

PRODUCTION IN INDIA

A COMPARATIVE STUDY IN NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY

BY

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TO

REVATI MOHAN DAS, ESQ.

A friend and patron since
my school days
at Dacca.

PREFACE.

“ Production in India ” is a comparative study in national productivity with special reference to the prosperity or material welfare of the people. The object of the treatise is twofold: First, to help in building up the objective background of India's thinking on the question of national wealth. Second, to find out the fundamental cause of India's extreme poverty, which is an outstanding phenomenon in the modern economic world.

The treatise was begun in 1912 as a part of the report on Indian agriculture to the seminar on agricultural economics in the University of Wisconsin. In 1917, the work was resumed in its present form, but had to be given up for lack of time and means. The subject of productivity as a part of India's poverty problem had, however, occupied the mind of the author for a much longer period and it was the study of agricultural production which led him to the conclusion that national prosperity depended more upon the industrial efficiency of the people than the natural resources of the country. While this conclusion made him take up the study of the human element in production, i.e., the labor question, he had also intended to make a comparative study of national productivity with a view to determining the industrial efficiency of India.

A word may be said regarding methodology. Any treatise on production must give due consideration to the factors, namely, land, labor and capital. The amount of capital or capital goods is rather insignificant in India and it has received only a fair consideration. Land more readily lends itself to description and comparison than labor. Moreover, the latter forms the subject matter of the author's other treatises. Much more space has therefore been given to the discussion of land in the present volume.

In the study of historical growth of productivity, the year 1890-91 has, as a rule, been taken as the starting point. The statistics for previous years are neither

complete nor reliable for comparative purposes. In only a few cases, has it been possible to trace back the data beyond that year.

No attempt has been made to translate the French or international measures and weights into their English or Indian equivalents. They have been mostly used in comparison and their equivalents have been given in footnotes. Except where otherwise noted, the documents and works on which this treatise is based are given in the bibliography. The reason for omitting some of the references is that they can be easily located in the current statistical abstracts, yearbooks and almanacs. It has not been found possible to illustrate some of the statistical tables with charts and diagrams in this edition.

In presenting the treatise to the public, the author is fully conscious that it is far from being exhaustive or even complete. There are several reasons for this defect, such as lack of time and means on the part of the author, incompleteness of the data, both Indian and foreign, for comparative purposes and meagreness of statistics on production in India. The time has not yet come, especially in India for treating such a subject with any pretence to adequacy. The present volume is only an attempt to outline what seems to the author to be the main phases of the productive system which determines industrial efficiency and affects national prosperity.

In conclusion, the author takes this opportunity to express his thanks to the Bibliotheque de la Direction de la Statistique Generale de la France in Paris, where practically all the work was done, and the Commercial Library in Calcutta, where some of the old Indian statistics were consulted, for the help they have kindly rendered in the preparation of this volume.

SANTINIKETAN,

August 1, 1924.

RAJANI KANTA DAS.

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Page	Line	Read	For
83	17	linseed 3.1	linseed 31
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88	20	totals	total
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112	2	1919 & 1920	1920
119	1	6. Transport	Transport
124	5	per capita	per capital
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130	20	.06 messages	06 messages
132	28	backward	backword
"	32	thirty	forty
135	27	reserve	reserve
142	5	accurate	accnrate
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152	24	materials.	materials
160	5	jute 7.6	jute 76
"	6	Rape and	Rape and
		Mustard 13.7	Mustard 137
163	17	Wheat 8.7	Wheat 8.7
"	18	Barley 10.9	Barley 10.9
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"	24	4,525	4.725
35	25	3,015	3 015
"	28	1,135	1.135
40	16	countries	countries
40		add (millions of metric tons) Resources in Chief Countries	after Iron (line-2).
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54	"	2.167	2,167
55	27	4.1 million	4.1
59	12	insignificant	insignificant,
"	17	Kingdom	kingdom
63	29	works,	works
69	1	9 per cent	7 per cent
73	10	1884-85	84-85
75	26	20.9 million	209 million
76	15	Annuaire	Annusire
82	9	7.6	76
"	17	3.5	35