial resources of the province are to be utilized to the fullest extent no hasty action should be taken and Government has undertaken to render all possible aid. Analysing the expenditure provided for the next year Sir Manohar Lal said that 40 per cent of the total of Rs. 16.9 million was intended for service departments. He also announced that a sum of Rs. 14.7 million had been budgeted for dearness allowance to Government servants. Referring to the irrigation projects Sir Manohar Lal said that the question of storage dams was under further expert examination.

Dealing with the Special Development Fund and the Peasants' Welfare Fund the Finance Minister said that the essential idea of the Development Fund constituted in 1937-38 was to provide welfare schemes and to ensure that in years of stringency, beneficent departments did not suffer any curtailment. These objects has been amply achieved and a sum of nearly Rs. 8 million had already been spent out of a total of Rs. 15.8 million. While the Peasants' Welfare Fund, which was created in 1941-42, now aggregated to Rs. 15 million, this fund, is to be directed wholly to the amelioration of conditions in the countryside and in securing reasonable and just terms to the grower in the markets of his products. Schemes have not been fully worked out to this end yet, but ideas have taken definite shape and it is hoped that it would be possible to devise plans to give them effect before long. When in full operation, this fund should prove of the highest benefit particularly to the small peasants and workers.

The decision of the Punjab Government to make an annual contribution of Rs. 5.5 million to the Punjab Peasants' Welfare Fund, was announced by Sir Chotu Ram, Revenue Minister, in the Punjab Legislative Assembly on 7-3-1944. He declared that the Government had decided to appoint a special officer to work out the details of the schemes which were to be financed from the Fund. These schemes, he said, were designed to improve the lot of small landlords peasants and workers. A sum of Rs. 1.5 million from ~~this~~ the Fund was proposed to be spent during the next year on the provision of scholarships and stipends for the higher education of sons of small landlords paying an annual revenue up to Rs. 25. A sum of Rs. 500,000 each would ~~be~~ ~~provided~~ provided for supply of drinking water in rural areas, improvement of village roads and cottage industries. Schemes for marketing facilities for the agricultural produce of small landlords would also be financed from the Fund. These facilities would be extended to big Zamindars also if they made adequate contributions to the Fund.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
4 and 8-3-1944).

Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands:
Agricultural Board's Scheme.

A village rehabilitation scheme which combines resettlement of dispossessed cultivators with State-assisted experiments in co-operative farming and other modern agricultural methods is one of the proposals which the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has agreed to assist financially.

This follows the lines laid down in a scheme recently formulated in Baroda State under which it is proposed that the lands that have passed on to money-lenders should be bought back by the State and restored for cultivation to the original agriculturists. Four kinds of arrangements have been decided upon by the Board: (1) the cultivators may receive consolidated ~~land~~ holdings; (2) the State will treat a whole area as a Government collective ~~farm~~ farm where cultivators work as labourers and will be paid on a profit-sharing basis; (3) in some areas the collective system of farming will be tried; and (4) and in some others the cultivators will work on the lines of co-operative farming.

(The Hindustan Times, dated
10-3-1944).

NAVIGATION.

19

New Centre for Indian Seamen Opened
at Avonmouth. ✓

A new centre for Indian seamen was opened at Avonmouth by Sir John Lubbock, Adviser to the Secretary of State for India, early in March, 1944. The centre offers accommodation for about 50 men and provides rest, recreation and refreshment.

(The Statesman, 12-3-1944).

Another club for Indian seamen is being opened at Fremantle, Western Australia; Lord Wavell, the Viceroy of India, has sanctioned a grant of £ 1,000 towards its expenses.

(Vanguard, dated 15-3-1944). ✓

20

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND
PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Employment of Women in Government Service:
Madras Government Removes Restrictions on
Grounds of Marriage. ✓

A Press Note dated 7-3-44 issued by the Government of Madras says :
r the Madras Ministerial Service Rules no woman is eligible for
atment to the service or for retention therein otherwise than as clerk
a Special Branch of the C.I.D. unless she is a spinster or a widow
at children. A similar restriction applies to the appointment of
to the Madras Secretariat Service or to their retention therein. In
la services, as for example Madras Educational Subordinate Service,
rence is given to spinsters and widows over married women for appoint-
in the Women's Branch. The Government has now decided that all
otions on grounds of marriage against the employment or retention of
in public service should be withdrawn."

(Press Note dated 7-3-1944,
issued by the Public
(Service) Department,
Government of Madras). ✓

Leave Rules of Temporary Government
Servants Undergoing Treatment for
Tuberculosis; Orissa Government's
Resolution. ✓

The Government of Orissa has on 13-3-1944 Gazetted a resolution relaxing
leave rules of temporary Government servants who contract tuberculosis
ndergo treatment in a recognised sanatorium for long periods. In
to avoid a break in service and to enable such Government servants to
n to their posts after treatment, Government has decided that, in
ion to earned leave or leave on medical certificate which may be
sible under the provisions of the Orissa Leave Rules, temporary
nment servants, whether in superior or inferior service, may be granted,
laxation of rule 21 of the Leave Rules, extraordinary leave without
ances up to a maximum period of 12 months on any one occasion.

(The Orissa Gazette Supplement
dated 17-3-1944, page 75). ✓

Demands re: Higher Pay, Dearness Allowances
etc; Meeting of Executive Council of All
India Government Employees Federation. ✓

Increase in the rate and scope of dearness allowance and scales of pay.
emoval of disabilities of temporary staff in the matter of leave,
ment, promotions, etc., were the demands made by the meeting of the
tive Council of the All-India Government Employees' Federation and
sentatives of Service Associations held at Delhi on 4-3-1944, under
hairmanship of Mr. N.M. Joshi. Other resolutions passed included an
l to Government to secure equitable distribution of "deputation" chances
sts created as a result of the war and to ensure adequate housing
modation at reasonable rent for the Government employees in Delhi.

The Council also decided to convene a general conference of the Federa-
at an early date. (The Hindustan Times, dated 10-3-1944). ✓

21

Improving Conditions of work of School
Teachers: Madras Government Considering
Plans. ✓

That the Government of Madras is examining schemes to improve the status and conditions of service of school teachers in the province was announced by Mr. T. Austin, Adviser to the Governor of Madras, in a speech at the Teachers' College, ~~in~~ Madras, ~~City~~ on 2-3-1944.

In his report for the year 1943, the Principal of the College stated that there was a rapid decrease in the number of candidates seeking admission into the secondary training section and that there seemed to be a scarcity of secondary grade teachers. He referred to the need for improving the pay and prospects of the secondary grade teachers and observed that the teaching profession did not seem to attract graduates to the same extent as before.

Mr. Austin, in his speech, observed that the pay, status, and conditions of service of teachers ~~richly~~ deserved the special consideration of the Government. This year, he said, the Government was spending about Rs. 2.75 million on dearness allowances to Aided Elementary School teachers alone. Altogether, the Government would be shortly paying a recurring amount of between Rs. 6 and 7 million on dearness allowances to teachers. He said that post-war development and reconstruction in education loomed large in the eyes of all at the moment, and a satisfactory wage for teachers in the future was one of the most important matters which Government had under consideration. He announced that Government was likely ~~the near future to restore in full the stipends to men candidates~~ undergoing secondary grade training. The Government had also under consideration a scheme for paying monthly grant-in-aid to Aided Elementary schools, and if this scheme could be adopted, it should be a further boon to low-paid teachers.

(The Hindu, dated 4-3-1944). ✓
+

Aided School Teachers' Superannuation
Age Raised from 55 to 60 in U.P. ✓

The age of superannuation in the case of teachers of the aided schools in the Province has been raised from 55 to 60 years by the Government of the United Provinces. It has also been decided that teachers in Government schools should not accept office, after retirement, in any aided school.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-3-1944). ✓
+

CO-OPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Special Grants to Co-operative Agricultural Colonisation Societies: Decision of Government of Madras. ✓

The Government of Madras has recently passed orders increasing the scale of help given by it to the Co-operative Agricultural Colonisation Societies, which consist mainly of landless cultivators, ~~under~~ as follows:- (1) a free grant of Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per acre for manure during the first year; (2) Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 worth of seed per acre free of charge; (3) bulls costing upto Rs. 250 to be supplied to members of societies at half the price, the other half being met by the Government. After 2 years, the bulls belong to the member if he keeps them well (the supply of bulls is subject to the condition, inter alia, that the member should hire them out to other members) ; (4) advance of an interest free amount up to Rs. 75 per member for agricultural implements to be returned in easy instalments; (5) interest free loans up to Rs. 25 per acre for reclamation of land, where necessary; (6) waiving of land revenue assessment and water cess the first three years ; and (7) financial assistance if cottage industries are started in colonies where they can be successfully worked.

These concessions are chiefly intended for colonies where lands have not yet been brought under cultivation fully or partly. But they will be extended, if necessary, to cases where colonists have brought their lands under cultivation already by taking loans and have thereby run into debt.

(Press Note No.43 dated 15-3-1944, issued by the Government of Madras) ✓

LIVING CONDITIONS.

23

Nutrition.

Problem of improving Bengali Diet under Investigation of Nutrition Committee. ✓

In reply to an interpellation in the Bengal Legislative Council on 3-2-1944, the Bengal Government said that the question of proper diet and substitute diet in Bengal for normal times, as well as in the present post-famine condition, is being examined by a nutrition sub-committee of the Sanitary Board and by a committee constituted under the auspices of the Indian Research Fund Association.

(The Hindustan Times, 1-3-1944) ✓

Milk for Underfed Children in Municipal Schools in Bombay City : Corporation's Rs. 125,000 Scheme Sanctioned. ✓

At its meeting on 13-3-1944, the Bombay Municipal Corporation sanctioned a sum of Rs. 125,000 for supplying milk to undernourished children attending municipal schools in the city. An amendment was moved to increase the amount to Rs. 250,000, but this was opposed on the ground that the supply of milk to school children was in the nature of an experiment and that it was better to proceed step by step. The amendment was defeated.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 15-3-44) ✓

It is understood that the Bombay Government has proposed a scheme for the supply of milk to infants under 2 years suffering from mal-nutrition through lack of mother's milk. The Government proposal is that the municipality should undertake the responsibility of feeding such children. The scheme has not reached its final stages, but it is understood that the Government is prepared to bear half the expenses of the scheme.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 11-3-1944) ✓

A Nutrition Plan for India: Dr. B.C. Guha's Plea. ✓

The urgent need for the formulation of a nutrition plan for India is stressed by Dr. B.C. Guha, Ghosh Professor of Chemistry, University of Calcutta, in the course of Adhar Chandra Mukherjee Lectures delivered at Calcutta on 29-2-1944 and 1-3-1944. He pointed out that it was the absence of planning, so essential in times of war, that had caused a catastrophe like the recent Bengal famine. Prices, he said, could not be controlled merely by decrees, but only by a series of co-ordinated measures.

Recalling the efficient administration of food policy in Britain, he stated that similar plans for the production and distribution of food in the post-war period was already afoot in several progressive countries. In these countries, he said, it was being recommended that rationing should continue in peace time and optimum nutrition must be provided in future for all members of the community irrespective of income. Dr. Guha estimated that India's annual requirements on such a basis would be: 65 million tons of cereals, 16 million tons of pulses, 8 million tons of

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.Employers' Organisations.17th Annual Meeting of Federation of Indian
Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi,
4 and 5-3-1944.

The 17th annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at New Delhi on 4 and 5-3-1944 under the presidency of Maharajah Sir Nathiah Chettiar of Chettinad, President of the Federation. Among the distinguished visitors present at the opening session were several members of the Viceroy's Executive Council and high officials of the Central Government.

Presidential Address: Economic Situation in India.— Reviewing the economic conditions in India during the last year, the President declared that India's economy was strained to the utmost, India has gone through severe food shortage causing unparalleled distress in some parts. All over the country the people have had to stand a continuous and increasing strain which on occasions almost threatened to bring about an economic lapse and is bound to leave its mark. I trust, he said, that we shall learn a salutary lesson from the rude shock that the country has undergone during the year, that our ideas about economic objectives and policies be clearer, and our experience better utilised for the furtherance of the country's good.

Food Problem.— After referring to the worsening of the political situation in the country and emphasising the need for a National Government, the President dealt with the food problem of the country. India, he pointed out, in spite of its vast natural resources, has been a net-importing country in the matter of foodstuffs. Since 1930, there had been a clamour in many parts of the country, particularly in the paddy-growing areas, that prices had been seriously affected by import of rice from Burma and other countries and that the Government should, as it had done in the case of wheat, restrict these imports by a tariff or by other means. These demands of the agriculturists from Bihar and from Bengal, the two rice-growing provinces, fell on the ears of the Central Government. During the long period of depression since 1931 the agriculturist was completely neglected. The prices for his produce were unremunerative and it is no wonder that less attention was paid to food crops than to the growth of cash crops. Again quinine, a specific against malaria, is not available either in large quantities at reasonable prices all over the country. Quinine could have been manufactured cheaply in this country if the growth of cinchona plantations had been encouraged, but the vested interests in the Dutch East Indies stood in the way, and the Government of India which could easily have favoured the growth of such plantations was once again found negligent towards the interests of the peasant and the agriculturist.

