

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for October 1938.

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

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National Labour Legislation.

Classes of Adult Workers exempted from Provisions of ~~Factories~~-
Act relating to Hours of Work: Amendment of Bombay
Factories Rules. +

Attention is directed to pages 1635 to 1649 of Part IV-A of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 6-10-1938 where is published a draft notification (No. 352/34 dated 3-10-1938) which defined (1) persons holding positions of supervision and management or are employed in a confidential position in a factory, for the purpose of exemption from the provisions of the Factories Act, 1934, dealing with restrictions on working hours of adults, and (2) the classes of adult workers who may be partially exempted from certain restrictions on working hours. The draft notification will be taken into consideration on ~~21~~ 3-1-39, and if adopted will come into force on 12-1-1939. +

Indore Payment of Wages Bill, 1938:

Select Committee recommends Adoption. +

Reference was made at pages 9 to 10 of our March 1938 report to the decision of the Indore State Legislative Council on 28-3-1938 to refer the Indore Payment of Wages Bill, 1938, to a Select Committee. It is now understood that the Committee has submitted its report with a recommendation that the Bill be passed. The Indore Government has referred the Bill as reported on by the Select Committee to the local High Court for its views.

The Bill is based on the British Indian legislation on the subject. Under the Bill power is proposed to be given to workers to appeal to a judicial court in cases of unauthorised fines and deductions. Payment of wages regularly and promptly after becoming due is proposed to be made a statutory obligation. Fines are proposed to be never in excess of half an anna in a rupee of the wage. The total realisations on this account are proposed to be used entirely for the benefit of labour. Full information regarding wages, fines and deductions will have, under the proposed bill, to be always clearly notified. Vexatious and improper suits against millowners are proposed to be penalised.

(A copy of the Bill was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute A.8/750/38 dated 28-4-1938.) +

The Travancore Trade Disputed Act, 1938;
Receives assent of the Maharaja on 22-9-1938..

The Travancore Trade Disputes Act, 1938, passed by the State Legislature on 19-8-1938, received the assent of His Highness The Maharaja on 22-9-1938 (for earlier references see page 10 of August '38 report). *The Act came into force on 25-10-38.*

(A copy of the Act has been forwarded to Geneva with our Minute *DP/2173/38* dated 3-11-1938)..

The Travancore Factories Act, 1938;
Comes into force from 4-10-1938..

The Travancore Factories Act, 1938, passed by the State legislature on 19-8-1938, received the assent of His Highness ~~The~~ Maharaja on 28-9-1938; it came into force on 4-10-1938. (For earlier references see page 26- July '35, pages 13-16 August '35 and page 10 August '38 reports).

(A copy of the Act has been forwarded to Geneva with our Minute *DP/2173/38* dated 3-11-1938)..

Certain Classes of Staff in Tramways declared to be
Public Utility Services..

The Government of Bombay has gazetted a Notification under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, whereby the local government has declared the following tramway services employed by the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company to be public utility services for the purposes of the Act:

(1) Running staff on tramways, i.e., drivers, conductors, inspectors, starters, controllers, examiners, points boys, ticket memo clerks, ticket and cash clerks.

(2) Repair and maintenance staff engaged in running repairs of tram cars, on overhead and permanent way, car-sheds, garages and on the tramway tract and overhead lines; and

(3) Operation and maintenance staff engaged in the reception and transformation of electricity.

(The Times of India, 31-10-1938)..

Deductions from Wages of Railway Employees
Authorised under Payment of Wages Act, 1936:
Notification by Government of India.

Attention is directed to page 1748 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 15-10-1938 where is published a Notification (No.L.3070 dated 13-10-1938) which authorised the following as amenities for which deductions from the wages of persons employed by a federal railway administration may be made, namely:--

the supply of coal, cinders, unserviceable sleepers and other timber, kerosene and other oils, safety-matches and cloth, to employees by such administrations from their own stocks for the private use of their employees and at their written request.

The Central Provinces and Berar Collection of
Statistics Bill, 1938.

On 30-9-1938 the Hon'ble Mr. C.J. Bharuka, Minister, C.P. and Berar, introduced in the local Assembly a Bill called the Central Provinces and Berar Collection of Statistics Bill, 1938. On the same day a motion for circulation of the Bill was carried in the Assembly. Extracts from the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill are given below:-

The necessity for legislation "to bring into existence an all-India system of statistics" was stressed by the Indian Economic Inquiry Committee of 1925. The Royal Commission on Labour pointed out in 1931 that "legislation for the collection of statistics regarding the economic condition of the people is now in force in the majority of countries of any industrial importance" and recommended that "legislation be adopted, preferably by the Central Legislature, enabling the competent authority to collect information from employers regarding the remuneration, attendance and living conditions (including housing) of industrial labour, from merchants regarding prices, from money-lenders regarding loans to workers and from landlords regarding rentals".

With the growing awakening of labour to its rights and with the increasing demand for Government intervention in trade disputes, it is necessary to have accurate and complete statistics as to the economic conditions of labour and the financial position of industry. Without statutory powers, however, statistics may not be supplied by the persons concerned accurately, punctually or completely. The object of this Bill is to provide that statutory authority, but it is definitely limited in its scope.

Nature of Statistics to be Collected.- The Bill contemplates the collection of the following statistics; (a) prices of commodities and cost of living; (b) housing and rent of dwellings; (c) rates of wages and hours of labour, absenteeism, labour turn-over and benefits provided for employees; (d) employment and unemployment; (e) industrial disputes; and

(f) any other matter connected with any economic inquiry which the Provincial Government may, by notification, direct.

The text of the Bill is published at pages 342 to 344 of Part II of the C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 28-10-1938.+

Free Supply of Tight-fitting Clothes to
Workers attending on Machines in Factories; Madras
Government's Notification.+

Attention is directed to page 1520 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 25-10-1938 where is published a notification (No. 840; G.O.No. 2223 - Development, dated 8-9-1938) which amends the Madras Factories Rules so as to provide that "no person engaged in oiling or adjusting belts or shafting or adjusting any part of a machine while in motion or in any work within reach of unfenced machinery in motion, shall be allowed to wear loosely fitted clothing or a loose head-dress or to have his head uncovered if his hair is long. The occupier shall supply tight head-dress and a pair of trousers or tight shorts, free of cost to such persons."+

Extension of Factories Act to Match Factories
In Hyderabad State: Government Order issued.+

The Government of Hyderabad has gazetted ^{on 11-10-1938} an order extending the Hyderabad State Factories Act, 1927, to match factories in the State not using machine power and employing 20 workers at a time on any day of the year. The order will come into force after three months from the date of publication in the Government Gazette.

The reasons for bringing the handworked match factories under the operation of the Act are set out in a Press Note, issued by the Government is stated that in the course of certain investigations it was brought to the notice of the Factories Department that child labour was generally employed in such factories; that the number of children so employed far exceeded that of adult labourers; that adults and children were made to work for an equal number of hours daily and that these factories were not very regular in allowing the weekly holidays to their employees.

(The Times of India, 15-10-1938).
+ via Hindu, 14-10-1938 +

Restrictions on Hours of Work in Film Studios to 11 hours

per day: Bombay Government's Notification.

Attention is directed to page 1800 of Part IV-A of the Bombay Government gazette dated 3-11-1938 where is published a Notification (No.3.129 dated 26-10-1938) amending the Bombay Factories Rules so as to limit the maximum hours of work in film studios to 11 hours per day or spread-over to 14 hours per day in the case of work on erection and dismantling of "settings". In the case of work on "make-up" of actors and actresses also the spread-over has been limited to 14 hours per day. +

The Bengal Regulation Repealing Act, 1938;

U.P. Act to prohibit Forced Labour. +

Reference was made at page 3 of our April 1938 report to the intention of the U.P. Government to introduce a Bill, called the Bengal Regulation Repealing Bill, 1938, in the local Legislative Assembly. The Bill was intended to repeal ^{in its} application to the U.P. ~~of~~ Section VIII of the Bengal Regulation XI of 1806 as amended by Regulation III of 1820, with a view to prohibit the exaction of forced labour in connection with tours of Officers, etc. Attention is now directed to pages 77 to 78 of Part VII of the Government Gazette of the United Provinces dated 1-10-1938, where is published the text of the Bengal Regulation Repealing Act, 1938, as it was finally passed by the U.P. Legislature. The Act has received the assent of the Governor. +

Minimum Wages in Coimbatore Weaving Mills: Schedule of Rates recommended by Madras Government.

In its Press Communiqué dated 6-8-1938, the Government of Madras stated that the question of rates of wages for weavers in Coimbatore was still under consideration and that the recommendations of the Coimbatore Court of Enquiry will soon be announced. (Vide page 15 of our August 1938 report). According to a Communiqué issued by the Government of Madras on 4-10-1938, this question had since been investigated by the Commissioner of Labour in consultation with both employers and workers. The Government has examined the Commissioner's proposals and has now recommended for consideration and adoption in the weaving section of textile mills in Coimbatore district, certain rates of wages specified in a schedule appended to the Communiqué. The increase in wages now recommended is to be given effect to from 1-6-1938. It is stipulated that where better conditions of service in respect of wages existed prior to the 1-6-1938, such workers who had that advantage should not be adversely affected as a result of the present recommendations.

The following rates of wages recommended are given as illustrative cases:-

(1) Carpenters, tinkers, black-smiths, firemen and oilers -- Rs. 13/- (monthly minimum wages) plus percentage increase as proposed by the Court of Enquiry.

(2) Finishing Maistri, -- skilled -- Rs. 13/- (monthly minimum wage).

(3) Size mixing coolie, -- unskilled -- Rs. 11/- (monthly minimum wage).

(The Communiqué and the schedule appended to it are published at pages 1438 to 1439 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 11-10-1938). +

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Debate on Punjab Maternity Bill, 1938:

(Private Members' Bill)

Government Opposition prevents Introduction
of Measure.

