

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

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REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1936

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

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References to the I. L. O.

A Communique re. activities of the I.L.O. during 1935 (issued by this Office on 7-2-36) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 8-2-36, "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 11-2-36, the Railway Herald, Karachi dated 13-2-1936 and the Times of India dated 18-2-1936 (vide Enc. Nos. 11 & 12 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-1936 and Nos. 5 & 6 of H.4/200/36 dated 20-2-1936).

\* \* \*

A Communique re. action taken by the I.L.O. on the resolution passed by the 19th I.L.Conference re. wage-fixing machinery (issued by this Office on 3-2-36) is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 4-2-36 and the National Call dated 5-2-36 (vide Enc. Nos. 13 & 14 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-1936).

\* \* \*

A British Official Wireless message re. the White Paper issued by the British Government on its decisions on I.L.Draft Conventions is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 9-2-1936, the Times of India dated 10-2-1936 and the Hindu dated 10-2-1936( vide Enc. Nos. 16 and 17 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-36 and No.4 of H.4/200/36 dated 20-2-1936).

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 28-2-36 publishes a short editorial note under the caption: "Better Food". The note refers to the interest that is being taken by the League Organisations in the problem of nutrition.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labourer (a Tamil monthly issued from Madras) dated 10-2-36 publishes the translation of the reply sent by the Madras Labour Union to the circular letter issued by the Government of India inviting expression of views of industrial interests on the question of holidays with pay. The Union has strongly

supported the idea of holidays with pay and has suggested a paid holiday of three weeks for every 49 weeks of service.

\* \* \*

"Federated India", Madras, dated 5-2-36 and the Indian Labour Journal, dated 2-2-36 publish a news item to the effect that the Government intends moving in the current session of the Legislative Assembly a resolution recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Draft Convention re. general reduction of hours to 40 per week, and that Mr. N.M.Joshi would be opposing the resolution.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 31-1-1936 publishes a short editorial note on the labour subjects coming up for consideration before the current session of the Legislative Assembly. The note refers to the Government's resolution recommending non-ratification of the I.L.Convention re. the 40-Hour week, and says "but it is so clearly impossible of application to India today that it is unlikely to take up much time (of the House)!"

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 2-2-1936 reproduces the above editorial note.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 3-3-36 and the National Call dated 4-3-36 publish the text of 4 resolutions to be moved by Sir Frank Noyce in the Legislative Assembly on 6-3-1936 recommending the non-ratification of the Draft Conventions re. the 40-hour week, reduction of hours of work in glass bottle works, reduction of hours of work in coal mines and maintenance of rights under invalidity, old-age and widows' and orphans' insurance, adopted by the 19th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 8-2-36 publishes a communique issued by the Government of India on 11-12-35 announcing that reduction of hours of work in the textile industry will be

one of the items on the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*  
 A Communique re. world unemployment situation during <sup>the</sup> last quarter of 1935 (issued by this Office on 25-1-1936) is published by the following: the Hindu dated 30-1-1936, the Times of India dated 3-2-36 and "Commerce and Industry" dated 4-2-36 (vide Enc. Nos. 3 to 5 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-1936).

\* \* \*  
 The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 9-2-36 publishes an ~~xxx~~ article under the caption: "Relief of Unemployment" by S.C.Ray. The article examines the efforts so far made especially by the I.L.O. to combat the unemployment evil.

\* \* \*  
 The Hindu of 11-2-1936 publishes an editorial note on the results of a recent enquiry conducted by the I.L.O. on the problem of unemployment among the educated classes.

\* \* \*  
 The Report of the Second Session of the National Trades Union Federation, held in December 1935 contains numerous references to the I.L.O. The more important of them relate to the Asiatic Labour Congress held at Colombo in May 1934, <sup>U.</sup> work of Mr. Joshi in the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and in the Tripartite Maritime Conference, the relations with the Indian Branch of the I.L.O. and the speech of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, President of the 2nd Session of the Federation welcoming the Director of this Office to the Conference and the Director's reply.

\* \* \*  
 The Times of India dated 4-2-36 publishes a review of the discussions on trade union unity which took place at Nagpur during the last Christmas week. In the course of the review, the views of ~~the~~ All India Trades Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation regarding co-operation with the I.L.O. are elucidated.

\* \* \*  
 A Communique re. "Children and Young Persons under Labour Law"

(issued by this Office on 25-11-1935) is published by the following: Federated India, Madras, dated 5-2-36 and January 1936 issue of "Labour", Calcutta (vide Encl. Nos. 1 and 2 of H.4/181/36 dated 13-2-36).

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 1-2-1936 publishes a review of a recent publication issued by Allen and Unwin: "The Ratification of International Conventions" by Francis O. Wilcox. In the course of the review references are made to I.L.Conventions.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 2-2-36 also publishes a review of the book referred to above.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 11-2-36 publishes a Geneva letter dated 18-1-1936 from the Geneva Correspondent of the paper reviewing at length the I.L.O. publication: "Opium and the Workers".

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 9-2-36 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 29-1-1936 on the recent I.L.O. publication: "Problems of Vocational Guidance".

\* \* \*

The January 1936 issue of "India and the World", Calcutta, publishes an appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "Social and Economic Reconstruction in the United States".

\* \* \*

The Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 3-3-36 publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "The International Labour Organisation and Social Insurance."

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindu dated 15-2-36 and other papers publish a report of the debate in the Legislative Assembly on 14-2-36 on the Bill prohibiting loans and credits to Italy. Several non-official members took part in the debate and in the course of their speeches deprecated the idea of India being a member of the League.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 14-2-36 publishes the report of a lecture delivered on 5-2-36 by Mr. T.W. Johnstone, Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay, on "Factory Legislation in India", under the auspices of the Technological Association of the Department of Chemical Technology, Bombay. In the course of his speech Mr. Johnstone dealt with the influence exerted by the I.L.O. in improving factory legislation in India.

\* \* \*

The January 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, contains the following four references to the I.L.O.:

- (a) At pages 361-363 is reproduced the note on the 75rd session of the Governing Body published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 18-11-1935.
- (b) At page 363 is published a communique issued by the Government of India on 11-12-35 announcing that the question of reduction of hours of work in the textile industry will be one of the items on the agenda of the 20 session of the I.L. Conference.
- (c) At pages 363-364 is published a summary of the main conclusions arrived at in the recent I.L.O. report: "Opium and Labour".
- (d) At page 370 is reproduced the note on "Protection of Juvenile workers in Japan" published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 23-to 30-12-1935.

\* \* \*

A Communique re. regional Labour Conference of the American Member States of the I.L.O. (issued by this Office on 26-2-36) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 29-2-36.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 25-2-36, the Times of India dated 27-2-36 and the National Call dated 28-2-36 publish an account of a tea-party arranged by Mr. N.M. Joshi in the Legislative Assembly Tea Room, New Delhi, on 24-2-36 in honour of Mr. Pelt of the League of Nations Secretariat. The party was attended by several members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Pelt spoke on India's membership of the League of Nations and the I.L.O. and the benefit this country derives from these two organisations and took the

opportunity to answer questions. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir made a fine speech eulogising the services rendered by the I.L.O. to India.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 26-2-36 publishes a short editorial note on the above. The note directs attention to Mr. Pelt's statement that the League is useful to India principally in the non-political sphere and says that India cannot hope to get any help from the League in her fight for political freedom. The note states in addition that the benefit derived by India through her membership of the League is not commensurate with the cost entailed by her annual financial contributions to the League.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 27-2-36 and the Times of India dated 29-2-36 publish an account of a meeting of the Empire Parliamentary Association held at New Delhi on 26-2-36 at which Mr. Pelt spoke on the benefits derived by India through her membership of the League of Nations and the I.L.O. Mr. Pelt also answered a number of questions about the League.

\* \* \*

No Indian newspapers and periodicals received in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

\* \* \*

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during February 1936:

1. A British Official wireless message dated 8-2-1936 from Rugby re. the White paper issued by the British Government on I.L.O. Conventions.



National Labour Legislation.

The Central Provinces Unregulated Factories Bill,

1936 (Bill No.17 of 1936).

On 27-1-1936 Rao Sahib R.A. Fulay introduced in the Central Provinces Legislative Council a Bill called "The Central Provinces Unregulated Factories Bill, 1936" to consolidate and amend the law regulating labour of women and children and to make provision for the welfare of labour." The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill explains that for a long time past there have been a great many abuses in the working of the unregulated factories, especially in the bidi-making factories, of the Central Provinces. The Royal Commission on Labour recommended that a separate Act embodying their recommendations should be introduced and that that Act should, in the first place, be made applicable to establishments employing 50 or more persons. The following are the salient features of the Bill, which follows the recommendations of the Royal Commission:-

Definitions.- (1) Section 2 defines an "unregulated factory" as one where, on any one day in the year not less than 50 persons are simultaneously employed, and to which the Factories Act, 1934, is not applicable, and wherein all or any of the following industries are carried on:- (i) cigar-making, (ii) bidi-making, (iii) mica-cutting and splitting, (iv) wool-making and cleaning, (v) shellac manufacture, (vi) carpet-weaving, and (vii) leather-tanning. The Local Government may, however, declare any factory employing only 25 persons, but satisfying the remaining conditions, as an unregulated factory.

