

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR
GOVERNMENT AT WORK

From 15th October 1938 to 31st January 1939

VOL. II—No. I

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NAGPUR
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INTRODUCTORY

This pamphlet covers the period from the 15th October 1938 to the 31st January 1939. The pamphlet has now been enlarged with a view to make it more useful for reference. Part I deals with the activities of Government. Part II gives important events in chronological order connected with Ministerial visits. Part III reproduces important Government *Communiqués* and *Press Notes* issued during the interval. Part IV enumerates the Acts assented to by His Excellency the Governor.

N. P. SHRIVASTAV,

NAGPUR : *Publicity Officer to Government,*
The 13th March 1939. Central Provinces and Berar.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR GOVERNMENT AT WORK

PART I

The following are the measures taken by the Ministry in this Province from the 15th of October 1938 to the 31st of January 1939 :—

General Administration

In accordance with its policy Government lifted the ban on the publications mentioned below :—

- (1) Shri Gandhi Chalisa written by Shri Anand Behari Prasad *alias* Satya of Rajkhand.
- (2) Ek gayur parsi ka khat banam Duke of Connaught.
- (3) Nagma-i-Watan.
- (4) Mahatma Gandhi.
- (5) Swaraj ka bangola.
- (6) Ahmedabad Congress ka jhanda.
- (7) Bismillah-ul-Rahman-ul-Rahim.
- (8) Swaraj kea hai aur kis tarah mil sakta hai.
- (9) Rashtriya Sangit.
- (10) Chowkhidarwa.
- (11) Swaraj Darshan.
- (12) Zalimon ki bedad Mazlumon ki Faryad.
- (13) Swadeshi Mala Swaraj Barta written by Godubari Mahapatra.
- (14) Swaraj kea hai.
- (15) Bharat ka bangola arthat sut ka pola.
- (16) Gandhi Jail Darpan (Part I) written and compiled by Subana Narain Majha.
- (17) Savan Swaraj Kajli.
- (18) Gandhi Updesh (Part II).
- (19) Nabin Gandhi Gungan (Part II).
- (20) Kavita Marshia.
- (21) Vaidik-Rashtragit.
- (22) Shrinivasrav written by Nath Madhay.
- (23) Shri Baji Deshpande Yancha Powada written by "Vinayak".
- (24) Barishalchi Dhamdhum.
- (25) Vang Vadh.
- (26) Vijayadurg.
- (27) Anandi-Anand Athwa Sumativijaya.
- (28) Swadeshi ani Bahishkar.
- (29) Pratapsinh.
- (30) Jai Jui or "The Arbour of Infatuation".
- (31) Rajanishtha ani Rajdroha, i.e., Loyalty and disloyalty.
- (32) Shrikrishna Charitra or The Life of Shrikrishna, Part II, entitled Atmoddhar and Part II, entitled Jagad Uddhar.

- (33) Tevisavi Rashtriya Sabha.
- (34) Sonya Bapu or The age of Slavery.
- (35) Ashwatthamyacha Chhapa or The Coup de main of Ashwatthama.
- (36) Ashwatthamyachen Paripatya or The Chastisement of Ashwatthama.
- (37) Ramakaryacha Onama.
- (38) Loha Bhim or Bhim made of Iron.
- (39) Rashtriya Shikshan ani Lok Jagriti.
- (40) Thana Jilha Satyagraha Mandalachi Prabhat Pheri Padyavali.
- (41) Translation in Hindi of Parts I and II of a book entitled Bandi Jiwan written by Sri Sachindra Nath Sanyal.
- (42) Shri Ganpatichya Melya Karitan Sangit Padya Kusum-Mala—Bhag—Pahila.
- (43) Aitihasic Purushache Utsav Kan Karave (i.e., Why festivals of Historical Persons should be celebrated) published by Mr. Ganesh Narayan Joshi.
- (44) Zinat Mahal by Mr. Anant Narayan Bhagwat.
- (45) Dillino Chhello Moghal Badshah Bahadur Shah Zafar, by Thakur Narayan.
- (46) Sanmitra Samaj Melyankaritan Kelelin Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak Yanjvaril Padyen, by Mr. Nilkanth Vaman Bhide.
- (47) Veni Samhar by Anant Vaman Barve.
- (48) Congress Pushpanjali (in Urdu) by Bharati.
- (49) Lekh-Ratna-Mala athva Nana Phadnavisanche Nivadak Patrancha Sangraha compiled by Antaji Ramchandra Hardikar.
- (50) Drauni Mani Haran by Ganesh Dhonddey Kane.
- (51) Shri Shivaji Utsava, va Tya Pasun Maharashtra. Bodh. Speech delivered at some Shivaji festival.
- (52) Desha Bhakti Shikshan by Bhaskar Hari Patwardhan.
- (53) Sangit Lanka Vidhwansa Natak by Ganesh Dhonddev Kane.

✓ The question whether house rents in Nagpur city should be regulated has been under the consideration of Government since the introduction of the Nagpur House Rent Bill by Mr. V. R. Kalappa in the Provincial Legislative Assembly in December 1937. The Bill was circulated for eliciting public opinion in January 1938. On an examination of the opinions received, Government came to the conclusion that the material at its disposal was not sufficient to enable it to reach a decision regarding the attitude to be adopted towards the Bill. To facilitate this decision, Government has appointed a committee consisting of the following :—

Commissioner, Nagpur Division—*Chairman.*

Deputy Commissioner, Nagpur.

Two representatives of the Municipal Committee, Nagpur.

Mr. P. V. Dixit, Barrister-at-Law, Nagpur—Representative of the tenants.

Mr. P. Y. Deshpande, Advocate, Nagpur—Representative of the tenants.

Mr. M. G. Chitnavis, M.L.A., Nagpur—Representative of house-owners.

Mr. G. G. Buty, Nagpur—Representative of house-owners.

Mrs. Anasuyabai Kale, M.L.A.

Mr. G. S. Page, M.L.A.

Mr. V. R. Kalappa, M.L.A.

Rao Sahib N. V. Joshi, Nazul Officer, Nagpur—*Secretary*

The terms of reference to the committee are as follows:—

- (a) to examine whether the rentals of premises occupied by the working and the middle classes in the city of Nagpur are such as to require regulation by legislation;
- (b) if so, to suggest the nature of the required legislation, with particular reference to Mr. Kalappa's House Rent Bill; and
- (c) to report on such other matters as may be germane to the points referred to in (a) and (b) above.

The committee has now started its work.

As a number of miscellaneous petitions continued to be addressed direct to the Hon'ble Ministers and as this laid a very heavy burden of work upon them leaving them insufficient time to devote to other important questions, revised instructions for the disposal of such petitions were issued. *Vide Government Communiqué*, 13th December 1938, printed in Part III of this Review.

Government has exempted Rangers, Deputy Rangers, Foresters and Forest Guards from the operation of the Game Act when they are on duty.

By a notification, dated the 16th January 1939, the Central Provinces Revision of the Land Revenue of Estates Act, 1939 (C. P. and Berar Act No. I of 1939), was applied to all the partially excluded areas in the Central Provinces excepting the Mandla district and the Bhainsdehi tahsil of the Betul district.

Police Department

Orders were passed to delete from the Village Notebook the names of persons convicted during the civil disobedience movement which were entered in the book along with the names of persons convicted of ordinary offences.

Government has accepted, as an experimental measure, the recommendation of the Economy Committee, 1937, regarding the replacement of Reserve Inspectors in charge of Police Lines by Sub-Inspectors of Police, in the districts of Mandla, Betul, Bhandara and Balaghat in the first instance. The scheme will be further given effect to as vacancies occur.

Political and Military Department

On the recommendation of the Provincial Government, the Military authorities have agreed to restore, with effect from the 15th November 1938, the military pension of Rs. 9 per mensem of *ex-naik* Laxmanswami *alias* Lachmaya Mudliar of Waraseoni, district Balaghat. The pension was forfeited in 1923 by the Military authorities owing to the participation of Lachmaya in congress activities.