On 29-6-1938 Dr. Gopj Chand Bhargava (Non-Official) sought to introduce the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill in the local Legislative Assembly. The Bill was designed to grant in the first instance a measure of maternity benefit to women workers in factories who have been in continuous service under one employer for 6 months previous to the date of application for benefits.

The Hon. Sir Chhotu Ram, Minister for Development, opposed the introduction of the Bill. In doing so he declared: "But the real difficulty is that the Punjab is industrially a very backward province. ... Unless Government is sure of its ground and has already made up its mind that it will allow this Bill to pass, I consider it a perfect waste of time not to oppose this measure or to allow this motion to pass. Government is not sure of its ground, is not sure of the facts and, so far as my information goes, the industrialists of the province are opposed. ... I feel distinctly that the time has not yet come when the Punjab can undertake to enact a measure of this kind. If this Bill were passed, what would be the result? Every woman will on an average get a benefit to the extent of about Rs. 30. With this contingency in view employers, having regard to ordinary human nature, would be very chary to employ women and I expect that this would result in a diminution of the employment that is now open to women in factories. That is one serious fear which I entertain. The other fear is that such a measure is bound, in the present circumstances, to affect the prosperity of the existing industries and also retard the growth of fresh industries.

The House refused leave to introduce the Bill.

(Summarised from the Punjab Legislative Assembly
Debates of 29-6-1938: Vol. V No.7 pages 457-460).*

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for various
Centres in India during August 1938..

The cost of living index number for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during August 1938 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in August 1938 fell by 1 point to 105. The average in the year 1937 was 106.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in August 1938 remained unchanged at 71; for 1937 the average was 75.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during August 1938 rose by 1 point to 72. The average for 1937 was 73.

Mysore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in August 1938 remained unchanged at 60.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1937) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in August 1938 rose by 1 point to 56.

(Monthly Survey of Business conditions
in India, August 1938)..

Bengal Jute Ordinance reducing Hours of Work:
Adverse Effects on Wages. +

At pages 6-7 of the report of this Office for September 1938 reference was made to the Ordinance issued by the Bengal Government on 9-9-1938 restricting the manufacture of jute products by curtailing hours of work in jute mills. The leaders of the jute mill workers are strongly criticising the Ordinance as a step taken in the interests of the millowners, who are mostly European, to the detriment of the workers' interests. The following exposition of the worker's point of view is taken from an article on the subject contributed by Mr. Sibnath Bannerjee, M.L.A., to the "Comrade" dated 15-10-1938.

Ordinance of 9-9-1938: How it affects workers.- The two important provisions of the Ordinance are: (1) that without previous sanction jute mills are not to increase the number of looms nor to replace any existing loom and (2) that the Provincial Government may fix the time during which it shall be lawful for each jute mill to be worked and for this purpose may fix different times for different mills. The immediate effect has been that the working of jute mills have been reduced to a maximum of 45 hours with the exception of very small mills having less than 175 looms which will be allowed to work 72 hours. The result is that over 25,000 workers who were employed in jute mills working double shift are now thrown out in the street since 26th September 1938, when the Ordinance was put into operation. Moreover, workers in jute mills who have not been retrenched (their numbers about 300,000) have been subjected to reduction of wages to the extent of 15%. In other words from every rupee a worker was getting a cut of three annas has been effected. If the average pay of a jute worker is taken to be Rs. 15/- per month, each worker will lose Rs. 2-8 per month, making a total of Rs. 750,000 for 300,000 workers. In addition, 25,000 retrenched workers would lose about Rs. 3,75,000/-.

It is also pointed out that jute cultivators also would lose by the Ordinance, as its effect will be to lower still further the already low price of raw jute.

(The Comrade, 15-10-1938). +

Conditions of Work of Bombay Tailors: Long hours and low wages. 9

During recent months several strikes have been initiated ^{in Bombay} by tailors employed by shop-owners selling ready-made garments. The main grievances of this class of workers, who are engaged on piece-rates, ~~is~~ relate to wages, hours of work, insanitary work places, etc.

The piece wage rates are reported to be so low as Re. 1/- ~~for~~ stitching 40 shirts, or 50 pyjamas, or 10 coats. It has been estimated that the maximum output of a tailor for 12 hours work is 20 shirts, 30 pyjamas, or 5 coats.

(The Bombay Chronicle dated 5-10-1938).+

Industrialisation of Jail Labour:

Behar Government's Scheme.+

The new Congress Governments installed in the provinces are planning to make jails self-supporting institutions, ^{and} ~~for~~ acting on the principle laid down by Mahatma Gandhi, that "the jail must be turned into a reformatory and a workshop", they are envisaging a policy of industrialisation of jail-labour.

Bihar Government's Plans, - The following information about the Bihar Government's proposals in this behalf is taken from an article on the subject contributed to the National Herald, Lucknow, by Mr. Shivanandan Prasad Mandal, Parliamentary Secretary, Bihar Government: It is proposed to introduce hand-spinning for female convicts available after meeting the requirements for jail labour and for male convicts for whom light labour is prescribed, such as hospital gangs, observation prisoners and short-term prisoners. Hand weaving also will be introduced in certain jails. Other industries likely to be introduced in Bihar jails are: mustard-oil-pressing, spinning and weaving ~~of~~ tussar waste, weaving of dhurries (carpets), soap-making, carpentry, and furniture-making, paper-making, etc. In addition to non-recurring expenditure, the estimates provide for a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,25,000 ~~is~~ yielding an income of Rs. 2,50,000.

(The National Herald, Lucknow, 9-10-1938).+

Monthly Holiday for Shop-workers: Lucknow
Merchants' Association's Decision.

The Lucknow Merchants' Association has decided to observe a general holiday on the last date of each month, so as to enable the employers and the employees to take rest one day in the month.

(The National Herald, dated 29-9-1938.)

The Bombay Trade Disputes Bill, 1938:
Labour's Opposition in Legislature
and One-day Strike in Protest.

Reference was made at page 5 of our September 1938 report to the progress of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Bill, 1938, in the Bombay Legislative Assembly. The members of the Assembly representing labour interests adopted in the course of the second reading obstructionist tactics by moving several amendments to every section and making long speeches. These tactics were criticised on 29-10-1938 by the Speaker of the House; he pointed out that the Bill had been introduced in the House on September 2 and it took practically ten days for the first reading. The greatest latitude had been allowed in the debate on the first reading and all arguments were threshed out. He had allowed full opportunity at that stage in the hope that those arguments would not be repeated in the debate on the second reading. He had to say, however, that he was entirely disappointed. The debate on the second reading was begun on September 19 and yet they were on Clause 41 only (out of 84 clauses). There were in all 111 divisions, of which 94 were according to the old method of members having to walk into the division lobbies and 17 under the new method of members rising in their seats. He felt that the large number of divisions which had been asked for was absolutely unnecessary.

The Chair, he continued, was bound to protect not only the interests of the minority, but also of the majority. If the

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minority wanted to go on as it liked , on the ground that it was a minority, the Chair was not going to permit that minority in its attempt to tyrannise the majority as listeners of what was being said irrelevantly. (The Times of India dated 31-10-1938).

To gain public support for its opposition to the measure, the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Congress and the Independent Labour Party organised a conference of workers at Parel, Bombay, on 16-10-1938 at which it was decided to declare a general strike for one day on 7-11-1938 as a protest against the Bill. (The Times of India dated 18-10-1938).

The one-day strike of 7-11-1938 was marked by ugly incidents of mass violence necessitating police firing twice. (The Hindustan Times dated 8-11-1938).

**Bombay Shoe Workers' Demands: Increased Wages
and Fixed Pay Days.**

According to a communique dated 21-10-38 issued to the press by Mr. Dhula Jan, General Secretary, Bombay Shoe Workers' Union, Bombay, the shoe-workers of the city at a meeting held on 18-10-38 have presented the following demands to their employers:

Weekly wages should be paid on a fixed day; daily allowances should be paid at 8 p.m; regular work should be given for six days in the week; working conditions should be improved by taking well-ventilated and well-lit rooms for work; a living wage should be paid to the workers and therefore the present wage rates should be enhanced.

The shoe workers are threatening to go on strike if their demands are not satisfactorily met.

(Bombay Chronicle 22-10-38.)

12

Workers' Organisation.

Madras Press Workers' Conference-

Madras, 15 and 16-10-38.+

A conference of the press workers of Madras province was held at Madras on 15 and 16-10-1938, Mr. N. Dutt Muzumdar presiding. The hon'ble Mr. V.V. Gird, Minister for Labour, Madras, opened the conference. The following are the more important resolutions adopted by the conference:

Ameliorative Labour Legislation. Mr. V.S. Somasundaram moved that the Congress Ministry of Madras should introduce labour legislation early with a view to ameliorating the condition of the workers in regard to hours of work, minimum wage and unemployment insurance.