Periods of Rest.- (2) Periods of rest provided for those who are not children are one hour at intervals not exceeding six hours, with a proviso which enables the rest interval to be split up conveniently. A period of rest of half an hour is to be given to each child working more than 5½ hours a day. Sunday is a day of weekly rest.

Employment of Women and Children.- (3) No child is to be employed unless a Certifying Surgeon certifies that he is not less than 10 years of age and is medically fit. No child is to be

employed for more than 7 hours in any one day, and the periods of employment of children shall ordinarily be between 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. A child shall not be employed in two factories on the same day.

(4) No woman shall be employed in an unregulated factory for more than 11 hours in any one day and before 5-30 A.M. or after 7 p.m.

(5) No child shall be allowed to work over-time or to take work home after factory hours.

Other Provisions.- (6) Clauses are also included regarding sanitary arrangements, installation of mechanical contrivances for preventing inhalation of dust or impurity, lighting, water supply, etc.

( The drafting of the bill will have to be considerably improved before it becomes law).

(Summarised from pages 67-75 of Part II of the Central Provinces Gazette, dated 14-2-1936.)

The United Provinces Factories Rules, 1935.

Attention is directed to the United Provinces Factories Rules, 1935, made under the Indian Factories Act, 1934 (Act No. XXV of 1934), published at pages 191 to 220 of Part I of the United Provinces Gazette dated 8-2-1936.

Rules under the Indian Mines Act, 1923:

Draft Rules re. Medical Certification  
of Persons below 17 years for Under-  
ground Work.

The Government of Bengal proposes to make certain amendments to the rules regarding the certification of fitness for the employment underground of persons below 17 years of Age. The draft amendments are published at pages 17-21 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette dated 2-1-1936.

Payment of Wages Bill, 1935, passed.

At pages 15-20 of our January 1933 report was given the full text of the Payment of Wages Bill, 1933, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 1-2-1933 by Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of Industries and Labour with the Government of India. The Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the last Assembly before it could come to the Select Committee stage. A Bill based on the one which lapsed, but with several new features, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 13-2-1935, and was referred to a Select Committee on 21-2-1935. A summary of the changes made in the Bill by the Select Committee was given at pages 10 to 12 of our September 1935 report. A motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted on 13-9-1935, but Government agreed to postpone discussion on the

Bill as amended by the Select Committee to the Budget Session of 1936. Discussion on the consideration of clauses was begun on 5-2-1936 and was continued on 7, 10 and 12-2-1936. The Bill was finally passed by the Legislative Assembly on 14-2-1936 and by the Council of State on 24-2-1936.

In the course of the debate on the consideration of clauses in the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State, certain changes were effected in the Bill as modified by the Select Committee. The most important of the changes was due to an amendment moved by Sir H.P. Mody to the effect that when ten or more workers go on a lightning strike the employer may deduct from their wages an amount not exceeding their wages for 15 days.

Sir H.P. Mody said that added point had been given to his proposal by Mr. Slow's amendment that where an employer dismissed a workman without giving notice he had to pay the workman not only the wages due to him but also the amount due to him in lieu of notice. He pleaded for a measure of reciprocity and pointed out that employers were making concessions in restricting themselves to the amendment before the House. They were not asking for these rights against individuals but were confining themselves to the case of the lightning strikes that had caused great loss to the Bombay mill industry in recent times.

Sir Frank Noyce accepted Sir Hormusji's amendment. The Government of India, he said, had obtained the views of the Government of Bombay, which had had a more prolonged experience of lightning strikes than any other Government in India. Their views were generally in agreement with those of Sir H.P. Mody. They felt that if this amendment was accepted it would strengthen the hands of the Bombay Labour Officer in getting conciliation machinery going, and so preventing lightning strikes. Everybody knew the distress caused by these lightning strikes and they hoped that this amendment would make the workers think again before they struck work and so give an interval for conciliation machinery to get going.

Mr. Joshi said that the amendment would destroy the value of the Bill. He stressed the point that while the employer was, in the case contemplated, entitled to deduct from the men's wages the amount due for failure to give notice, the men, when discharged without notice, would have to go to court to recover

their dues. If men were absent for only one day, they could be made to forfeit 13 days' wages. Again, the employer could always find 10 men who were absent from a mill and allege that they were acting in concert. There was no minimum wage legislation in India, and if the workers held lightning strikes to protect their standard of life, who could blame them?

The amendment was carried by 65 votes to 44. The amended Bill was passed without a division by the Legislative Assembly on 14-2-1936.

Debate in the Council of State.- Consideration of the Bill as passed by the Legislative Assembly was taken up by the Council of State on 24-2-1936. Mr. A. G. Clow, speaking on the Bill, reviewed the history of the legislation and pointed out that it had not suffered from lack of deliberation.

Pandit P.N.Sapru, supporting consideration of the Bill, approved of its provisions as being generally in accordance with the views of the Whitley Commission. But a clause, he said, had been inserted at the last minute in the Assembly which was not considered by the Select Committee of the Lower House. \* It was a clause sponsored by Sir H.P.Wody, penalising lightning strikes by deducting 13 days' wages, which had chilled the enthusiasm of labour for the measure. Pandit Sapru was sorry that such a good measure initiated by such good friends of Labour as Sir Frank Noyce and Mr. Clow should by this clause have been rendered so disappointing, and he appealed for a gesture on the part of Government to lessen its rigour. Incidentally, he suggested the creation of machinery for fixing minimum wages and for standardisation of wages.

Bill passed with two Important Amendments.- One of Pandit Sapru's amendments suggested that for lightning strikes the penalty should be the deduction of eight days' wages, instead of 13 days' wages ~~xxinstead of~~ as proposed in the original Bill. Sir Frank Noyce accepted the amendment, and informed the House that those members interested in the Bill in the Assembly were also agreeable

to this change.

In the original Bill as passed by the Assembly "lightning strike" was explained as " a strike resorted to without giving the notice which labourers were required to give either expressly by their contracts of employment, or impliedly by the terms of their service". A second amendment was to remove the expression "impliedly by the terms of their service". This was also accepted. Beyond these, no other change was made.

(Legislative Assembly Debates of 5,7,10 & 12-2-1936, and the Statesman of 15 & 25-2-1936).

In spite of the assurance given by Sir Frank Noyce that the Assembly would accept the amendment of Sir H.P.Mody with the modification effected by the Council of State, namely that the penalty for lightning strikes be reduced from loss of wages for 13 days to loss of wages for 8 days, workers' organisations all over the country are protesting against acceptance of the principle of loss of wages as a penalty for lightning strikes. The Joint Labour Board appointed by the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation passed the following resolution on the subject at a meeting held at Bombay recently:

"This joint meeting of the representatives of the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation emphatically condemns the adoption by the Legislative Assembly of Sir H.P.Mody's amendment to the Payment of Wages Bill as it is an attack on the workers' fundamental right to strike and to payment of wages earned by them, and is calculated to defeat the purpose of the Bill."

"This meeting is further of opinion that the modification made by the Council of State does not in any way alter the fundamental objection to the principle of the original amendment and requests the Legislative Assembly to reject the whole clause relating to the penalisation of strikes without notice".

(The Indian Labour Journal,  
1-3-1936).

Resolutions to the same effect have been passed by the Bombay and Ahmedabad Textile Labour Associations and the Madras Labour Union.

14

Conditions of Labour.

Conditions of work in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs  
Department, 1934-35\* +

Financial Working.- The Posts and Telegraphs Department consists of the following four branches: Post Office, Telegraphs, Radio and Telephones. The financial results of the working of the Department for the year 1934-35 are summarised below:-

	Post Office.	Telegraphs.	Telephones.	Radio.	Total.
R	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts.	76,025,526	27,173,280	7,978,733	809,941	111,987,480
Expenditure.	<u>73,591,558</u>	<u>27,961,248</u>	<u>5,612,018</u>	<u>1,028,093</u>	<u>108,192,917</u>
Surplus (+) or deficit (-).	+ 2,433,968	-787,968	+2,366,715	-218,152	+3,794,563

The net results of 1934-35 show a total surplus of ~~Rxx~~ Rs. 3,794,563 as against a total deficit of Rs. 5,193,594 in 1933-34.

Strength of Staff.- On 31-3-1935 the total number of persons employed by the department was 120,265 as compared with 122,163 at the close of 1933-34. The figure includes 21,274 extra-departmental postmasters, stamp vendors and others, who are not Government servants in the strict sense of the term, and 2,566 members of the Audit and Accounts staff. Out of the remaining 96,425 employees, 473 belonged to the superior (gazetted) staff, which includes 144 divisional and other superintendents, 48 postmasters and 70 telegraph traffic officers, most of whom are in executive charge of the larger post and telegraph offices or of postal and railway mail service divisions; and 116 assistant and deputy assistant engineers most of whom are in executive charge of

\* Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department - Annual Report for the year 1934-35 - New Delhi: Printed by the Manager Government of India Press: 1936 - Price Rs.2-4-0 or 4s. - ~~11.99~~



engineering sub-divisions or in comparable posts. The remaining 95 officers are actually holding higher charges such as are commonly regarded by the general public as controlling the business of the department.

Unions of Employees.- On the 31st March 1935, the number of unions or associations of employees of the department, recognised by Government, was 13. The total membership is reported to be about 42,000, the total number of whole-time permanent employees under the department being a little over 96,000.