The Manoeuvres Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act was passed by the Central Legislature in March 1938, and Rules were framed under the Act by the Provincial Government in November 1938. The Act and the Rules ensure that the conduct of manoeuvres, etc., does not involve undue hardship to the residents of the villages in the area selected for the purpose and provide for the payment of adequate compensation to those whose crops or property are damaged due to the manoeuvres, etc., and to those who have to be evacuated from their villages for safety and are therefore unable to look after their work. The Act provides for the right of appeal against the award of the Civil Compensation Officer and the Provincial Government has framed rules thereunder exempting the levy of court fees or other costs on the notice of appeal and allowing the appellants to be represented by a counsel before the Commission competent to hear appeal. For the first time after the passage of the Act, the 28th Field Regiment R. A. Jubbulpore held field firing and artillery practice in the Lakhnadon tahsil of the Chhindwara district from the 18th November to the 17th December 1938. The villagers who were affected were given ample notice before the area was notified, and a Civil Compensation Officer was appointed to arrange for the evacuation of the villages where necessary and to pay compensation to the people affected by such evacuation. Compensation was paid at liberal rates, and the civil compensation officer and his assistants took adequate measures to minimize the inconvenience to the people. Twenty-three villages with

a population of 4,509 and their cattle had to be evacuated from time to time. A sum of Rs. 3,200 was distributed as compensation, and free grazing facilities in the adjoining Government forests during the period of evacuation were provided for the cattle. The arrangements made were so thorough that they were greatly appreciated by the military authorities. At the same time the people affected were so satisfied that no complaints were received and no appeals were filed against the awards of the Civil Compensation Officer.

Judicial Department

The practice of appointing Special Magistrates without remuneration has been discontinued and the notifications relating to fourteen such appointments made before this decision was reached have been cancelled.

It has been decided to continue the existing practice of appointing a Hindu Probation and children's Probation officer for Hindu boys and girls and a Muhammadan for Muhammadan boys and girls.

It has been decided that the Hon'ble Ministers should be exempted from personal appearance in civil courts, and a notification exempting them from such appearance has been issued.

Sections 4 to 8 and 10 to 17 of the Central Provinces Probation of Offenders Act, 1936 (I of 1936), have been extended to Yeotmal town with effect from the 15th December 1938 and to Bhandara and Gondia towns with effect from the 16th January 1939.

It has been decided to depute four Subordinate Judges to dispose of the arrears of criminal work in Nagpur, Jabulpore, Amraoti and Akola.

Revenue Department

Government has carefully considered certain complaints from Berar about the charging of separate process-fees in cases where several holdings are proclaimed for sale for recovery of Government dues. It has been decided to amend the form of proclamation of sale so that each of the holdings of a defaulter which are to be sold at one time can be included in one proclamation. This will mean that only one process-fee will be charged for the issue of such proclamations. Orders have already been issued introducing this new form.

Relief to Agriculturists

As soon as complaints were received about the damage to the standing kharif crops, particularly cotton, Government issued instructions to Deputy Commissioners to make detailed enquiries regarding the outturn of kharif crops with the help of non-official agencies wherever possible. Crop experiments were made by Revenue Officers over extensive areas associating non-officials with them and as a result of these enquiries Government issued a comprehensive *communiqué* on the 31st January 1939 (*vide* Part III) enumerating the measures it proposed to take in order to afford effective relief to cultivators in tracts where crops had suffered from unfavourable rains and adverse climatic conditions.

Figures of estimated suspensions of kharif kist in the cotton districts of the Province are shown below :—

<i>Central Provinces.</i>		
	Rs.	Rs.
Nagpur ..	2,89,000	
Wardha ..	2,26,000	
Chanda ..	37,000	
Chhindwara ..	51,000	
	<hr/>	
Total ..		6,03,000
<i>Berar.</i>		
Amraoti ..	2,38,000	
Akola ..	4,15,000	
Yeotmal ..	1,45,000	
Buldana ..	73,000	
	<hr/>	
		8,71,000
		<hr/>
Total ..		14,74,000
		<hr/>

In Berar the prevailing tenure is raiyatwari, so to a great extent the relief to the actual tiller of the soil is represented by the figures of the suspension granted. In the Central Provinces, however, the *malguzari* tenure prevails, and the rents roughly are double the land revenue. The actual relief to the tiller of the soil in the districts of the Central Provinces will, therefore, be approximately double of the amount of land revenue suspended.

The other revenue concessions already granted by Government or about to be granted have been detailed in paragraph 6 of the *communiqué*.

In case of specific complaints of border-line villages having missed the suspension due under the rules, the Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to have them carefully examined and to consult local M. L. As. and non-officials including office-bearers of local Congress Committees. With regard to reports from some districts of damage to *rabi* crops, the Deputy Commissioners have also been instructed to make careful enquiries in association with leading non-officials and to take such measures as may be necessary.

In view of all these concessions Government expects that the balance of the kharif land revenue demand due in the areas affected shall be recovered as expeditiously as possible.

The attention of the Revenue officers has also been drawn to the wide-spread demand for scarcity relief and the Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to consult non-official opinion on the necessity and nature of relief works.

Debt Conciliation Boards

On the 31st December 1938, there were 47 boards working in 49 tahsils. All the boards so far established have done very useful work and up to the end of July 1938 debts amounting to Rs. 958.69 lakhs were scaled down to Rs. 479.22 lakhs effecting a remission of Rs. 479.47 lakhs or 50 per cent of the demand. Certificates, under section 15 (1) of the Central Provinces Debt Conciliation Act, declaring that creditors had unreasonably refused amicable settlement were issued for claims amounting Rs. 129.86 lakhs.

On the 12th January 1939, the operation of the Central Provinces and Berar Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act, 1938 (XVI of 1938), was extended for a further period of six months with effect from the 22nd January 1939.

Agriculture Department

Government has nominated as a non-official representative Mr. Bhimsingh Govindsingh, M.L.A., Patur, district Akola, on the third meeting of the Animal Husbandary Wing of the Board of Agriculture of the Imperial

Council of Agricultural Research to be held from the 20th February to the 25th February 1939 at New Delhi.

Quarantine stations in the districts of Saugor and Hoshangabad have been opened from the 1st December 1939 as shown below :—

Saugor District.

- (1) Ghaisabad.
- (2) Shahgarh.
- (3) Malthone.
- (4) Khurai.
- (5) Rahatgarh.

Hoshangabad District.

- (6) Handia.
- (7) Sandia.
- (8) Hoshangabad.
- (9) Tendukhera.

In the Marketing Section of the Agriculture Department, reports on lac, ghee and butter were under preparation, while the report on oranges was submitted to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Surveys with regard to gram, lac, rape and mustard are now in progress.

✓ **Commerce and Industry Department**

Government has issued orders that in every non-seasonal factory in which the average number of women employed exceeds 50, a suitable room shall be provided for children under the age of six years belonging to such women.

Provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, were extended to the payment of wages to the employees in the bidi-making, shellac manufacture, and leather-tanning industries in the districts of Nagpur, Bhandara, Jubbulpore and Bilaspur.

Government appointed the following Committee to undertake an industrial survey of the province :—

Chairman.

Dr. J. C. Kumarappa, Wardha.

Members.

Mr. Chaturbhujbhai Jasani, M.L.A., Gondia.

Mr. V. V. Subhedar, M.L.A., Saugor.

Mr. K. P. Ghiara, General Manager, Central Provinces Syndicate, Ltd., Nagpur.

Mr. R. N. Jha, Secretary, Berar Chamber of Commerce, Akola.

Mr. K. P. Sagreiya, I.F.S., Sylviculturist, Central Provinces and Berar.

Dr. A. N. Kapanna, Demonstrator of Chemistry, College of Science, Nagpur.

Mr. Walter Dutt, Bar-at-Law, Nagpur.

The Director of Industries, Central Provinces and Berar.

Dr. R. S. Thakur, Director of the Laxminarayan Research Laboratory, Nagpur. He will also act as Secretary to the Committee.

Shrimati Sarahamma Ittyerah, M.A., Wardha, late Professor of Economics, Lahore.

Mr. E. R. Mahajani, Managing Director, Shri Laxmi Oil Mills, Ltd., Akola.

Mr. C. L. Gupta, Deputy Director of Industries, Central Provinces and Berar, will act as Assistant Secretary to the Committee.

The terms of reference of the Committee will be :—

- (1) To review the work done in the province by the Department of Industries since its establishment.
- (2) To supervise the collection of data relating to large, small and, especially, cottage industries from previous publications and reports, by an officer appointed for the purpose.
- (3) To advise the officer-in-charge as regards the lines on which the industrial survey of the province should be undertaken and to review its progress from time to time.
- (4) To visit typical villages, study their economic condition and examine the possibility of reviving cottage industries, and in doing so to take the advice and guidance of the All-India Village Industries Association.
- (5) To report on the industrial possibilities of the raw materials available in the province, with special reference to the forest and mineral resources.
- (6) To report on the measures which Government can undertake to promote industrial development within the province, especially of cottage industries in the villages, and to suggest methods for financing the same or otherwise promoting them.