Press Workers' Grievances. Mr. C.K. Kannappan moved a comprehensive resolution enunciating the following demands of press workers:

- (1) The daily contract and line-system should be abolished.
- (2) No worker should be asked to be on "trial" for more than three days; during this period he should be paid not less than Rs.3.
- (3) No worker should be required to be on probation for more than three months; after this period of three months, every worker should be deemed to have been confirmed. The services of a temporary worker should not be terminated without adequate reason. A permanent employee's services should not be dispensed with unless for grave dereliction of duty involving serious damage to machinery or for continued irregular attendance without leave.
- (4) A minimum wage of Rs.30 per mensem should be fixed for every worker.
- (5) At regular intervals a graduated increase in wages should be effected.
- (6) There should be seven-hour day and a 42-hour week. A lunch interval of one hour should be observed in all presses.
- (7) Night shift should not exceed six hours.
- (8) The wages for night shift workers should be 1/4 times the normal wages paid for work.
- (9) Overtime dues should be cleared positively once every week.
- (10) One month holiday in the year should be granted to every worker with full pay.
- (11) Fifteen days casual leave in the year should be granted to every worker.
- (12) Fifteen days sick-leave in the year should be granted to every worker with half pay.
- (13) The Factories Act should be made applicable to all presses irrespective of the number of workers in the press and irrespective of the press being worked by steam or by electricity or by hand.
- (14) Unemployment insurance should be provided for by the State.
- (15) Provident fund benefits should be made available, the sum to be paid at the end of a worker's service.
- (16) Every worker, on retirement, should be entitled to a gratuity of one month's service for every year or fraction of a year of service put in by the worker. The salary for calculation of the above gratuity should be the salary the worker was receiving at the time of retirement.
- (17) Sheds should be provided at the place of work to facilitate the workers taking their lunch.
- (18) The Madras Press Labour Union should be recognised by all press establishments in the City of Madras.
- (19) Periodical inspection of factories by factory inspectors; the reports submitted by such factories should be attested by the union official for the factory concerned. +

(20) Retrenchment, if any, should begin not from the bottom but from the top;

(The Hindu 16 and 17-10-38.)+

Economic Conditions.

14

Scheme for Manufacture of Cycles and Light Metal Goods in India: Punjab Government institutes special Industrial Training Course..

Scope of Light Metal Goods Industry. An official survey recently carried out by the Punjab Government has revealed the fact that India imports about Rs.20 million worth of bicycles and sewing machines and their accessories every year. Great enterprise has been shown in this country in these trades, and in every important town one or more firms exist which import parts of cycles and sewing machines and assemble them. The Punjab Government, however, consider that these trades can be developed better, and in addition to merely assembling foreign-made parts, the manufacture of these parts can be carried out in this country. The Punjab Government's survey shows that there is great scope for job workers in metal and wood.

Training specialised Workers. It is stated that Indian workers in metal, unless engaged in some Government factory or in a reputed private concern, are, as a rule, haphazard in their methods and standard of work. The class of work that they are familiar with does not qualify them for the type of work required in the bicycle and sewing machine trades.

The review of the survey states that a capitalist wishing to manufacture such goods would at present be faced with considerable difficulties in the way of recruiting suitable labour, and would-be cottage workers are themselves hampered by ignorance of the required standards of precision and of technical processes.

To meet the situation and to deal expressly with trades of this type, the Punjab Government have reorganized the Government Industrial School at Ferozepore, where practical instruction will be given in precision and repetition work in connexion with light metal goods and machines such as perambulators, toy bicycles, cycles, and sewing machines parts. A qualified staff is at present being recruited and suitable machines are being ordered from abroad. The course will be of three years' duration and the scheme of training will embrace all branches of work. Persons who have completed their training in this school will be qualified to start their own business as cottage workers or to secure service in established businesses in a responsible capacity.

Cottage Industry Possibilities. The advantage of cottage industries is that they involve small capital commitment and low overhead charges. In connection with the trades proposed to be taught at Ferozepore, co-operation between the members of a group of workers would be essential to run the business on cottage industry lines. It is pointed out that urban cottage industries exist in Sheffield and Coventry and all the light metal industries of Birmingham are conducted, to a considerable extent, on cottage industry lines. In Japan, also, this principle is followed in many trades. It is considered that groups of industrial workers, collaborating in production, are more likely to achieve success than a factory, because there is in every

city or town a considerable volume of petty jobbing and repair work to be done which the average mercantile firm cannot handle for want of plant and labour and the average factory does not attempt because it requires individual attention.

(The Hindustan Times and
The Statesman 6-10-38).

National Planning Committee; Personnel
announced by Congress President; Pandit
J. Nehru to be chairman. +

At the Congress Industries Ministers Conference held at New Delhi on 2 and 3-10-'38, it was decided inter alia that a National Planning Committee, the personnel of which was to be announced by the President of the Indian National Congress, should be set up (for fuller details of the Conference see pages 17-20 of the September report of this Office). In the third week of October, Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, the Congress President, announced the personnel of the Committee.

Personnel of Committee. The Committee consists of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, Dr. Meghnad Saha, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai, Professor K.T. Shah, Dr. Nazir Ahmad, of the Cotton Research Laboratory, Mr. A.D. Shroff, Mr. A.K. Saha (former Engineer under the Soviet Government) and Dr. V.S. Dube, of the Hindu University of Benares. The name of a chemist will be announced later. The chairmanship of the Committee has been offered to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Congress President is waiting for his reply.

The Bombay Government have offered to furnish the Committee with a non-member Secretary and, as already decided, the provinces participating in this work will contribute towards the necessary expenses of the Committee.

Programme of Work. The announcement of the personnel of the National Planning Committee is well received. The opinion appears to be unanimous that all the interests connected with the industrial development of the country have been well represented on the Committee. According to the tentative arrangements the first meeting of the Committee is likely to be held in Bombay in the first week of December. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is expected to return from his continental tour on November 15. Preliminaries in connection with the Committee's work are likely to be ready by the end of November.

Industrial Survey Map. A complete map of the industrial possibilities in the country will be prepared by the Committee. It is possible that the Committee will have the co-operation of the non-Congress provinces and some of the major Indian States. The personnel of the Committee may also have to be strengthened.

National Planning Commission. The National Planning Commission will be constituted by the middle of 1939, when the labours of the Committee are expected to be completed. The Commission will consist of the Ministers for Industries in the provinces and States co-operating for the execution of the plan, four representatives of commercial bodies and one representing the All-India Village Industries' Association. The members of the Planning Committee will be ex-officio members of the Planning Commission. It is hoped that by the time the Planning Committee starts its inquiry, the reports of the Industrial Survey Committees appointed in various provinces and Indian States will be ready. The Committee may attempt to undertake a systematic survey of the natural resources.

Stages of Industrialisation: (a) Key Industries:

Machinery. Immediate attention, it is said, will be paid by the Committee to the establishment of factories intending to produce machinery and supplies for railways, the army and air services. This will include the examination of the scheme for starting an automobile industry in Bombay.

Chemicals. Next in importance will be the question of starting heavy chemical industries such as the manufacture of sulphuric acid, caustic soda and bleaching powder, factories for manufacturing agricultural tools and machinery, and hydro-electric and electrical appliances.

(b) Other Considerations: Availability of Raw Materials and Consumption Possibilities. The Committee, while taking ~~the~~ decisions on starting particular industries will have regard to the consideration as to whether the products made from indigenous raw material can be consumed within the country. The second choice will be in favour of those industries whose products find large-scale consumption in the country, though raw materials required are not available locally. The question of starting large-scale industries will be the first to be tackled on a national basis, because they include basic and key industries and represent a high form of industrial enterprise. The co-operation of ~~the~~ foreign manufacturers will be secured for the purpose of starting the industries in case it is found that the local talent and technique available at the moment ~~are~~ not up to the mark.

(c) Medium Scale Industries. In connection with the working of ~~the~~ medium scale industries such as cycles, metal works, alcohol, tobacco industry, leather products, ceramic industries, and manufacture of typewriters, the Commission's task will be to lay down broad principles and an outline of the plan. The details will be worked out by the Provincial Governments in consultation with the Industrial Advisory Boards constituted by them.

Co-ordinating Government and non-official Opinion. In order to create a healthy atmosphere for the growth of industries, it is suggested that a general organisation representing Government and non-official opinion should be established as a permanent body. Arrangements should also be made for facilitating industrial research collecting statistical data, and developing technique among Indians. These suggestions, together with the question of industrial finance among others will be discussed by the Commission.

Family Budgets of Industrial Workers in Madras City: Findings of Recent Government Inquiry.*

In February 1935 the Government of Madras ordered that an investigation of the family budgets of industrial workers in Madras city under the direction of the Commissioner of Labour should be undertaken and directed that the enquiry should be in two directions simultaneously. In the first place, an intensive study of two or three unorganised industries within a limited area was to be made, and the budgets of all the workers in that industry within the area collected. Secondly, family budgets of labourers employed in organised industries were to be collected by the method of random sampling which was to involve 'the selection of the industrial locality, the marking of working classes houses therein and getting the completest information possible in respect of every nth family.' The report under review is the result of the enquiry..

Organised Industries: Method of Inquiry.

As regards organised industries, the chief industries in Madras City are (1) Cotton ~~Textiles~~, (2) Railway workshops industry, (3) Printing, (4) Engineering ~~Works~~, and (5) Oil installations. It was decided to collect in all a thousand budgets relating to workers in organised industries and to distribute the budgets under the several industries as follows:-

Industry.	Number Employed.	Number of Budgets to be collected.
(1)	(2)	(3)
Cotton Textiles	11,187	373
Railway Workshops	5,036	231
Engineering Works	1,332	133
Oil Installations	536	107
Printing Presses	3,116	156
		<u>1,000</u>

* Report on an Enquiry into the Family Budgets of Industrial Workers in Madras City. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, 1938. Price Rs.1-4-0.

For purposes of securing a representative collection of budgets of workers in organised industries as a whole, it was decided to select at random a sub-sample of 641 budgets from out of the bigger sample of 1,000 budgets. The value of 'n' had to be constant in this case and the proposed manner of distribution was as follows:-

Industry.	Number employed.	Number of budgets proposed to be collected.	Value of(n).
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Cotton Textiles ..	11,187	338	33
Railway Workshops..	5,063	153	33
Engineering Works..	1,332	40	33
Oil installations..	536	16	33
Printing Presses ..	3,116	94	33
		641	

Income Limits of Inquiry. The inquiry was confined to budgets of working class families the earnings of the main wage-earner of which did not exceed Rs.50/- per month.