Co-operative Credit Societies.- At the end of the year there were 58 co-operative credit societies working for the benefit of the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs department with a membership of 61,278 and a subscribed capital of Rs. 3,076,000. Loans amounting to over Rs. 6,336,000 were advanced to 25,946 members, compared with Rs. 6,188,000 to ~~25~~ 26,464 members during 1933-34.

Magnitude of Postal Business.- Excluding the air routes, there existed at the end of the year, over 168,000 miles of lines over which mails were conveyed by different agencies. Eighty new motor lines were opened during the year, forty-nine of these being in Bombay, Madras and Punjab Circles. The following figures give some idea of the volume of postal business transacted during the year:

Total estimated number of articles handled.	1,143,777,000
Total number of registered articles posted.	41,620,000
Total number of insured articles posted.	3,422,000
Value of insured articles posted.	.. Rs. 1,006,800,000
Postage charges realised.	... Rs. 64,751,000

Number of money orders issued. . .	..	39881,000
Value of money orders issued. . .	..Rs.	778,400,000
Value payable post collections...	Rs.	187,800,000

On the 31st March 1935 there were over 3,100,000 current savings bank accounts with a total balance of Rs. 585,000,000 and about 90,000 Postal Life Insurance policies covering an aggregate assurance of over Rs. 171,300,000. The above figures represented in most cases an increase in business as compared with the corresponding figures for 1933-34, due largely to the improvement in economic conditions generally.

(Conditions of work in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department during 1933-34 were reviewed at pages 23-24 of our March 1935 report). +

Madras Maternity Benefit Act: Period of

Qualification for Benefit.

The Chief Inspector of Factories, <sup>Madras,</sup> has notified that, with the approval of Government, the following executive instruction has been issued for the guidance of Factory Inspectors and employers:-

"In counting the nine months period of employment specified in the proviso to Section 5(1) of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934, any periods of authorised leave and periods of unauthorised leave up to a total of 14 days succeeded by re-employment, shall ordinarily be included."

(The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, 8-2-36) +

General Wage Census:

Labour Office Report on Printing Industry. +

At pages 14-17 of our January 1936 report was reviewed the first of the series of six reports in connection with Part I of the General Wage Census covering all perennial factories in the Bombay Presidency proper, published at the end of last year. That report covered wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the engineering industry. The second report, which is due to be published shortly, is understood to deal with wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the printing industry, and to cover over 9,000 workpeople in 100 printing concerns in the Presidency. As in the first report, the results <sup>will be</sup> ~~are~~ given by territorial areas.

(The Labour Gazette, January 1936).

Painting is "Repairing": Decision of Bombay

High Court in Case under "orkmen's Compensation Act- +

Attention is directed to pages 335-337 of the January 1936 issue of <sup>the</sup> Labour Gazette, Bombay, where is reported the judgment of the Bombay High Court in an interesting case which went to the High Court in appeal against the award of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bombay. The three points which arose for decision were:(1) that the employer, the appellant, did not employ the deceased who was engaged by one Rama to whom the contract for painting the building had been given for a lump sum;(2) that the deceased laxman Pala was not a workman because his employment was

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of a casual nature and he was employed otherwise than for the employer's trade or business; and (5) that he was not a workman according to the Schedule because he was not engaged in the construction, repair or demolition of a building, painting not being repair within the meaning of the Schedule. In the course of their judgment, the ~~xxx~~ Judges of the High Court decided that painting clearly falls within the meaning of the word "Repairs" in Sub-section (viii) of the Second Schedule to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(The Labour Gazette, January 1936) +

Maternity Benefit legislation in Bengal:

Views of Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. +

Reference was made at page 8 of our January 1936 report to the circular letter sent out recently by the Government of Bengal to industrial interests to elicit their views on the question of passing legislation in the Province for the grant of maternity benefits to women workers. The Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, have informed the Government that they are agreeable to the proposal of the Government for undertaking legislation with a view to making compulsory maternity benefits for women permanently employed in perennial factories in Bengal. The Committee agree with the Royal Commission on Labour that in the absence of any scheme of state insurance against sickness in general in India, the entire cost of the benefit should be borne by the employer. The Committee however suggest that the Govern-  
-ment

should be empowered to exempt individual firms who have instituted schemes of maternity benefit of as liberal a character as laid down in the Act, from the provisions thereof.

The maximum period for the benefit, the Committee think, should be four weeks only with full pay. Further leave may be granted without pay for another maximum period of 12 weeks i.e. the total period should not exceed 16 weeks or four months.

The amount of benefit should be fixed at the rate of a woman's average daily earnings, calculated on the total wages earned during a period of three months preceding her confinement, or at the rate of 8 annas per day, whichever is less. The period of employment which would qualify a worker to obtain such benefit, should be fixed at 12 months.

(The Statesman, 20-2-56) +

Loyabad Colliery Disaster: Conference convened by  
Government to Improve Safety Measures. ←

In answer to two short notice questions put in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. N.M. Joshi and Mr. A. Chettiar, about the Loyabad colliery disaster which occurred in the Jharia Mining Area on 30-1-1936 and entailed 37 fatalities, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in charge of Industries and Labour with the Government of India, supplied the following information on 6-2-1936:-

The fire which occasioned the disaster was discovered in the colliery at 5 a.m. on the morning of January 30. Its cause is not yet known. The fire rapidly attained serious dimensions, but by about 6 a.m. all miners on night shift were safely removed. The management then attempted to isolate and control the fire by the usual method of erecting stoppings in all leading airways leading to the seat of fire. At about 12.30 ~~the~~ ignition of gases occurred in the fire area and this appears to have blown part of the workings with poisonous fumes. A number of persons employed were brought safely to the surface and although 23 of these had to be taken to hospital suffering from gas poisoning all these have survived.

Rescue parties, which included the Chief Inspector and Inspector of Mines brought up twelve persons of whom five died. Rescue operations were still in progress at about 5 p.m. when the second explosion occurred and the main roadway where the rescue party was working was flooded by poisonous gases and the rescue party had to be withdrawn. Shortly afterwards the Chief Inspector and three mining engineers again went down the mine but found the conditions such that work could not be safely continued and it appears by this time there was no possibility of any person being alive in the pit. The number of fatalities is believed to be 37, but might be as high as 40. Of the 23 taken to hospital 21 have already been discharged, being cured.

Sir Frank also said he presumed that the dependents of workmen killed would be entitled to secure compensation under law and the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation has power to take the initiative if necessary in order to secure that they are not left unaware of their rights.

(The National Call, 8-2-1936).

(For fuller details see pages 289-293 of Legislative Assembly Debates of 6-2-1936, Vol.I, No.4, 1936.)

In answer to supplementary questions, Sir Frank Noyce said that following on the Bagdigi accident which occurred some time prior to the Loyabad disaster, Government had decided to convene a conference of

of experts on 19-2-1936 with a view to improve safety measures in mines.  
(~~For~~ A brief report of the proceedings of the Conference is given in the  
section: "Public Health" of this report).+

22

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Indian Colliery Owners' Association and Indian

Mining Federation:

Affiliation Scheme.

An effort is being made to affiliate the Indian Colliery Owners' Association at Jharia with the Indian Mining Federation at Calcutta. The proposals that have been mooted for this purpose are to the effect that the Association will deal with local questions and local affairs in Bihar and Orissa and follow up questions taken up by the Federation, while the Federation will deal with Central and Local Governments and Railways for all matters concerning the Indian section of the coal industry whenever necessary.

A scheme for determining the number of members of the Executive Committee and how they are to exercise their votes has also been evolved. Collieries in Bengal will be called the Raneegunj group and those in Bihar and Orissa the Jharia group. In one year the Chairman will be a member representing the Raneegunj group and next year the Jharia group. Under no circumstances shall the Chairman occupy his office for more than two successive years.

If any seat is given to the Federation in the Bengal Council or the Council of Bihar and Orissa, the same shall be filled up by the appointment of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman as the case may be. The Chairman, for the time being, shall ipso facto be the member to be appointed to the Grading Board. For the Soft Coke Cess Committee, the selection would be made from the soft coke manufacturers



For local bodies local members will be selected or nominated as the case may be. For single nomination, selection would be made from the two groups alternately. It is also proposed to make <sup>the</sup> necessary alterations in the Articles of Association of both the bodies.

All these proposals, it is understood, will be considered at a special general meeting, to be held shortly.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 31-1-1936)+

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24

Workers' Organisations.

Trade Union Movement in the Bombay Presidency, 1934-35. \*

Number of Registered Unions.- During the year under report, nine new unions were registered, bringing the total number of registrations up to 31-3-1935 to 90. The registrations of 36 unions had been cancelled before 1st April 1934, and during the year under review, the names of the following five Unions were removed from the register:- (1) The Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, Bombay. (2) The Karachi Labour Union, Karachi. (3) The Bombay Seamen's Union, Bombay. (4) The Chalisgaon Lalbawata Girni Kamgar Union, Chalisgaon, and (5) The Karachi Electric Supply Corporation Ltd's. Employees' Association, Karachi. The first three unions had failed to submit their annual returns, the fourth had ceased to exist and the fifth had been dissolved. The net number of unions on the register on 31-3-35 was 49.

Classification of Unions. - Of the 49 registered unions at the end of the year under report, only 41 individual unions submitted annual reports. These 41 unions may be classified thus: railway workers' unions, including those of railway workshop employees - 10; tramway employees' unions - 1; textile labour unions - 6; unions of printing press employees - 3; unions of municipal workers - 5; seamen's unions - 2; docks and port trust employees' unions - 7 and miscellaneous unions - 7. Of the 41 unions, 2 were employers' unions.

