



REPORT

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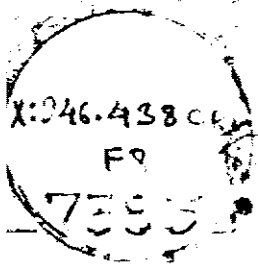
Enquiry into the Standard and Cost of Living of the Working Classes in Rangoon

BY

J. J. BENNISON, B.A., I.C.S.

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

Labour Statistics Bureau, Burma



Rangoon

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1928

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APPENDIX A.

BUDGET FORM.

(Information for use in the Labour Statistics Bureau, Burma.)

WORKMEN'S FAMILY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Name of the head of the family—

Race, Religion and Caste—

Residential Address—

Income Class—

NOTE.

This enquiry has nothing whatever to do with taxation or rates. It is for the benefit of the workpeople that the information asked for is required.

2. The particulars with regard to each family will be regarded as strictly private and confidential. All the statements will be put together in such a way as to produce general averages. It is these averages which will eventually be published.

3. The present form is intended for working class families in industrial centres. Special attention should be given to cases of families living under ordinary conditions. The more ordinary the family the better because it represents a large number. On the other hand, exceptional cases should be avoided because they are not representative of any large number.

4. Information should be obtained for the most recent month because it is most likely to be exact. There may be a tendency to overstate the expenditure and to understate the family income. Where the expenditure adds up to more than the total income the Investigator should make further enquiries. In some cases the excess of expenditure over income in one month may be met out of previous savings. If so, this should be stated.

(For detailed instructions as to filling in the particulars required, see each page of form.)

REFERENCE NO.

Family Income and Expenditure for Month of 192 .

Name and address of Establishment where employed

Description of Family.

	Men (14 years and over).	Women (14 years and over).	Number and sex of children under 14 years.
Number residing with head of family—age and relation to head of family to be given.			
Dependants not living with head of family—relation to be given.			

Family Income (1) during Month of 192

(2) Occupations of wage-earners. (Insert in this column the occupations of the wage- earners.)	Earnings in above month.				
	Wages.	Over- time pay.	Value of conces- sions.	Additional earnings, if any.	Total.
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
Men					
Women					
Children					

Total Amount of Family Income

(1) *Family Income.*—The monthly wages should include all war or similar bonuses regularly received but overtime pay should be entered in the separate column provided. In the column for value of concessions should be entered the approximate value of such items as free quarters, fuel or light, etc., and in the column for additional earnings should be entered any earnings by members of the family which were received otherwise than in the course of regular employment. Particulars with regard to the income and expenditure of the dependants not living with the head of the family must not be entered in this budget.

(2) *Occupations.*—The description of the occupation should be as definite as possible. Thus rice mill worker is too general. The particular occupation should be specified, for example, stone dresser or oilman in a rice mill, or again, not mechanic, but fitter, blacksmith.

Expenditure on Food, Fuel, Lighting and Rent.

Commodities.* (NOTE—This list may be altered according to what is bought.)	Quality or Grade.	Market prices.		Other than market price.	
		Total quantity in month.	Total cost in month.	Total quantity in month.	Total cost in month.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Brought forward ...			Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
Milk, fresh ... viss					
Milk, condensed ... tin					
Ghee viss					
Salt "					
Tamarind "					
Spices and condiments powdered —					
Chillies viss					
Other spices and condi- ments —					
Potatoes viss					
Onions "					
Fruit and other vege- tables. —					
Sesamum oil viss					
Cocconut oil "					
Mustard oil "					
Other oils used as food ..					
Food bought and con- sumed away from home. —					
Other food stuffs —					
Total Expenditure on Food					
Coal ... basket					
Charcoal "					
Firewood —					
Kerosene ... bottle					
Electric light —					
Other fuel and lighting —					
Total Expenditure on Fuel and Lighting					
Rent per month† —					

* See note on page 3 of the Form.

† "Rent" includes ground rent and taxes payable to the Development Trust and Corporation respectively and any charges for a waterman. Where workmen live in their own houses, the amount which a tenant would have to pay for the house should be entered as Rent, and this amount, less the average monthly expenditure on ground rent, taxes and repairs, should be added to the income. Where more than one family occupy a single room, special care should be taken to enter only the share of the rent actually paid by the family to which the budget refers.