He paid a tribute to Lord Wavell, the new Viceroy, for his energetic measures to solve the food problem and to the Food Member and his Department for the vigour with which, of late, they have been pursuing their policy. What is required is a proper control of the prices of foodstuffs at a level which will ~~afford~~ give to the agriculturist a fair price, taking into consideration the rise in the prices of articles involved in the economy of his own life, and to the consumer, foodstuffs at a price which he can afford. He hoped that the Government would not be bringing about such a state of affairs. Rationing in all urban areas, irrespective of whether they are deficit or surplus areas, is also

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sugar and 'gur' (^{molasses}~~crude sugar~~), 40 million tons of milk, 16 million tons of fish and meat, 20 million tons of each of leafy and non-leafy vegetables, 10 million tons of edible oils, 12.5 million tons of fruits and about 15 billion eggs. This he said, was not at all an ambitious target, if the plan was worked out in detail by a Central Nutrition Planning Board representing all aspects of the problem and was implemented with earnestness ~~and~~ the fullest use of the resources of science and technology already available in this country.

Dr. Guha also recommended the industrial preparation of synthetic vitamins and vitamin concentrates for routine feeding to all citizens, as was being done elsewhere. The aim of a nutrition plan for India, in his opinion, should be not merely to secure freedom from disease but to ensure the best possible standard of health and efficiency that might be attainable.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 6-3-1944)

cessary, if equality of sacrifice at a time of stress is to be imposed on the whole population of the country. In this connection he said that there is no incompatibility between a system of rationing and harnessing to the usual trade channels.

Inflation and Price Control Measures.- The drive against profiteering has been launched by the Government of India. The Federation has gone whole-heartedly with the Government in any well-thought out schemes to control prices or to prevent profiteering, but they have found themselves unable to agree to ill-conceived and ill-digested proposals which are far from achieving the objects in view, have merely tended to annoy and harass the general trading population. These anti-profiteering measures have largely been conceived with a view, to mitigate the evils of inflation arising nearly four years of war, the Government of India did not consider that there was any inflation in this country, and in fact vigorously denied the existence of any kind of inflationary situation. It is only during the last twelve months, that Government has expressed itself in panicky terms of inflation, and their measures to counter it have been equally panicky and not the result of mature deliberation. Indian currency has undoubtedly expanded, but it would be wrong to measure the evils of inflation merely on the basis of currency expansion. The increase in the note issue or the inflationary gap is not one that has been brought about by a serious deficiency between revenue and expenditure in the internal budget of the country.

The evils of inflation lie in the mounting prices and in the scarcity of the ordinary articles of consumption which are the necessities of life for the common man. The needs of the army, of industries, of construction-work all over the country, have brought together millions of workers, skilled and unskilled, and the wages that are given to these people are usually in gross excess of the starvation wages which they used to get in peacetime days. It is the pressure of this income on the reduced supply of necessities of life, that has brought about inflation. The wide disparity that prevails in the price of foodgrains between one area and another also confirms this view. While the present inflationary situation is causing grave anxiety, there is cause for fear in the future also. The South-East Asia Command which is based on India, is likely to prove a great source of inflation by causing an enormous increase in the war expenditure of the country. The Finance Member has declared, that the Government is, in consultation with His Majesty's Government, been considering how the demands made on India's economy could be lightened or met from alternative sources of supply. Even then India will be called upon to supply a considerable portion of the goods and services for the South-East Asia Command. To the fullest possible extent, the evils of such inflation should be met by making available to the public large quantities of gold which could be obtained from the Allied Nations. As regards anti-inflationary measures, in general a control of the price of foodstuffs and other necessities of life on reasonable levels and a proper rationing of these articles appear logically to be the first step that should be taken by the Government to counteract inflation. The next step should be to provide the working classes with those necessities of life which will help them to expend their increased incomes with profit and use to themselves.

Import of Consumer Goods.- Apparently the Government of India has come to the same conclusion. In actual practice it seems to have, entirely missed the point when it decided to import certain consumer goods as a measure of anti-inflation. Without consulting any of the interests concerned who are in the best position to know what sort of consumer articles are required either through import or through indigenous production, the Government of India appears to have framed a list of articles.

stly luxury articles like whisky. Impact of these articles cannot check inflation. It is really by affording to the common man what he needs at and on which he can utilise his newly obtained purchasing power, like foodgrains, timber for his house, bricks, kerosene, and cloth wear, that a check can be put to the evils of inflation.

Need for Protection to Industries in Post-War Years.- It may be remembered that Government at the beginning of the war promised to safeguard industries which were developed during the war and it was categorically stated that the mistakes which occurred at the end of the last war should not be repeated and the nascent industries would not be left high and dry to fend for themselves and probably to be wiped out of existence by competition. A few industries have been no doubt categorically and specially assured of protection at the end of the war but, many new industries have come to the rescue of Government during the hard and difficult days when there was neither the capacity for manufacture in India and in America nor the shipping space available for the import of raw goods. The Supply Department in particular induced capitalists to start industries, planned and programmed the development and expansion of such industries, and fully utilised the country's resources in man-power and material to supply the needs of the army. On the medical side, the late Director General of Indian Medical Service, Lt. General Jelly, has stated with justifiable pride that 75 per cent of the medicines, tinctures and drugs which used to be imported are now being manufactured in the country. Surgical apparatus again has similarly been manufactured under the guidance of the Supply Department. Now that the shipping situation is little easier and the possibilities of import better, the authorities have been reverting to the old practice of preferring imported articles to indigenously manufactured articles. The experience of industrialists has been somewhat bitter during the past few months. A Surgeon General of a Provincial Government has openly criticised all the hospitals in his charge that they should not use drugs and tinctures manufactured indigenously which they were using during the last two years. With this new policy of importing consumer goods, it has created serious misgivings among industrialists and shaken their faith and confidence in the intentions of the Government towards the industrial future of the country. It is imperative that the Government should at once declare its clear and unambiguous policy in this matter.

There would not have been much misapprehension in regard to this, if Government continued the old policy of consulting the commercial and industrial interests. The Export Advisory Council was instituted with the best of intentions and the Government was even willing to enlarge its constitution and functions so as to cover also the import policy of the Government. That would have been a far-sighted step of great economic value, imports made being of such commodities as are required by our industries or cannot be manufactured by them, and export being of such commodities as are the products of our industries or cannot be used to feed them. Far from thus enlarging the scope of the Export Advisory Council, it has not been functioning for over eighteen months past.

Control of Foreign Trade.- When foreign trade became difficult due to the war situation, the Government decided, without fairness to the existing export and import interests who were seriously affected by the loss of several of their normal markets, and the consequent shrinkage of their business with established shippers, that only those who were doing foreign trade business for three years before the war could be permitted to continue business on the basis of their average earnings during that period. This involved a certain amount of injustice to those who had come newly into the field just before the outbreak of the war and it virtually shut out any new entrants into the external trade of India. It also involved, owing to the methods adopted by the

ment, the substitution in many cases of banking houses and a few others whose names appeared in the register of the Custom House, for real businessmen who canvassed orders, took the risks and were responsible for the export and import trade of the country. Notwithstanding this injustice, the Indian business community which was mainly affected, acquiesced itself to this new order as a short-term arrangement which would allow the exporting and importing houses breathing time to readjust their business, and to find scope for their activities by taking up the disposal of indigenously produced articles in place of the foreign goods. India is now in the fifth year of the war and now the country is faced with the fact that a virtual monopoly has been created for a few big importing and exporting houses, mainly foreign, and that Indian business men are gradually being squeezed out altogether from India's foreign trade. It is an intolerable position and one which requires early action at the hands of the Government. It is time that this monopoly be broken and a system of licensing introduced which will give a fair share of the business to Indian commercial houses.

Activities of U.K.C.C.- The Federation has repeatedly pointed out to the Government, the unfairness of the activities of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation in India which has prevented Indian businessmen from establishing fresh contacts both in countries where they were doing business before and even more so in the countries which have for the first time tried to come into trade relations with India. Whatever may have been its objectives at its inception, the U.K.C.C. has, with the facilities it had in respect of purchase at controlled prices and in regard to priority in transport and with its vast influence and financial strength, subsidised as it is, by the British Treasury, become a powerful organisation not only in India but also in the Middle East and Africa. In spite of repeated demands, His Majesty's Government have been unable to guarantee that its activities will be ended immediately after war. There is a feeling of grave apprehension among commercial interests that the U.K.C.C. may prove to be another reincarnation of the East India Company and corner all the external trade of this country through its own organisation. The least that the Government can do is to promote an Indian Commercial Corporation which will be solely responsible for the purchase of goods in this country, and which would, if conditions prevent direct contacts between Indian merchants and overseas buyers for various political or financial reasons, hand those commodities at port to the U.K.C.C. at reasonable prices.

India's Sterling Balances.- The Federation has already dealt with various times, the question of utilisation of sterling balances. It is necessary to refer to a new phase of the question which has recently been discussed in the United Kingdom and even in the United States of America. Certain articles in the newspapers and even in economic journals tend to give the impression that somehow or other this accumulation of sterling balances in favour of India is something of which India cannot be proud, that it reflects a gross profiteering on the part of India. How have these sterling balances grown up and what do they represent? A good portion of these sterling balances represents the value of goods sold by this country to Great Britain. It is all the goods and services India has produced for which return has been made by Britain which is now represented by the sterling balances. In regard to the charge of profiteering by India in the accumulation of these sterling balances, it is enough to point out that every article supplied to the British Government has been at controlled prices - controlled by the Government of India.

During the war, India has had a favourable balance of trade with the United States and could have built up fairly large dollar balances which would, on the one hand, have lessened the sterling accumulations to its credit and, on the other hand, afforded its resources to buy either now,

in the post-war period, goods which are found cheaper and more advantageous to get from the American market. In the interest of the war effort, the Government of India decided that all the dollar resources should enter into a common Empire Pool and that Great Britain should avail itself of the Empire Pool. The time has now come when this arrangement should be reviewed and radically revised. Lease-Lend arrangements and reverse Lease-Lend arrangements enable Great Britain to get its requirements without having recourse to dollars to any large extent. The time is now ripe when the Government of India should build its own dollar resources on at least current balances with the United States and should allow these balances to be merged in any Empire Pool.

International Monetary Agreements.- During the past past year there has been much talk of international monetary standards. The Keynes and White plans are before the Allied Government. There has been the controversy about the merits of the Bancor and Unitas. Where does India come in all these proposals? India is quite willing to enter into any international arrangement if proposals are considered, not with a view to stabilise the prosperity and the financial strength of any one country or group of countries, but with a view to raising the standard of living of the common man all over the world. If the game of international finance is to be played in the same way as it was done during the last decade to keep the less fortunate countries, to dictate to them trade policies both internal and external, India would like to have nothing to do with such schemes of things.

Post-war Reconstruction.- It has been said that the word 'reconstruction' is a misnomer and that 'postwar construction' of India would be more appropriate than. This is the correct view. India's resources are still enormous, its man power is almost inexhaustible, the industrial intelligence and skill of that man power has been proved beyond all doubt during this war. What India has to beware against is pessimism; the post-war problems are vast, requiring the greatest care and attention in their solution and calling for the advice and recommendations of non-official opinion to help the Government to come to a decision. The Federation has noted with interest the machinery set up by the Government of India to consider schemes for post-war Re-construction. It is to be hoped that the reconstruction will be planned on an All-India basis and that the various schemes of reconstruction will be characterised by thoroughness, bold planning and a proper appreciation of the needs of the country. The undertaking of public works, the developing of thermal and hydro-electric power so as to compass the length and breadth of the country to bring it within the reach of the rural areas in particular, is a problem of first rate importance on which the development of both industry and agriculture and the welfare of the rural population depend. Large irrigation projects which can ~~also~~ bring millions of acres under cultivation, should be undertaken. The large population of India is no matter for worry, and should be viewed against the country's vast resources.

The transport systems have to be radically revised. The war has posed the inadequacy of the transport systems and the wrong policies that have been hitherto followed largely for the sake of vested interests. Financially, the Railways have, judging by mere figures, done exceedingly well, but the whole programme and policy of the Railway seems to be short-sighted and opposed to those sound principles of a national transport policy on which Railways in advanced countries are being operated. The rehabilitation of the Indian railways is long overdue. None of India's industries and hardly any section of India's far-flung trade can thrive or develop without adequate support from the Railway administrations. Inland water-ways have not been developed and the coastal service still remains open to ruthless foreign competition to which many an

Indian shipping company has fallen a victim in the past. Road development still in a primitive condition and air transport has to make rapid advance as a standard means of travel in the future. The history of the manufacture of locomotives in this country again reveals the short-sightedness of Government policy and its lack of ~~intimate~~ interest in matters which vitally concern the nation.

What India needs is a bold and determined effort to put the economy of the country on a sound basis to produce in the country whatever it can and whatever is most needed, to foster the development and growth of heavy industries, chemicals and engineering, to rehabilitate the condition of the agriculturist and the farmer by a diversification of his occupation, increased production from his land, by consolidation of his fragmented holdings by co-operative farming or other means. What is to be aimed at is the raising the standard of living of the country. It may be asked where is the money to come from. Today in many countries the old-world ideas of balanced budgets have been put on the shelf and bold adventurous methods of raising money for purposes of war as well as for national welfare have become a common thing. India is willing to make all possible sacrifices in her economy if only well-considered plans for vitalising her national life and bettering the lot of the common man are placed before the people so as to capture their imagination and inspire their faith.

