



Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st December 1934

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V. N. Saraswat.

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No. 354-327-V (a)

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

JAIL DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 23rd July 1935.

Read-

The report on the jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1934.

READ ALSO-

The district reports.

RESOLUTION

The more peaceful political atmosphere and the consequent absence from the jails of prisoners who had taken part in anti-Government activities resulted in the return of jail administration to normal conditions. The total average jail population was 4,793 (4,900), and the number of convicted persons admitted was 6,990 (7,345). These figures reflect a slight improvement in economic conditions.

2. The Governor in Council is glad to observe from the statistics quoted by the Inspector-General that the magistracy is gradually becoming more accustomed to the use of the Borstal Act for dealing with youthful offenders in appropriate cases. He is, however, satisfied that there is room for further improvement, and hopes that District Magistrates will take every opportunity of impressing the need for more modern methods in dealing with youthful offenders on the Courts subordinate to them.

3. The number of short sentences is still noticeable. Very short sentences are likely to contaminate prisoners not yet habituated to crime, and in addition are unsatisfactory from the point of view of jail administration. The Governor in Council is not satisfied that sufficient use has been made of the provision of section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

4. The fact that out of the 6,990 persons imprisoned during the year no fewer than 1,348, or nearly 20 per cent, were sentenced under the Excise Act is disquieting. As the Inspector-General points out, the short sentences allowed by the Excise Act cease in time to be deterrent, and may convert persons who are ordinarily honest and law abiding into