Unorganised Industries; Method of Inquiry. In respect of workers in unorganised industries, it was decided to collect family budgets of (1) beedi makers, (2) tailors and (3) Street porters (hand carts) and Harbour coolies. (Beedi making and tailoring are two chief unorganised industries in the city and harbour coolies and handcartmen are representative of the very large volume of unorganised casual labour in the city.)

Of the 1816 accepted budgets, 932 related to workers in organised industries and 884 to workers in unorganised industries.

Organised Industries.

Religion, Constitution of Family, Literacy, Age Distribution; etc.

Religion and Caste. An analysis of the family budgets by religion and caste shows that 92.36 per cent of the workers in organised industries are Hindus, 4.68 per cent are Christians, 2.65 per cent are Muslims and the remaining 0.31 per cent are Anglo-Indians.

Constitution of Family. Families were divided into two classes - (i) Natural families and (ii) Joint households. A natural family has been taken to be one comprising the head of the family, his wife and his unmarried children. A joint household, on the other hand, denotes a group of relatives living together as one household. The inquiry showed that 77.22 of the families were joint families and 22.78 were natural families. (This is a striking contrast with the position revealed in the last family budget enquiry conducted in Bombay where only 38.05 per cent of the families were found to be joint households.)

Literacy. It was found that 69.27 per cent of the main wage earners in the were literate. This is indeed a high

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percentage of literacy when compared with the literacy figures yielded by the 1931 census for the adult male population of 15 years and over in Madras City. The percentage of literacy in the adult male population of 15 years and over in Madras City is ~~55.26~~ as against 69.27 per cent for the industrial workers in organised industries in Madras.

Composition of Family.- The average number of persons residing with the family is 6.65, made up of 1.78 men, 1.95 women, 1.18 boys and 1.12 girls. In addition, 0.18 persons are dependent on the family. Thus, the economic responsibility of the head of the family pertains to 6.21 individuals. It will be interesting to note that in the Bombay Labour Office enquiry of 1932-33, the average number of persons in a worker's family was found to be 3.70, and the average number of dependents living outside, 0.65.

Age Distribution.- The enquiry showed that the bulk of the male earners (70.55 per cent) are between the ages of 20 and 45. The age distribution of female earners displays more evenness and a not inconsiderable number of them, in fact as many as 34.92 per cent, fall beyond the age group 40 to 45, while the corresponding percentage for male earners is only 16.56.

Average Monthly Income per Family.- The average income per family taking all the 641 families, is Rs. 37-5-11, 95.06 per cent of this sum is derived from employment. The greatest single source, is the earnings of the husband amounting to 78.33 per cent. The wife is responsible for 0.57 per cent of the earnings, the children for 2.49 per cent and other members of the family for 13.27 per cent. The average income from other sources amounts for all families to Rs. 1-12-7 and represents 4.94 per cent of the total. The most important item in this group is the income from houses which account for 3.22 per cent of the total income. The other items in the group are (i) land which accounts for a meagre 0.29 per cent, (ii) gifts and presents which account for only 0.22 per cent, (iii) support from relatives and friends accounting for a bare 0.39 per cent, and (iv) others (unspecified) accounting for 1.00 per cent. It is interesting to note that the relative contribution of the husband's earnings to the total income of the family tends to decrease as the income of the families increases. In the lowest income group, the husband's earnings constitute 94.18 per cent of the total income, while in the highest, they account for only 41.26 per cent.

Average Monthly Expenditure per Family.- The average expenditure per family, taking all the 641 families into account, is Rs. 37-0-2. The percentage expenditure on food is 52.63 per cent for all families, falling from 57.06 per cent in the lowest income group to 48.56 per cent in the highest. The percentage expenditure on housing is 11.14 per cent for all families and falls with income from 16.34 per cent for families in the lowest income group to 10.96 per cent in the Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 group and then rises to 12.14 per cent for families in the highest income group. Clothing accounts for 4.5 per cent in all families and the percentage expenditure on it fluctuates narrowly for families in the different income classes, the range of fluctuation being from 4.31 per cent to 4.89 per cent. Expenditure on fuel and light which for all families accounts for 6.67 per cent of the total expenditure ranges from 5.62 to 9.34 per cent, generally falling with increasing income except for minor fluctuations noticeable in the last two income groups. The last item 'Miscellaneous',

is 25.06 per cent for all families and varies between 12.49 per cent and 30.76 per cent for families in the different income classes.

Percentage of Expenditure on budget items: Comparison with Bombay workers' budgets.— The following table compares the percentages of expenditure on the different groups of items obtained in the present enquiry with those revealed in the enquiry into the family budgets of working classes in the Bombay City conducted in 1932-33.

Group.	Percentage of expenditure for	
	Madras.	Bombay.
Food	52.63	46.60
Housing*	11.14	12.94
Clothing	4.50	7.75
Fuel and light	6.67	7.11
Miscellaneous	25.06	25.60
Total	100.00	100.00

Unorganised Industries.— The number of budgets on which the analysis is based is 316 in the case of bidi workers, 291 in the case of tailors and 283 in the case of harbour coolies and handcartmen. The great majority of the families of bidi workers as also of tailors is of Madras. In the case of harbour coolies and handcartmen, nearly three quarters of the families are of Hindu Non-Brahmans.

Composition of the Family.— The average number of persons residing with the family is 4.31 (1.60 men, 1.34 women, 0.64 boys, and 0.73 girls) in the case of bidi workers, 5.16 (1.57 men, 1.80 women, 0.88 boys and 0.91 girls) in the case of tailors and 4.00 (1.37 men, 1.31 women, 0.63 boys and 0.69 girls) in the case of harbour coolies and handcartmen. The average size of a working class family was noticed to be 6.03 in the case of workers in organised industries. This is nearly one and a half times the average size of families of harbour coolies and handcartmen and 1 1/6th times the average size of tailors' families.

Average Monthly Income.— The average income per family per month is Rs. 20-5-10 for bidi workers, Rs. 26-15-10 for tailors and Rs. 23-4-7 for harbour coolies and handcartmen. Compared with the average income of Rs. 37-5-11 per family per month for workers in organised industries, the average income of the bidi workers' families is deficient by nearly 45 per cent and that of tailors by nearly 18 per cent. 98.08 per cent of the income of the bidi workers' family is derived from employment. The corresponding percentage for tailors is 97.32 and for harbour coolies and handcartmen 97.63. The average income from other sources derived mainly from houses and lands is very meagre in all the three cases and ranges from only Re. 0-6-3 per family for bidi workers to 0-11-7 per family for tailors. The average contribution of the main wage earner to the family income is 66.44 per cent of the total income in the case of bidi workers, 79.20 per cent in the case of tailors and 79.81 per cent in the case of harbour coolies and handcartmen.

* The percentage for Bombay is comprised of 0.13 per cent. on account of bedding and household necessaries and 12.81 per cent. on account of house rent.

Average Monthly Expenditure.- The percentage of expenditure on (i) food, (ii) housing, (iii) clothing, (iv) fuel and light and (v) miscellaneous are given in the table below for the families of each of the three classes of workers alongside of the percentages found in the case of workers in organised industries.

Percentage of expenditure in the case of families of

	Bidi Workers.	Tailors.	Harbour coolies and Handcartmen.	Workers in organised industries.
Food	66.54	58.08	74.52	52.63
Housing	15.92	18.35	9.19	11.14
Clothing	3.41	5.90	3.13	4.50
Fuel and light	6.80	7.43	5.75	6.67
Miscellaneous	7.33	10.24	7.41	25.06
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

For fuller information see the Report, a copy of which has been sent to Mr. P.W. Martin by the Government of Madras. ✓

Hand-made Paper Industry: Revival as
Cottage Industry in Bengal.

A communique dated 30-9-1938 issued by the Government of Bengal states that the local Government is taking active steps to revive the hand-made paper industry, which in old times gave employment to a number of workers as a cottage industry.

Details of Scheme.:- Some months back, the Department of Industries, Bengal, initiated certain investigations on the subject under the guidance and supervision of the Deputy Director of Industries and the Industrial Engineer, Bengal. The Department has now succeeded in working out and standardising a method for producing handmade paper, which is simple in operation and cheap in working costs. Such things as jute stalk, paddy straw, leaves of certain plants, etc., which are available in plenty and which have hitherto been of very little economic value in the country-side, are employed as raw materials for the production of pulp. As compared with the old methods, the cost of production by the improved process has come down *by* about 50 per cent and the drudgery of manipulation reduced to a proportionate level. The technique has been so simplified that any young man of average intelligence, with a little practice, can produce the standard product. ~~Proposals are not on foot to organise demonstration and training in this improved process of hand-made paper manufacture.~~ A detailed ~~is~~ brochure on the subject is under preparation.

(Summarised from a communique dated 30-9-1938
issued by the Director of Public Information,
Bengal).→

Unemployment Insurance Scheme contemplated by Madras Government:
Labour Minister's Informal Conference with Labour Leaders.

The Hon'ble Mr. V.V. Giri, Labour Minister, Madras, had an informal conference with prominent labour leaders of Madras on 5-10-38, in the course of which he foreshadowed the introduction shortly by the Madras Government of a Bill providing for unemployment insurance for workers in the Madras Presidency. When it is introduced it will be the first such scheme in the whole of India.

(The Hindu, 6-10-1938).+

Public Health.

Medical Attendance Scheme for Cawnpore Workers;
U.P. Labour Welfare Committee's Recommendation.

A suggestion that as part-time doctors could not give sufficient attention to the patients whole-time medical officers ^{should} be appointed for labour welfare dispensaries, was considered at a meeting of the U.P. Labour Welfare Committee held on 9-10-38 in the Labour Office, Cawnpore. Among those who attended were Mr. P.M.Kharegat I.C.S, Labour Commissioner, and Dr. R.B.Gupta, Labour Officer.