15-Year Plan of Indian Industrialists.- The most suggestive plan for the building up of the India of tomorrow, is the long term plan of economic development for India which was recently published (vide pages 1-45 of our February 1944 report). The President paid a tribute to the scheme for setting up such a masterly plan of economic reconstruction. It is noteworthy that Lord Wavell declared that the Government is examining the plan, and that the views of the authors of the plan on the objects to be achieved are in principle the same as those of the Government.

Resolutions.- Resolutions were adopted demanding the release of political prisoners, urging the need to safeguard India's sterling credits and balances abroad, demanding a clear enunciation of the financial implications of the operations by the South East Asia Command, urging the development of civil aviation, urging the suspension of premium collection under War Risks (Goods) and (Factories) Insurance Schemes, demanding the safeguarding of Indian interests against the operations of the U.K.C.C., welcoming the 15-Year Plan of economic development sponsored by Indian industrialists, suggesting measures to improve the food situation of India, stressing the need to protect in post-war years industries established during war, suggesting measures to improve the coal and fuel situation, urging measures to develop pharmaceutical and drug industry, emphasising the need for Government revising its taxation policy so that taxation will not hinder development of industries protesting against the heavier taxation of life and general insurance companies, protesting against the depletion of cattle stock of the country by slaughter for army requirements, laying down the demands of Indians in post-war Burma, urging full citizen-ship of Indians in U.S.A., condemning the anti-Indian measures of the Government of South Africa and urging the establishment of a Central Oil Seeds Committee.

Sterling Balances.- One resolution urged that India's accumulated sterling credits should, in the first instance, be utilized to repatriate British commercial investments in India and with regard to the balance of sterling credits, the Government of India should secure an undertaking from the British Government that in case the value of the sterling during or after the War depreciates in terms of gold, the British Government shall compensate the Reserve Bank of India for all its sterling holdings to the extent of such depreciation. The resolu-

solution also demanded that at least, even at this late stage, all ~~liars~~ accruing to India, whether on trade balance or otherwise, should be credited to India's account and that the Reserve Bank of India Act be amended to make it possible for the Bank to hold dollar balances.

Civil Aviation.- The Federation urged that the conclusions of the ~~first Air Conference~~ of October 1943 should be submitted to the Central ~~Government~~ and Indian commercial interests for their views. The resolution also urged that air transport development schemes should be ~~run~~ ~~up~~ without delay in close collaboration with Indian commercial interests and that the right of developing, operating and maintaining air ~~services~~ within the country will be completely and exclusively vested in Indian companies which are owned and controlled by Indian nationals.

Economic Development.- One resolution welcomed the 15-Year plan of economic development for India as a constructive contribution towards the solution of India's economic problems, and supported the fundamental objects of the scheme, and urged the ~~Government~~ Government of India to recognise that the post-war economic planning of India must be based on the objectives, broad principles and essential conditions outlined in the ~~plan~~ ~~document~~. The resolution also expressed disappointment with the progress far made by the machinery set up by Government for considering schemes for post-war reconstruction, and expressed the view that unco-ordinated departmental schemes, in the absence of a well-conceived and comprehensive plan, cannot result in achieving the desired objective for a broad-based economic development of the country.

Food Situation.- The Federation expressed the opinion that with a ~~view to the possibility of famine conditions in the country, the~~ Government of India should (a) evolve and implement an all-India policy for the production, procurement and distribution of foodgrains and exercise sufficient vigilance over Provincial Governments and, if necessary direct the latter to carry out effectively and efficiently the all-India policy that may be laid down, (b) utilize, under Government control, ~~all~~ trade channels as far as possible both in the procurement and distribution of foodgrains, (c) stop exports and increase imports of ~~ed~~ ~~grains~~ from abroad, as recommended by the Food Policy Committee, with view to build up and maintain an adequate quantity of reserves recommended by them, and also (d) evolve a practical policy for the effective prosecution of a Grow-More-Food campaign with the object of maximising the production of foodgrains to the utmost, and render all possible assistance, financial and otherwise, to Provincial Governments to initiate and effectively prosecute it. The resolution also urged immediate and necessary measures for the rehabilitation of the physical as ~~well~~ as economic condition of people in famine stricken areas.

Post-War Position of Industries established during War.- One resolution viewed with apprehension the post-war position of a number of new industries and particularly those which have been brought into existence during the war to meet the war necessities of the Allied nations as well as the essential civil needs of the public in India. It further pointed out that the establishment of some of these industries was definitely encouraged by Government with an assurance that such industries will be given such adequate measure of protection against unfair competition from outside India as may be found necessary for the continuance of their existence in the post-war period. Suitable machinery, it was urged, should immediately be evolved to consider the claims of such industries for adequate protection — when necessary — without recourse to a reference to the Tariff Board. The resolution also protested against the policy recently adopted by the Government in encouraging increased imports of manufactured goods which are at present being manufactured and supplied to the public by the newly-established indigenous industries in India.

Coal and Fuel.- The Federation expressed the opinion that the present ~~shortage of coal~~ in the country is mainly due to labour shortage, intensified by Government's policy of exporting coal abroad and, as such, urged special endeavours by Government to help collieries to increase raising making more labour available at the collieries by stopping the drifting coal miners to military works in other areas, and also by arranging procure necessary stores, plant and machinery for use in coal mines. Further suggested that Government should immediately take steps to arrange the opening of new mines and put an embargo on export of coal from India. It ~~is~~ also suggested that the shortage of labour will be much reduced by making working conditions more attractive. The Federation expressed the opinion that the Fuel Research Committee, constituted for exploratory purposes by the Scientific and Industrial Research Board, is limited in its scope and that its progress is neither satisfactory nor rapid and that Government should take immediate steps to constitute an independent Coal Research Board consisting of experts and representatives of the Coal Industry with a view to study the prevailing conditions and to recommend steps to be taken for securing plant and machinery to recover smokeless domestic fuel and other by-products, particularly tar, disinfectants, naphthalene, benzene, etc. by low temperature process from the abundant supplies of lowgrade coal in the country.

Industrial Development and Taxation.- The Federation urged that the ~~present method of taxing industry~~, if not revised, would prove injurious to the industrial development of the country in the post-war period, and that it has resulted in taxing Indian industry on an increasing scale ~~as the last few years~~. The resolution regretted that the Government ~~India has~~, under its policy, not allowed Indian industry to build any appreciable reserves to meet deferred renewals and repairs which would ~~be~~ necessary as a result of the undue strain to which the plant and machinery has been put to war requirements. It entertains apprehension that in the absence of any provision for meeting substantial expenditure ~~in the~~ post-war period on repairs, renewals and replacement of obsolete equipment, as also to meet terminal losses which every industry will have incur in switching over from war to peace time conditions, the competitive position of Indian industry will be seriously weakened.

Office Bearers for 1944-1945.- The following were elected members of the Committee of the Federation for 1944-1945: Mr. J.C. Setalvad, President; Sir Badridas Goenka, Vice-President; Mr. N.R. Sarkar, Secretary, and 26 Members.

(Summarised from the Printed Text of the Presidential address and Text of ~~XXXXXX~~ Resolutions supplied to this Office by the Secretary of the Federation).+

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ment taking the commercial community into its confidence is still
far and more urgent in this particular context, because this Bill has
sought to be introduced by Government at a time when the general
economic condition of the country, including those of industry and labour,
hardly be considered such so as to allow of a balanced view of this
situation at this stage.

Taxation and Industrial Policy of Government.- While the present
policy of labour legislation and social security schemes under contempla-
tion of Government is bound to impose additional burdens on industry, Govern-
ment has not considered whether the industry is capable of bearing that
burden and at the same time maintaining its competitive position in the
post-war period. There are quite a number of factors, which must be taken
into account when the position of Indian industry is considered in the
post-war perspective of social security and 'freedom from want'. These
factors include the post-war monetary and exchange policy of the country,
the tariff policy in order to meet requirements of India's industrial
development, and questions like post-war planning of industries, etc. Some
of these questions were, in fact, in need of solution even before the war,
and solution immediately after the war is over. Taxation of Indian industry
has been steadily on increase since the last ten years as is seen in the
situation of duties on imports of raw materials and of machinery, excise
duties, increased railway freights, surcharges on Income-tax and Excess
Profits Tax. There is anxiety, with 80% of the profits taken away
by tax, as to the effect of this burden on industry after the war. Wear
and tear of machinery has been heavy and cost of capital goods will remain
high even after the war. As against this, the depreciation allowances, which
are given, are inadequately low and cannot cover even the actual war-time
wear and tear. Furthermore, the effect of inflationary prices on the
industrial finances must be taken into account. In order to obtain the same
volume of business at continually rising prices, business has found that the
working capital is insufficient and requires to be supplemented by new
borrowing without which the business has to be contracted as a result and,
therefore, the business has to pay about 94% of the profits by way of taxation,
it will be found that after the war, both its working capital and fixed
capital would have declined in real value.

The building up of strong reserves firstly for renewals, secondly for
expansions and thirdly for new equipment, which the development of industrial
technology would compel industry to instal, is an essential condition of
industrial progress in India. The larger the reserves, which industry
build up against that day, the easier will be the financing of
that task. In the long run, the development of technology such as has
taken place during war days, leaving aside other factors, would render the
existing fixed equipment of Indian industry thoroughly obsolete and would
have to be replaced by new machinery. When the present taxation of
industry does not allow even adequate depreciation reserves to be built
up, one fails to see how it is possible to provide for the day when complete
replacement of the machinery would be essential.

In addition to this question, there is the general question of the
absence of income-tax and excess profits tax on profits that are not
distributed by industry but are ploughed back into business. Under the
present conditions of banking and money market developments in the country,
industry has come to rely on self-financing. Mr. Thapar, therefore,
urged Government to allow a wide discrimination in favour of undistri-
buted profits in the computation of income tax and super-tax.

Industrial Research.- As a result of the war, new methods of produc-
tion as well as improvised methods of utilising raw materials in industrial
production have been employed by Indian industry mainly to increase war-
time output. Some of these methods and improvisations might be of permanent

fit to industry, provided investigation and research are conducted by industry in that regard. The post-war period will also necessitate an increased expenditure on research and other items. Income-tax should allow liberal deductions for the cost of research undertaken by industry. Total expenditure of all the scientific departments of the Government of India, taken together, amounts to less than Rs. 7 millions, i.e. .0005 % of national income which itself is pitifully low. The younger the country in industrial development and younger the industry, higher must be the ratio. In view of the vast researches undertaken in other countries, he demanded Government of India not only concessions for research by industries themselves, but also the overhauling of the scientific departments of the Government of India and allotment of an adequate sum for industrial research to meet the requirements of the post-war period.

Post-War Problems.- The demobilisation of industry and its transformation for the needs of peace would require extensive financial, technical and engineering assistance. In computing this particular note have to be taken into account the expenses or losses that may be involved in the switching over of industrial production from war-time to peace-time conditions. Similarly, there will necessarily be expenditure in regard to the lay-out of factories and the restoration of units, which may have been dispersed during the war. In addition, there would be questions relating to the treatment of losses in the event of a fall in the value of stocks occurring after the war, when the Excess Profits Tax would be withdrawn and the stock depreciation would be allowed under the existing income-tax law. Government should take immediate steps to institute a machinery to examine these questions in consultation with the representatives of industry.

While Government seem to have recently concentrated its attention on post-war requirements of capital goods by Indian industries and the rehabilitation of the continuation and extension of the existing industries along with the transformation of war industries to peace-time needs, it has to have neglected the fiscal part of India's transition to peace time as well as the long-term aspect of taxation and industrial policy. Government of India would be failing in its duty if it does not immediately take up this question and seek the views and active co-operation of the industrial community.

Protection to Industries. During the transitional stage, a matter of great importance would be to protect the new industries, that have come into being during the war-time. Some of these industries have come into being on account of direct or indirect encouragement ~~in the form of~~ from Government. In certain cases, this encouragement took the form of subsidising by Government the import of essential plant and machinery. In other cases, Government gave assurances that these industries would be protected after the war and would not be left high and dry. Such assurances, because of their very nature, vague and unless all such assurances are crystallised into a fuller guarantee and an ad hoc tariff policy is issued by Government so that industries that have come into being during the war would be assured of adequate protection, no real confidence would be placed among the industrialists in regard to the post-war survival of these industries. Furthermore, even the protected industries would be faced with a situation quite different from what it was before the war. So much change would have taken place in the industrial structure and development in various countries, that the very premises on which Indian protective tariffs were built would be found, when the war is over, to be an unreliable guide even in the immediate work of devising a protective tariff that would be readily applicable then. An ad hoc tariff Committee should be set up to go into this question. This is all the more necessary because the Government of India seems to have embarked upon a policy of increasing imports of consumption goods in the country, under the plea of anti-inflationary measures - goods many of which compete with the domestic manufactures.

actures. Such a revision part control should be properly guided by an ad hoc committee so that 's nascent Industries can be assured of a square deal.