The inaugural meeting of the above committee was held on the 16th January 1939 in the Secretariat. The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Ministers, Mrs. Kale, Deputy Speaker, Secretaries to Government, Heads of Departments, Principals and Professors of colleges and a number of prominent non-official gentlemen such as Col. K. V. Kukday, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Niyogi, and Dr. Dharatam Kumarappa interested in the industrial development.

The Hon'ble the Prime Minister inaugurated the meeting. In the course of his speech which was delivered in Hindi he described the aim of Government in appointing the Committee, explained the terms of reference, invited the co-operation of all in the work of the Committee and expressed his hope and confidence that the work of the survey will be efficiently carried out by the Committee under the chairmanship of such an eminent and life-long worker in the field of cottage and village industries as Dr. Kumarappa.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Industries thanked the Chairman and members of the Committee for having acceded to the request of Government to work on the Committee and pointed out that the aim of Government was industrialization of the province in which cottage, medium and large scale industries would all have their rightful place. He looked at industrial development from the point of view of relieving unemployment, increasing the wealth of the province and securing a balanced rural and urban economy. He emphasised the desire of Government to give all possible aid for the promotion of local industries and to reach the ideal when the province would be self-sufficient in respect of its requirements.

The Chairman also made a short speech in which after thanking the Prime Minister for having spared time to inaugurate the work of this Committee and to give it a blessing and a push forward, he, among other things, unfolded his scheme of a rapid and whirl-wind visit by the workers to selected villages for the purpose of ascertaining local industries, existing or extinct, and pleaded for the co-operation on the part of all and especially all the educational institutions in making workers and surveyors available for this preliminary survey.

The Committee adopted certain resolutions. The principal ones related to the allotment of districts, subdivisions and special areas to the group leaders and the issuing of a questionnaire regarding village surveys. The Questionnaire has been issued by the Committee and the group leaders have started field work from the 23rd January. The Committee hopes to submit its preliminary report to Government early in March.

Another committee was appointed to advise the Provincial Government as regards the management and future

development of the Central Museum, Nagpur. It consists of—

Chairman.

The Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Commerce and Industry.

Members.

- (1) Mr. V. V. Subhedar, M.L.A., Saugor.
- (2) Professor V. V. Mirashi, Professor of Sanskrit, Morris College, Nagpur.
- (3) Mr. L. P. Pande, Secretary of the Mahakoshal Historical Society, Balpur, district Bilaspur.
- (4) The Director of Industries, Central Provinces and Berar. He will also act as Secretary to the Committee.

The Curator, Central Museum, Nagpur, will act as Joint Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee will be an advisory body. It will tender advice on the following matters :—

- (i) Acquisition, arrangement and care of exhibits.
- (ii) Extension and repairs of the museum building.
- (iii) Proposals for improving the qualifications of the staff of the museum and for their periodical training.
- (iv) Consideration of the suggestions of the public entered in the Suggestions Book.
- (v) Proposals for the re-organization of the museum.

Government has nominated the following two members from this province on the Joint Lac Control Board :—

- (1) Mr. Sukhdeo Agarwal, Gondia, district Bhandara—Manufacturer.
- (2) Mr. K. P. Pande, M.L.A., Sihora, district, Jabulpore—Grower.

Besides the above-mentioned measures, Government has decided to contribute Rs. 1,000 to the All-India Planning Committee. It has also decided to participate in the Tripuri Congress Exhibition.

During his visit to Khandwa on October 17, the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries received two deputations, one from the local cotton growers and the other from the owners of ginning and pressing factories in the district. Through the intervention of the Hon'ble Minister a unanimous agreement was reached between the parties that the rate for pressing and ginning should be reduced from Rs. 12-8-0 to Rs. 8-13-0 per bale during the current season. As a result of this reduction it is

estimated that the cotton growers will benefit to the extent of Rs. 2,25,000 approximately. This settlement will also help the factory owners inasmuch as their custom would not now be diverted outside the province.

Separate Revenue Department

The Provincial Government decided to close down all charas shops and to prohibit totally the import, possession, and sale of charas in the Central Provinces and Berar with effect from the 1st January 1939. A notification was accordingly issued.

The Government has levied an *import pass fee* on clubs, associations, and private individuals importing foreign liquor at the following rates, with effect from the 1st January 1939:—

- (i) Wines and spirits per quart bottle—Re. 0-8-0.
- (ii) Beer, stout, per quart bottle—Re. 0-1-0.

The Central Provinces and Berar Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Act, 1938 (XIV of 1938), was brought into force with effect from the 6th January 1939.

With effect from the 1st January 1939 the Prohibition Act was brought into force in the following areas:—

- (i) the whole of the Wardha district excepting Hinganghat Municipal town in which the Act is already in force;
- (ii) the Akola, Balapur, Murtizapur, Mangrulpir and Basim taluqs of the Akola district.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Excise declared these areas dry on the above date.

Reports received from the Excise Commissioner on the working of prohibition during the third quarter of 1938 are encouraging. Crime under the Excise and Prohibition Acts was well within control. Reports from the local officers already show an appreciable improvement in the financial condition of the former liquor addicts. There would seem to be sufficient evidence for concluding that the prohibition campaign has already achieved a measure of success, and that it bids fair to yield better results as the various agencies working for it get into their stride. (*Vide the Press Note*, dated the 25th November 1938, in Part III of this Review.)

It has been decided that, with effect from the 1st January 1939, only plain water-marked paper available for sale at one pice per sheet with licensed vendors should be used with impressed general stamps when the stamped paper is insufficient to admit of the entire instrument being written on one side thereof.

Local Self-Government Department

Instructions were issued to local bodies allowing their employees to join lawful political organizations, e.g., the Indian National Congress.

Rules under the Municipalities and Local Self-Government Acts were amended declaring expenditure on—

- (i) the hoisting of the National Flag,
 - (ii) the purchase of portraits of high personages, and
 - (iii) the presentation of addresses to high personages,
- as a legitimate charge on the funds of local bodies.

It has also been decided to introduce legislation in respect of the following matters :—

- (i) introduction of Adult Franchise in municipal committees,
- (ii) election of presidents of the municipal committee by direct method of election by voters,
- (iii) removal of presidents of municipal committees by bare majority.

Medical Department

Instructions have been issued to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Central Provinces and Berar, that the claims of Harijan candidates for the posts of Compounders, Nurses and Assistant Medical Officers in the Medical Department should be considered sympathetically provided they possess the necessary qualifications.

Survey and Settlement Department

In view of the special conditions prevailing in Berar, Government has, as a special measure of relief, ordered a further rebate in the current year amounting to an additional $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the enhancement of revenue in the seven taluqs in West Berar.

Public Works Department

A five-year Road Programme involving expenditure of about Rs. 47 lakhs has been drawn up and approved by the Board of Communications of this province and it has been submitted to Government of India for approval.

Finance Department

✓ Government decided to accept the recommendation of the Assembly contained in its resolution passed at its meeting held on the 29th September 1938 and accordingly appointed a committee, to be called the Financial Position Committee, constituted as follows :—

Chairman.

The Hon'ble Mr. D. K. Mehta, Finance Minister.

Members.

Mr. V. M. Jakatdar, M.L.A.

Mr. Rajendra Sinha, Beohar, M.L.A.

Mr. B. L. Chandak, M.L.A.

Mr. P. L. Dhagat, M.L.A.

Mr. B. H. Jatkar, M.L.A.

Mr. M. P. Kolhe, M.L.A.

Mr. Ramgopal Tiwari, M.L.A.

Seth Gopaldas Mohota, M.L.A.

Mr. M. M. Haq, M.L.A.

Mr. Abdul Razak Khan, M.L.A.

Mr. D. B. Khobargade, M.L.A.

Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Secretary to Government, will be Secretary to the Committee.

The terms of reference of the Committee are :—

- (i) To survey the financial position of the province in relation to the normal needs of a reasonably progressive policy and administration, including the cost of prohibition.
- (ii) To explore the possibility of augmenting the fiscal resources of the province.
- (iii) To examine the scope and extent of the province's debts, in particular the irrigation debt.
- (iv) To make recommendation designed—
 - (a) to increase the resources of the province,
 - (b) to lighten the burden of provincial debt, and
 - (c) to achieve a stable and administratively sound budgetary equilibrium.