Membership and Finance of Unions.- The total membership of the reporting unions increased from 51,778 to 53,552 during the year under report. The number of withdrawals from membership was only about two-thirds the number of accessions. It will be observed

\*Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Bombay Presidency for the year 1934-35-Bombay: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, - Price Anna 1 or 1d. pp.17

that the only groups that reported decreases in membership were "Tramways" and "Docks and Port Trusts". The female membership of registered trade unions increased from 591 to 485 in spite of the exclusion of the membership of the Kajugar Kamgari Union, Bombay, which consisted almost entirely of female workers.

The general fund was the principal liability of the majority of the unions. It formed the only liability of seventeen unions, while only four unions had liabilities other than the general fund. The total amount at the credit of the general fund account of all the unions was Rs. 404,801-5-6 and other liabilities amounted to Rs. 28,276-4-9 as against total "assets" amounting to Rs. 433,077-10-3. The figure for total assets includes an amount of Rs. 276,244-6-2 for unpaid subscriptions, the real value of which is very doubtful. The amount of cash assets was the largest in the case of the railway group and amounted to Rs. 26,863-6-6. To this sum the National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, alone contributed cash assets amounting to Rs. 15,989-14-3. This union also held securities worth over Rs. 55,000 out of total securities, amounting to Rs. 79,492-5-6, held by six unions.

Political Fund.- The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay, continued to maintain its political fund.

Federations.- No federation of trade unions was borne on the register during the year under report.

Number and Membership of Registered and Unregistered Unions.- The total number of trade unions - registered as well as unregistered - in the Bombay Presidency was 103 with a membership of 115,186, while at the close of the year there were 114 unions comprising 110,723 members. Nearly half the total number of unions ~~were~~ registered

under the Act. Of the remaining unions, 35 were associations of employees of the Postal and Telegraph Departments, consisting mainly of clerical workers. The enfranchisement of manual labour in the new constitution and the proposals to form trade union constituencies for the purpose of electing labour representatives to the reformed legislatures, have not only induced several of the existing unions to seek registration under the Act but also given an impetus to the formation of new unions amongst the hitherto unorganised workers in industries with a view to their ultimate registration. No fewer than 18 unions were registered during the year 1935 and half a dozen applications for registration were pending at the close of the year.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 42-44 of our April 1935 report),

<sup>11th</sup>  
11th Annual Conference of All-Travancore Labour  
Association: Plea for British Indian Standards of Labour

Legislation. +

The 11th Annual Conference of the All-Travancore Labour ~~xxx~~ Association was held at Alleppey on 12-1-36 under the presidency of Mr. A. Thanu Pillai, member, Travancore Legislative Assembly.

Presidential Address.- Mr. Thanu Pillai in the course of his presidential address said that agriculture which was the mainstay of the State was becoming less remunerative and it was inevitable that the State should look to industries for future prosperity. He was of the opinion that the key industries should be controlled by the State. The Government themselves had adopted this policy by running rubber, kaolin and other factories

Review of States Labour Legislation.- With the development of industries, suitable legislation for the well-being of labourers was indispensable. In Travancore, they could hope that the new Factories Bill, Trade Unions Bill and Workmen's Compensation Bill would soon be enacted into law. There were till now only two important measures of legislation in the State affecting labour, ~~the~~ the Breach of Contract Regulation, which was repealed recently and the Factories Regulation. However unsatisfactory and inadequate the Regulation might be, he believed that even in this there were provisions which, if put into force, would promote the well-being of the workers. But the Government had never cared to put them into force.

States' Legislation to be on a par with British Indian Legislation.- Mr. Pillai next referred to the Factories Regulation now before the legislature and replied to the objections raised by the employers' representatives to the Bill. It had been stated that conditions in British India and Travancore were different, and that it was not advisable to adopt here labour legislation on a par with that in British India. Similar objections were raised by employers in British India when the attempt to introduce modern labour legislation was made there. Large scale industries were organised in India on the western model and the labour problem that arose in the west as a result would inevitably arise in India. To solve these problems, they had to adopt similar measures whether it be in British India or in Indian States. The regulation of hours of work and working conditions, and the provisions for ensuring healthy conditions and cleanliness which were found in the Act were equally necessary for Travancore & also.

Opposition of Employers to Factories Bill.- The main opposition of the employers at present in Travancore was directed against the definition of factories contained in the Factories Bill. They would like the definition so amended as to bring within the ambit of the law only those factories which employed a minimum of 100 workers. Mr. Thanu Pillai said that if the amendment proposed by the employers was accepted a considerable section of the labouring classes would not get the benefit of the legislation. Mr. Pillai stressed the need for a contented and prosperous labouring class if industries should thrive. Proper measures should be adopted to safeguard the health and safety of women and children who formed the bulk of labourers in the cashewnut factories.

Social Insurance.- Mr. Pillai, proceeding, said that the Trade Union Bill was the most important piece of labour legislation now before the Travancore Legislature. The Trade Disputes Act would provide suitable machinery for composing differences between the employers and the employees. He hoped that the Workmen's Compensation Bill would also be soon introduced into the Legislature. Besides these measures, ~~in~~ he ~~would~~ wanted that proper laws should be enacted to provide living wages, to help the worker in infirmity and old age, and to meet other necessities of the labourer. He was definitely of the opinion that labour legislation in the States should, as far as possible, be identical with that in British India.

Representation in Legislatures.- Concluding, Mr. Pillai made a strong appeal for providing for the adequate representation of labour in the Travancore Legislature, as was done in British Indian Legislatures.

Resolutions Adopted.- The Conference passed resolutions welcoming the introduction of the Factories Bill, the Trade Union Bill and the Trade Disputes Bill in the Travancore Legislative Assembly, and requesting Government to introduce at the next Assembly Session the Workmen's Compensation Bill, which has already been published in the Travancore Government Gazette. The Conference recommended to Government and the Franchise and Delimitation Commissioner the introduction of adult franchise in view of the high ~~and~~ standard of literacy in the State, and also asked for the introduction of a Wages Bill in the legislature, guaranteeing a living wage to workers, in order to protect them from indiscriminate wage cuts. A motion asking for three seats for labour in the Travancore Legislative Assembly, and two in the Upper House, the Sri Chitra State Council, was also adopted.

(The Hindu, 13-1-1936, and the Times of India, 16-1-36). +

Intellectual Workers.

Organisation of Journalists/ on All-India Basis :

Statement Issued by Journalists' Association of India, Bombay. +

The Executive Committee of the Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, has recently issued a statement regarding the formation of an All-India Federation of Journalists' Association in the country.

The following are the main points brought out in the statement :-

Need for a Federal All-India Organisation.- The Journalists' Association of India was established in Bombay about 15 years ago with the object of protecting and promoting the interests of journalism and journalists in India. Since its establishment it has had as its members journalists from different parts of the country and the late Mrs. Besant and Mr. A. Rangaswamy Iyengar were its successive presidents. With the rapid growth of journalism and the increasing number of journalists in all parts of the country, it has been found that the interests of journalism and journalists can be most effectively served only by strong autonomous organisations in each province, affiliated to a federal body which will not have individual journalists as its members and whose headquarters will not be permanently located in any one city.

Draft Constitution of Federal Body.- The Executive Committee of the Journalists' Association of India feel that neither of the two existing All-India bodies — the Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, and the Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta— which have individual journalists of Bombay and Calcutta as their

members, who naturally have a dominating voice in the administration of their affairs, can <sup>discharge</sup> ~~fulfil~~ <sup>function</sup> the purpose of a federal body. The Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, therefore, <sup>will</sup> shortly ~~be~~ circulating to different provincial organisations a draft constitution for such a federal body and, if it meets with general approval, they will take steps to convert the Journalists' Association of India, Bombay, into a purely provincial organisation.

Provincial Organisations to be Started.- The Association calls upon journalists in those provinces where no provincial organisations exist to start such organisations, so that no time may be lost in bringing into being a federal body competent ~~enough~~ to speak in the name of journalists throughout the country and powerful enough to protect their rights and promote their interests.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-2-36) +

(Only a brief and casual mention is made about the above in the Times of India).

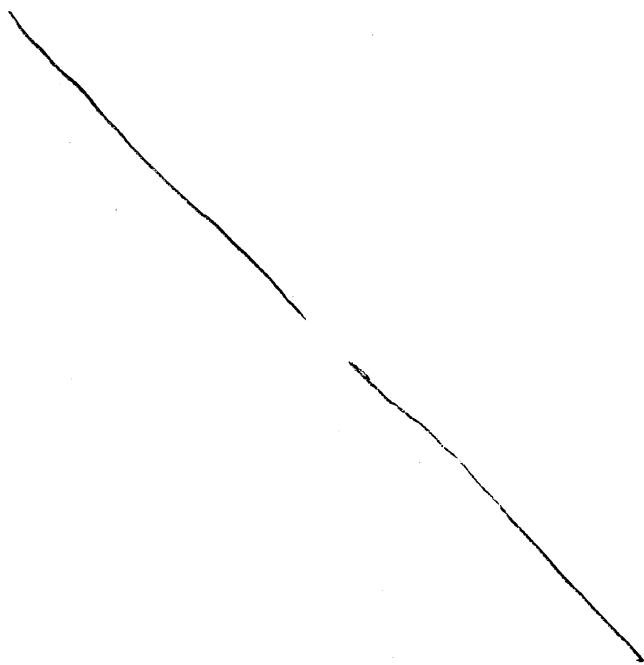


Economic Conditions.