The Government has recently adopted a policy of not fully utilising, heir war requirements, the potential capacity of the industries that new come into existence to meet war needs; Government has resumed its policy of importing goods to meet their essential requirements. Govern- has also adopted a very objectionable technique in importing consumers . While the Indian industries manufacturing consumers' goods are le of further production, if given certain facilities, with regard to t of plant and machinery and component parts and thus can meet, to a extent, the increasing requirements of the civil popula- Government has chosen to import these goods from the United Kingdom the plea of anti-inflationary measures. The product of these indust- m to a large extent, is requisitioned by Government for its military rements. The result of the continuance of such a policy would be that enous industries manufacturing consumers' goods would have to create a market for themselves even in their own country after the termination e War. Thus, both the indigenous industries especially established to war needs as well as the industries manufacturing consumers' goods l have to face difficult times ahead at the end of the War.

Local Industry.- Another question to which the president referred was ndifferent attitude of the Government in ignoring the essential require- of the coal industry right upto the end of 1943. On innumerable ions, colliery-owners requested Government for the supply of certain ial requirements for the running of coalmines, such as supply of track-steel sheets for cuts, etc., but Government did not pay any to these requests, with the result that coal raisings were the lowest a year 1943. In addition to these difficulties, mine labour was taken military purposes. Due to energetic measures adopted since November the position has improved slightly. But the Government has introduced a factor by the appointment of a non-Indian Coal Commissioner. The dent expressed fears that the introduction of scheme like the coal ming scheme (vide page 38 of our February 1944 report) will worsen the situation. Further, Government has announced that it would be allowing -class coal to be exported to meet the requirements of Ceylon and Mid countries to the extent of 100,000 tons per month. In addition, it l be allowing another 110,000 tons of first class coal per month for aring purposes at Indian ports; thus, nearly one-third of the first-class coal raised in the country would be utilised for non- trial purposes outside India and its use would be denied to industrial rns in the country. During the coal crisis of 1943, several factories rred to close down rather than use inferior varieties of coal. The tly announced coal rationing scheme brought about as a result of ng of resources between India and United Kingdom, betrays the indi- nce of the Government of India towards the bare requirements of the an industries and cannot but evoke protests from all quarters in India.

Post-war Reconstruction.- The president emphasised the need for ng up detailed reconstruction plans even now. While it is theoret- y recognised in all quarters that the essential desideratum of any plan ocial security and welfare is full employment and that the rixing ing of the national productivity and income is fundamental, some of e aspects have either been ignored and post-war plans in contemplation half-hearted, halted and one sided. One exception to this icism is the 15 year plan formulated by certain Indian industrialists he urged the Government to give their best attention to that plan.

(Summarised from the text of the
presidential address of L. Karamchand
Thapar, forwarded to this Office by
the Secretary of the All-India
+ Organisation of Industrial Employers)

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Workers' Organisations.

Meeting of General Council of the A.I.T.U.C.,
Bombay, 31-1-44 and 1-2-1944.

Some of the more important resolutions adopted by the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress at its meeting held at Bombay on 1-1944 and 1-2-1944 are briefly noticed below:

Employment of Women underground in Coal Mines.- Referring to the statement of the Government of India lifting the ban on the employment of women underground in coal mines and the reasons adduced there to, the Council expressed the view that the main cause of the coal shortage in the country was the unwillingness of owners of mines to increase or even maintain the usual level of production of coal. Another cause was the shortage in mines of equipment like tubs and machinery for cutting and haulage purposes. Again, the wages of miners are very low. The benefits derived by way of dearness allowance and supply of grain at concessionary rates were too inadequate to compensate them for the very high rise in the cost of living. The prevailing wages of miners were only Rs. 15 per month compared to Rs. 10 before the war.

The Council, while welcoming the institution of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund (vide pp. 44-45 of our report for January 1944), held that the benefits deriving from the fund could not be considered a substitute for just wages. The Council estimated that the actual monetary gain to a miner under the scheme would not exceed Rs. 2 per month, which too would be available only at some future date.

~~The Council also protested against the proposal of the Government of India to prohibit miners from being employed in any other employment where they might be paid better wages without, at the same time, taking necessary steps to bring wages in mines on a level with wages in other industries.~~
Referring to the statement made by the Labour Member, Government of India, that the ban worker, being a jealous husband, would prefer his wife to work with him underground, it was pointed out that the miner would be more happy if he could, by his own work, earn sufficient money for the maintenance of his family so that his wife need not work with him underground to supplement his earnings.

The Council has suggested two courses to meet the shortage of coal: (1) Government should compel mine owners to maintain production at a normal level and take over the mine under its own control if any owner failed to do so, and (2) Government should enforce payment of a substantial increase in wages bringing it on a level with wages in other organised industries.

Wages and B.P.F.- The Council protested against the Government of India's draft rules under the Excess Profits Tax Act (vide page 44 of our report for December 1943), which will have the effect of limiting dearness allowance and bonuses granted to employees. It repudiated the suggestion regarding the draft rules that the dearness allowance paid to workers had been one of the causes of inflation in the country and drew attention to the fact that the allowance granted by private employers and Government was, in most cases, inadequate to meet the higher cost of living.

Rationing in Calcutta.- Referring to the introduction of rationing in Calcutta (vide page 51 of our report for January 1944) the Council demanded that special provision should be made for the supply of feed grains to industrial employees at the rate of 5½ seers (1 seer = about 2 lbs) daily per head. It also demanded that prices of rationed food grains should be brought down so as to be within the reach of the workers.

was suggested that, for the effective working of rationing, supervision employers' grain shops should be placed in the hands of representatives workers and employers.

Amendment of to Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules.- The Council of opinion that the new sub rule added to Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules (vide pp. 48-49 of our report for December 1943) which invests Government with discretionary powers to enforce "all or any of the decisions of the adjudicator" should be amended so as to make it obligatory for the Government to enforce all the decisions of the adjudicator, for a partial enforcement of adjudicator's award was likely to prove harmful to the interests of the workers.

Indian Workers' Delegation to 26th International Labour Conference.-The Council advised to recommend Mr. N.M. Joshi as the Indian Workers' Delegate to the 26th session of the International Labour Conference, and Messrs T. Kalappa and S.S. Mirajkar as Advisers to the Delegate.

(The Trade Union Record, February, 1944).

Progress of Trade Unions in Bombay in 1942-43.

Number of Unions.- According to the annual report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Bombay Province for the year ending 31-12-43, there were 81 trade unions, including one Federation, on the 1st of January in the beginning of the year 1942-43. 21 new unions were registered during the year. The registration of 25 of the existing unions was cancelled under Section 10 (b) of the Act for failure to submit annual returns. The year closed with 77 unions, including a Federation, on the 31st of December. Of these, 76 unions submitted annual returns, and 75 unions sent information regarding membership, income and expenditure, and opening and closing balances.

Membership of Unions.- Total membership of the reporting unions increased from 142,300 in 1941-42 to 163,200 in 1942-43. The "Engineering and Shipbuilding" showed a substantial rise of 448.85 per cent; the "Docks and Port Workers" showed the next best rise of 95.23 per cent and the "Railways (including Railway Workshops) and Transport other than Tramways" showed an increase of 15.36 per cent. The "Tramways" and the "Textiles" groups, however, recorded a decrease in membership of 18.51 per cent and 3.97 per cent respectively. Only slight improvement was noticed in female membership in the year under review. There were 31 trade unions having 7,283 female members during the year 1942-43 as against 29 unions with a female membership of 7,254 in the year 1941-42.

Of the 75 trade unions submitting detailed returns, 20 unions had a membership of over 2,000, 17 had a membership ranging between 1,000 and 2,000, 13 between 500 and 1,000 and 25 below 500.

Assets of Unions.- The total assets of all the unions amounted to Rs. 4,75,181. This included an amount of Rs. 1,36,061 or 27.59 per cent of 'unpaid subscriptions due', the real value of which is doubtful. None of the unions, excepting the Federation, maintained a political fund during the year under report.

The assets of the Federation (The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad) as shown in the register were made up of Rs. 63,570 in cash, Rs. 2,000 in securities, Rs. 1,82,108 miscellaneous. The Federation had a general fund of Rs. 90,249, a political fund of Rs. 11,111, staff provident fund of

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23,808, Shahpur society sinking fund of Rs. 19,042 and other liabilities amounting to Rs. 106,240. The Association paid Rs. 34,439 by way of educational, social and religious benefits, and spent Rs. 12,639 on granting benefits such as funeral, old age, sickness, unemployment, etc.

("Indian Labour Gazette", March 1944
issue). +

Progress of Trade Unionism in U.P.
in 1942-43.

Number of Unions.- According to the annual report on the working of Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the United Provinces for the year ending 31-3-1943, there were 43 trade unions on the register in the beginning of the year 1942-43. 11 new unions were registered during the year. The registration of 21 of the existing unions was cancelled under section 10 (b) of the Act for failure to submit returns prescribed under section 28 of the Act. The year closed with 33 trade unions.

Membership of Unions.- Total membership of the registered trade unions in the province increased from 17,493 in 1941-42 to 23,628 in 1942-43 in spite of the fact that the number of the trade unions at the end of the year had decreased by about 23 per cent. The increase in the total membership of the unions was probably explained by the fact that there was a rise in employment figures on account of the war. Moreover greater interest was evinced in the trade union movement on account of the help it renders the workers in securing better conditions of service.

Growing interest was taken by women in the trade union activities. There was some increase in their number from 260 in 1941-42 to 295 in 1942-43 showing a rise of about 13-4 per cent. Female membership was, however, confined to seven unions only. The rise in female membership in trade unions did not keep pace with the rise in male membership with the result that the percentage of female to male membership was 1.3 during the year as against 1.5 in the previous year.

Assets of Unions.- The financial condition of only 11 unions out of the existing 33, as evinced by the amount of their general funds, may be considered to be satisfactory. 18 trade unions were free from debt and showed no unpaid subscriptions in their balance sheets. The amount of unpaid subscriptions, however, continued to be high as in the previous years. The general fund was shown as low as Re. 1 in one case.

("Indian Labour Gazette", March 1944
issue). +

Eighth Annual Session of All-India
Kisan Conference, Bezwada, 14 and
15-3-1944.

The eighth annual session of the All-India Kisan (Agricultural Labour) Conference was held at Bezwada on 14 and 15-3-1944, Swami Sahajanand Swathi presiding.

Presidential Address.- In his presidential address, Swami Sahajanand pointed out that the Kisans (Indian agricultural workers) represented 80 per cent of the people residing in villages and played an important part in the life of the country. They knew very little of politics, but understood well their day-to-day needs and economic problems and were devoid of the idea of collective bargaining and assertion of their rights.

Dealing with the economic problems of the Kisans, he said that the growers of jute and cane and the manufacturers of gur (crude sugar) were the hardest hit of the kisans during these days of high prices for all these commodities. The Kisan Sabha had been demanding a fair price for these articles. The enquiry committees set up by the Government from time to time had fixed the charges of cultivation without any detailed enquiry. Important items of expenditure like interest charges on capital investment in lands, which had changed hands almost cent per cent, had not been taken into account by those committees. The All-India Kisan Conference, he said, must appoint an enquiry committee to make a detailed survey of the cultivation costs for jute and cane, and submit a report on the basis of which it could demand fair and minimum prices for both jute and cane. Referring to the U.P. and Bihar Governments' policy of control of gur export, he said that, while there was a considerable surplus of gur in these provinces, it was being sold in non-producing areas at very high rates because of scarcity.

Proceeding, Swami Sahajanand said: "It has become almost a fashion with the officials and others to repeat that the kisans have become wealthy and prosperous due to the high prices they are getting now. But it is an established fact that more than 80 per cent of the peasant-holdings are un-economic and almost 90 per cent of the kisans are consequently under-fed and under-clothed as they cannot produce enough to feed and clothe themselves and their dependents".

Resolutions.- The more important resolutions adopted by the Conference are noticed below :-

The Conference considered that relief should be given to the kisan to enable and encourage him to produce more food crops and demanded that the following measures be taken forthwith by the Governments concerned: (a) Immediate restoration to the kisan of the land transferred by him to the land from which he was ~~xxx~~ evicted in 1943 ; (b) Payment by the Government of 50 per cent of the amount required in each case of transference, the rest being settled for payment by the kisan by long-term instalments; (c) Investigation as to whether the amount actually paid to the vendor (kisan) was the same as mentioned in the sale deed, if not the vendor so desires and for the return of the money on the basis of its findings; (d) Immediate stopping of the enhancement of rent and eviction of all cultivating tenants and share-croppers. The Conference urged that the Ordinance promulgated by the Government of Bengal in connection with the transference of land (vide page 21 of our December 1943 report) should be modified by an enactment incorporating the above suggestions and that measures be immediately taken in all provinces to stop enhancement of rent and eviction of kisans from land.

The Conference protested against the budget proposals of the Government of India to impose a tax on betelnuts, tea and coffee and to increase the tax on tobacco and the rates of third class railway fares. The burden of these taxes it was pointed out would mainly fall on the kisans and the poorer sections of the population in the country since the articles in which Government proposed to increase taxes are daily necessities for life of the vast masses of the people.