The committee has been holding deliberations and is expected to submit its report to Government soon.

In view of the pressing need for a careful husbanding of the financial resources of the province and for minimizing such capital expenditure as is not definitely productive, Government has also amended the Commutation Rules applicable to Government servants under its rule-making control. (*Vide the Press Note of the 30th*

November 1938 in Part III of this Review.) · Executive instructions have been issued to ensure strict medical examination of applicants for commutation.

It was decided that the temporary additional pensions granted to pensioners in receipt of superior pensions shall be discontinued, with effect from the 1st March 1939.

Education Department

Permission was granted to teachers from Government Institutions to attend the Scout Masters' Training Class.

A circular was issued to the Heads of Educational institutions permitting them to treat those on scout duty in camp as on duty.

A Board of Physical Welfare has been constituted and a Chief Organizer for physical activities has also been appointed.

Vidya Mandir Scheme.—Sixty-eight offers of land have till now been accepted by Government and the rest are under scrutiny. The construction of Vidya Mandir buildings at various places has started in right earnest.

Teachers specially trained in the Vidya Mandir Training School at Wardha will be placed in charge of these Vidya Mandirs after completion of the practical training they are now undergoing in the various district council schools.

It is intended that selected candidates should take up their duties at the Vidya Mandirs on March 1st.

PART II.—IMPORTANT EVENTS CONNECTED WITH MINISTERIAL VISITS

19th October 1938 : The Hon'ble Mr. S. V. Gokhale, Minister for Revenue, received a deputation headed by Mr. R. W. Fulay and heard the grievances of Government Press Employees.

24th October 1938 : The Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Bharuka, Minister for Public Works Department, along with his Secretary, Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, and the Chief Engineer, Mr. P. V. Chance, visited the Kherbanda Tank to personally investigate into the grievances of the irrigation cultivators.

25th October 1938 : The Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Bharuka, Minister for Excise, visited Akola along with the Excise Commissioner to have discussions about the starting of prohibition in the whole of the district from the 1st January 1939.

27th October 1938 : On the morning of the 27th October 1938 the Hon'ble the Prime Minister accompanied by the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government paid a visit to the Mahakoshal Police Training School at Ranjhi, Jubbulpore.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Education laid the foundation stone of the first Vidya Mandir in the province at the historical village of Ghatakhedi in the Nimar district.

28th October 1938 : The Hon'ble Mr. S. V. Gokhale, Minister for Education, inaugurated the Education Conference at Khandwa.

10th November 1938 : The Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government visited Damoh and performed the opening ceremony of the new building of the district council.

13th November 1938 : The Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue received a deputation on behalf of the Jubbulpore Mill Majdoor Union at the Circuit House, Jubbulpore. He heard its demands and promised to forward them to the Minister concerned.

25th and 26th November 1938 : The Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government visited Raipur and received a number of welcome addresses including those from the municipal

committee, district council, citizens of Raipur, Navayuwak and Majdoor Sanghas and also attended the Eighth Teachers' District Conference.

27th November 1938: In response to an invitation from the Associated Cement Co., Ltd., the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries visited the Kymore Cement Factory.

He also visited Katni and received addresses of welcome from the municipal committee, Katni, and the merchants of Katni, and enquired into the progress of prohibition and its effect on the general public.

28th November 1938: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government visited Bilaspur and received addresses of welcome from several institutions, e.g., the municipal committee, the Central Co-operative Bank, and the Bilaspur Students' Association.

30th November 1938: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister accompanied by the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government visited Drug and addressed a special meeting of malguzars and zamindars and discussed the possibilities of minimizing the difficulties of the tenants in the transfer and sale of their lands.

22nd December 1938: The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Education and the Hon'ble Minister for Industries attended the Chandur Taluq Kisans' Conference at Chandur, and received addresses of welcome.

23rd December 1938: The Hon'ble the Minister for Education, the Hon'ble the Minister for Finance and the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries attended the Saoner Taluq Peasants' Conference and received addresses of welcome.

The Hon'ble Minister for Industries visited Burhanpur and received an address of welcome from the municipal committee, and looked into the gold thread and hand-loom industries. He persuaded the Electric Company to reduce the rates for power purposes from two annas a unit to one anna six pies a unit. This was announced at a meeting of weavers.

1st January 1939: The Hon'ble the Minister for Excise visited Akola and Wardha and declared these districts "dry".

2nd to 6th January 1939 (both days inclusive): The Hon'ble Minister for Excise started a prohibition tour in the interior of the Akola district and addressed meetings in about sixty villages, carrying the message of prohibition to more than a lakh of people, of which about 15,000 were ladies. The Hon'ble the Minister received welcome addresses wherever he went.

7th January 1939: The Hon'ble the Minister for Industries formally inaugurated the District Branch of the Hindustan Scout Association at Akola.

15th January 1939: The Hon'ble the Minister for Industries inaugurated the second session of the Provincial Bidi Workers' Conference at Nagpur.

16th January 1939: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister inaugurated the meeting of the Industrial Survey Committee which was attended by the Hon'ble Ministers, Secretaries, Heads of Departments and prominent non-officials.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue received a deputation of Kisans at his bungalow at Nagpur. He gave a patient hearing to the deputationists and promised to look into their grievances sympathetically.

25th January 1939: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister met Khan Sahib Abdur Rahman Khan, M.L.A., Syed Abdur Rauf Shah, M.L.A., Dr. Hamid and others and informally discussed with them the grievances of the Muslims in the Central Provinces and Berar.

26th January 1939: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister laid the foundation stones of the Vidya Mandirs at the villages of Piprod, Parasada, Sakri and Kosmandi in the Raipur district.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Finance laid the foundation stones of Vidya Mandirs at the villages of Simaria, Piparia and Dhutera in the Seoni sub-division of the Chhindwara district.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government inaugurated a Vidya Mandir at Dhal Saonji, a village near Buldana. The Hon'ble the Minister was also presented with an address of welcome by the municipal committee, Buldana.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue met about 200 kisans who had come in a procession to the Secretariat at Nagpur and heard their grievances. He addressed the kisans and assured them that their grievances would receive the best attention of Government.

29th January 1939: The Hon'ble the Minister for Education visited Akola. He granted an interview to the Honorary Secretary and other members of the Government Secondary Teachers' Union and heard their grievances.

The Hon'ble the Minister presided over the fourth anniversary of the Berar General Education Society.

The Hon'ble the Minister also presided over the Hindustan Scouts' Rally in the evening.

30th January 1939: Under the auspices of the Mahakoshal Local Bodies' Employees' Association, an address of welcome was presented to the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government.

30th and 31st January 1939: The Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue visited the interior of the Basim taluq and addressed meetings at Navli and Risod.

PART III.—IMPORTANT COMMUNIQUEES AND PRESS NOTES

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 25th November 1938.

Reports received from the Excise Commissioner on the working of prohibition during the third quarter of the current year are encouraging. Crime under the Excise and Prohibition Acts was well within control. The Saugor district contributed the largest number of offences. There were 12 cases including four of illicit distillation and four of illicit possession. Two persons were found drunk, one in a train and the other in a motor lorry, while returning from the liquor shops of the neighbouring States. Katni-Murwara reported seven cases and Hinganghat four. The crime in Narsinghpur and Badnera was very light while Akot fared the best of the dry areas, reporting a blank return of crime in spite of strict vigilance on the part of both excise and police officials. Though most of the reported crimes were not very serious there were some cases of illicit distillation of liquor on a commercial scale for sale to approved customers. In the Saugor district a man and his wife who were caught with a running still were sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10 respectively. At Narsinghpur one case ended in a sentence of four months' rigorous imprisonment, while a serious case involving five persons who were distilling liquor on a commercial scale was pending in court at the close of the quarter. At Hinganghat a notorious excise criminal, who was released from jail only in August last, was arrested with a running still and was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment. A liquor contractor of an outlying area was suspected to have tried to drop part of his consignment of liquor at Katni *en route* from the Sihora warehouse, but he could not be successfully prosecuted on account of the premature action of a police constable.