Budget of the Government of India, 1936-37:

Cottage Industries and Rural Uplift Work to Benefit.

The Budget of the Government of India for 1936-37 was presented in the Legislative Assembly on 28-2-1936 by Sir James Grigg, the Finance Member. The outstanding features of the budget are: ~~the~~ a reduction in the surcharge on incomes from one-six to one-twelfth; the raising of the minimum taxable income from Rs. 1,000 per annum to Rs. 2,000; alteration in the postal rates whereby the weight of the one-anna letter will be increased from half a tola to one tola with an additional half anna charge for every additional tola; the allotment of Rs. 500,000 for the benefit of cottage and small scale industries and Rs. 2 millions for broadcasting; a grant of Rs. three millions for Agricultural Research; and a grant of Rs. 10.85 millions for provincial rural schemes.



Budget at a Glance.

Surplus carried forward from 1934-35:	...	Rs. 17.35 millions
Revised Estimates, 1935-36 -		
Revenue	...	Rs. 865.2 millions
Expenditure	...	Rs. <u>841.0</u> millions
Surplus	...	Rs. <u>24.2</u> millions.
Estimates for 1936-37 -		
Revenue	...	Rs. 873.5 millions
Expenditure	...	Rs. <u>853.0</u> millions
Surplus.	...	Rs. <u>20.5</u> millions
Total surplus available for disposal:	...	Rs. 62.05 millions.

Disposal of Surplus.- The surplus is disposed of in the following manner:

1934-35: The excess of Rs. 17.35 millions goes to Rural Development in consequence of the Assembly's agreement a year ago that any surplus should thus be disposed of. Grants are therefore proposed as follows:-

(1) Agricultural Research	...	Rs. 3.0 millions.
(2) Prevention and Cure of Malaria	...	Rs. 1.0 "
(3) Cottage and small woollen industries.	...	Rs. .5 "
(4) Broadcasting in villages.	...	Rs. 2.0 "
(5) Provincial rural schemes	...	Rs. 10.85 "
		Rs. <u>17.35</u> "

1935-36: From the surplus (revised estimate) of Rs. 24.2 millions it is proposed to allot to -

(1) Initial building equipment in Sind	...	Rs. 1.75 millions
(    Initial building equipment on Orissa	...	Rs. 2.75 "
(The amount for Sind is smaller because Sind already has part of the buildings necessary for the new Government, while Orissa is not similarly well off).		
(2) Reserve credit for assisting the Central Budget <del>in</del> in the first year of Provincial Autonomy.	..	Rs. 19.7 mill
		<u>Rs. 24.20</u> millions

(It is expected that this will cover the amount required in respect of all provinces except Burma. The separation of Burma is expected to cost Rs. 27.5 millions, but "if all goes well" Government expect at the same time to obtain an almost equal betterment in interest charges and revenue improvements.)

1936-37: It is proposed to use the coming year's estimated surplus of Rs. 20.5 millions as follows:

(1) (a) Abolition of taxes on income below Rs. 2,000. ...	Rs. 4.7 millions
(b) Reduction by half of surcharges on income-tax and super-tax. ...	Rs. 13.8 "
	<u>Rs. 18.5 "</u>
(2) Increase from 2-tola to 1-tola in the weight of a letter carried for one anna.	Rs. 1.3 "
Surplus balance ...	<u>Rs. .7 "</u>
	<u>Rs. 20.5 "</u>

Rural Development.- Proposing the allocation of Rs. 17.35 millions available in the Rural Development Fund for various schemes of rural uplift, Sir James Grigg said:

" First.- A grant of Rs. 30 lakhs (Rs. 3 millions) for Agricultural Research. This will cover the Rs. 10 lakhs still outstanding of the block grant promised to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research when it was first established and a further Rs. 20 lakhs for financing other urgent schemes of research, some of which will be under the direct control and supervision of Government. These other schemes include sugarcane research, and investigations in connection with the dairying side of animal husbandry. This branch of the peasants' activity has not received sufficient attention in the past. Experience elsewhere emphasises its importance to the cultivator, both as a means of supplementing his income and of adding to his diet elements that make for good nutrition and, therefore, for good health.

Secondly.- A grant of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Indian Research Fund Association. Health is a vital factor in measures aiming at a general improvement in the conditions of village life and to ensure that the benefit of these Rs. 10 lakhs goes primarily to the rural population the Association will be required to devote the amount mainly to schemes connected with the prevention or cure of malaria.

Thirdly.- A grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for the benefit of cottage and small scale woollen industries.

Honourable Members are aware that the case for the protection of the woollen industry was examined last year by the Tariff Board and that for certain reasons, including the refusal of evidence on the part of an important section of the mill industry, we were unable to accept its claim to protection. But woollen manufacture is also carried on in cottages and in small scale workshops; and the Tariff Board's findings suggested that this branch of the industry

stood in greater need of assistance than the other. Further, there was no reason why the action of the manufacturers should be allowed to prejudice its claims.

But, as the Tariff Board pointed out, in this case, a cottage industry is likely to derive more benefit from technical advice and assistance in marketing arrangements than from the imposition of protective duties. Government therefore propose to make a grant for the benefit of the cottage and small scale woollen industry amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs to be spread over 5 years and our intention is that it should be administered on lines somewhat similar to those adopted ~~xx~~ in the case of the corresponding grant for Sericulture except that, as research is not likely to be involved, the States will not participate in the allocation of funds. The actual execution of provincial schemes financed from this grant will be in the hands of the Provincial Departments of Industries.

Fourthly.- A grant of Rs. 20 lakhs to the Fund for development of broadcasting. This Fund is, of course, only available for capital expenditure; recurring expenditure is to be provided in the budget in the normal way. In my speech last year I emphasised that the expression "economic development and improvement of rural areas" was used "in a wide sense to cover any measure which will conduce to the amelioration of the conditions of the cultivators and rural classes". Broadcasting which now provides instructional lectures on agriculture and health ~~x~~ has a quite legitimate claim on this fund and the additional grant will help to satisfy the demand for such information over a larger area.

After these grants there is still left in the Fund Rs. 10.85 millions. We shall in all probability allocate the bulk of this to Provinces on a rural population basis for expenditure on schemes to be approved by the Government of India. But before deciding upon this finally, we shall review the results of last year's grants. It will be remembered that I circulated to the House on the 6th September last a full description of the schemes which had been approved by the Government of India in connection with the grants amounting to Rs. 92½ lakhs which have already been made to Provinces. We have called for full reports from local Governments as to the actual progress and results of their schemes. We expect that these will be available next month and in the light of them we shall decide whether any alterations are necessary in the conditions of our grants. I may point out that in the last two years the Government of India have allotted nearly Rs. 35 millions in the way of special grants for rural purposes.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,  
dated 29-2-1935, pages 83-100). +

Railway Budget for 1936-37:

Expenditure Entailed by Implementing Labour Legislation. +

The Railway Budget for 1936-37 was presented in the Legislative Assembly on 17-2-1936 by Sir Zafrulla Khan, Commerce Member, Government of India. The deficit for 1935-36 is estimated at <sup>Rs.</sup> 26<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> millions more than originally estimated. For 1936-37 the budget anticipates a deficit of nearly Rs. 35 millions, commercial and strategic lines taken together. This will be met by temporary loans from the depreciation fund. The budget estimate for 1936-37 assumes ~~an~~ an improvement of Rs. 12.5 millions over the current year, based on a slight increase in traffic anticipated and alteration in rates and fares made, and likely to be made, by railways. Sir Zafrullah revealed that travel without tickets cost the railway at least Rs. 10 millions per annum and that Government had therefore decided to propose amendments to the Indian Railway Act with a view to ensuring a stricter check. The Railway Member's speech was couched in a spirit of restrained optimism.

The total traffic receipts of 1935-36 of State lines are expected to reach Rs. 900 millions. The total working expenses amount to Rs. 640 millions. The total deficit of Rs. 45 millions (of which 20 millions are for strategic lines) will be met by a temporary loan from the depreciation fund which will stand at Rs. 90 millions at the end of the year.

The budget estimate for 1936-37 assumes receipts of Rs. 912.5 millions. This allows for an improvement of Rs. 12.5 millions over 1935-36 based on a slight increase in traffic anticipated and alterations in rates and fares made by railways. The total working

expenses of 1936-37 will amount to Rs. 645 millions and will be  
 1935-36  
 Rs. 5 millions more than in the ~~current year~~.

Causes of Fall in Revenue.- Analysing the main causes contributing to ~~the~~ fall in revenues, the Commerce Member held that the following reasons accounted for the fall:-

- (a) world depression and general collapse of commodity prices;
  - (b) striving after self-sufficiency by almost every country in the world, including India, and development of internal trade and production; and
  - (c) increase in motor competition, <sup>et</sup> and to a lesser degree, river and sea competition;
- to which should be added two factors tending to keep working expenses at a higher level than otherwise, namely, labour legislation and improvement in the service conditions of staff.

Hours Convention entails expenditure of Rs. 5 millions.- With respect to labour legislation, the Commerce Member pointed out that a stage had been reached where a halt might be called, at least for some time ~~more~~, especially having regard to the present financial position of railways, in the liberalisation of rules relating to the hours and conditions of work and the granting of further privileges to the railway staff.