Expenditure on Clothing not bought every month.

Articles. (NOTE.—The list of articles should be extended so as to include all those in use.) (1)	Principal materials of which the article is made. (2)	Number of articles in use. (3)	Cost per article when bought. (4)	Total cost of articles. (5)	Estimated number of months that each article will last. (6)	Estimated cost per month on average. (7)
		No.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Months	Rs. A. P.
CLOTHING.						
<i>For Men.</i>						
Dhotis						
Longyis, silk						
Longyis, cotton						
Short pants						
Trousers, Pyjamas						
Banians, Bandis						
Half shirts						
Shirts, Pahirans, Kurtas						
Coats						
Aingyis or Jackets						
Upper cloth						
Gaungbaungs, Turbans, P Pagris.						
Caps						
Shoes						
Sandals, <u>Leather</u>						
<u>Wooden</u>						
Slippers						
Umbrellas, <u>Iron</u> frames						
<u>Bamboo</u>						
<i>For Women.</i>						
Saris						
Longyis or Tameins, silk						
Longyis or Tameins, cotton						
Bodices						
Aingyis or Jackets						
Tabets or Upper Cloths						
Pawas						
Sandals, <u>Leather</u>						
<u>Wooden</u>						
Slippers						
Umbrellas, <u>Iron</u> frames						
<u>Bamboo</u>						
<i>For Children.</i>						
Dhotis						
Saris						
Longyis, silk						
Longyis, cotton						
Banians						
Half shirts						
Shirts						
Bodices						
Aingyis or Jackets						
Frocks						
Baby caps						
Shoes						
Sandals, <u>Leather</u>						
<u>Wooden</u>						
Slippers						
Umbrellas, <u>Iron</u> frames						
<u>Bamboo</u>						
Total Expenditure on Clothing.						

NOTE.—For instructions for filling up pages 5 and 6 of the Form see overleaf.

Expenditure on Household Requisites not bought every month.

Articles. (NOTE.—The list of articles should be extended so as to include all those in use.) (1)	Principal materials of which the article is made. (2)	Number of articles in use. (3)	Cost per article when bought. (4)	Total cost of articles. (5)	Estimated number of months that each article will last. (6)	Estimated cost per month on average. (7)
		No.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Months.	Rs. A. P.
BEDDING.						
Cots						
Mats, bamboo						
Mats, thin or weed						
Mattresses						
Blankets						
Bed sheets						
Pillows						
Pillow cases						
Mosquito nets						
COOKING POTS, PLATES, Etc.						
FURNITURE.						
Total Expenditure on Household Requisites.						

Instructions for filling up pages 5 and 6 of the Form.

Material.—Care should be taken to state in column 2 the particular kind and quality of materials of which the articles shown in column 1 are made.

Number of Articles.—In column 3 should be entered the number of each article actually in use at the time of the investigation, including changes of dress, possessed by the family.

Cost per Article.—In column 4 should be entered the price per article when purchased. If similar articles were purchased at different prices, the prices should be entered separately and the number of articles at each price shown.

Total Cost.—Column 5 will be obtained by multiplying the number in column 3 by the price in column 4.

Duration of Articles.—In column 6 should be entered the total time which each article may be expected to last from the date of its purchase to the date when it is finally discarded as useless.

Cost per Month.—Column 7 will be obtained by dividing the total cost in column 5 by the number entered in column 6.

Miscellaneous Expenditure.

Items.	Cost per month.	Items.	Cost per month.
	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
		Brought forward ...	
Taxes (a)	Amusements ... ..	...
Barber	Hair oil ... ..	...
Dhobi	Excess of credit over market price.	
Soap (b)	Interest on Rs.—(e) ...	...
Medical fees and Medicines (c)	...	Here note any other items of miscellaneous expenditure such as religious festivals, etc., which are regular in character (c).	
Education		
Travelling expenses to and from work or bazaar.	...		
Tobacco (d)		
Toddy		
Liquor (country or imported) (b)	...		
Opium		
Ganja		
Kun (betel)		
Carried over ...		Total Miscellaneous Expenditure.	

Summary of Income and Expenditure.