Confirmed liquor addicts of the Saugor district are reported to be visiting the shops of the adjoining States. Persons from Saugor town find it convenient to go to Chhatarpur while those of Khurai and Bina visit Bandraota and Kurwari-Kaithora. Illegal sale of country liquor continues at the Kurwari-Kaithora railway station in spite of the prosecution of two contractors by the State authorities. There is a certain amount of smuggling of liquor from Jukehi in the Maihar State into Katni-Murwara. The consumption of denatured spirit has steadily gone up at Katni-Murwara, due chiefly to its misuse. The increase in the month of July was about 15 per cent, but in August and September the increase was reduced to 7 per cent. This evil was, however, not noticed in any of the other dry areas. The consumption of *charas* has gone up by 85 per cent at Saugor, due chiefly to the diversion of custom from *ganja* but partly to some *ex-drinkers* using *charas* in place of liquor. At Katni the sales of *bhang* have increased by 38 per cent. Reports from other dry areas do not show any tendency on the part of liquor addicts either to resort to drugs or to go to distant shops for satisfying their craving for liquor.

Anti-drink committees have been formed in all the dry areas. Though a certain amount of spade work has been done by these committees, there has not been enough time for their

efforts to show tangible results. Two committees have had to be reconstituted. Instructions for the guidance of anti-drink committees were issued soon after the close of the quarter and Government hopes that they will make themselves an increasingly potent force against the use of drink. In the Narsinghpur sub-division co-operative thrift societies are being formed among the drinking castes. There is ample evidence to show that there is an extensive scope for organization of this kind as also for caste panchayats pledged to prohibit the use of drink by social sanction. There is not much evidence of any counter-attraction to drink being set up, such as games or recreation centres, except for several free tea stalls maintained by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board. It is reported that the stalls are freely used by *ex*-drinkers. Anti-drink posters have also been extensively used for propaganda work.

Reports from the local officers already show an appreciable improvement in the financial condition of the former liquor addicts. In the Saugor district several instances have been noticed of *ex*-drinkers gradually clearing off their liabilities and even buying ornaments, while in pre-prohibition days the same families were said to be chronically in debts and living from hand to mouth after spending most of their earnings in liquor shops. The Deputy Commissioner of Akola reports that prohibition "has been an unqualified success in the Akot taluq in ameliorating the condition of the people". A petition signed by over 500 former liquor addicts was received from Akot only the other day in which the signatories have expressed their gratitude to Government for saving them from the drink evil. The Deputy Commissioner of Hoshangabad is optimistic about the success of prohibition in Narsinghpur and says that "the lives of families have become happier from the absence of intoxicated bread winners". House to house inquiries made by the District Excise Officer at Badnera have disclosed some interesting facts. He came across several instances of the practical effects of prohibition, four of which may be quoted:—

- (i) Appaji, pay Rs. 50 per month, used to be hard drinker, had debts amounting to Rs. 600: prohibition has reduced this load to Rs. 400.
- (ii) Dashrath, pay Rs. 15 per month, used to spend Rs. 5 per month on drink: now saves this amount.
- (iii) Dallu, pay Rs. 9 per month, is reducing his debt of Rs. 40 at the rate of Rs. 3 per month.
- (iv) Rustamji, pay Rs. 40 per month, used to spend Rs. 10 per month on drink, now spends only Rs. 3 and uses the rest for other purposes.

Reports from other areas are equally optimistic though not so specific.

There would seem to be sufficient evidence for concluding that the prohibition campaign has already achieved a small measure of success, and that it bids fair to yield better results as the various agencies working for it get into their stride. It is necessary, however, to stress the importance of sustained public interest and support in the cause of prohibition. Law with all its penalties and restrictions will only drive the evil underground unless backed by public opinion, and it is the

duty of the public to carry on a ceaseless propaganda to educate and convince addicts that what are apparently irksome restrictions are meant solely for their welfare.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 30th November 1938.

Comments have appeared in the press urging the need of retiring Government servants on their attaining the age of 55 in the interests of economy and the relief of unemployment. These comments appear to be based on an impression that in this province Government has not so far taken any action in this direction. As a matter of fact, one of the first acts of the Congress Ministry in this province was the issue of orders to the effect that no Government servant under its rule-making control, ministerial or non-ministerial, should be retained in service after the age of 55 years unless his retention is required in the public interest, e.g., where no satisfactory arrangement can be made for the efficient discharge of the duties discharged by him. Extension of service for reasons personal to Government servant was strictly prohibited. The object of these orders, which were passed on the 29th August 1937, was to effect economy and relieve unemployment. With the same end in view, on the 2nd March 1938 Government amended the pension rules so as to permit Government servants who have completed 25 years' qualifying service to retire voluntarily, provided the retirement either serves administrative convenience or results in economy.

In view of the pressing need for a careful husbanding of the financial resources of the province and for minimizing such capital expenditure as is not definitely productive, Government has also amended the Commutation Rules applicable to Government servants under its rule-making control. The proportion of pension commutable on fulfilment of the prescribed conditions has been reduced from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ and no commutation is to be allowed, in the case of a Government servant holding a permanent gazetted post at the time of retirement, if the residue of pension after commutation would be less than Rs. 100, and in the case of all other Government servants if the residue would be less than Rs. 20. Moreover, no commutation will henceforth be granted for meeting expenditure on marriages. Executive instructions are also being issued to ensure strict medical examination of applicants.

COMMUNIQUE

Nagpur, the 13th December 1938.

It will be within the recollection of the public that the Provincial Government issued the following *Press Note* on the 4th February 1938:—

“Ministers, especially the Prime Minister, are frequently receiving petitions addressed to them direct for the redress of all kinds of grievances. The confidence in the Ministry indicated by the anxiety of the public to approach them direct is fully appreciated but at the same time Ministers

feel that the volume of such petitions makes it impossible for them to devote the time and attention necessary for their sympathetic and judicious disposal. It need hardly be emphasised that if the petitions are to be adequately dealt with, reports from the departments concerned or the local officers have to be called for in the first place. A direct approach to the Ministry by means of petitions, therefore, will only entail delay and duplication of work."

"Ministers desire, therefore, that with regard to local grievances and complaints the normal procedure of taking them to the district authorities, in the first place, should be observed. Should, however, any petitioner feel that his grievances have not been redressed by the local authorities, he will, of course, be at liberty to draw the attention of Government. Such representations will reach the Ministers in the normal course."

2. The tendency to approach Ministers direct for the redress of all kinds of grievances by means of miscellaneous petitions still persists. This has laid a heavy burden of work upon Ministers leaving them insufficient time to devote to important questions of policy and administration or the consideration of applications which lie to them legitimately. It has also resulted in increase of work in the Secretariat and offices of Heads of Departments and local officers. For these reasons, the Provincial Government, though fully anxious to redress genuine grievances, desires that the public should take the fullest possible advantage of the local official machinery available for the purpose, and appeals to all concerned not to place an undue strain on Ministers by the direct submission of miscellaneous petitions to them. To this end, Government suggests that the procedure indicated below should be observed:—

- (a) Applications relating to local grievances or the conduct of officers subordinate to the district heads of departments should be addressed in the first instance to the local head concerned, *e.g.*, the Deputy Commissioner, the District Superintendent of Police, the Divisional Forest Officer. If the applicant is aggrieved by the order passed by these officers it is open to him to represent his case to the head of the department, *e.g.*, Commissioner, Inspector-General of Police, Chief Conservator of Forests.
- (b) Applications relating to the actions of local heads of departments should be addressed to the head of the department concerned. If the applicant is not satisfied by the action taken, it is open to him to address the Provincial Government in the matter.
- (c) All such applications should ordinarily be disposed of within a month or as early as possible. If the applicant does not know the result of his petition within a month he should approach the Commissioner and if he still does not get a reply for another month he should then approach the Provincial Government or the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department concerned.

(d) Petitions or representations by Government servants regarding service matters should be submitted through the proper channel, *i.e.*, through the head of the office or department to which the petitioner belongs or belonged. The submission of an advance copy of a petition or representation is in contravention of standing orders, and is already prohibited.

3. The practice of sending anonymous petitions is most undesirable, and the public are advised not to resort to it. Similarly, applications containing vague allegations or insinuations of complaints relating to matters which are not recent will be ignored. Petitions will not be attended to regarding any matters which properly fall within the jurisdiction of courts. Government will not consider a petition unless they are satisfied that the petitioner has already applied to the chief local authority or officer. Government will not entertain an appeal from a person in the employment of a local board, a municipality or any other local body in respect of any action or decision affecting the terms of his employment which is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the local body concerned. Applications for employment in the service of Government or of local bodies should be addressed to the proper officer or authority concerned and not to Government.