By another resolution the Conference urged the Government of the North West Frontier Province to postpone the proposed re-assessment of land and revenues till the end of the war as it was likely to impose additional tax burdens on the smaller peasants, and further demanded that a Tenancy Act should immediately be passed to protect the rights of North West Frontier Kisans over their lands and produce.

It also condemned the move of the Jagirdars (land holders) of the Province of Sind to get the Jagirdari Act either repealed or amended in such a way as to deprive kisans of their rights of paying rent in cash

- a right which they enjoy under the provision of the Act, — and suggested to the Sind Government to introduce legislation giving occupancy rights to all tenants who are cultivating the lands.

By another resolution the Conference decided to appoint a committee to go into the grievances of agricultural labourers and report ~~its reco-~~ ~~mmendations~~ to the Central Kisan Committee.

The Conference also suggested that an inquiry be made by the Government for adequate supply of essential commodities to agriculturists at reduced rates.

The Conference also passed a resolution urging the release of national leaders, as it felt that such a step would create the atmosphere necessary for national unity, and the setting up of a National Government enjoying the confidence of the people. It stressed that this was the only way to effectively fight famines and epidemics, ensure success of the Central Government's food plan, and guarantee economic stability and peace so necessary for the ~~swift necessary for the~~ successful prosecution of the war.

(The Hindu, dated 15-3-1944.
The Hindustan Times, dated 15 and
16-3-1944). +

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Prohibition to be Re-introduced in 'Dry' Area
in Central Provinces.

A Bill proposing to withdraw prohibition from one of the three areas in the Provinces, where it was introduced by the Congress Ministry in 1938, has been published by the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar. It is explained that the experience of five years of working has indicated that in Katni-Murwara prohibition is faced with such grave and increasing difficulties that there is no possibility of effective enforcement with the staff which, in the present circumstances, Government could make available. The bulk of industrial labour, it is stated, has always been employed outside the prohibition area and recent developments have increased this trend. The retention of prohibition in an isolated dry area which is only a few miles from an Indian State where cheap and strong liquor is readily available secures none of the benefits intended from its introduction and merely encourages wholesale disregard of the law.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-3-44).

Health Problems in India: Discussion in
British Medical Journal. ✓

Several interesting facts regarding the public health problems of India were brought out in the course of a discussion carried on by a few ~~max~~ eminent medical authorities on tropical medicine in ~~Britain~~ in the British Medical Journal. The more important points brought out in the discussion are noticed below:

Mr. D.B. Blacklock: Health Amenities might give rise to Unchecked
growth of Population.- Mr. D.B. Blacklock, Professor of Tropical Medicine in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who initiated the discussion by a long article, based on a restatement of the Malthusian trine, argued paradoxically that if Indian conditions improved the country would be faced with a starvation crisis. Saying that the existing means for the betterment of health would produce "most spectacular results" in countries such as India, where there is a high incidence of preventable diseases, Mr. Blacklock challenged medical and social workers to face up to the consequences of implementing the Atlantic Charter, as he thought that such a step would be wholly disastrous to the future of the country. He argued that an enlightened land policy and the fulfilment of the promises made by the Charter, coupled with the Hindu views on marriage and production of families, were bound to produce acute economic and political difficulties. "If maximum production and use is practised and there is a sustained effort to apply our knowledge for the betterment of health, prevention of disease, and the improving of housing environment and nutrition, then India, with all these newly acquired aids towards an increase in numbers and healthy families, will become so rapidly populated that starvation will inevitably result and that soon! In anticipation of a time when neither further irrigation schemes nor more scientific treatment of the soil can result in increased production from land, Indian statesmen must have a policy ready by which a great disaster for their country can be avoided". The future, from the medical standpoint, was ready largely in the hands of the Indians themselves, added Mr. Blacklock, there were only 200 British doctors in the Civil Medical Department out of a total of 6,000.

Dr. R.G. Forrester: Industrialisation and Scientific Agriculture.- Putting this forecast, Dr. R.G. Forrester, Chairman of the Research Committee of the Association of Scientific Workers, cites the Hot-Springs Conference Report to the following effect: "The real clue to a solution of the problem of ~~agricultural~~ agricultural overpopulation lies in industrialisation.....It is also necessary if we are to raise the general standard of living". Dr. Forrester observes that in view of the tendency of urban populations to be less fertile, industrialisation will be accompanied by a fall in the birth-rate. At present, he says, five per cent of deaths in India is of children under ten years of age, which means that a great proportion of the population never functions as fully efficient producers. Also, new scientific agricultural techniques such as hybridisation of grains, artificial insemination, etc., have demonstrated enormous potentialities for increased production. The goal should be expansion rather than restriction, whether of production or of population, says Dr. Forrester. He again cited the Hot-Springs Conference Report: "Even the will, we have the power to build in every nation a people more intelligent, more vigorous, more competent, a people with longer, more productive lives and with more physical and mental stamina than the world has ever known".

The same view is held by Dr. D.M. Barrow who points out, in his reply to Mr. Blacklock's thesis, that, if all the advantages of civilisation envisaged by Dr. Blacklock were applied, India's agriculture could produce

arly four and a half times as much food, which would be sufficient for population three times that of present-day India.

Sir John Megaw: Regulation of Population Increase.- Sir John Megaw, ~~ex-Director of Public Health in India~~, in a ~~letter~~ letter criticises the slow realisation by the Provincial and Central Governments of the importance of having a plan for dealing with the problem of population in India, ~~with~~ although representations urging its necessity had often been made by medical research workers in the past two decades, The solution, he says, lies in increasing production and in regulating the reproduction of children so as to maintain a satisfactory balance between food supply and distribution. With regard to the social customs believed to hold a strong sway over the common people in India against any such control, he points out that he has been assured by many educated ~~Indians~~ Indians that the people can be shown how to improve their conditions of life, they will not allow religious and other prejudices to stand in the way of effecting the necessary changes.

Dr. D.M. Prem: National Government Essential.- An Indian doctor, ~~Dr. D.M. Prem~~, in a statement points out that the Indian problem cannot be solved by limiting the population alone but by better education, better health and social services and modern methods of agriculture and industrial development and adds that it is only an independent Indian Government that will have the power, courage and resources to bring about such all-round changes.

(The Hindu, dated 27-3-1944). ✓

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SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Further Increase in Dearness Allowance
of Lower Paid Central Government
Servants. ✓

A further increase in the rates of dearness allowance to all lower paid Central Government employees and a special concession to employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department were announced by the Posts and Air Secretary, Sir Gurunath Bewoor, in the course of his reply to the debate in the Central Assembly on 16-3-1944, on Mr. Jannadas Mehta's cut motion to urge need for an increase in dearness allowance. (The last increase was effected on 15-6-43 and was reported at page 20 of our report for June, 1943).

The Government has now decided that :

In "A" class areas, the existing rate of dearness allowance of Rs. 11 for those drawing below Rs. 40 a month would be raised to Rs. 14. For those drawing between Rs. 40 and Rs. 150 a month, the present dearness allowance of Rs. 14 would be increased to Rs. 18 and the pay limit raised to Rs. 250, that is to say, employees drawing between Rs. 40 and Rs. 250 would get a dearness allowance of Rs. 18.

In "B" class areas, the respective dearness allowances would be raised from Rs. 8-8 and Rs. 11 to Rs. 11 and Rs. 14, and the pay limit for the latter would be raised from Rs. 125 to Rs. 200.

In "C" class areas the dearness allowance rate would be raised from Rs. 6-8 and Rs. 9 to Rs. 9 and Rs. 12, and the pay limit for the latter from Rs. 90 to Rs. 150.

Special Allowance to Employee of Posts and Telegraphs Department.-
Employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department getting below Rs. 40 would receive a "good conduct" pay of Rs. 2 a month as a special concession.

The new rates will come into effect from 1-3-1944.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-3-1944) ✓

Increased Dearness Allowance to Railway
Employees. ✓

The Railway Board has, with effect from 1-3-1944, granted the following increased dearness allowance to railway workers :

Scale of Allowance.- (a) All whole-time railway servants shall be entitled for an allowance as detailed below while their headquarters are in the areas and their pay does not exceed the limits specified in each :-

Area	Pay limit	Allowance.
" X "	Rs. 250 p.m.	Rs. 16 p.m.
" A "	Rs. 200 p.m.	Rs. 14 p.m.
" B "	Rs. 175 p.m.	Rs. 11 p.m.
" C "	Rs. 150 p.m.	Rs. 9 p.m.

(b) In respect of personnel enrolled in Indian Railway Units (Defence India) I.E., the allowance will be as detailed below :-

Area	Pay limit	Allowance.
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Area	Pay limit	Allowance.
"X"	Rs. 250 p.m.	Rs. 10/8/- p.m.
"A"	Rs. 200 p.m.	Rs. 10/8/- p.m.
"B"	Rs. 175 p.m.	Rs. 8/12/-p.m.
"C"	Rs. 150 p.m.	Rs. 7 p.m.

- Area "X" refers to the Municipal Limits of Bombay, Calcutta and Cawnpore.
- Area "A" consists of towns of not less than 250,000 inhabitants, excluding area "X".
- Area "B" consists of towns with population between 50,000 and 250,000.
- Area "C" consists of towns not coming under the above categories.

(Notification No. E 44 DA 11 dated 1-3-1944: The Gazette of India, Part I, sec.1, dated 4-3-1944, page 261). ✓
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Dearness Allowance for Workers in Gwalior State: Recommendations in Interim Report of Textile Labour Enquiry Commission. ✓

Reference was made at page 3 of our May 1943 report to the setting up of Textile Labour Enquiry Commission by the Gwalior Government to enquire into workers' grievances and make recommendations for improving their conditions. Although the Commission's final report is yet to be submitted, its interim report dealing with the principles underlying the calculation of dearness allowance has now received the assent of the Gwalior Government.

According to the recommendations of the Commission, which have been given retrospective effect from 1-10-1943, ~~an equal amount~~ of dearness allowance will be paid to all workers irrespective of their wages. The amount of dearness allowance would be issued every three months by relating it to the average of the cost of living index numbers for Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur for the previous three months and by taking the average numbers of the index number for that month and the subsequent two months. The amount of allowance would be arrived at by calculating it at the rate of Rs. 3 per unit of rise of the average number.

Employees who are under the existing arrangements getting an allowance in excess of the amount calculated at the flat rate would continue to draw the same higher amount of allowance for the present and would be entitled to a higher allowance only when the amount calculated at the flat rate exceeds their existing allowance.

Recommendations of the Commission, inter alia, ~~are~~ understood to include advice to the workers to be more constitutional in getting redress of their grievances and disabilities; in the same way, the mills have been ordered to frame and settle their standing orders and enforce them for proper efficiency, discipline and better output.

("Indian Labour Gazette", March 1944 issue). ✓

Higher Pay and Dearness Allowance for
Travancore Government Servants. ✓

The Government of Travancore State has enhanced the rates of pay and dearness allowance of its employees.

Revised Scales of Pay.- Government has decided that the minimum salary for menial servants in Trivandrum and a few ~~other~~ other towns should be Rs. 14 per mensem, in other urban centres Rs. 11 and in the villages Rs. 10. The minimum salary in the clerical and the corresponding subordinate ranks should be Rs. 25 per mensem. The Government has also revised the scale of salaries in the case of superior services in order to improve their position as far as practicable. The salary scales of the intermediate grades of the service also, it is understood, will be revised soon.

Revised Rates of Dearness Allowance.- Persons receiving upto Rs. 25 per mensem will receive Rs. 7 per mensem as dearness allowance and an amount equal to salary in cases where salaries are less than Rs. 7 per mensem. Those whose salary is above Rs. 25 and upto Rs. 45 will receive 10 per mensem. Officers receiving between Rs. 45 and Rs. 100 will receive Rs. 12. Those drawing above Rs. 100 and upto Rs. 112 will receive an amount which will raise the total emoluments to Rs. 112 per mensem and officers in the scale of Rs. 100-5-125 whose pay is not changed in the present revision will receive Rs. 12 per mensem. The new scales of allowance come into effect from about the middle of January, 1944.

(The Hindu, dated 13-3-1944). ✓₊

Further Increase in Pay of Indian
Soldiers. ✓

A further increase in the pay of Indian Soldiers was announced in the Council of State by General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, on 7-3-1944.

The last increase — the third since the beginning of the war — was announced in September, 1942 (vide page 27 of our report for September, 1942). The classes benefited by the present increase are the non-tradesmen classes of the Indian other ranks which comprise approximately 80 per cent of the total strength of the forces. Under this decision, combatant ranks in the tradesmen class of all arms will, with effect from January 1, 1944, receive a special proficiency pay over and above the proficiency pay awarded in September, 1942, at the following rates and subject to passing necessary tests: (a) After six months' service Rs. 3 a month; (b) after one year's service a further Rs. 2 a month; ~~the~~ making a total betterment of Rs. 5 a month after one year's service. Non-tradesmen, who are classed as unenrolled non-combatants, will also receive increases of proficiency pay amounting to Rs. 3 a month after 12 months' service. Rs. 2 will be awarded after six months' service and the additional rupee six months later. The amount which is paid to Indian soldiers in field service areas will, also with effect from January 1, 1944, be increased, in the case of combatants, tradesmen and non-tradesmen, by Rs. 3 a month and in the case of unenrolled non-combatants by Rs. 2 a month.