Three whole-time Labour Doctors for Cawnpore; It was decided to recommend to Government that three whole-time doctors be appointed for labour welfare dispensaries in Cawnpore. The posts are to carry a salary of Rs.50-10-100 p.m. plus Rs.10 p.m. as conveyance allowance. L.M.P.s with some experience or M.B.,B.S.s may be appointed to the posts. No private practice will be allowed.

Women's Welfare Scheme; A scheme regarding women's welfare was also considered, and it was recommended that baby shows should be organized once a week in different muhallas. The feasibility of starting a creche where babies could be kept and looked after, was considered, but it was found that it would be very expensive. It was suggested that either one trained health visitor or two trained midwives may be appointed to carry on propaganda amongst working class families regarding cleanliness, proper upbringing of children, dietetics, etc. The health visitor might, if appointed, also arrange to train dais (country mid-wives) and social workers. +

Public Health Problems of India in 1936.* +

The Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for the year 1936, which was published recently, contains inter-alia valuable information for India regarding population trends, housing, industrial hygiene, public health in mines, and factories, nutrition and public health aspects of rural reconstruction. Only a brief summary of the salient features of the Report is given below; fuller and more detailed information may be

* Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1936. Vol. I. With Appendices. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi, Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi.

had from the Report itself (a copy of which must have been received by Geneva direct from the Manager of Publications, Delhi).

Vital Statistics.- The principal vital statistics-figures for British India for 1936 are given below:-

	<u>1936.</u>	<u>1935.</u>
Mid-year estimated population	281,866,639	278,199,545
Density per square mile	321	312
Births	Number	9,981,143
	Rate p.m.	35
Deaths	Number	6,375,731,
	Rate p.m.	23
Infantile death rate per 1,000 live-births	162	164
Vital Index	156	147

Raising Health Standards.- In commenting on the incidence of epidemics, the Commissioner points out that these diseases exhibit rises and falls in incidence from year to year, which go largely unexplained, but that their collective effect on the general health of the population is of a much lesser degree than might be anticipated by the epidemiologist unacquainted with Indian conditions. Whilst within recent years a few of India's many diseases have been the subject of investigations from the epidemiological point of view, there still remains a vast field awaiting exploration, and he regrets that so few workers have been attracted to this important side of research work. Until further scientific investigations have been carried out, ~~he states,~~ and the lessons to be learned from these investigations are applied in practical form for the betterment of the public health, it will be profoundly difficult to create and maintain conditions essential to a healthy life. In India, the solution of the problems associated with physical health and social environment is complicated by the evils of ignorance and poverty to which is commonly added a fatalistic outlook arising, it may be, from the low standard of life which has been the experience of so many generations past. It is emphasised that the main task lying before Indian Governments is the organisation of rural life so that the villager may become more self-reliant and self-respecting and that he may be led to a healthier and happier life.

Population Trends.- There has been during 1936 no falling off in the general rate of population growth. Between the census of 1931 and June 1936, i.e., in 5 years 4 months the total increase has been 6%. Assuming the same rate of growth during the next 5 years the increase in population during the decennium 1931-1941 is, therefore, likely to be something over 11%. The chances are, however, that these yearly estimates, based on recorded births and deaths will prove to be underestimates of actual events. On more than one occasion in recent years it has been stated in these reports that the population of India as a whole will reach by 1941 a figure approximating to 400 millions, which would mean a rate of increase of about 13.4%. In so far as existing trends indicate, there is little reason to doubt that ~~at~~ this figure will be reached. The

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Commissioner stresses again the urgent importance of an organised study of the population problem. In trying to estimate the possible trend of events in India, consideration must be given to a number of factors ~~of~~ all of which are of importance. These include the low standard of life at which the majority of the people live, the large additions to numbers amounting at present to about 35-40 millions per decade, the high toll of life and suffering taken annually by epidemic and other preventable diseases and, lastly, the question of food production. It may be that the information relating to food production is not complete enough to permit one to judge whether the growth of population is outstripping available food resources, for it has been stated that estimates of food production in India are unreliable and in most cases under-statements and that increases in production due to improved methods have not been taken into consideration in estimating the yield per acre. Recent investigations by Dr. Aykroyd, Director, Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor, into the food supply and nutritional requirements of the population of Madras province, have shown that the total food supply available is just sufficient to cover the energy needs of the population, provided it is evenly distributed, (which it is not) and that protein supply especially ~~is~~ was below requirements.

Housing.- In India, this branch of public health work has at no time received the attention it deserves. Even at the present day, few local ~~boards~~ board or municipal authorities devote any time or money to the question and, although the report of the Royal Commission on Labour six years ago included some severely critical remarks in respect of the apathy displayed by most of those on whom responsibility lay and on the danger to health caused by existing conditions in many of the larger towns, this section of the Report remains one on which no substantial progress can yet be notified. The Royal Commission, of course, dealt only with the problem of the housing of industrial labour; there is, however, the larger problem of improving the homes of the vast rural population of this country, a task which will tax the energies of provincial Governments and local boards for many years to come, even if they begin the work now. The improvement of housing brings authorities up at once against various difficulties, including finance, administration, ownership of land, undesirable habits of the people and numerous other social and economic factors which may all interfere with progress. The problems associated with housing of the working classes, as the Labour Commission's Report pointed out, are not susceptible of any easy or quick solution, but they demand, as so many public health questions do, a long range view and the gradual execution of programmes designed to secure steady and progressive advance. Brief notes regarding urban and rural housing, building societies and similar organisations, industrial housing schemes, etc. in each province are given in the Report.

Industrial Hygiene.- Since the Royal Commission on Labour in India issued its report nearly seven years ago, increased attention has been paid to the conditions of factory labour by governments, the legislatures and the general public, and action has been taken in many directions to implement the recommendations made in the Commission's report. Whilst it is true that agriculture is, and will continue to be, the staple industry of the country, the wave of economic nationalism, which has swept over the world, has not left India untouched and it is probably correct to say that the coming years will witness a steady growth of industrialism in this country. The development of electric power, in view of the scarcity of coal, is being actively pursued by more than one provincial government, whilst the encourage-

ment of cottage industries has been taken up as a hopeful line of advancement. Under these circumstances, the health of the industrial worker is a matter of serious concern to the State. In a country like India, with its large rural population and with agriculture absorbing the bulk of labour, sound economic development is bound to proceed on lines somewhat different from those of a highly urbanised country like England. The future of industrial development in India, indeed, is more likely to be in the direction of a linking of agriculture with small scale industry, planned to supplement the income of the rural labourer and to provide him with employment during the months of enforced idleness, which agriculture with its dependence on monsoons makes a constant feature of village life. It cannot be assumed that workers engaged in small scale industries require less protection than those employed in the large industries. The Commissioner quotes the I.L.O. Year-book for 1936 which points out that in respect of Germany, "special attention is paid to handicraftsmen and workers in small undertakings, on the ground that they are more exposed to occupational risks than workers in large scale industries." Nor should it be forgotten, he points out, that the evils attendant on concentration of factory labour and the consequent development of slums already exist in more than one of the large industrial centres of this country. A brief summary of recent legislation dealing with the health and welfare of the Indian industrial worker is also given in the report.

Nutrition.-- In this country nutritional investigations have been mainly concerned with (1) dietetic surveys in order to ascertain the actual state of nutrition of the people; (2) analyses of common Indian foodstuffs for the purpose of determining their nutritive value; (3) experimental work in controlled institutions intended for the discovery of suitable cheap methods of improving nutrition; and (4) training of medical and public health personnel in general nutrition work and in the carrying out of propaganda on the same subject. An effort has also been made to link up agricultural research and practice with the requirements of human nutrition through the appointment of a Liaison Officer, who has his head-quarters at the Central Government's Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi.

The investigations into the nutrition ^{standards} of the people of Madras Presidency carried out by the Nutritional Research Laboratories at Coonoor, showed that the food available in that province is just sufficient to cover the energy needs of the people, provided it is evenly distributed, and that the average diet, which consists mostly of cereals, is lacking in animal protein, mineral salts and vitamins, which are essential for the proper physiological functioning of the body. 'Protective' foods are, however, relatively more expensive than cereals and ordinarily they are eaten either in very small quantities or are entirely absent from the diet. These remarks apply equally to most parts of the country. The investigations have also demonstrated a widespread prevalence of conditions associated with a state of subnormal nutrition. Under the circumstances, the urgent need at present appears to be the formulation of methods by which the production of 'protective' foods can be greatly increased and their consumption encouraged.

In this connection milk occupies a position of great importance. In the first place, a large section of the population is wholly vegetarian and the only way of providing the valuable animal proteins is by means of milk and milk products. Dr. N.C. Wright, in his recent report on the development of cattle and dairy industries in India, states that all available evidence points to India's per capita

consumption of milk averaging only about 7 to 8 ozs. per day, either in liquid form or as milk products. Wide variations exist between Southern and Northern India and also between urban and rural populations.

The Indian Research Fund Association continued to finance during the year certain investigations regarding nutrition carried on under its auspices. These investigations included (1) a ~~xxx~~ study of the nutritive values of Indian foodstuffs and the diet and "state of nutrition" of the population; (2) food investigation (B₂ complex); (3) enquiry regarding cheap balanced diets and (4) investigations of the etiology and pathology of peptic ulcer in South India.