		Rs. A. P.		
Total FAMILY INCOME in the month Investigated (see page 2)		...		
EXPENDITURE—		Rs.	A.	P.
Food (see page 4) ... ..	...		
Fuel and Lighting (see page 4) ... ..	...		
Rent (see page 4) ... ..	...		
Clothing (see page 5) ... ..	...		
Household requisites (see page 6) ... ..	...		
Miscellaneous expenditure (see page 7) ... ..	...		
Total expenditure of family in month ... ..	...	Rs.		
Excess of income over expenditure (f) ... ..	...	Rs.		
Remittance to dependants ... ..	...	Rs.		

(a) Exclusive of those mentioned under 'rent.'

(b) Name of the particular kind or quality and brand or trade mark should be specified.

(c) If the expenditure on certain articles is not incurred regularly every month, but is of a recurring nature as in the case of medicines, annual festivals, payment to dependents, etc., the estimated annual expenditure should be divided by 12 in order to arrive at the monthly expenditure.

(d) The particular preparation, e.g., cheroots, cigarettes, sehawleik, paste, bidis or sukha should be stated.

(e) The amount of debt outstanding at the beginning of the month should be entered here.

(f) If the expenditure exceeds the income all the items should be verified, as obviously it cannot be generally true that the expenditure exceeds the income every month. In some cases the excess of expenditure may be met out of previous earnings or by the sale of jewellery. How the excess is met should be stated.

NOTES OF INVESTIGATOR.

Description of Dwelling—

Number of rooms occupied by family (a)

Approximate size of each room

State whether the dwelling is in a good state of repair or is dilapidated. }

State of what materials the dwelling is built. }

Give details as to supply of water for drinking and sanitary arrangements. }

State here whether the family buys on credit or cash system. }

If interest was charged on credit purchases, state, if possible, what was the rate of interest. }

Give any information available as to the occasional expenditure on religious ceremonies including marriages and funerals (b) :—

Festivals

Marriages

Funerals

State to what extent the money so spent was borrowed. }

(a) If one room is occupied by more than one family the number of men over 18 and of women over 16 and the number, sex and age of children under these ages, who occupy the room, should be stated.

(b) Expenses on religious and other festivals other than those which are regular in character and are entered on page 7 should be inserted here.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Information should be obtained where possible regarding the following :—

1. (a) Nature of work and hours of labour—
- (b) Where there are two or more occupations the month of the year during which each is followed should be given—
2. Whether unemployed or not during any part of the year and if so for how long—
3. Any disease from which the members of the family suffer—
4. Any other information bearing on the economic condition. Where the family is indebted the amount originally borrowed, the approximate date and reason for incurring the debt, the security given and the method of repayment should be noted.

APPENDIX B.

Note about Scales.

In paragraph 28 reference was made to an investigation by Mr. Edgar Sydenstricker and Mr. Willford I. King into population and income in the case of cotton mill workers in South Carolina. In order to classify the population according to their economic status an attempt was made in this investigation to obtain scales showing the relative expenditure on all articles for persons of different age and sex.* Information was obtained from about 300 families of the amounts actually spent for each member of the family on certain articles generally purchased for individual use. By using the data from 140 of these families a curve was drawn for each sex showing the relative expense of obtaining these articles for persons of different ages. A scale was then constructed from each curve.

These articles, however, constituted only about one-third of the family's entire outlay and so the authors proceeded to obtain a similar pair of scales for food. Provisional scales were first adopted which were then "corrected." The method of correction appears to have been as follows: the provisional scales were used to determine the number of units in the family and the families were then classified according to income per unit (*i.e.* total income divided by the number of units). In order to see whether the allowances for females were too large or too small as compared with those for males, the food expenditure per unit (total food expenditure divided by the same number of units) was plotted as an ordinate against the percentage male as an abscissa. This appears to have been done for each income class separately. From the position of the points in the charts deductions were drawn as to the adequacy or otherwise of the allowances for females as compared with those for males. The scales were then corrected accordingly.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now the food expenditure per unit} &= \frac{\text{the total food expenditure}}{\text{the number of units}} \\ &= \frac{\text{the total food expenditure}}{\text{the total income}} \times \frac{\text{the total income}}{\text{the number of units}} \\ &= \frac{\text{the total food expenditure}}{\text{the total income}} \times \text{the income per unit.} \end{aligned}$$

It will be seen from this that since the families were first classified according to income per unit, what was actually being plotted against the percentage of the family male was the ratio of the total food expenditure to the total income. This ratio might perhaps vary slightly according to the percentage male, but no deductions could be drawn from such variations as to the correctness or otherwise of the scales. The scales might indeed be far from correct and yet not cause this ratio to alter appreciably with the percentage of the family male.