*The application of* The Washington and Geneva Conventions to railways had meant an increase of about Rs. 5 millions per annum in working expenses. Increase of pay in pre-depression days to lower paid staff had cost a similar amount.

Turning to the action taken by ~~xx~~ railways to improve the position, he explained that during years of adversity railways had overhauled their expenditure, every item coming under their scrutiny. The result had been that working expenses had been reduced by about Rs. 60 millions per annum. Attempts had also been made by judicious increases or decreases in rates and fares to increase earnings.

Indian and Foreign railways.- ~~xxx~~ Comparing Indian railways with foreign railways with regard to the percentage yield ~~the~~ of net revenue on capital invested, the Commerce Member said, "As against the rather gloomy picture of the present position of our railways, we have at least the consolation that our position is no worse than the position of other railways throughout the British Empire and throughout the world: in fact it is considerably better than <sup>most</sup> other countries."

The Future.- ~~The~~ Regarding the future he said: "The position, though causing anxiety and requiring ceaseless watchfulness, is not, by any means, desperate. Given a reasonable improvement in world conditions, regulation of motor transport on a fair competitive basis, a check on further concessions and privileges to railway staff, and legislation imposing an effective check upon ticketless travel, there is a fair chance that the financial position of railways will gradually improve and that they will, within a reasonable period, achieve a sound financial position." (The Times of India, 18-2-1936) ✕

Provision of Relief to Unemployed in Madras City:

Resolution in Madras Corporation. †

On 11-2-1936 Mr. Natesa Mudaliar moved the following resolution at a meeting of the Council of the Madras City Corporation:

"This Council resolves that a sum of at least Rs.10,000 be set apart to relieve the unemployed in the city."

In moving the resolution, Mr. Mudaliar said that in all countries of the West no man was allowed to starve. The States in those countries took care of the unemployed, and the aged people. Though the Government of Madras had not taken any steps to relieve the unemployed, he wanted that the Corporation of Madras at least should make a start. There were at least 5,000 people in the city who were unemployed and starving. Some steps should be taken to relieve the sufferings of the people due to unemployment.

Mr. K. Sreeramulu Naidu moved an amendment that the resolution be referred to the Standing Committee (Taxation and Finance) for consideration and report.

After some discussion, the amendment to refer the matter to the Finance Committee was put to vote and declared carried.

(The Hindu, 12-2-1936) †

HK.

Public Health.

Safety First Association of India:

Progress during 1935. +

The Safety First Association of India, Bombay, has recently issued their Annual Report for the year 1935; a brief summary of the report is given below:-

Lecture-Demonstration Service.- During the year 1935, upwards of 60 lectures were given, and in this way over 20,000 young citizens were entertained by the Lecture-Demonstrators of the Association in the various phases of "Safety". In addition four broadcasts in Marathi were given. Many of the schools are following up the ideas that have been given in these lectures and are integrating them with and to the advantage of the curricula.

Industrial Safety Committees.- The Bombay Factory Inspectorate continued to do excellent work in forming Safety Committees. In addition to the factories mentioned in the report for 1934 (Vide pages 69-70 of our February 1935 report), Committees have been formed in the following factories:- Morarji Gokuldas Mills; Sir Shapurji Broacha Mills; Manchester Mills; The Toyo Pudar Mills; Elphinstone Mills; Pearl Mills; The Bombay Cotton Mills; Apollo Mills; The Madhusadan Mills; Century Mills; The Union Mills; Edward Sassoon Mills; Indian Manufacturing Co.; Khatau Makanji Mills.

Safety Industrial Service.- In order to further the interests of Industry, the Association is issuing a monthly press communique designed to keep Industry in touch with the Industrial Safety Movement. It is believed this service is of great value to Indian industry not only in preventing accidents, but also in improving the quality of production, increasing efficiency and decreasing costs.

"Safety News"- The Association's official monthly publication: "Safety News" continued to make its regular appearance.

Educational Activities.- The high-light in this field during the year under review was the acceptance of the principle by the Government of Bombay that Safety Education should be introduced into the schools. with this objective in mind the Association have designed a series of 11 Games-Lessons, illustrated by 24 posters. on the following subjects:- 1. Walking; (2) Crossing the road; (3) Public service vehicles; (4) School safety patrol; (5) Traffic signals and road signs; (6) Riding as a passenger in a motor vehicle other than a public service vehicle; (7) The cycle; (8) The road; (9) Cycling; (10) The motor vehicle; (11) Motoring. During



12. 37  
the year, greater attention has been concentrated on Road Safety. Plans are under way for the integration of Safety into Trade and Vocational Schools.

Activities Outside Bombay.-- Though no branch of the Association has been formed as yet outside Bombay, a certain amount of Safety work is being done in the Central Provinces and at Jamshedpur, and it is hoped that during the next year, branches will be formed to sponsor the movement in those parts. The Calcutta Rotary Club Public Service Committee are sponsoring the formation of a Branch of the Safety First Association in Calcutta.

(Summarised from a copy of the Report forwarded to this Office by the Secretary, Safety First Association of India, Bombay).

(The Annual Report of the Safety First Association of India for 1934 was reviewed at pages 69-70 of our February 1935 Report). +

#### Health of Children in Calcutta Schools:

##### Report of School Medical Inspectors. +

A scheme for the medical examination of school children in Government and aided secondary schools for boys in the city of Calcutta was started some years ago as an experimental measure and conducted by three Medical Inspectors of Schools under the administrative control of the Local Self-Government Department (Public Health), Bengal. From March 1, 1933, control of this work has been transferred to the Education Department and it is now carried on under <sup>the</sup> supervision of the Physical Director. The Government of Bengal has recently issued a press note on the report of the School Medical Inspectors for the Government and Government-aided schools in Calcutta for the year 1933-34, a summary of which is given below.:

General Remarks.-- The Inspector's remark that the success of the scheme of School Medical Service depends upon the education

of the public, co-operation of the teachers, earnest desire of the guardians for the improvement of their wards' health, arrangement for early and compulsory treatment and care of children by the guardians before they are sent to school. In a province like Bengal where the scheme is practically a new one and neither the teachers nor the guardians are educated enough to appreciate correctly the value of the work, it will require years to show some amount of appreciable success.

Apart from students who have definite defects, says the report, quite a large number is apparently in bad health. This may be due to prolonged neglect of health in the past, some digestive or respiratory troubles in infancy, <sup>and</sup> inherited constitutional or some other unknown hereditary factor. Poverty, want of nourishment, and unhygienic home surroundings are also contributory factors.

Common Ailments.— Of 4,534 boys examined during 1933-34, 2,273 or nearly 50 per cent were found to be defectives. Defects of the eye account for nearly 30 per cent of the defects, the commonest eye defect being defective vision with myopia found in a fair percentage. Enlargement of tonsils comes next with 27 per cent and diseases of the digestive system are responsible for 22 per cent of the defects. Nearly 10 per cent of the students were found to have carious teeth and 35 per cent to be victims of malnutrition. 90 per cent of the students do not take physical exercise at all and in consequence a large number suffer from constitutional defects from which they would otherwise have been free. There is no arrangement for lunch in any of the schools inspected. 10 per cent get refreshments from hawkers, while only 3 per cent of the students bring lunch from home which means that the great majority, nearly 87 per cent, go without any lunch.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-2-36) +

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Balanced Diet for Bengal Workers:

A.I.V.I. Association's Model Dietary Costing Under Rs.5 per Month.

The adoption of a scientifically balanced scale of diet, the cost of which will guide the fixation of a minimum wage for an artisan working either under the All India Village Industries Association (for details about A.I.V.I. see pages 30-32 of our November 1934 report), has been engaging the attention of the board of management of the A.I.V.I.A. for a long time. Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, a member of the board of management of the All-India Village Industries Association, interviewed by the Associated Press in this connection, made the following statement regarding the scale of balanced diet which may be adopted for Bengal.

Balanced Diet to cost under Rs.5/- per month. - It is admitted that the scale will vary from province to province. For Bengal, the following scale has been suggested. Criticisms are invited on it by scientists, who are dealing with problems of nutrition. The prescribed diet can be had in most of the Eastern Bengal Villages within two annas and a quarter <sup>per day.</sup> It supplies over 3,000 calories, a sufficient quantity of protein, mineral salts and vitamins. Of course woodworkers and such other hard-working people who require more calories will have to take more rice. In Western Bengal where fish is dearer eggs can be taken, which are comparatively cheaper. The prices will vary from place to place. Even in the same district, the price will vary from one village to another. But everywhere, by a little variation of this article or that, a scientifically balanced scale of diet can be had in the villages of Bengal within Rs. 4-8-0 per month.

Model Dietary Proposed.- The following gives the proposed scale:

Rice -10 chhataks per day at Rs. 3-2 per maund -  $3\frac{1}{8}$  pice;  
 Dal - 2 chhataks per day at Rs. 5 per maund - 1 pice; Vegetable -  
 4 chhataks per day at Rs. 1-14 per maund -  $\frac{3}{4}$  pice; Mustard oil  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  chhataks per day at Rs. 20 per maund -1 pice; Salt  $\frac{1}{2}$  chhataks  
 and spices  $\frac{1}{4}$  pice; Lime, in season,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pice a day or other sour  
 fruits  $\frac{1}{8}$  pice; Gur .4 chhataks per day at Rs. 5 per maund -  $\frac{1}{8}$   
 pice; Fish 2 chhataks per day at Rs. 5 per maund - 1 pice. Where  
 fish is dear, more than one egg can be substituted for the same  
 cost. Milk 2 chhataks per day at Rs. 5 per maund - 1 pice; cheap  
 fruits of the season -  $\frac{1}{2}$  pice; fuel (if coal 8 chhataks per day)-  
 $\frac{3}{8}$  pice.