Rural Reconstruction.- The Indian Villager occupies a most important place in the economic life of the country and, if his general welfare is to be promoted, it is necessary to give him greater opportunities than he has had in the past to attain better health, greater wealth and increased happiness. This is, of course, the goal of all rural reconstruction work, but, in advancing to this goal, the public health worker comes up at once against the evils of ignorance, poverty, dirt and disease, all helping to form a vicious circle from which the villager's escape is difficult, unless those primarily concerned with his welfare take the initiative. The Commissioner has outlined a Health Unit Scheme not only for studying existing conditions but also for demonstration purposes to effect improvements. +

Housing Scheme for Cawnpore Workers. +

The U.P. Government has drawn up plans for building a number of model houses for Cawnpore workers. There would be four types of houses, the accommodation and rent of which would probably be as given below. Every effort will be made to bring down the rental. Other amenities such as parks, schools, playgrounds, library and reading-rooms, etc., may also be provided. For quarters of A and B type common latrines and water-taps will be provided:

Types	Accommodation	Probable monthly rents.	Probable monthly lease money for -		
			12 years.	18 years.	25 years.
		Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.
A.	One room 12'X 9' a verandah and a courtyard.	2. 8.	4. 12	3. 10	3. 4.
B.	Two rooms 12'X9' and 9'X9', a verandah and a courtyard.	4. 0.	7. 0.	5. 8.	4. 14.
C.	Two rooms 12'X9' each, a verandah, a courtyard, a kitchen, a water- tap & a water closet.	6. 0.	9. 8.	7. 12.	7. 0.
D.	Two rooms 15'X9', a verandah, a court- yard, a kitchen, a water-tap and a water closet.	7. 0.	11. 6.	9. 4.	8. 4.

(Taken from the October 1938 issue of "Public Information" published monthly by the Public Information Department, U.P. Government .) +

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Scheme of Rs. 48 Millions for Slum Clearance and Workers'
Housing in Bombay City: Proposals under Consideration.

The Bombay Municipal Corporation has under consideration a scheme submitted by the Municipal Commissioner for the clearance of certain extensive slum areas in Bombay City.

Details of scheme of clearance.- The total area comprised in the scheme is about 21,820 square yards. The cost of acquisition is estimated at Rs. 4,092,000 and that of works such as roads, drains and lighting at Rs. 58,400. The area that will be available, after development, for disposal will be about 16,580 square yards and its value may be estimated at about Rs. 1,000,000. The demolition value of the buildings to be acquired is estimated at Rs. 1,55,000. The total recoupment will, therefore, come to about Rs. 1,155,000. The net cost of this slum clearance scheme will, therefore, come to about Rs. 30,16,000 exclusive of interest and sinking fund charges on the capital outlay.

Scheme of Housing.- The Commissioner further states that as the Municipality will be demolishing a very large number of single-room tenements, it will be desirable to have as a part of this scheme a poorer-class accommodation scheme for housing the tenants who will be dishoused. It is proposed to construct three blocks of permanent chawls consisting of a ground and three upper floors on an area of about 7,500 sq. yards. They will consist of 304 single-rooms and 58 shops. The cost of constructing these chawls, paving of open spaces and other incidental works is estimated at about Rs. 90,500. The value of land required for these chawls is estimated at about Rs. 366,500. The total outlay on the housing scheme will be about Rs. 1,073,900. Estimating the rent of the rooms at Rs. 8 per month and of the shops at Rs. 20 per month and allowing for the usual out-goings, the net annual income can be estimated at about Rs. 27,500 giving a return of 2.5 per cent on the outlay.

The total combined cost of the two schemes exclusive of interest charges will, therefore, come to Rs. 4,798,900.

(The Times of India, 10-10-1938.)

Co-operation.

Co-operation in Berar: C.P. Government appoints Enquiry Committee.

Below is given a summary of a press communique dated 6-10-1938, issued by the Government of the Central Provinces, setting up an enquiry committee to go into the present condition of co-operation in Berar.

Representations re. Deterioration of Movement. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operation received during the last twelve months three deputations of co-operative workers in Berar and discussed with them in detail the present situation and possible remedies. The main problem in Berar is how to balance the budgets of central banks in view of the low return on the assets locked up in lands which the banks have been obliged to acquire in the course of the recovery proceedings. Owing to successive crop failures and low prices, recoveries have been unsatisfactory and some banks have found difficulty in discharging their obligations in time.

Appointment and Terms of Reference of Committee. The Government has, as a preliminary step, appointed a Committee to enquire into the position of the co-operative movement in Berar. The terms of reference of the Committee are:-

- (1) to examine the position of the co-operative movement in Berar in general and of the finances of central banks in Berar in particular
- (2) to suggest ways and means for more remunerative management of the lands acquired by central banks; and
- (3) to make proposals for financial accommodation to those central banks which are in need of it immediately or for some years to come.

The committee is requested to submit its report as early as possible.

(Page 969, Part 1- Central Province and Berar Gazette dated 7-10-1938)+

Development of Cottage Industries in United Provinces:

Government Considers Schemes.

The Minister for Industries U.P., held on 7-10-1938 at Lucknow, a Conference of departmental Officials of the local Government to discuss the question of encouragement of cottage industries. The discussions, it is understood, centred round the desirability of keeping in view not only the need for organizing such industries but also of finding a market for them. It was resolved that, before further steps are taken, the Assistant Director of Industries, should conduct intensive inquiries in two or three typical villages to ascertain the extent of surplus labour available in each village, whether such labour can be

utilized and, if so, what are the tendencies of villages, what type of industries they would wish to undertake and what scope exists for marketing the products of such industries in the villages.

Until this report is available, definite steps for the introduction of cottage industries would be kept in abeyance. In the meantime that part of the programme of rural development which has been already put into effect, namely, the training of men in various industries would continue unabated.

(The Statesman, 8-10-1938).†

Education.Adult Education in Bombay:
Government appoints a Provincial Board.

The Government of Bombay decided at a meeting of educational officials held on 12 and 13-8-1938 at Poona, with the Hon. Mr. B.G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, presiding, to set up a central advisory board to promote the spread of adult education in the Province. (Vide page 39 of our August 1938 report.). Accordingly, Government of Bombay has set up a Provincial Board for Adult Education with Mr. S.R. Bhagvat, General Secretary, Rural Reconstruction Association, Poona, as Chairman, with effect from 1-10-1938.

Functions of the Board.- The functions of the Board, among others, are as follows:-

1. to submit for the approval of Government a three-year programme for the spread of adult education in the province, with estimates of expenditure - both recurring and non-recurring - that will have to be incurred for implementing each item of the programme.
2. to conduct propaganda for the removal of illiteracy and other forms of ignorance among adults of both sexes in rural as well as urban areas;
3. to encourage and supervise the publication of suitable literature for adult education;
4. to consider schemes referred to it by Government or submitted by private bodies for the spread of adult education;
5. to advise Government as to the best manner of aiding the existing adult education classes and of organising and extending the work of such classes on a voluntary basis;
6. to advise Government as to the best methods of harnessing the enthusiasm and spirit for national service among the educated youth of the province for the drive against mass illiteracy;
7. to suggest means for co-ordinating adult education among villagers with other forms of rural reconstruction; and
8. to advise Government on the question of implementing the various recommendations made by the Adult Education Committee.

(Communique dated 29-9-1938 issued by
the Director of Information, Bombay) **

Agriculture.

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The Bihar Agricultural Income-Tax Act, 1938 (Bihar Act
VII of 1938). +

Reference was made at page 42 of our June 1938 report to the adoption on 1-6-1938 of the Bihar Agricultural Income-Tax Act, 1938, by the local Legislative Assembly. The Act received the assent of the Governor on 20-8-1938 and is published at pages 73 to 113 of Part IV of the Bihar Gazette dated 12-10-1938.+

Maritime Affairs.

Conditions of Work of Bombay Port

Trust Staff in 1937-38.*

Strength of Staff: The approximate total number of staff employed by the Bombay Port Trust during the year under review (1937-38) was 10,118 as compared with 9,120 during 1936-37. Of these, 164 were permanent staff receiving salaries of over Rs. 300 per mensem; 666 Clerical Staff and 1,063 Outdoor Staff receiving salaries from Rs. 50 to Rs.300 per mensem; 418 permanent inferior staff getting above Rs.50/- per mensem (1 getting above Rs.300); 366 getting under Rs.50 per mensem, while 3,619 were daily paid.

Housing of Staff: 319 of the 1,893 permanent superior staff, 100 of the 418 permanent inferior staff and 3541 of the 7,807 temporary staff were housed by the Port Trust during the year under review. This represents a total housing of 39.13 per cent of the total staff by the Port Trust as against 42.3 per cent during the previous year.

Welfare and Recreational Facilities: For the use mainly of the staff and their families a Maternity Home and Infant Welfare Centre are maintained. An annual grant of Rs.2400 was given from the Employers' Welfare Fund to the social service branch of the Y.M.C.A. which organises games, night lectures, cinema shows, etc, for the Port Trust staff and their families.

Grievances of Indian Seamen employed in British

Ships: All India Seamen's Federation's Representations

to Shipping Federation of Great Britain: Demand for National Maritime Board.

The All India Seamen's Federation, Calcutta, has, through its President, Mr. Aftab Ali, M.L.A., Bengal, recently submitted to the Shipping Federation of Great Britain, London, certain proposals for improvement of the conditions of life and work of Indian seamen obtaining employment in British merchant ships from Indian ports.

The Demands.- The more important demands formulated on behalf of Indian seamen are: (1) an increase in the present rate of wages, (2) supply of improved quality of rations in adequate

* Bombay Port Trust - Administration Report, 1937-38 pp. XII and + 54. G. Claridge & Co., Ltd, Bombay.

US. 35
quantities on board ships, (3) standardisation of wages in all Indian ports, (4) fair and equitable distribution of employment, (5) fixation of working hours and rates for overtime pay in the event ~~the~~ same are not regulated by the Government of India, (6) abolition of the present indirect method of recruitment of seamen, particularly lower ratings, (7) establishment of a National Maritime Board in India similar to the British Maritime Board, and (8) recognition of the All-India Seamen's Federation as the sole trade union organisation representing Indian seamen.