The authors also proceeded to test the adjusted scale for correctness as to age relationship in a similar manner. The families were first classified as explained above, *i.e.* according to income per unit, and in each income class the food expenditure per unit was plotted against the average age of the family. Presumably the average age would vary inversely as the size of the family. From the position of the points in the charts similar deductions were drawn as to the adequacy or otherwise of the allowances for children as compared with those for adults. This method of correction also appears to be open to objection for the reasons given in the preceding paragraph.

* The report appears in the American Journal of Political Economy, Vol. XXIX, 1921, pages 571-594, but the method of obtaining the scales is given in more detail in the Quarterly Publication of the American Statistical Association for September 1921.

APPENDIX C.

The nutritive value (as expressed in calories) of some of the more important articles of food.

Commodity.	Gross calories per ounce of commodity.				Price per viss.	Cost per thousand calories.
	Protein.	Carbo- hydrate.	Fat.	Total.		
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Rice ...	9.0	89.0	2.5	100.5	0 5 0	0 0 10
Wheat flour ...	12.9	85.2	2.3	100.4	0 6 0	0 1 0
Pulses :—						
Arhar ...	25.0	65.4	4.1	94.5	0 7 6	0 1 5
Urad ...	26.2	67.4	3.0	96.6	0 6 0	0 1 1
Moong ...	27.4	62.1	7.1	96.6	0 8 6	0 1 6
Chana ...	23.2	59.4	11.3	93.9	0 5 0	0 0 11
Musur ...	29.6	64.0	7.9	101.5	0 7 0	0 1 2
Fish, fresh ...	12.7	...	6.5	19.0	1 4 0	1 2 3
Fish, salt, dry ...	22.1	5.1	1.2	28.4	1 8 0	0 14 8
Fish, salt wet (Ngapi) ...	25.4	8.4	.4	34.2	1 8 0	0 12 3
Beef ...	17.7	...	40.8	58.5	1 4 0	0 5 11
Mutton ...	16.1	...	45.0	61.1	2 12 0	0 12 6
Fowl ...	17.2	...	29.2	46.4	1 12 0	0 10 6
Duck ...	17.8	...	42.2	60.0	1 12 0	0 8 1
Pork ...	13.9	...	78.6	92.5	2 8 0	0 7 6
Milk, fresh ...	3.7	5.7	10.2	19.6	0 12 0	0 10 8
Milk, condensed, sweetened ...	10.3	62.9	21.8	95.0	1 1 0	0 3 1
Sugar ...	...	112.0	...	112.0	0 9 0	0 1 5
Gur ...	2.7	78.6	...	81.3	0 9 0	0 1 11
Ghee ...	...	...	263.6	263.6	4 4 0	0 4 6
Vegetable oils (sesamum, mustard and ground- nut) ...	...	...	263.6	263.6	1 9 0	0 1 8
Groundnuts (with shells) ...	16.1	86.8	17.7	120.7	0 9 3	0 1 4
Potatoes ...	2.0	16.9	.3	19.2	0 4 6	0 4 1
Onions ...	1.5	8.4	2.1	12.0	0 4 6	0 6 6

APPENDIX D.

Daily Allowances for Asiatic Prisoners.

Articles of diet.	Male labouring prisoners. Scale I.	Male unconvicted criminal prisoners, female non-labouring males and younger juveniles Scale II.	Remarks.
	oz.	oz.	
Rice or jowari (pyaungsan) ...	24	22	Daily.
Fish or beef ...	4	4	Twice a month.
Arhar or gram dhal* ...	4	4	Twice a week.
Pegya, peyin or moong dhal* ...	4	4	Five times a week.
Vegetables ...	10	6	Daily.
Ngapi ...	‡	‡	Do.
Oil (jinjili, sesamum, peysi or refined cotton seed).	‡	‡	Do.
Salt ...	‡	‡	Do.
Tamarind ...	‡	...	Do.
Condiments † ...	‡	‡	Do.

* These articles are to be withheld on the day that fish or beef is issued.