It is estimated that the annual cost of these measures will be approximately Rs. 90 million a year.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-3-1944). ✓₊

Cheap Grocery Shops for Punjab
Government Employees.

In reply to a question in the Punjab Legislative Assembly on 6-3-44, Sudhri Tikkaram, Parliamentary Secretary to the Development Minister, Punjab Government, announced that the Government had decided to open in Lahore and later in other parts of the province for the benefit of civilian government servants, official shops on the lines of the canteen stores and officers' shop run by the army. These shops were designed as a measure of relief to civilian government servants, particularly those who did not draw dearness allowance and also as a measure of bringing down prices in the general market. The shops will supply tinned goods, toilet requisites, and medical preparations and other articles of household and personal use.

(The Hindu, dated 7-3-1944). ✓
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Increased Dearness Allowance for U.P.
Government Employees.

A Press Note issued by the U.P. Government points out that from May 1, 1943, the United Provinces Government sanctioned revised rates of dearness allowance for its servants at Rs. 9-8-0 and Rs. 12 per mensem to those drawing pay below Rs. 40 and between Rs. 40 and Rs. 125 per mensem in the larger towns and Rs. 7 and Rs. 9-8-0 per mensem to those drawing pay below Rs. 40 and between Rs. 40 and Rs. 90 per mensem in other areas. (See page 18 of our June 1943 report). These rates have now been increased to Rs. 11 and Rs. 14 per mensem for those drawing pay below Rs. 40 and between Rs. 40 and Rs. 200 per mensem in the larger towns and Rs. 9 and Rs. 12 per mensem for those drawing pay below Rs. 40 and between Rs. 40 and Rs. 150 per mensem in other areas, with effect from March 1, 1944, until further orders.

(The Leader, dated 31-3-1944). ✓
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Employment.

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Working of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance during 1941-1945.

The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance came into force on the 1 December 1941. It applies automatically to all employment under the Ordinance. It applies also to such employments as have been specifically declared for this purpose by the Central or a Provincial Government. The powers under the Ordinance are exercisable by both the Central and Provincial Governments. The Central Government have exercised its powers only in a few cases; Provincial Governments have exercised powers in local circumstances in each province and the extent and manner of their exercise has therefore varied.

Declarations of non-Government employments as 'essential'. - No such declarations have been made by the Governments of the Central Provinces and Bihar, the Punjab, the North West Frontier Province and Orissa, or by the locally administered areas other than Delhi and Baluchistan. The declarations in Delhi and Baluchistan extend to a few local bodies and public utility companies. Among the remaining provinces Assam and Bengal have the greatest recourse to the Ordinance.

Employment in Federal Railways (other than State railways whose case is automatically covered) has been "declared" by the Central Government. Transport and Communication Services have been "declared" in Assam, West Bengal and Bihar. Public utilities such as water works, electric supply services and sanitation services have been extensively declared 'essential' in all provinces where use of the Ordinance has been made. Very few industries have been brought under the Ordinance. The figures of persons covered by the various declarations are not available, but on the whole the application of the Ordinance has not been very extensive.

Rules for regulating wages and conditions of service (Sec.6). - The Governments of Bengal, Orissa and U.P. have framed rules under sub-section 1, section 6, of the Ordinance. The Labour Commissioners in Bengal and Bihar and the District Magistrates in Orissa have been empowered under the Ordinance to regulate wages and conditions of service generally. In Assam the Controller of Emigrant Labour and Labour Commissioner has been authorised for the purpose. No other Provincial Government has reported the issue of orders under section 6.

Powers in respect of prohibition of departure from certain areas. - A number of officers have been authorised under sub-section (1), section 4, of the Ordinance to prohibit, by a general or special order where necessary, any person engaged in an employment to which the Ordinance applies from departing out of any area specified in the order. Information is not available from all provinces as to the extent to which the power to issue orders under this section has been availed of. Some use of it has been made in Bombay.

Officers authorised to make complaints. - No formal authorizations have been issued by the Governments of N.W.F.P., Orissa and the Punjab. In other areas the authorizations are generally in respect of District Magistrates, District Superintendents of Police and in Presidency towns Commissioners of Police. Other officers authorized in individual provinces include the Labour Commissioners, Superintendents of jails, Police Officers not below the rank of an officer in charge of a police station, stipendiary magistrates subject however to the orders of the District Magistrates, Gazetted officers of State-managed railways and the Master General of one province.

Prosecutions under the Ordinance. - The number of prosecutions instituted so far is approximately 2,601. The very large majority of these

as were of Government servants.

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The following table gives information regarding the prosecutions:-

	No. of Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Acquittals	Withdrawals	Pending.
Government servants.	1,973	618	42	322	805
Others.	312	52	10	15	14
Cases for which information is not separately available	316	73	5	43	91
Government servants and others.					
Total	2,601	743	57	380	910

(Indian Labour Gazette, March 1944 issue).

Adaptation of Technical Training
to Civilian Industries:
Government of India sets up Advisory
Committee.

Soon after the out-break of the war, the Government of India realised that the available supply of technical personnel would prove insufficient to meet the needs of the technical branches of the Defence Services, of Ordnance and Munitions factories, and of private industry engaged on war production. A scheme for the intensive training of semi-skilled personnel was, therefore, inaugurated 3 years ago. Since then over 63,000 men have been trained of whom 52,000 have joined the technical branches of the Defence Services and 11,000 have gone into Ordnance factories. Civil industries have, however, not yet absorbed these trainees on any large scale and their expansion has probably been supported by recruitment from the ordinary market and by their own training schemes. Railways and Ship-building industries have their own apprenticeship schemes. The Technical Training Scheme of the Government of India has demonstrated that, with intensive training, semi-skilled men can be trained for all industries and the standard of such training, after from 6 to 8 months' training, is at least upto, if not above, the standard reached under ordinary peace-time apprenticeship schemes of two to three years' duration. It is possible that if training imparted under the Technical Training Scheme is supplemented by further "biased" training, the final product will be more acceptable to employers.

For sometime past, the Government of India has had under its consideration the problem of adjusting the Technical Training Scheme to the war-time needs of civil industry, and has now decided to set up an Advisory Committee for this purpose. The function of this Committee will be to review the existing methods and syllabuses of training under the Technical Training Scheme and to advise how it should be adjusted to meet the present day needs of industry. It will also advise Government as to how Government trainees may be utilised for dilution and upgrading, so that skilled and highly skilled men can be released for more important jobs which the less skilled workmen are unable to perform.

The Advisory Committee will be composed of four representatives of state engineering employers, one representative each of Ordnance factories, Railway Board and Ship-building Industry, and a ~~xxxxx~~ senior Chairman of a Central Service Labour Tribunal. The Chairman of the committee will be Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, and the Vice-Chairman will be the Director of Training, Department of Labour.

(Resolution of the Department of Labour,
Government of India, No.TRA-I-1403/6
dated 1-3-1944: The Gazette of India,
Part I, sec.1, dated 11-3-1944, page
282). . .

Government of India's Agricultural Policy: Motion for Floating Rs. 100 Million Loan to Subsidize Agriculture Carried in Central Assembly.

The policy followed by the Government of India in regard to the development of agriculture was explained by Mr. J.D. Tyson, Secretary, Department of Education Health and Lands, Government of India, in reply to a non-official motion introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly recommending to the Government to float a loan of Rs. 100 million as an anti-inflationary measure earmarked for purposes of subsidizing agriculturists to grow more food and increase milk products.

While moving the resolution, Mr. G.D. Deshmukh referred to the food shortage in the country and said that, as in other countries, subsidies should be given to agriculturists. More food, he said, could not be grown merely by bringing more land under cultivation and with the meagre help which the Government had given to agriculturists; measures should be adopted to meet the shortage of labour in farms and to prevent it from drifting to more profitable occupations. He compared the conditions in India with other countries like Australia, England, and Canada and declared that several of these countries were spending huge sums of money to subsidize agriculture.

Speaking in support of the motion, Mr. C.P. Lawson (European Group) stated that what was needed was technical assistance, propaganda and crop planning. He said that there must first be a productive plan before getting funds. This, he suggested, must be on the lines as for cotton, tea, coffee and rubber, all of which had yielded excellent results.

The need for opening agricultural banks to finance and help agriculturists, provision of storage facilities, institution of a more efficient distribution machinery under the Central Government so that subsidies may be given evenly and properly distributed and the supply of implements and services to cultivators at reasonable rates were some of the other points stressed by the members during the discussion on the motion.

Mr. Tyson in his reply explaining Government's policy, stressed the following points :

(1) The Central Government had always supported and extended assistance by sound scheme for agricultural improvement put forward by a Province or State. (2) A subsidy of two rupees per acre was being offered when land for cotton was diverted for cultivation of food crops — the scheme had cost the Government about Rs. 2.8 million. (In the Central Provinces alone 600,000 acres had been so diverted from short-staple cotton.) (3) The Government of India was also helping agriculturists by supplying provinces with grain seeds and manures at concessional rates. (4) There was no shortage of agricultural labour except in a few very small areas where recruitment had been particularly heavy or military works were being carried out. The Government had also no evidence to suggest that there was any shortage of bullocks for agricultural purposes except in certain remote small areas. (5) During the coming financial year, Government has already accepted commitments to the extent of Rs. 6.5 million in subsidies and Rs. 7.5 million in loans. These sums represented only a part of the help given to agriculturists, as provinces bore part of the subsidies—sometimes 50 per cent, sometimes 75 per cent of the expenditure—and, besides, provincial Governments had schemes of their own for which the Central Government did not contribute anything. Mr. Tyson added that as a result of the "grow more food" campaign, the normal acreage under short-staple cotton of 18.5 million had been reduced to 8.8 million, and over 10 million acres had been brought under food cultivation. Referring to the need for long term policy, he pointed out that Government had been

examining all ^{suggested} schemes for this purpose with a view to derive short-term profit also. Grants had been made to Bihar, the United Provinces, Bombay and Madras for digging wells and tanks and building dams.

The motion was adopted without a division.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-3-1944).

Progress of Food Rationing in India.

Reviewing the progress made by food rationing schemes in India, a news item in the Hindustan Times of 30-3-44 points out that over 130 cities and towns, with a population of more than 25 million, have been fully rationed by the end of March 1944 or have made preparations for early rationing. Madras tops the list with 38 towns; U.P. comes a close second with 35; Bengal is third with eight; and Orissa follows with eight.

(The Hindustan Times, 30-3-1944).

Rehabilitation of Famine-Affected Areas in Bengal; Rs. 40 million to be provided.

It is understood that a sum of Rs. 40 million is being provided by the Government of Bengal in connection with the scheme of rehabilitation drawn up by a special Sub-Committee of the Bengal Ministry. The area under the rehabilitation scheme is proposed to be divided into a large number of circles. In each circle there will be a workhouse, homes for destitute children and creches. Special relief is recommended for weavers, potters, carpenters, blacksmiths, fishermen and members of the middle class. Test relief works would aim at increasing the yield of agricultural produce, reclaiming waste lands, improving communications, public health, etc. Colonization and co-operative farming will be undertaken as a specific measure.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-3-1944).

Post-war Road Development: Recommendations
of Chief Engineers' Conference.

A brief reference was made at page 69 of our December 1943 report to recommendations of the Chief Engineers' Conference held at Nagpur in middle of December 1943. The recommendations of the Chief Engineers' Conference for a co-ordinated plan of road communications for India involving 5-year programme for 400,000 miles of new roads at a cost of Rs. 4,500 million were explained by Sir Mohamed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, Government of India, with the help of Departmental and Technical Experts at Press Conference on 9-3-1944. The reports of the Chief Engineers and the Technical Sub-Committee of Road Transport and Road-Rail Relations being published to promote public discussion.

Present Position.- The present position is described by the Technical Committee thus: "There has been no road planning in India and the evolution of road administration has been on the assumption that roads are suitable for development. Roads are a provincial subject and responsibility for bulk of the roads upon which rural welfare depends has been thrown on all bodies with bad results. 'Provincial' metalled roads have been developed as the skeleton of a system convenient to the administration and the influential classes, while rural roads have generally been neglected. There has been no expansion or improvement commensurate with the growth of population and the movement of commercial crops. That more and better roads are a necessity that will make for social, political and economic progress cannot be disputed".

Scheme of Development.- The cost of Rs. 4,500 million and the proposed mileage of 400,000 of roads are estimated as :-

Roads	Mileage	Cost in Million.
National Highways	22,000	470
National Trails	3,000	30
Provincial Highways	65,000	1,210
District Roads-Major	60,000	620
District Roads-Others	100,000	800
Village Roads	150,000	300
Arrears of war years		100
Bridging		450
Land Acquisition		500

The above cost has been computed at 50% above pre-war figures for the whole programme, and is exclusive of the expenditure already incurred for roads made for war purposes.