4. Applications received by Ministers or Secretaries to Government in contravention of the procedure laid down in paragraph 2 above, as well as those of the nature referred to in paragraph 3, will be filed.

5. In this connection, Government desires to draw the attention of the public to General Administration Department's letter No 2279-1816-II, dated the 28th September 1938, in which the Deputy Commissioners have been asked to place at the disposal of a member of the Assembly certain information touching the welfare of the constituency which he represents. The public would be well advised to seek advice of the member of the Assembly and eliciting relevant information from him before making complaints. This would result in giving definite and proper shape to the complaints which can thereafter be promptly dealt with.

6. Government thinks that the public can rely on the local officers and has no doubt that the latter on their part will deal promptly and adequately with petitions or representations received by them either direct or through the local member of the Legislative Assembly, and will inform the parties of the action taken on them. Steps are also being taken to draw the attention of all officers to their responsibilities in this respect.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 21st January 1939.

The attention of Government has been drawn to the statements made in the Muslim Press and on the platform alleging that the Muhammadans are inadequately represented in the public

services under the control of the Provincial Government and that they are being eliminated from them. As the figures given below show, these statements are entirely incorrect.

2. The fact is that the Muhammadans, who form 4.4 per cent of the total population of the province enjoy representation in the public services vastly in excess of their numerical proportion. The percentage of Muhammadans in the public services in 1936-37 was 23.05. In 1937-38 it rose to 23.26. A further analysis of these figures according to the classification of the services is not without interest. On 1st April 1937, 8.8 per cent of the posts in the provincial services were held by Muhammadans, the corresponding percentage on the 1st October 1938 being 9.34. In the Provincial Police Service, the percentage of Muhammadans was as high as 35 on the 1st October 1938. In the subordinate executive services, excluding Constables and Head Constables in the Police Department, Muhammadans held 19.88 per cent of posts on the 1st April 1937, the percentage on the 1st April 1938 being 19.4. In the Veterinary Department, 35 per cent of posts belonging to the subordinate executive service were held by Muhammadans on the 1st April 1938, the percentage in the Police and Forest Departments being 29.9 and 26.7 respectively. 29.37 per cent of posts of Constables and Head Constables were held by Muhammadans on the 31st December 1936, and the percentage on the 31st December 1937 increased to 30. As regards the ministerial services, Muhammadans held 14.2 per cent of posts on the 1st April 1937, the figure on the 1st April 1938 being 14.3. In individual offices, *viz.*, those of the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records and the Superintendent, Government Printing, the percentage of posts held by Muhammadans on the 1st April 1938 was 30 and 29.7 respectively.

COMMUNIQUE.

Nagpur, the 31st January 1939.

In its *communiqué*, dated the 23rd December 1938, Government outlined the action which it had taken and which it proposed to take in order to afford effective relief to cultivators in tracts where crops had suffered from unfavourable rains and adverse climatic conditions. Government also gave an assurance that the situation was being carefully watched and that all steps justified by the circumstances would be promptly taken. Government has also carefully considered the representations made to it by public bodies and associations. It now desires to state for the information of the public the measures taken by it so far to implement assurance given.

2. In view of the peculiar conditions of the year, Government issued special instructions to revenue officers to make crop experiments over as wide an area as possible associating leading non-officials with them. The Deputy Commissioners were also instructed to interpret the rules regulating suspensions liberally and to examine with special care the border-line villages and to allow a sufficiently wide margin for possible errors of judgment in making the estimates, always tilting the balance in favour of

the agriculturists in cases of doubt. Government believes that these instructions have been fully carried out. The results of the enquiries made by the revenue officers have moreover been checked wherever possible with the estimates of the officers of the Agriculture Department. Government considers that the estimates so arrived at are reasonably accurate for the purpose of determining the extent of relief called for.

3. As a result of the enquiries made by the revenue officers, the estimated suspensions of kharif kist in the cotton districts of the Province are as shown below:—

<i>Central Provinces.</i>		Rs.	Rs.
Nagpur	..	2,89,000	
Wardha	..	2,26,000	
Chanda	..	37,000	
Chhindwara	..	51,000	
		6,03,000	
<i>Berar.</i>			
Amraoti	..	2,38,000	
Akola	..	4,15,000	
Yeotmal	..	1,45,000	
Buldana	..	73,000	
		8,71,000	
Total	..		14,74,000

It may be mentioned that detailed calculations and checking are still not over, and some changes may have to be made in the case of border-line villages, and the above figures may go up further. They, however, give a fairly accurate idea of the extent of suspensions that are likely to be sanctioned.

4. In judging the adequacy of the relief which is expected to be granted this year, it is necessary to keep in mind certain facts of the situation. It is well known that the damage this year is largely confined to cotton crops which occupy only a certain percentage of the total cropped area. The other crops have comparatively suffered much less. The area under cotton in the chief cotton growing districts varies from 17 per cent of the total cropped area in Nagpur district to 48 per cent in Amraoti district.

5. While comparing the relief granted to several districts, it should be remembered that not only does its extent depend upon the distribution of the cropped area between different kinds of crops but also upon the incidence of assessment and the distribution of the damage. There is another point, arising from the different systems of land tenures in Central Provinces and in Berar, which should not be lost sight of while comparing the relief granted in districts in these areas. In Berar the prevailing

tenure is raiyatwari, so to a great extent the relief to the actual tiller of the soil is represented by the figures of the suspension granted. In the Central Provinces, however, the malguzari tenure prevails, and the rents roughly are double the land revenue. The actual relief to the tiller of the soil in the districts of the Central Provinces will therefore be approximately double of the amount of land revenue suspended. In this connection attention may also be drawn to the fact that the incidence of revenue in Berar, except in Yeotmal district, is appreciably higher than the incidence of rent in the Central Provinces. It may further be pointed out that the suspensions given above relate only to the kharif kist and not to the total demand which includes the rabi kist also. If due regard is paid to all these facts, it would be clear that the suspensions have been granted on a generous scale.

6. The other revenue concessions already granted by Government or about to be granted may also be enumerated here so as to enable the public to view the relief given by way of suspensions in proper perspective:—

- (a) A permanent rebate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent was given to the smaller peasants in all the district of the province with effect from the last year.
- (b) Twenty-five per cent of the enhancement imposed at the second revision settlement of the seven taluqs in West Berar has been remitted for a period of five years. Owing, however, to the delay caused by the need of detailed calculations, this order could not be given effect to last year, with the result that most people affected will this year get the benefit of remission for two years, that is to say, this year they would have to pay only half of the enhancement in the revenue.
- (c) In addition to this, in view of the special conditions prevailing in Berar, Government has, as a special measure of relief, ordered a further rebate in the current year amounting to an additional $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the enhancement of revenue in the seven taluqs in West Berar. By the combined operation of the facts mentioned in this and the preceding paragraph the agriculturists in the seven taluqs would have actually to pay only $41\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the enhancement in revenue for this year.
- (d) Government has written off all outstandings up to the 1st August 1937, of resident cultivators in the seven taluqs in Berar owning not more than 25 acres of land.

7. Government is confident that the public will realize that the combined relief granted above is adequate and even liberal, and it is only necessary to add that, difficult as the financial position of the Province is, that fact has not been allowed to come in the way of assessing the degree of relief appropriate in the prevailing circumstances. Government is aware that, nevertheless, there may be complaints of inadequate relief in some borderline villages, specially in Nagpur and Wardha districts, where the

damage to cotton crop is more than in other districts. Government has ordered that if any such specific complaints are received, they should be carefully enquired into and local M.L.As. and non-officials including office-bearers of the local Congress Committees should be consulted in the matter.

8. Apart from the cotton districts with which the above paragraphs mainly deal, complaints have also been received by Government of sporadic damage to other kharif crops in other parts of the Province. The Deputy Commissioners of these districts have already taken suitable action to give the relief required by the circumstances. In these areas also, if there are any specific complaints of border-line villages having missed the suspension due under the rules, the Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to have them carefully examined and to consult local M.L.As. and non-officials including office-bearers of local Congress Committees.

9. Government takes this opportunity of stating here for the information of the public that it has also received reports from some districts of damage to *rabi* crops. The Deputy Commissioners are vigilant in the matter, and have also been instructed to make careful enquiries in association with leading non-officials and to take such measures as may be necessary.