Prevention of Beri-beri. - The quantity of rice provided  
 for in the above scale includes puffed or parched rice and flat-  
 tened rice (chira). In cooking rice just sufficient water should  
 be added so that no liquid is to be decanted off. Anti-beri-beri  
 factor being soluble in water, rice cooked in the ordinary way, as  
 is done in Bengal, is no protection against beri-beri even if  
dhenki-husked rice is used.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-2-36)+

Safety in Mines:

Tentative Agreements Reached at New Delhi Conference. \*

A conference of representatives of the Government of India, technical experts, and representatives of mining interests was held at New Delhi on 19 and 20-2-1936 under the presidentship of Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries and Labour, Government of India. The Government of India had decided to convene a conference to improve safety measures in mines consequent on an accident in the Bagdigi Colliery last summer; the Loyabad colliery disaster which occurred on 30-1-1936 and which entailed a loss of 37 lives (for details see pages 20-21 of the section "Conditions of Labour" of this Report) served further to concentrate attention on the problem of safety in mines.

The Conference was attended by the following persons, besides representatives of the Government:-

Mr. R.H. Worthington, Mr. O. Pearce, Mr. L.A. Jacobs, Mr. J.E. Phelps and Mr. J.B. Wardlaw, representing the Indian Mining Association; Mr. K. Basu, and Mr. K.K. Nag, representing the Indian Mining Federation; Mr. A.L. Ojha, Rao D.D. Thacker Bahadur, Mr.G.S. Raval, and Mr. Nandlal J Parikh, representing the Indian Colliery Owners' Association; Mr. M.M. Mukherjee and Mr. J.K. Dholakia, representing the Indian Mine Managers' Association; and ~~the~~ Mr. D. Archibold, representing the Indian National Association of Colliery Managers (Indian Branch).

Though representatives of miners' organisations were not invited to the Conference, Mr. P. Bose of the Indian Miners' Association, Jharia, was present by special invitation. The experts present included the Chief Inspector of Mines.

The principal subject discussed at the Conference was emergency measures to deal with underground fires in coal-fields.

The Conference was convened specially to consider the situation in the Jharia coal field, and the view ~~generally~~ held was that further precautions were required in coal-fields generally. It was ~~generally~~ recognized that the measures regarded as desirable could not be put into effect promptly without legislation at an early date. A number of proposed emergency regulations were discussed, and general agreement was secured. Reference was also made to the suggestion in the report on the Bagdigi accident last summer that a Committee should be set up to go into the whole question of fires in coal fields.

Dr. D. Penman, Chief Inspector of Mines in India, had submitted to the Conference a number of suggestions to ensure safety in cases of spontaneous combustion and fires in mines (A press & summary of Dr. Penman's suggestions is included in the batch of cuttings under the heading "Public Health" sent along with this Report).

Measures agreed upon.- Among the measures agreed to as desirable, were that no work should be done in a seam under another that is on fire, unless the strata is kept intact; no fires should be lighted within 20 feet of the top of shaft without special permission; keeping of plans of ventilation at each mine; every miner to be withdrawn from the mine upon indications of fire; and the setting up of mine rescue stations. (The Hindustan Times and the Hindu, 20-2-1936).

Following the Conference, the Government of India have decided to effect certain amendments to the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, in exercise of the power conferred by section 29 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923. (The draft of the proposed amendments is published at pages 172-173 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 22-2-1936). The draft will be taken into consideration by the Legislative Assembly on or after 25th May 1936. +

Women and Children.

Sessions of International Council of Women and  
National Council of Women in India,  
Calcutta, 30-1-36 to 5-2-36. †

Conferences of the International Council of Women and the National Council of Women in India were held at Calcutta from January 30th to February 5th 1936.

The International Council of Women, founded 48 years ago, represents 40 million women through the national councils of 40 nations. The present is the first occasion that a Conference of the International Council of Women was held in India. Among the important foreign delegates were Lady Pentland, Princess Cantacuzene, Miss Zellweger, ~~Miss~~ Dr. Girod, Madame Legend, and Mrs. Margaret Sanger.

Several subjects of special importance to women and children were considered by the two Conferences. The following is a list of the more important subjects: (1) Rural Reconstruction - (a) Education and Industries, (b) Village continuation school courses, and (c) Village Schools; (2) Special curriculum for Girls Schools; (3) The Cinema; (4) Training of the Social worker; (5) The League of Nations; (6) Women and the Press; (7) Medical Inspection of Schools; (8) Housing and Health; (9) Maternal mortality; (10) Child Welfare; (11) Food and Health, and (12) Legal disabilities of women.

Resolutions Adopted.- The following are some of the more important resolution adopted at the <sup>Joint</sup> session of the International Council of Women; and the National Council of Women in India:-

1. League of Nations. - The National Council of Women in India meeting in conference with members of the International Council of Women, representing forty National Councils of different countries, realising that only by international agreement and friendship can

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war be averted and civilization saved, urge their respective Governments to uphold by every means in their power the Covenant of the League of Nations.

2. Montevideo Treaty.- The Calcutta Conference of the National Council of Women in India endorse the principle laid down in the Equal Rights Treaty signed at Montevideo on December 26th 1933 - and urges the International Council of Women to follow closely ~~and the~~ developments in connection with this Treaty. Further it requests the International Council of Women to give the affiliated national Councils new information concerning this matter.

3. Rural Welfare. - (a) This Conference recommends to the National Council of Women in India to appoint a special sub-committee to examine and promote rural welfare. (b) This Conference considers the work of women in rural reconstruction is of vital importance and urges that they should be more fully associated with all schemes for the improvement of rural education. The Conference urges that the curriculum of rural schools should be better adapted to the needs of village life and in particular that more emphasis be placed on hand-work and vocational training.

4. Education.- (a) Girls Education. - This Conference recommends to the National Council of Women in India to discuss and formulate proposals for women's education in all its branches.

(i) In view of the deplorable condition of girls' education in India this Conference is of opinion that to improve the situation it is absolutely necessary to have a special Board for Girls' Education in every province consisting of representatives from all girls' schools and colleges - Government and non-Government - and also others - men and women - specially interested in girls' education, and that this Board besides suggesting improvements should also administer jointly the funds with the Education Department of the Provincial Government.

(ii) This Conference is also of opinion that as the hostel arrangements for college girls are far from satisfactory the Universities should be requested to have the system prevalent in ~~the~~ Western countries of having control over all such hostels by granting licenses and appointing a specially qualified woman to inspect and supervise them.

(b) Training of ~~the~~ Social Workers. In view of the rapidly growing demand for trained social workers and the fact that opportunities for such training are almost non-existent, this Conference urges that as soon as possible training courses for men and women be established both by the Universities and by suitable social organisations, similar to the Social Training School which will shortly be opened in Bombay.

5. Legal Disabilities.- This Conference is of opinion that all legal disabilities attached to women both civic and personal, should be removed.

It views with concern the growing tendency in some European



countries to deprive women of legal rights already obtained. It further resolves that it is in fullest sympathy with the efforts of Indian women's organisations, which are striving to obtain a whole-sale revision of the legal codes in India, so as to insure women's rights of property and inheritance, marriage and the guardianship of children, and hopes that their efforts will soon be crowned with success.

6. Nursery Schools.— In the opinion of this Conference there is great need for the establishment of Nursery Schools in India.

(a) Because there is a gap in the physical and mental education of children between the toddlers and school-going age; and

(b) Because of the large number of children in creches in industrial areas where there is no arrangement being made for training and discipline of any kind, they request Government to take steps to establish a training school.

In view of the fact that it is better to develop round a nucleus it is recommended that the Government should by grants and in other ways help in the immediate establishment of Nursery Schools which can act as training centres.

7. Medical Inspection.— In the interests of the future women of India, it is imperative that there should be a regular and systematic medical examination of all schools, especially girls' schools. This meeting recommends to N.C.W.I. to urge upon Government the necessity of taking steps to put this into effect at an early date.

(8) Franchise.— This Conference appreciates the rights granted to Indian women under the India Reforms Act, 1935, and expresses its gratitude to those women's organisations, and individuals who have helped to bring about the results achieved.

It urges all women to make the fullest use of the powers which they have obtained.

The Conference regrets at the same time, that some of the repeated demands of Indian women have been ignored and, in particular, that in Bengal and certain other Provinces matriculation, instead of literacy, has been made the educational qualification.

(9) Food and Health.— In view of the wide prevalence of ill health, anaemia, and food deficiency diseases in India and the great amount of suffering and death which result, a suffering which falls most heavily on the women and children, this Conference recommends to the National Council of Women in India to urge Provincial Councils to promote the formation of food committees. The Conference thinks that a good deal of improvement could be effected by such local committees if they took a keen interest in local food supplies and markets. Such committees might work on the following lines:—

(1) To educate public opinion; (2) To promote a good and cheap milk supply; (3) To increase the production of green vegetables; (4) To increase the production of ghi (butter); (5) To insure that whole grain cereals (e.g. unpolished rice) ~~were~~ available in all markets; (6) To wage a campaign against adulterated foods.