The development programme is divided into two parts, a long-term programme to give elaborate road communications throughout India and a short-term programme to deal with the immediate problems arising out of the war. The latter includes the immediate making good of damage to roads due to war conditions of increased traffic and short supplies and the use of demobilized machinery together with machinery released at the end of the war. The long-term programme divides roads into four classes: national highways (including "trails" for developing and opening up large tracts deficient in communications), provincial or State highways, district roads and village roads. National highways and the "trails" are to be the framework within which the road system of the country is to be developed. These are to be the principal responsibility of the Centre, both for construction and maintenance. Provincial highways and rural communications, both village and district roads, are to be designed and constructed by the highway department of the Province or State. Classification and other standards for the various

ads have been laid down in the report. It is estimated that the total proximate lengths of hard crust roads will be 147,000 miles and of earth roads 253,000 miles, as against existing milages of about 79,000 and 3,000 respectively. The maintenance costs, after completion of the programme, are anticipated to be Rs. 160 million.

Skeleton Schemes.- The report suggests that all provinces and States should prepare skeleton schemes of or project estimates for submission to the Centre by the end of August, 1944. The provinces and States are required to indicate priority for the projects proposed for construction during the first two years after the war. The Centre will decide the priorities for national highways. Priorities for other types of highways and roads will be decided by the provinces and States. Detailed estimates for all projects are required to be ready by December, 1944.

Procurement of Machinery.- The report visualizes the possibility of using demobilized personnel and surplus machinery that would be available from the army. Indents, it is suggested, should be placed for 1,200 rollers, one-third diesel and two-thirds steam. The immediate formation of a Road Board is also suggested. The Board, it is laid down, will balance rival aims for priority in construction; co-ordinate and direct the efforts of all construction agencies; phase work so as to make the best use of demobilized men and plant released by the army; regulate competition between the various construction agencies for labour and material; decide rival aims for priority in bridge construction; decide on allocation of available tools and plant; discourage recruitment of staff on a parochial rather than a qualification basis; and deal with similar difficult and controversial matters. It will be guided in its policy by the recommendations of Advisory Council.

Road-Rail Coordination.- The use of each means of transport for the ~~affair for which it is best suited~~ is recommended by the Technical Subcommittee on the future of Road Transport and Road-Rail Relations of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of the Viceroy's Council. Cheap and efficient transport for all, it says, can be achieved only if the transport sources available and to be made available are utilized to the best advantage possible, with due regard to the specific needs of the various sections of the community and avoiding overlapping ~~the community~~, with consequent waste both of transport capacity and financial resources of the country. The committee ~~has~~ suggested a unified and co-ordinated transport policy, administered with the concurrence and co-operation of the provinces, and with the single purpose of providing efficient transport. This policy necessarily requires regulation and control of all forms of transport.

There are many gaps within the network of Indian railways which only road transport can fill. The introduction and development of motor transport in rural areas, the committee says, will be of very great advantage and benefit to the rural population as well as to the trade, industry and general prosperity of the country as a whole. The picture of the future rural India is one in which motor transport will penetrate to the remotest villages connecting them with the main transport system; and will play a gradually increasing part in marketing between village and market town and in distribution between town and village. Thus the villager will have at his disposal modern means of transport, readier communication with the outside world, medical attention and other social services to no less a proportionate degree than the town dweller. To attain this result, active development of road and constructive development of road transport are necessary.

The committee recommends that ^astart should be made now, during the war, to develop motor transport on sound lines. Except where long distance goods traffic by road is in the public interest, competition between road

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rail should be prevented by a system of regulation, combining expert
ement of the merits of each case on the basis of public and economic
with scientific zoning.

The committee considers healthy competition between road and rail
he carriage of passengers desirable.

(The Statesman, 10-3-1944). +

Post-War Civil Aviation: Government
of India's Plan submitted to Re-
construction Policy Committee.

A five-year plan of post-war civil aviation has been prepared by the
s and Air Department, Government of India, for consideration by the
nstruction Policy Committee. The scheme is on the lines of the plan
ined by Sir Gurnath Bewoor in the Central Assembly in the last week
February 1944 (vide pages 46 to 48 of our February 1944 report). A
t of 35 aircraft are to operate these services. The type of machine
ired is illustrated by the suggestion that 15 DC-3 and 20 DH-95 will
the fleet. At ~~pre~~ pre-war prices the capital cost of the fleet will
s. 15 million. The annual cost of operation will be Rs. 25.3 million
ng the first year, falling to Rs. 1.9 million in the fifth year. The
ices will earn revenue by carrying mails, freight and passengers. It
estimated that the revenue in the first year will fall short of the cost
~~operation by Rs. 16 million, but in the fifth year will show a profit~~
s. 1.3 million. The services, the report adds, may be established and
ated either by the State, a statutory corporation, a single monopoly
pany or a limited number of companies.

The staff required will be 50 to 55 aircraft commanders (pilot naviga-
s); 50 to 55 second pilots (navigators); 50 to 55 wireless operators;
to 500 engineers and skilled mechanics, plus office and traffic staff
labour.

(The Statesman, dated 19-3-1944). +

Generation of Cheap Electric Power
In Bombay: Bombay Government's
Scheme.

The Government of Bombay has decided to undertake a scheme for the
elopment of electricity in order to ensure cheap supply of power for
igation, industries and lighting in the rural areas in the province
ing the post-war period. It is understood that Mr. P.B. Advani, who was
il recently Director of Industries, Bombay Province, has been appointed
icer on Special Duty in the Public Works Department to examine the
ject ~~in~~ in detail and prepare the scheme.

The scheme will it is believed, take the form of the grid system on
model of that in the United Kingdom. It is proposed to have a network
generating stations built in centrally situated areas in each division
the province in order to ensure the generation of power by turbine
stem and its distribution at a very cheap rate.

It is understood that the Government proposes adopting necessary
islation to set up a Central Electricity Board, on the model of the
ard in the United Kingdom, for the erection of generating stations and
istribution and regulation of supply of electricity.

(The Times of India, 1-3-1944). +

Post-War Settlement of Soldiers
Defence Member Explains Govern-
ment's Plans.

Tentative plans for the resettlement of demobilised soldiers were outlined by Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Defence Member, Government of India, opening a meeting of the Reconstruction Committee dealing with resettlement and re-employment, at New Delhi on 29-2-1944.

The Navy and the Air Force: No Serious Problem.- Sir Firoz Khan gave the strength of the Indian Army as approximately one and three-quarter million, and said, it was "increasing at the rate of about 30,000 a month. The strength of the Royal Indian Navy was roughly 20,000 and that of the Indian Air Force approximately 30,000, including non-combatants. The navy and the air force, he pointed out, were not likely to present a serious difficulty on demobilisation. It could be assumed that neither service would be reduced to anything like its pre-war strength. The naval cadres in 1939 were in the vicinity of 1,500 and the Indian Air Force was still in its infancy.

More than a Million Soldiers to be Demobilised: Connected Economic and other Problems.- As regards the army, Sir Firoz Khan said that at least one and a quarter, and possibly one and a half, million men would have to return to civil life. This might not appear a very formidable figure when the size of the population—about 400 million—is considered. But recruitment was exceedingly uneven and, whereas over large tracts of the country there was hardly a man in the services, there were a number of comparatively small areas which had been practically stripped of their man-power, and these were bound to be very seriously affected by demobilisation.

"Apart from the purely economic aspect of the return to civil life of more than a million soldiers, which will be comparatively trifling except in certain well marked areas, the fact remains that all these men will have become accustomed to a far higher standard of living than they previously enjoyed". "They will have acquired a considerable amount of education and also skill in the use of modern weapons and modern machinery. They ~~have~~ will have, moreover, learnt to take a pride in themselves and have been encouraged to hope for better things. Their demands on life will be much higher than they were, and unless they are satisfied with the conditions to which they would return, they would form a considerable leaven of discontent instead of becoming a stable and progressive element in the community".

Facilities for Agricultural Employment.- Discussing ways for the utilisation of the Resettlement Fund which now amounted to Rs. 50 million, but which by the time demobilisation actually began might be double that figure, Sir Firoz Khan suggested that, at each army training centre—of which at present there were 110—an agricultural institute should be established which would impart education to the soldier while ~~he~~ he was still in the army.

He referred to the Punjab Government's Thal Canal project which would irrigate about 500,000 acres of land by October, 1945. Within this new area there were about 90,000 acres of Crown land belonging to the Punjab Government. He suggested that the Government of India should purchase these 90,000 acres from the Punjab Government and establish collective farms for the purpose of finding employment for the demobilised soldier. Similar schemes for other provinces ~~and~~ also would have ~~to~~ to be considered.

Connected with this, is also the question of establishing vegetable seed farms. These should be established in suitable areas so as to provide vegetable seeds to the demobilised soldiers through~~the~~ the

arious soldiers' boards so as to enable ~~them~~ them to earn a little more money out of their small holdings spread throughout the villages of India.

Soldiers' All-India Co-operatives. - Sir Firoz Khan spoke of the value of establishing an All-India Co-operative Council under the Defence Department to work out co-operative schemes for the benefit of demobilised Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen. He mentioned that manufacture of cycles in parts, of clothes and shoes on a co-operative basis and possibly watches was within the realm of possibility. Fruit growing, fruit and vegetable canning, bottling of fruit juices, dehydrating of vegetables, marketing of agricultural products, sale of consumer goods could all be carried out on a co-operative basis.

The Co-operative Council should work out the various schemes. It was also possible to establish a Co-operative ~~Bank~~ Savings Bank for Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen to consolidate the kind of services which are now being rendered by the Indian Post Office savings banks.

(The Times of India, 2-3-1944).

Post-war Roads Development: Recommendations of Council of Indian Roads Congress. +

The setting up of a Transport Department at the Centre and the appointment of a member for this department and an Advisory Council with a full-time Indian Road Board to carry out the scheme of all-India road communication ~~are~~ are among the recommendations made by the Council (Governing Body) of the Indian Roads Congress, which concluded its four-day session in Bombay on 28-3-1944. The Council also recommended a unified transport board for transport as a whole; the setting up of board, similar to the proposed Indian ~~Road~~ Road Board, for air, waterways and ~~Indian~~ inland and coastal shipping; and a scientific review of the motor vehicle taxation.

The main subject for discussion before the Council was the two recent reports on post-war road development in India and the future of road transport and road-rail relations (reviewed elsewhere in this report). It passed a number of resolutions on different aspects of the problem, which will be submitted to the Government of India and the Provincial and State governments.

The Council agreed that the object of any transport policy must be to provide and develop cheap and efficient transport for all, by means best suited to the kind of traffic involved, with due regard to the public interest and without favouring any one means at the expense of another. The bullock cart would be the principal means of transport for agricultural marketing for some time to come, the development of pneumatic tyre carts must be pursued, a start being made from the salvage which would be available after the war.

The Council also agreed that every effort should be made to carry the benefit and service of motor transport into the heart of the countryside and to use it to a greater extent than hitherto for administrative and development purposes. The transfer to the roads of short-haul goods traffic, in which field motor transport could compete economically with railways, should be encouraged. Except where long distance goods traffic by road was in the public interest, competition between road and rail could be prevented by a system of regulation, combining expert judgment with the merits of each case on the basis of public and economic need with scientific zoning. Control of goods traffic on national highways could be central.

The Council also considered many technical problems and appointed several sub-committees to investigate and report on such matters as bridge specifications, soil research for cheap road specifications, codes of practice, standards, improved bullock cart designs and education of highway engineers.

(The Times of India, 31-3-1944).

Capital Projects in Bihar: Reconstruction Fund in 1944-45 Budget.

According to the Budget memorandum of the Bihar Government, for 1944-45, much of the substantial increase in revenue derived during the war period may not continue on the termination of the war. There will be a number of capital projects involving mainly nonrecurring and a little recurring expenditure for which capital will be required on the termination of the war. For this purpose a separate fund for post-war reconstruction has been created to which has been credited a sum of Rs. 31.7 millions out of the accumulated surplus revenues. The policy of Government during war-time, the memorandum points out, has been to restrict expenditure to the utmost and to postpone all new schemes except such as cannot be postponed. Government is fully aware that the existing revenues of the province are wholly insufficient to meet the reasonable demands for expansion of activities of the nation-building departments. The increased revenue obtained from the legislative measures undertaken during the year will not be required for meeting any immediate expenditure. But all this and more will be needed after the termination of the war if the population of Bihar in general is to have a standard of living comparable with what prevails in the more fortunate provinces. With this object in view Government will continue to explore other sources of increasing the revenue and thereby further swelling up the fund ear-marked for post-war reconstruction.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-3-1944).

Budget Provision in Madras for Post-War Reconstruction.

A sum of Rs. 55.4 million has been provisionally set apart by the Government of Madras in its Budget for the year 1944-45 to be transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund for post-war reconstruction. The Government intends to use the Revenue Reserve Fund to finance schemes of post-war reconstruction and development of the following kinds:- (1) Improvement of roads and other communications ; (2) Building schemes and water-supply and drainage schemes which have been held up owing to the war; (3) Land reclamation schemes for demobilised soldiers and others; (4) Expansion of the activities of the agriculture, veterinary, co-operative and industries departments; (5) Development of medical and public health services; (6) Improvement and increase of educational facilities; (7) Irrigation (including minor irrigation works) and electricity capital expenditure, especially not "remanerative" according to the normal criterion; (8) Exploitation of minerals; (9) Other schemes that will provide employment for ex-soldiers and skilled labour released after the war.