Referring to the proposal for wage increase, Mr. Aftab Ali has drawn pointed attention to the fact that during the last nineteen years no increase has been granted to India~~n~~ seamen recruited in India, although the wages of seamen of other maritime countries, including that of Great Britain, have been repeatedly increased. Mr. Aftab Ali also points out that ~~the~~ in view of the fact that the 50,000 odd Indian seamen employed by British shipping interests have rendered valuable services to the British mercantile marine he hopes that the shipping firms which are constituents of the Shipping Federation of Great Britain will take a sympathetic attitude to the ~~demands~~ demands of Indian seamen.

(The Labour Times, Madras, October
1938 issue).

Indian Labour in Malaya, 1937:

Report of Controller of Labour, Malaya..

The following details regarding conditions of life and work of Indians in Malaya given in the Annual Report of the Controller of Labour, Malaya, for the year 1937 are taken from a summary of the Report published in the Hindu dated 6-10-1938.

Contracts of Service.- All labour in Malaya is free. Labourers are landed free of debt and are at liberty to leave their employment at any time on giving a month's notice or on paying a month's wages in lieu thereof. No immigrant may enter into any written contract to serve as a labourer, though under certain circumstances skilled workmen may do so before leaving British India for Malaya.

Prohibition in Estates.- A referendum of estate labourers taken on the question of prohibition, showed that the majority of women workers favoured it and men workers were against it. The employers are reported to favour abolition of toddy-shops, and are co-operating with the Excise Department. It is reported that during the year consumption of toddy was steadily diminishing. Where there are estate toddy-shops, their profits are paid into a fund which is expended for the benefit of labourers. The sale of toddy to women and children is prohibited.

Estate Provision Stores.- Estate provision shops are visited and prices checked by officers of the Labour Department when inspecting estates. These shops are maintained under permit from the department which can withdraw such permit and enforce the closing of the shop whether it is conducted by the employer or merely established on estate land by his permission.

Lands held by Indians.- In the Straits Settlements, the area of lands held by Indians is about 35,812 acres valued at \$16,776,187. In Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Johore and Kedah, the approximate holdings were 88,720, 36,824, 27,770, 15,141, 66,655, and 41,879 acres respectively, whilst in Kelantan no information was available. The Labour Ordinance in the Straits Settlements and the Labour Codes of the Federated Malaya States require every employer to set aside 1/16th of an acre of land for each labourer who has dependants, suitable for use by labourers as allotments or grazing lands.

Colonisation by Indians.- There are several settlements inhabited by Indians who have permanently settled down. The Tamil Settlement of Bagan Sarai (700 acres, with 400 families established 53 years back), the Permatang Estate Settlement area (63 acres, established in 1936), the Seramban Estate Colony, etc, are examples. Year after year witnessed the establishments of local colonies. In course of time, they have become resident populations, most of the members of which have never been to India and whose homeland is Malaya. It is definitely in the interest of the planting industry to provide land whereon the labourers may be able to maintain themselves in times of slump.

Sex Ratio.- As regards emigration from India to Malaya, the number of men recruited in any year bears an infinitesimal relation to the total number of men in the recruitment areas of the Madras Presidency, and so it can be taken that the sex ratio question is primarily a Malayan and not an Indian problem. The Governments of India and Malaya are alive to the evils that result from sex inequality and the following steps have been taken by the latter Government to minimise these evils: ~~The~~ (a) The maintenance of a satisfactory wage level; (b) differential rates of assessment giving employers an economic incentive to the employment of women; (c) differential recruiting allowances in favour of married couples; (d) the payment of bonus of \$1 to each child of a non-recruited immigrant; (e) the employment of Lady Travelling Inspectors on the immigrant steamers to ensure the welfare of women and children; (f) the provision of creches and nurseries on estates; (g) the provision of schools on estates; (h) the payment of maternity allowances; (i) the Hindu marriage registration legislation; and (j) the provision of land allotments on estates.

Indian Population in Malaya.- The improvement in the sex ratio is shown in the following figures for the total Indian population (of all races) ~~at~~ the ~~years~~ indicated:- The number of families to 1,000 males ~~was~~ 308 in 1911, 405 in 1921 and 482 in 1931.

The total Indian population of Malaya in the 1931 census was 6,24,000 of whom 304,000 were resident on estates. Of this, 583,000 were South Indians. The locally born ^{Indians} settled down in Malaya as a rule, and it may be noted that at the 1931 census 21 per cent of ~~the Indian population~~ were found to be locally born and there were then resident in Malaya some 81,000 boys and 73,000 girls of the age of 15 years and under.

Throughout the years 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933, there was a strong return flow to India and it is interesting to note that the effect was to improve the general sex ratio particularly on estates. Altogether, the report states, the sex ratio among South Indian labourers is good and is improving, and it is fairly certain that the time is not far off when equality will be reached on estates.

(The Hindu, 6-10-1938)+

The Administration Report of the Controller of Labour, Ceylon, for 1937, is divided into two parts; the first contains a general review of working conditions in Ceylon and the second deals with the conditions of life and work of Indian immigrant labour in the island. Special reference is made in the report to the visit of Mr. H.B. Butler, Director of the I.L.O., to Ceylon in December 1937 and to the discussions on labour problems he had with Government officials and others interested.

Labour Legislation.- Ordinance No. 26 of 1937 was enacted during the year as an amendment to Ordinance No. 1 of 1923, to enable payment from the Immigration Fund of contributions to any provident fund or scheme established for the purpose of paying a gratuity or pension to employees who are paid from the Immigration Fund.

Legislation to prohibit the employment of females on underground work in mines (Ordinance No. 13 of 1937) was placed on the statute book during the year in order to give effect in Ceylon to an International Labour Convention.

Factory Legislation.- The draft of a Bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman to make provision for the safety and welfare of workers in factories was examined by a Committee appointed by the Hon. the Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce. This Committee has also been studying the English Factories Act, 1937, to ascertain whether it can be adopted in Ceylon with modifications to suit local conditions.

Amendment to the Industrial Disputes Conciliation Ordinance, No. 3 of 1931.- The operation of Ordinance No. 3 of 1931 showed that it was desirable to introduce certain amendments. A draft Ordinance has been approved by the Executive Committee for Labour, Industry and Commerce which provides inter alia:-

*
Part I - Civil (c) - Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1937 - October, 1938 - Printed on the Orders of Government. - To be purchased at the Government Record Office, Colombo - Price 70 cents. - 1938 - Pp. 64.

- (1) that there shall be appointed a Labour Officer who will visit industrial establishments and other places of employment, inquire into labourers' grievances and examine the general conditions of employment for the purpose of the settlement and prevention of trade disputes.
- (2) that any Board of Conciliation appointed to endeavour to settle an industrial dispute shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents.

Labour Recruiting Ordinance.- A draft was prepared and considered by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce of an Ordinance to authorize the creation of a special fund to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the recruitment of indigenous labour to estates.

Shops Act.- A draft of an Ordinance to regulate the conditions of employment in shops and similar places of business was prepared and received the general approval of the Executive Committee for Labour, Industry and Commerce. It is now in the hands of the Legal Draftsman.

Minimum Wage Legislation for all kinds of Labour.- By Ordinance No. 27 of 1927, Indian immigrant labourers employed on estates must be paid a minimum wage varying with the district of employment. The Executive Committee decided during the year that minimum wage legislation should be extended to include other classes of workers. A draft of an Ordinance was prepared which provides for the creation of Wages Board for those industries or trades to which the Ordinance may be applied. It is proposed that each Wages Board should have power to fix a minimum wage and to regulate the conditions of employment and the payment of wages in the trade or industry for which the Board may be appointed. The draft is now before the Executive Committee for Labour, Industry and Commerce.

Maternity Benefits.- It was decided by the Executive Committee for Labour, Industry and Commerce at the end of 1936, that draft legislation on the lines of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act should be prepared for Ceylon but that this new legislation should be made operative only after the new Factories Ordinance has been promulgated. After further consideration by the Executive Committee instructions were issued to the Legal Draftsman to prepare the draft Bill on this subject as soon as possible.

International Labour Conventions.- The Conventions concerning the employment of women during the night, which constituted a revision of the original convention of 1919 embodied in Ordinance No. 6 of 1923, was considered during the year under review and it was decided to introduce the ^{necessary} amending legislation ~~necessitated~~.

In 1935 the ~~Convention~~ adopted a draft convention prohibiting the employment of women on underground works in mines of all kinds and the Government was asked by the Secretary of State for Colonies whether it could be applied to Ceylon. The Executive Committee for Labour, Industry and Commerce approved of the introduction of the necessary legislation and Ordinance No. 13 of 1937 which gives effect to the convention was passed by the State Council and received the assent of the Governor

during the year.

The establishment of two Advisory Committees, one permanent and the other ad hoc Committee consisting of the members of the governing body representing Asiatic countries and of the delegates from Asiatic countries which are members of the I.L.O. respectively, was envisaged in a despatch of the Secretary of State received during the year. The proposal was duly considered and it was decided that steps should be taken to obtain for Ceylon special representation on the proposed Committees. The Board of Ministers agreed to make the necessary financial provision.

Workmen's Compensation.— The Controller of Labour and the Deputy Controller of Labour continued to function as Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation and Deputy Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation respectively for the whole island. Although there is provision in the Ordinance for the appointment of Assistant Commissioners for local areas no such appointments have yet been made.

The following table gives comparative figures of the activities of the department since the passage of the Act:—

	Claims Paid.		Number of Cases.
	Rs.	c.	
1935 (August to December)	17,261	44	733
1936	119,378	14	2,963
1937	154,464	45	4,028

Accidents.— The number of accidents reported during the year was 4,581 of which 86 were fatal accidents.