The following resolutions relating to women workers in mines were adopted by the National Council of Women in India:

1. Women Welfare Worker for Mines.- This Council has heard with pleasure of the Action of the All India Women's Conference in deciding to appoint a woman Welfare worker for the coal mine area.

2. Alternative Employment for Eliminated Women Workers.- In view of the present emergency situation in the coalfields, consequent upon the withdrawal of women from work underground, combined with the already low family income of miners, the N.C.W.I. urges upon the Government of India the immediate necessity of finding ways and means of providing alternative employment for the women thrown out of work.

3. Outstill System Condemned.- This Council strongly condemns the present Outstill System in Bihar and Orissa.

(Extracted from literature supplied to this Office by the National Council of Women in India, Calcutta.) and

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,  
1-2-36, 2-2-36, 5-2-36, 6-2-36 and  
7-2-36) +

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Education.

Education of Railwaymen's Children:

Report of Sub-Committee Appointed by Central

Advisory Council for Railways. +

At a meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways, held on 14-9-1935, a sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. P.R.Rau (Financial Commissioner for Railways), Sant Singh, S. Abdul Hafeez, F.E.James and V.V.Giri, was appointed to examine & the proposals made by the Government of India relating to the policy of railways with regard to the assistance to be given to railway employees towards the education of their children. The Sub-Committee has submitted its report recently; a summary of the main recommendations made therein is given below. At the outset the Sub-Committee state that it is the intention of the Government that the proposals finally decided upon will be given effect to, as financial considerations permit and not necessarily at once; and the Sub-Committee's recommendations are, therefore, based on this understanding.

Claims of Inferior Staff.- A suggestion was made that inferior staff and labourers in general should be included in the benefits of this policy on the ground that the additional cost involved by including them will be inconsiderable. The Sub-Committee could not come to any definite conclusion on this, as there were no data before it of the costs involved. The Sub-Committee, therefore, recommends that steps should be taken to obtain an estimate of the number likely to take advantage of the benefits if so extended, and the additional cost resulting therefrom. It considers that skilled artisans who ordinarily earn much more than the ordinary labourer should be included, and that a minimum limit of

pay should be laid down for this purpose.

Claims of Temporary Staff.- It is recommended that such of the temporary staff as are eligible to subscribe to the Railway Provident Fund should be treated as quasi-permanent and included for benefit under the rules. It is agreed that the limit of assistance should be raised to the High School standard. The Sub-Committee does not recommend any extension of the limit of pay (viz., Rs. 300) beyond which assistance is not admissible at present; but it proposes that a subordinate officiating as an officer whose pay when officiating does not exceed Rs. 350 should continue to be eligible.

Maximum Limit.- The Sub-Committee agrees with the proposal that the present maximum limits of assistance (viz. Rs. 15 per child and Rs. 40 in all per parent) should not be increased.

Extension of Benefit to Adopted Children.- Three members of the Sub-Committee consider that it is undesirable on many grounds to extend the benefits to adopted children. The other two consider that one adopted child, when there are no children, should be included, provided the fact of adoption is evidenced by a duly executed registered deed of adoption.

Question of Assistance even when Ordinary Educational Facilities are Available.- Mr. Giri expresses the view that the suggestion of the Railway Board that even where educational assistance is available at a station, school fees of the employee's children should be borne by the Railway— should be considered when financial conditions are favourable. The rest of the Sub-Committee

are of opinion that the assumption on which this suggestion is based that railways have a responsibility for the education of the children of all their employees, is incorrect. They agree with the Government of India that there is no reason why the Railways should extend their responsibilities beyond what has been already accepted, viz., with regard to the children of employees who are, for administrative convenience, stationed at places where they cannot receive education.

(the Hindustan Times, 2225-2-36) +

Industrial Education in the United Provinces, 1934-35.\* +

Action on Recommendations of Re-organisation Committee.- In January 1934, the Reorganisation Committee appointed by the United Provinces Government towards the close of 1932, made important recommendations regarding the reorganisation of instructional institutions (vide pages 39-42 of our March 1934 report for a summary of the Recommendations). In accordance with the wishes of the Legislative Council, a committee of non-official members with the Secretary to Government, Industries Department, as Chairman, was constituted to consider these recommendations (vide page 80 of our September 1934 report). The report of this Committee, which was submitted in December 1934, (summarised at pages 77-78 of our February 1935 report) is now under the Government's consideration.

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\*Extract from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries, United Provinces, for the year ending 31st March, 1935. Allahabad: Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, United Provinces, 1936. pages 39. Price, 12 annas.

Government Schools.- The number of Government schools remained the same as in the preceding year, viz., 25. The Government gave Rs. 943,039 as grant to these schools during 1934-35 as against Rs. 1,002,866 in 1933-34. The quality of students who sought admissions continued to be high. Out of 2,202 applications for admission received, 1,012 were admitted as against 2,213 and 1,039 respectively during 1933-34. The number of students on the rolls at the close of the year under review was 1,683 as against 1,481 during 1933-34. Of these 1,683 students, 212 were artisan students. During the year Rs. 33,621 were given away by way of stipends and Rs. 15,762 by way of scholarships. Out of 570 candidates who appeared for the annual examinations, 525 were successful.

Aided Institutions. During the year under review, there were 7 carpentry schools, 20 weaving, knitting and tailoring schools, 2 leather working schools, one metal working school and 17 miscellaneous industrial schools in receipt of grants in aid from the Government. The number of students in these institutions at the close of the year was 1,389. Government's share of the cost of the aided institutions amounted to Rs. 90,673 against Rs. 71,938 in 1933-34.

Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore.- The Director of Industries continued as ex-officio Principal and the Sugar Technologist as ex-officio Head of the Sugar section of this Institute. The net expenditure amounted to Rs. 121,211 and the average daily number of students on the roll during the year was 113. The Sugar section continued to be popular and good material offered itself for enrolment. During the last five years 98 students completed their training at the Institute. Out of these 81 are reported to be employed, 4 are doing private business and 13 are either unemployed or their particulars are not known.

Agriculture.

Rural Uplift in Baroda: Rs. Ten Millions Granted. †

In connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Gaekwar of Baroda, the State has created, in commemoration of the Jubilee, ~~of~~ a fund of Rs. 10 millions, the income of which is to be devoted to rural uplift. From the income, ~~of this,~~ grants will be made for useful schemes like extensions of gamthans (villages) to relieve over-crowding, village water-supplies, communications, educative work of all kinds, etc. Special preference will be given (i) to the poorer areas which probably have been neglected in the past and (ii) to the needy of backward communities like the Raniparaj, the Antyajias, the Thakardas, the Rabaries, etc. The amounts annually devoted on these works from the Fund will be in addition to the usual State expenditure on these works.

(The Hindu, 6-1-1936). †

Debt Conciliation Board for Sandur State. †

It is understood that the Government of Sandur State contemplate the setting up, at an early date, of a Debt Conciliation Board on the lines suggested by the Committee appointed by the State to enquire into the problem of agricultural indebtedness in the State. The Board is to consist of an official president and two members of whom one will represent creditors' interests and <sup>the other</sup> ~~another~~ debtors' interests.

(The Times of India, 6-1-1936). †

Rural Indebtedness and Indebted Agricultural Labour  
in Hyderabad: Enquiry Ordered by Government. +

The Government of H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad (Deccan) has appointed a Special Officer to enquire into, among other <sup>matters</sup> things, the problem of agricultural indebtedness, regulation of land alienation and the question of the "Bhagela" system (indebted agricultural labour). The following information is taken from a communique issued on 23-12-35 by the Information ~~xx~~ Bureau of the State.

Agricultural Indebtedness.- The problem of agricultural indebtedness has been engaging the close attention of Government ever since the economic depression, ~~with the drop in all commodity prices, when~~ started some five years ago. Special and increasing attention has been paid to this problem in British India and it is now generally recognised that there is no single approach or solution to the problem, but that action from a number of different angles has to be tried. An Agriculturists' Relief Regulation was sanctioned by His Exalted Highness for the years 1341 F (1933-34) and 1342 F. (1934-35) and recently the Regulation has been re-applied for a further period of three years from commencement of 1345 F (1937-38) and the question of making its provisions more widely known and of studying its working will be among the duties of the Special Officer. Other enquiries will be made to consider the extent to which certain recent British Indian enactments for the relief of agricultural indebtedness would, as amended, be likely to suit the conditions of the State. Among these Acts are the Debt Conciliation Acts of the Central Province, the Money-lenders' Acts, the Usurious Loans Acts, etc.

Land Alienation.- In 1935 a Land Alienation Regulation was enacted which has not as yet been made applicable to any area.



The application of this Regulation as a test-measure to one or two districts is now being considered. When applied, Government will require to be kept closely informed of its effect and of the extent to which it succeeds in realising the objects for which it has been framed.

Indebted Agricultural Labour.- Government have had under consideration for some time the special problem provided by the "Bhagela system" or "gaidavandlu" (indebted agricultural labour). The early enactment of a Regulation which will enable relief to be given to agricultural labour of this type is under consideration. The working of this regulation, when sanctioned, and the bringing of its provisions to the notice of the classes concerned will form part of the special enquiries now to be started. (

(The Hindu, 25-12-1935). +

(For fuller details see pages 21-22 of this Report under section: "Conditions of Labour").