This list does not indicate a particular order of priority. As far as possible, the Government intend to select for this purpose long range schemes which cannot be financed from current revenues.

(The Hindu, 27-3-1944).

Budget Provision in Bombay for Post-War
Reconstruction.

The Bombay Government has provided Rs. 45 million in the Budget for 1944-45 for post-war reconstruction. With the previous allotments, the total now stands at Rs. 70 million. A further sum of Rs. 12.3 million has been set apart for a special Development Fund.

The Bombay Budget also provides a sum of Rs. 208,000 for amenities for industrial labour and Rs. 40,000 for schemes of labour welfare.

(Press Note dated 25-3-44 issued
by the Director Information,
Bombay on the Provincial Budget
for 1944-45).

10-Year Plan of Post-war Economic
Development of India : I.F.I.
Publishes Plan.

The Post-war Reconstruction Committee of the Indian Federation of Labour (vide page 35 of our December 1943 report) has recently prepared a 10-Year Plan of post-war economic reconstruction of India. An advance summary of the plan was published on 20-3-1944. Its main features, according to the I.F.I., are :

1. The primary motive of production will be to supply the requirements of the people—to raise the standard of living as distinct from increasing purchasing power;
2. Priority for the expansion of agricultural production through mechanisation, modernisation and collectivisation;
3. Expansion of agricultural production being conditional upon nationalisation of agricultural economy, the burden on the peasantry to be relieved by nationalising land and liquidating indebtedness;
4. Expansion of the present industries and establishment of new ones for supplying the minimum requirements of the people which are not at present satisfied;
5. State financing of the mechanisation of agriculture and expansion of industries for supplying the requirements of the people;
6. ^{The main} ~~More~~ requirements to be satisfied are: food, shelter, clothing, health and education;
7. State control of industries financed with public funds;
8. Three per cent guaranteed profit from industries financed with private capital;
9. To relieve the pressure of labour on land, new land to the extent of fifty per cent of land under cultivation at present to be cultivated; railway mileage to be increased by 50 per cent; roads enlarged by 150 per cent; extensive public works, particularly irrigation, construction of ~~new~~ houses to provide decent living conditions to the rural population and the working and middle classes in cities and towns; building of schools and hospitals ;
10. The plan of development is for ten years;
11. The total capital expenditure to work out the plan is estimated at Rs. 150,000 million ;

be improved

12. Standard of living to three-fold; in addition free education and health services to be provided;

13. Agricultural production to increase four times and industrial production six times;

14. Initial sources of finance: sterling balances; income from nationalised land; estate duty and inheritance tax and borrowing to bring into the process of production the accumulated wealth not used productively;

15. Initial capital expenditure 20,000 million during the first 2 years; thereafter, the plan to finance itself with income from expanded agricultural production, as well as from industries;

16. Distribution of commodities, through producers and consumers' co-operative societies.

(The Vanguard, dated 21-3-1944).

(A copy of the Plan, which is still in the press, will be sent to Montreal when received in the Office). +

Compensation for War Injuries.

Appointment of Area Advisory Committees under War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943. ✓

With a view to ensure the smooth working of the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943, (vide page 32 of our August 1943 report), the Government of India has decided to appoint Area Advisory Committees in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, representative of the Government Agents appointed under Section 8 of the Act, which may be consulted from time to time with regard to :-

(1) the most suitable manner of giving effect to the provisions of the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act and Scheme (vide page 49 of our December 1943 report) and the Rules made thereunder in so far as the particular areas represented by the Committees are concerned; and

(2) Any other particular matter which may be referred to the Committee by the Government of India or by the Central Advisory Committee appointed by the Government.

The Government of India has decided to appoint the Bombay Area Advisory Committee to act as the Central Advisory Committee which may be consulted with regard to :- (1) proposals for amendment of the Act; (2) amendments, if any, to the Scheme, Rules and the Forms prescribed under the Scheme and the Rules and also Notifications; (3) questions affecting the provision of the Act, Scheme and Rules made thereunder which are of general application; (4) any other general matter which may be referred by the Area Advisory Committees or by the Government of India; and (5) the financial arrangements for the administration of the Scheme by the Government Agents appointed under the Act.

(Resolution of the Department of Labour, Government of India, No. L-W.I.S. 810 dated 2-3-1944: The Gazette of India, Part I, Section 1, dated 11-3-1944, page 282). ✓ +

Control Measures .

Coal Control Scheme of Government of India
Announced. ✓

Reference was made at page 38 of our February 1944 report to a coal control scheme proposed by the Government of India. The Government has decided to introduce the Scheme for controlling the distribution and prices of coal and for encouraging the industry to increase the output. The scheme consists of five parts, namely, estimation of the monthly output of each colliery, appointment of a Coal Control Board, distribution of all output by Government at fixed prices, encouragement of production by grant of bonuses on the increased output free of excess profits tax, and the control of mining operations.

Monthly Returns.- Under the scheme the collieries will be required to furnish every month to the Coal Commissioner a statement of raisings, discharges and colliery consumption during the previous month, as well as an estimate of the raisings and colliery consumption for the month then current for each of the succeeding three months.

Control Board.- There will be a Coal Control Board to advise the Government on the working of the scheme. This Board will consist of two nominees of the Indian Mining Association, one nominee each of the Indian Mining Federation, the Indian Colliery Owners' Association and the Central Provinces and Berar Mining Association, two representatives of consumers to be nominated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and one nominee of the Indian Merchants' Association at Jharia. The Coal Commissioner, the Chief Mining Engineer and the Controller of Coal Distribution will be 'ex-officio' members of the Board. The Chairman of the Board will be nominated by the Government.

Distribution of Coal.- When the scheme comes into force the Government will control the distribution by collieries of all coal, whether dispatched by rail or by road or stacked on Government account, at prices fixed by the Government. Control of distribution will be exercised by orders issued on individual collieries, and control of prices charged by collieries by general order. Provision has also been made in the scheme for stacking coal on Government account in cases where a colliery has coal in excess of the amount which it is able to dispatch.

Bonus on Production.- The scheme further provides for the grant of bonuses on increased output, these bonuses being free of excess profits tax but liable to income tax. The estimated cost of such bonuses will be met from a fund to be created by levying a cess on all coal and coke dispatched under Government orders. It is proposed to fix the cess for the period from 1-4-1944 to 30-9-1944, at four annas per ton.

The bonuses will be paid six monthly to each colliery undertaking on the excess of tonnage disposed of under the orders of Government over the permitted tonnage.

Improved Conditions for Miners.- Regarding improved conditions for mining labour, Government has under consideration certain alterations in the grain concessions now in force. These alterations are expected to be of greater benefit to the labourer, chiefly, by preventing waste of food grains.

Effect of Scheme.- The control scheme mainly affects industrial consumers and it is understood that the interests of domestic consumers will be looked after by Provincial Governments from the quotas allotted to them.

(The Times of India, 1-3-1944). ✓

Progress of Canteens for Industrial Workers in India. ✓

Canteens for industrial workers have made good progress recently; for some time past the Government of India has been advising the opening of such canteens. The following summary is based on such information as has been available and does not therefore give a complete picture of the present position. It is, however, useful in indicating the trend of recent developments.

New Central Government Undertakings.— Cooked food canteens have been opened in 37 cases. Of these, 25 supply tea and refreshments also, in addition to cooked food. Besides, there are 31 canteens supplying tea or refreshments only. The canteens largely exist in Ordnance and munition depots, Ordnance factories, Harness and Saddlery, Clothing and machine factories. These factories account for 34 of the cooked food canteens and 24 of the tea canteens. In other undertakings effort is being made to open canteens. It has been reported that at least in 2 cases cooked food canteens, started as an experiment, had to be closed down for want of patronage.

Other Undertakings — Bombay.— In the province 130 canteens have been established of which 16 supply cooked food and most of others serve tea and refreshments. The textile industry claims the largest number of canteens, 85. In the canteens in Bombay that serve cooked food, the percentage of workers taking advantage of this facility is very small. Supplies in such cases are free, but are at cheap rates, special attention being paid to quality and cleanliness. Five concerns have canteens which serve only tea, but in three of these tea is supplied to workers twice a day free of charge.

Madras.— The number supplying cooked food is small. Tea canteens are comparatively more common and these canteens were initially started by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board and subsequently handed over to managements. In 4 mills, tea is supplied free to all workers and in a few others to night shift workers only. Of the 7 canteens that supply cooked food, 4 serve mid-day meals only but free of cost. Recently the practice of supplying 'cooked food packets' has been adopted in certain mills. In the mill that serves cooked food, refreshments and tea supplies include morning chota, noon and night meals and tiffin in the afternoon, all at cost price. The capital expenditure and the expenses connected with building, equipment, staff, car hire and lighting are all borne by the management and yet it is said that only 35 per cent of the workers frequent the canteens. This is attributed to the majority of workers living near the mills and to the want of canteen habit. In another concern, the canteen has been organised by the India Tea Market Expansion Board and run with the co-operation of the management. Supplies are made below cost price and coupons are issued either for credit or for cash. The canteen is run on a non-profit basis. Menu is changed every day and suggestions have been invited from workers.

Bengal.— Many well established firms have provided food canteens. Some of these canteens work throughout night and day. In some establishments separate cooking staff and seating accommodation are provided for Hindus and Muslims, while in others common arrangements exist for both the communities. The menu served varies from canteen to canteen, yet in all of them the staple diet, viz., rice, chapati and dhal is provided. In two undertakings, supplies are being made free.

Sind.— Of the three canteens reported, one is managed by employees (numbering about 30 to 40) and the management contributes Rs. 40 per month towards the salary of cook and servant. In the second, the management

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rs the expenditure connected with building, electricity, furniture, stoves and cook. Besides, the employees are supplied with milk in the morning and tea in the evening.

C.P. & Berar.- No undertaking—factory or mine—has opened a cooked and canteen. Seven textile mills have provided only light refreshment canteens. In three other establishments proposals to provide light refreshment canteens are under consideration.

Bihar.- In Messrs. Tata Iron & Steel Co., 'works hotels' provide cooked and at reduced rates. The two canteens provided by Messrs. Tinplate & Co. reported to be working satisfactorily. In 4 undertakings arrangements being made for establishing food canteens, while in six others schemes under consideration. In ~~that~~ the coal mines no canteens have been provided.

U.P. The idea of opening canteens is of recent origin. The Indian Tea Market Expansion Board has largely been responsible for organising canteens. After canteens have been organised and worked successfully they handed over to managements. The system of running through contractors also equally prevalent, but it has not proved ~~such~~ useful. The system of cash payment is largely in vogue. Rates charged are mostly standard ones fixed by the management or by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board. ~~At~~ A canteens supply free tea. Despite caste distinctions and variations in dietary habits, canteens are reported to have gained popularity within a short period where they have been opened.

Difficulties of Employers.- Certain difficulties have been experienced by employers in extending canteens. There are variations in the dietary habits of workers from different parts of the country and religious and caste distinctions necessitate provision of separate amenities. Where workers' quarters are situated close to the factories, workers naturally prefer to go home for meals. There is a lack of 'canteen habit'. Difficulties have been experienced in securing supplies for canteens and in rationed areas supplies are not available to canteens outside the rations. Workers in such areas are unwilling to surrender part of their rations to canteens. There is also the difficulty of accommodation for canteens in some of the larger towns where no room for expansion exists.

(This subject, it will be remembered, was discussed at the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee in January 1944).

(Indian Labour Gazette, March 1944, issue).

...ence and relevant documents relating to important
...ions dealt with by the Federation during the year 1943-44,
... the most important publications received in this office
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- (1) Report on the Progress of Education in Bihar for the year 1942-43.
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- (2) Memorandum of the Governor-General in Council as laid before the
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- (3) Memorandum on the Budget of the Governor-General in
India for 1944-45. New Delhi, 1944.
- (4) Memorandum on the Budget of the Governor-General in
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- (5) Report on the Grants, etc., on the Indian Posts and Telegraphs
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- (6) Report on the Grants, etc., on the Indian Posts and Telegraphs
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- (8) Government of the Punjab. Budget for the year 1944-45, with
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- (9) The Musings of an Industrialist on "The Economic Future of India"
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- (10) Government of the United Provinces. Memorandum on the Budget for
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- (2) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi:
 - (i) Presidential Address of Kumararajah Sir Nuthiah Chettiar of
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held at New Delhi, on 4-3-1944;
 - (ii) Resolutions adopted at the Seventeenth Annual Session of the
Federation;
 - (iii) Report of the Proceedings of the Executive Committee for the
year 1943-44, Vol. I, 1944;

(iv) Correspondence and relevant documents relating to important questions dealt with by the Federation during the year 1943-44, Vol. II, 1944.

(i) All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, New Delhi:

(1) Speech of Lala Karamchand Thapar, President, All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, at the Eleventh Annual Meeting held on 5th March 1944 at Delhi, 1944;

(11) Report of the Proceedings of the Committee for the year 1943-44, 1944.

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