Notices under section 20(1) of the Ordinance were sent to the employers in 93 cases of fatal accidents. Replies to seven notices issued at the end of 1936 were also due during the year. In 68 cases liability was admitted and voluntary deposits were received. Liability was denied in 11 cases and dependants were advised to put in applications claiming compensation. Of the remaining 21 cases inquiries showed that in 12 instances a claim for compensation could not be established; 9 were pending at the end of the year.

Industrial Diseases.— No case of compensation came up during the year, arising out of any industrial disease.

Licence to undertake Insurance.— Fifty-eight licences to undertake insurance against liabilities to workmen which may be incurred by employers under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance were current during the year and no new licences were issued.

Trade Unions.— The total number of unions registered under the Ordinance to the end of 1937 is 38. The certificates of registration issued to 6 of these unions were cancelled during the year and 1 union was dissolved. The number of registered unions therefore which remained in the books of the department at the end of the year was 31.

Trade and Industrial Disputes and Strikes.— The number of industrial disputes and strikes during the year was 5. No strikes or lockouts were reported from Government departments employing large forces of labour. Personal and contractual

relations between superintendents of estates continued to be good and no trade disputes were reported.

Safety of Workers in Mines and Factories.- Since the abolition of the post of Inspector of Factories in 1927 all annual inspection of factories, boilers, etc., under the rules have been performed by Engineers licensed by the Director of Public Works, the estates making their own arrangements with the licensed Engineers and paying their fees. According to the reports received from the various Revenue Officers for 1937 it would appear that the provisions of the Ordinance were duly observed by the factories and mines and there was no prosecution entered in any part of the Island for breaches of the Ordinance.

Employment of Children and Young Persons in Industrial Undertakings.- At the end of December, 1937, there were 392 young persons employed in the sixty industrial undertakings. Inspection by the officers in charge of Police Stations is done once a month at least. It was found at these inspections that the regulations were complied with and that the young persons had been registered. A Factories Bill is under consideration which will give extensive powers of inspection, etc., of the employment of young persons.

Indian Immigrant Labour.- Part II of the report deals with the conditions of life and work of Indian immigrant labour. The subjects dealt with are the activities of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, statistics relating to immigration of Indian labourers, issue of recruiting licences, repatriation and conditions of labour in Ceylon estates under the heads of health and vital statistics, wages, irregularities on estates, indebtedness, liquor consumption, crime, savings, estates of deceased Indians and inspectors.

Indian Migration Statistics.- The number of arrivals in 1937 was 162, 55 (111, 125 unassisted immigrants and 51, 427 assisted estate labourers) as compared with 137, 961 (97, 158 unassisted immigrants and 40,803 assisted estate labourers) during the last year. The increase in the number of assisted labourers arriving in Ceylon in 1937 was due to demand of labour by the tea and rubber industries.

Emigration of Indians from Ceylon.- During 1937, the number of Indians who left Ceylon for India was 152,257 (37,605 estate labourers and 114,652 others) as against 145,289 (39,747 estate labourers and 105,542 others) in 1936. The number of Indians repatriated under section 22 of Ordinance No.1 of 1923 and the scheme of 1924 at public expense during 1937 was 5,064 as against 4,494 in 1936.

Special Scheme of 1937.- It became apparent at the end of the year 1936 that there was a considerable surplus of labour on tea estates due chiefly to the closure or ~~partial~~ closure of estates and that the scheme of 1935 would not effectually meet the situation and a fresh scheme was introduced in February, 1937, known as the special scheme of 1937.

This scheme which was sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor on December 23, 1936, came into operation in February, 1937, to supersede the 1935 scheme. By this scheme the Controller of Labour was empowered to repatriate at the expense of the Immigration Fund any Indian labourer reported to be

surplus by a Superintendent of any tea estate of 100 acres or more, provided that such labourer was willing to be repatriated from February-September, 1937, when the scheme was withdrawn as use was no longer being made of it.

Population and Vital Statistics.- According to the half-yearly returns furnished by the Superintendents of estates, the mean population of Indian labourers on estates was 664,000 in 1937 as against 665,000 in the previous year. At the beginning of 1937 the population was 658,982 (206,405 men, 199,439 women, and 253,138 children). By the middle of the year it fell to 654,347 (202,911 men, 197,632 women, and 253,804 children), and rose again at the end of the year to 677,560 (211,495 men, 204,280 women, and 261,785 children). The total increase of population during the year was, therefore, 18,578.

The births registered during the year 1937 numbered 25,495 (12,835 of males and 12,660 females) as against 25,181 in the previous year. The increase recorded was 1.2 per cent. The birth rate for the year was approximately 38.4 per 1,000 of the mean population, as compared with 37.9 in 1936 and with 37.8 the rate for the Island as a whole in 1937. The sex ratio at birth among the Indian labourers was 1,014 males to every 1,000 females. During the year the deaths of 6,010 males and 6,581 females, aggregating 12,591, were registered among the Indian labourers on estates, as against a total of 12,891 in 1936. The decrease during the year was 300 or 2.3 per cent. The mortality among the females was, as usual, higher than among the males. The death rate was approximately 19.0 per cent 1,000 of the mean population as against 19.4 in 1936 and 21.7 the rate for the Island as a whole in 1937. The death rate among the Indian labourers continues to be lower than that of the entire population of the Island. The infant deaths registered in 1937 numbered 4,321 (2,364 males and 1,957 females) as against 4,336 in the previous year, recording a fall of 15. The infant mortality rate was 169 per 1,000 births, the lowest recorded among the Indian labourers on estates, as against 172 in 1936 and 158 the rate for the total population of the Island. The infant mortality among the labourers is still higher than elsewhere in the Island notwithstanding its definite decline in recent years.

Medical Facilities.- Medical aid for these estates which employ besides Ceylonese, about 659,000 Indian immigrant labourers, is provided by 64 District Hospitals and 109 District Dispensaries. 92 estate hospitals were maintained during the year as against 84 in the previous year. The increase was chiefly due to the reopening of hospitals closed down during the depression. It has been estimated that a population of 25,627 resident labourers were treated in these estate hospitals. Most of the hospitals were maintained in an efficient condition and the work carried out was on the whole satisfactory.

Wages.- At the beginning of the year 1937 the legal minimum rates of wages applicable for a working day of 9 hours, including time not exceeding one hour taken for the mid-day meal, were as follows:-

	Men		Women.		Children.	
	A.	P.	A.	P.	A.	P.
Up-country ..	7	10	6	3	4	8
Mid-country ..	6	11	5	7	4	0
Low-country ..	6	7	5	3	3	10

with the issue price of rice at a rate not exceeding Rs. 4-8-0 per bushel. The rates are still in force.

Education.; The total number of registered estate schools at the end of September, 1937, was 728 as compared with 653 at the end of September, 1936. The total number of estate children of school-going age for 1937 was 75,292 (males 43,773, females 31,519) of whom 42,163 (males 29,778, females 12,385) were attending school - a percentage of 55.99. The corresponding figures for 1936 were 72,858 (males 41,882, females 30,976) of whom 39,647 (males 28,407, females 11,240) were attending school a percentage of 54.42.

Seventy-seven schools which satisfied the required conditions were registered for grant during the year. One school was closed.

Inspection.- The number of estates inspected in the year under review was 646, as compared with 712 in 1936.

(The Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1936 was reviewed at pages 36-40 of our April 1937 Report).

National Labour Legislation.-

- (1) Draft of Ceylon Shops Regulation Ordinance, 1938 (to provide for the regulation of the employment of persons in shops and for the control of hours of business in shops).
- (2) The Travancore Trade Disputes Regulation (No. V. of 1114) 1938
- (3) The Travancore Factories Regulation (No. VIII of 1114) 1938.

Conditions of Labour.

- (1) Report together with the prescribed Returns on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VII of 1923), in the United Provinces for 1937.
- (2) Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, for the year 1937 in Madras.
- (3) Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in the Punjab for the year 1937.
- (4) Annual Report on the Working of the Trade Disputed Act in Bombay for the year ending 31-12-1937.
- (5) Administration Report of the Labour Department, Government of Madras for the year 1937-38.
- (6) Annual Report on the Administration of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, in the Bombay Province 1937-38.
- (7) Administration Report of the Controller of Labour, Ceylon, for 1937 (Part I.).
- (8) ~~Report on an Enquiry into Family Budgets of Industrial Workers in Madras City.~~ (Government Publication).

Administration of Conventions.

- (1) Annual Report on the Working of the Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1937.

Industrial Organisations.

- (1) Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, (XVI of 1926) in Orissa for the year ending 31-3-1938.
- (2) Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the year 1937, Vol. II: Documents and Correspondence.
- (3) Views of the Indian Colliery Owners' Association on the proposals of the Government of India, Department of Labour, re. stewing in coal mines.
- (4) Report of the Committee of the Indian Colliery Owners' Association, Jharia, for the year 1937.

Economic Conditions.

- (1) Report on the Working of the Department of Industries in C.P. and Berar for the year ending 31-3-1938.

Social Conditions.

- (1) The Annual Report of the Social Workers' Society, Bombay, for 1937.
- (2) Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in Bombay for the year ending 31-3-1938.

- (1) Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for 1936, Vol.I with Appendices.

Co-operation.

- (1) Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bombay for 1936-37.
- (2) Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in South Orissa for the year 1936-37.

Education.

- (1) Report on Vocational Education in Hyderabad State B by A. Abbott, Esq., C.B.E.,
- (2) Annual Report of the David Sassoon Industrial School, Matunga, for 1937-38.

Maritime Affairs.

- (1) Bombay Port Trust Administration Report for 1937-38.
- (2) Port of Calcutta Administration Report and Annual Accounts for the year 1937-38.

Migration.

- (1) Review of important events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during 1937-38 (issued by the Government of India).
- (2) Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for the year 1937.
- (3) Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1937.
- (4) "Indians in Foreign Lands" by Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, Secretary, Foreign Department, All India Congress Committee, Allahabad. +