10. Government have given this whole question much care and thought and the decisions described in the preceding paragraphs represent conclusions based on the most elaborate enquiries and arrived at after the fullest deliberation. They expect the public to realise this and they intend to ensure that the balance of the kharif land revenue demand due in the areas affected shall be recovered as expeditiously as possible.

11. Finally it may be stated that Government is cognisant of the wide-spread demand for scarcity relief from various quarters. The attention of the revenue officers has already been drawn to this, and they are very carefully watching the situation and preparing the machinery for organizing relief works as soon as the necessity for them arises. The Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to consult non-official opinion on the necessity and nature of relief works. The public may rest assured that such action to give relief to the people as the situation may require will be taken without any delay.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION ON RE-ORGANIZATION OF CO-OPERATION

- I.—Establishment of Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks.
- II.—Establishment of Crop Loan Societies with limited liability.
- III.—Scheme for the restoration of lands and grant of long-term instalments.
- IV.—Organization of Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies.
- V.—Reduction in the rate of interest charged to members of Primary Societies.

I.—ESTABLISHMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE LAND MORTGAGE BANKS

The land mortgage bank movement is of recent origin in this province. Some four years ago a beginning was made with the establishment of two banks in Berar and after watching the working of these banks for some time, Government ordered the establishment of eight banks two years ago. Ten more banks have been recently registered. The policy of Government now is to extend these banks so that every part of the province comes within the jurisdiction of one bank or another. It is expected that this programme will be fully carried out by the beginning of April 1940.

2. As regards details about the working of these banks it may be pointed out that when the Central Land Mortgage Bank is established, it will be the chief financing bank, but till then the Provincial Bank has agreed to provide the necessary accommodation. Government has guaranteed both principal of, and interest on, debentures to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been appointed the Trustee. The Provincial Bank charges $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the primary banks and the latter charge to the borrowers $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent rate of interest. Loans are given for repayment of old debts, for improvement of land, and only sparingly for purchase of new land provided that such purchase makes the holding more economical or is intended to improve cultivation. Loans are repayable in a period not exceeding 20 years. All the existing debts of the borrowers must be cleared and the loan to be given is not to exceed 50 per cent of the assets which will be mortgaged. The minimum and maximum limits in respect of loans are Rs. 150 and Rs. 25,000 respectively.

3. Public opinion favours the establishment of land mortgage banks everywhere. The progress made so far is encouraging and there is reason to believe that these banks have a great future.

II.—ESTABLISHMENT OF CRORE LOAN SOCIETIES WITH LIMITED LIABILITY

The non-official co-operative opinion was that solvent and really good persons were not willing to come into the fold of the co-operative movement and it was very difficult to form new societies on the basis of joint and several liability. The system of joint liability which had been in force in primary societies for several years could not be changed at once. However, out of deference to those who considered that solvent agriculturists were not coming forward to join primary societies on account of the fear of joint liability, Government agreed to experiment with societies with limited liability in Berar. Government sanctioned the registration of 12 such societies last year. It is gratifying to note that these societies have so far worked satisfactorily. Government has, therefore, been pleased to extend the experiment to 50 more societies in Berar and 20 societies in the Central Provinces.

III.—SCHEMES FOR THE RESTORATION OF LANDS AND GRANT OF LONG TERM INSTALMENTS

The Co-operative Central Banks in Berar advanced loans on the basis of assets allowed them to be concentrated in a few hands, did not take immediate action at the onset of the depression in 1930 and are now obliged to acquiring lands through coercive action although they hardly yield even land revenue. The Berar banks now possess 46,000 acres of land and every year more is acquired than sold.

2. To solve the twin problem of liquefying frozen overdues and of restoring lands to *ex*-owners, Government has recently sanctioned a scheme on the lines of the Burma scheme and it is now being tried in the first instance in the Yeotmal district where the financial position is not so acute as in other banks in Berar. In brief, the scheme is that a member is to be given back on lease the land originally belonging to him for a certain number of years. If he pays the lease money regularly for that period, the central bank will transfer the land to him at the end of the stipulated period. The yearly lease money shall be equivalent to the annual equated instalment required for repaying a debt of an amount equal to the estimated market value of the land, to be determined after a joint inquiry on the spot by an officer of the Co-operative Department and a representative of the Bank, the interest being charged at 4½ per cent (land revenue and cesses to be paid by the lessee). The number of instalments shall not exceed 25.

3. If the above scheme achieves even a fair measure of success it will be applied to other banks in Berar.

IV.—ORGANIZATION OF MULTI-PURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Single purpose societies though well established in this Province have failed to relieve their members of the crushing burden of debt because they touched only one aspect of the problem and did not attack it on all sides. Provision of cheap credit though important, could not possibly be the only remedy for removing indebtedness so long as the other causes to increase it existed. The real solution lay in removing the causes which militated against an increase of the farmer's income, and put him on a surplus economy by removing the disequilibrium in his family budget. For this reason it is decided to organize multi-purpose societies which would include within their ambit all economic activities relating to the regeneration of the village, such as, supply of cheap credit, supply of the articles of daily use and husbandry, improving the methods of cultivation, sale of the produce of members, implementing the income of the members by inducing them to make proper use of their spare time and to take to subsidiary industries, by providing education facilities, by improving the standard of living, by reducing the wasteful expenditure on litigation and ceremonies, etc. Thus in order to effect an improvement in the economic condition of the villager all phases touching his life must be attacked. It is not possible to organize in a village one society

for each purpose because it would mean waste of energy. Moreover so many workers to run the different societies are not available in a village.

2. In order to give effect to the above scheme Government has recently sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5,100 for the organization of 10 Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies at suitable places and construction of godowns during the current financial year. Two proposals for registration of the above type of societies have already been received and accepted.

V.—REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF INTEREST CHARGED TO MEMBERS OF PRIMARY SOCIETIES

One of the items in the programme approved by Government was the examination of the possibility of reducing substantially the rate of interest on loans advanced by banks to societies and by societies to members. The question was fully examined and consequently the central banks were advised to curtail their expenses and to reduce the margin between borrowing and lending so that benefit of cheap capital is passed on to the agriculturists, cheap credit being the chief, if not the sole, object of the institutions. Most of the central banks and societies have accordingly reduced their lending rates. The rates of interest to members which generally varied from 9 to 12 per cent now range between 4 and 11 per cent.

**PART IV.—ACTS ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR**

The following Acts received His Excellency the Governor's assent during the quarter :—

Central Provinces and Berar Act No. I of 1939.

The Central Provinces Revision of the Land Revenue of Estates Act, 1939.

Central Provinces and Berar Act No. II of 1939.

The Central Provinces Courts (Amendment) Act, 1939.

Central Provinces and Berar Act No. III of 1939.

The Central Provinces Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1939.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR GOVERNMENT AT WORK

THE ASSEMBLY NUMBER
From 1st February to 30th April 1939.
VOLUME II—No. 2

Revenue and Expenditure of the Central and Provincial Governments as estimated in the Budget for 1939-40

(The figures are in thousands of rupees)

	Revenue	Expenditure	Deficit	Surplus
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central Government ..	1,21,79,95	1,21,76,79	..	3,16
Central Provinces ..	4,84,74	4,83,36	..	1,38
Punjab ..	12,01,79	11,96,13	..	5,66
Orissa ..	1,84,32	2,02,67	18,35	..
Bihar ..	5,38,42	5,37,67	..	75
Madras ..	16,23,45	16,40,72	17,27	..
Sind (including the Central Government's subvention of Rs. 1,05,00,000).	3,83,23	3,76,35	..	6,88
Bengal ..	13,77,76	14,64,56	86,80	..
Bombay ..	12,55,17	12,83,63	28,46	..
United Provinces ..	13,31,45	13,69,38	37,93	..
Assam ..	2,84,45	3,01,88	17,43	..
North-West Frontier ..	1,80,65	1,36,42	5,77	..

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CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

NAGPUR
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1939

INTRODUCTORY

This quarterly review covers the period from the 1st February to the 30th April 1939. A brief description of legislation before the Provincial Legislative Assembly with particular reference to the budgetary position and its special features are given in Part I-A. In the section B of Part I the activities of Government in the various departments are summarized. The other Parts follow the arrangements of the previous pamphlet. Part III includes important Government Communiqués and Press Notes issued till the end of May for facility of reference. As no Acts came up for assent before His Excellency the Governor during the interval, Part IV has been omitted.