† Condiments should be issued in the following proportion for every half ounce :—

Onions	3	drachms	Ginger	1	drachm
Chillies	2	"	Turmeric	‡	"
Coriander seeds	1‡	"			

APPEN

Statement showing the number of Deck Passengers between the Port of

A.—IMMI

	1921.		1922.	
	Actual number.	Percentage of monthly average.	Actual number.	Percentage of monthly average.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
January ...	23,909	109·9	21,966	100·7
February ...	23,196	106·7	21,777	99·8
March ...	16,957	78·0	14,930	68·4
April ...	15,086	69·4	12,984	59·5
May ...	20,560	94·5	18,535	85·0
June ...	18,513	85·1	19,308	88·5
July ...	21,902	100·7	17,239	79·0
August ...	15,600	71·7	17,201	78·9
September ...	15,184	69·8	18,832	86·3
October ...	18,719	86·1	23,304	106·8
November ...	38,995	179·3	39,188	179·6
December ...	32,260	148·8	36,554	167·5
Total ...	260,981	...	261,818	...
Average ...	21,748	...	21,818	...

B.—EMI

January ...	12,311	70·2	13,215	69·1
February ...	15,732	89·6	20,397	106·7
March ...	22,435	127·8	29,194	152·6
April ...	27,974	159·4	33,410	174·7
May ...	29,704	169·2	30,194	157·9
June ...	19,618	111·8	22,275	116·5
July ...	12,858	73·3	13,009	68·0
August ...	12,920	73·6	11,153	58·3
September ...	14,620	83·3	15,133	79·1
October ...	14,247	81·2	13,275	69·4
November ...	13,903	79·2	13,827	72·3
December ...	14,289	81·4	14,414	75·4
Total ...	210,611	...	229,496	...
Average ...	17,551	...	19,125	...

DIX E.*Rangoon and Ports of India for the five years 1921—1925 inclusive.***GRANTS.**

1923.		1924.		1925.		Total of 1921—1925.	
Actual number.	Percentage of monthly average.	Actual number.	Percentage of monthly average.	Actual number.	Percentage of monthly average.	Actual number.	Percentage of monthly average.
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
21,747	88·4	22,842	91·7	20,087	83·6	110,551	94·4
23,248	94·5	25,351	101·8	25,509	106·2	119,081	101·7
16,644	67·6	19,817	79·8	19,923	83·0	88,324	75·4
17,232	70·0	19,043	76·4	17,040	70·9	81,385	69·5
17,163	69·7	21,861	87·8	19,147	79·7	97,266	83·1
19,004	77·2	23,360	93·8	19,579	81·5	99,764	85·2
17,356	70·5	21,033	84·4	16,248	67·6	93,778	80·1
19,415	78·9	16,209	65·1	15,638	65·1	84,063	71·8
28,118	114·3	19,276	77·4	19,291	80·3	100,701	86·0
27,324	111·1	24,800	99·5	25,065	104·4	119,212	101·8
37,416	152·1	42,920	172·3	56,658	235·9	215,177	183·7
50,611	205·7	42,352	170·0	34,030	141·7	195,907	167·3
295,278	...	298,917	...	288,215	...	1,405,209	...
24,607	...	24,910	...	24,018	...	117,101	...

GRANTS.

14,184	79·7	14,524	75·4	14,992	74·7	69,226	73·8
19,558	109·9	19,287	100·1	22,162	110·5	97,136	103·5
26,850	150·9	29,625	153·7	27,870	138·9	135,974	145·0
29,017	163·1	32,812	170·3	30,626	152·6	153,839	164·0
27,831	156·4	35,741	185·5	39,555	197·2	163,025	173·8
20,451	114·9	20,234	105·0	22,175	110·5	104,753	111·7
10,798	60·7	11,371	59·0	11,650	58·1	59,686	63·6
11,677	65·6	11,841	61·4	13,123	65·4	60,714	64·7
12,669	71·2	13,506	70·1	14,058	70·1	69,986	74·6
13,486	75·7	13,399	69·5	16,026	79·9	70,433	75·1
12,583	70·7	15,715	81·5	14,680	73·2	70,708	75·4
14,460	81·2	13,206	68·5	13,837	69·0	70,206	74·8
213,564	...	231,261	...	240,754	...	1,125,686	...
17,797	...	19,272	...	24,018	...	93,807	...