N. P. SHRIVASTAV,

*Publicity Officer to Government,
Central Provinces & Berar.*

NAGPUR :

The 31st May 1939.

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THE CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR GOVERNMENT AT WORK

PART I

A.—Legislative business before the Assembly. *Provincial Budget.*

Provincial Budget at a glance—

	Actuals for 1937-38 In Lakhs	Revised estimates for 1938-39 In Lakhs	Estimates for 1939-40 In Lakhs
Revenue ..	453.71	440.41	484.74
Expenditure ..	466.00	474.59	483.36
Deficit ..	-12.29	-34.18	+1.38

Budgetary Position in Figures.

Transactions excluding Famine Relief Fund—

[In thousands of Rupees.]

I. Opening balance	..	22,15
II. Revenue section—		
(a) Revenue receipts	..	4,84,74
(b) Revenue expenditure	..	4,83,36
	Surplus	... +1,38
III. Capital, debt, deposit and advances—		
(a) Receipts	..	1,28,80
(b) Disbursements	..	1,30,86
	Net	.. -2,06
IV. Closing balance	...	21,47*
Famine Relief Fund—		
I. Opening balance	..	3,53
		1,59
II. Receipts	..	5,12
III. Payments	..	4,56
IV. Closing balance	..	56†

*Includes (a) normal balance in treasuries Rs. 11,35 and (b) minimum balance in the Reserve Bank 10.00.

†This represents cash balance and excludes 51,21 which has been invested in Government securities of the nominal value of 49,54.

Principal items of new expenditure as revealed in the budget.—The total new expenditure for which provision has been made amounts to Rs. 26.09 lakhs, but of this Rs. 16.31 lakhs represents semi-recurring commitments or new grants-in-aid to local bodies which will be paid out of the proceeds of certain enactments which are for the first time being credited to provincial revenues under the new Constitution. Real new expenditure thus amounts to Rs. 9.78 lakhs and represents essential and inevitable requirements. A road programme amounting to Rs. 45 lakhs, to be financed largely from the Road Fund, has been drawn up and forwarded to the Central Government for their approval. The actual provision made on this account in the budget is Rs. 4.50 lakhs, exclusive of Rs. 32,000 for new supply of tools and plants and of Rs. 50,000 earmarked for minor road works in the Minor Works Assignment of Rs. 2 lakhs.

The only provision made for Major Works other than roads is of Rs. 18,000 for quarters for the additional staff of the Mental Hospital, Nagpur, which was sanctioned last year.

The usual provision of Rs. 3,500 for the investigation of water-supply projects has been made, but Rs. 5,000 provided for the construction of masonry bunds at selected sites in Government forests to ensure water-supply to cattle represents a new departure.

A modest amount of Rs. 5,000 has been provided for building accommodation for forest guards. Of greater importance, is a sum of Rs. 12,000 on account of a proposed increase in the initial pay of forest guards by Re. 1, viz., from Rs. 12 to Rs. 13 per mensem.

In accordance with the accepted policy, expenditure on Irrigation is confined only to the construction of such works as are essential for safeguarding the canals and reservoirs or for removing just grievances. The provision of Rs. 13,000 for Irrigation—Minor Works is mostly for expenditure on watercourses which, under section 65 of the Central Provinces Irrigation Act, Government is bound to make on the permanent holders of irrigable land undertaking to maintain them at their own expense.

Among items intended more directly for the improvement of village life are the amounts provided for village uplift work and the opening of 15 new village uplift centres in addition to the 50 centres already sanctioned at a recurring expenditure of Rs. 25,500 per annum, prohibition propaganda, anti-leprosy propaganda and the encouragement of hand-spinning and hand-weaving, making a total of Rs. 46,000.

The special needs of the rural areas have been prominently borne in mind in the planning of new expenditure in the Medical and Public Health Departments. A fairly large proportion of the new expenditure has this year been allotted to these two departments. Of two large items, the first of Rs. 58,000 representing grants to the Dufferin Fund Hospitals, is semi-recurrent but includes an increase of Rs. 5,000 for hospitals in Berar which have so far been receiving a smaller allotment per bed than hospitals in the Central Provinces. Another large item, viz., Rs. 52,000 for the promotion of Ayurvedic and Unani medicine, is an earnest of Government's intention to implement the recommendations of the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine. Yet another item of interest is the provision of Rs. 9,000 made for subsidizing allopathic practitioners in

order to encourage them to settle in rural areas. As regards public health, Government's plans for organizing a Public Health Service have now been completed and Rs. 64,000 provided on this account to make a beginning, however inadequate with a skeleton Public Health Service. Arrangements are being made also for the provision of sanitary training of Sub-Assistant Health Officers in the province. The success of the existing leprosy centres in Chhattisgarh has encouraged Government to provide Rs. 8,000 for opening three more centres, two of which will be in Berar.

In the Education Department the most important scheme for which provision has been made is the Vidya Mandir Scheme for which the Assembly has voted Rs. 2 lakhs last year. The original estimates were erroneous, the cost of cultivation of the Vidya Mandir plots, in particular, having been underestimated, and as a consequence it has not been possible to try the experiments at the rate of two per tahsil, making a total of 166 for the province. There has been no dearth of offers of land, and both the local officers of the Agriculture Department and the Deputy Commissioners concerned have recommended the acceptance of 98 plots. The estimates have been thoroughly revised and provision has been made in the budget for expenditure on the scheme sufficient for financing 100 Vidya Mandirs in the first year of their existence. The total amount required for the experiment is now Rs. 2,66 lakhs, of which Rs. 1,79 lakhs will have been spent during 1938-39. Of the balance of Rs. 87,000 required during 1939-40, Rs. 21,000 have been included as ordinary expenditure and Rs. 66,000 as new expenditure.

Provision for the teaching of agriculture in the Government middle schools at Multai and Talegaon has been made in furtherance of the policy of giving an agricultural bias to education in rural areas. The items in the Education budget for the maintenance of hostels for Harijans or the construction or maintenance of schools and hostels and the grant of stipends for the Bhumijans (aboriginals) total Rs. 17,000.

In the Agriculture Department increased provision has been made for the continuance of the botanical research and marketing schemes for which financial assistance is extended by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research or the Indian Central Cotton Committee. Provision of Rs. 12,000 has been made for opening a small open-pan sugar factory in Chhattisgarh, the primary object of which is to demonstrate to cultivators in the area commanded by the Maniari reservoir in the Bilaspur district that sugarcane can be profitably grown in that area. In connection with the items of new expenditure pertaining to the Agriculture Department the fact should not be overlooked that in the initial stages the cultivation of Vidya Mandir plots will be carried out under the direct control and supervision of officers of the Agriculture Department, and that these plots are expected to serve as demonstration centres to the surrounding areas.

In the Industries Department provision of Rs. 10,000 has been made for opening two aided schools of handicrafts in one of which the medium of instruction will be Urdu.

Present financial position—Adjustment of Revenue and Expenditure.—The revenue concessions that the Government had granted so far, considered together with the increased taxation imposed, may be regarded as re-adjustment of the burden of

taxation. The total concessions so far given amount to Rs. 23.43 lakhs and consist of Rs. 10.25 lakhs as abatement of land revenue, Rs. 10 lakhs fall in stamp revenue due to debt conciliation, Rs. 2 lakhs representing reduction in irrigation water-rates, and Rs. 1.18 lakhs loss due to grazing and other forest concessions. To this loss should be added Rs. 8 lakhs, being the revenue foregone in Excise on account of the policy of prohibition. The total revenue thus surrendered amounts to Rs. 31.43 lakhs. On the other side of the account is the augmentation of revenue due to new taxation or to enhancement of existing fees and taxes consisting of Rs. 3.40 lakhs, enhancement of zamindari land revenue, Rs. 2.50 lakhs, the estimated yield from sales tax on motor spirit and lubricants, Rs. 2.25 lakhs for the tax on trades, professions, etc., and Rs. 1.25 lakhs revenue from increased rates of registration fees totalling Rs. 9.40 lakhs. Another item of re-adjustment which has been carried out by Government is a reduction in administrative expenditure. The total economies effected so far either on the recommendations of the Economy Committee or on Government's own initiative amount to Rs. 15 lakhs, and orders will shortly be passed on some other recommendations of the Committee which will lead to some further saving. On the other hand, Government had to find a little over Rs. 16 lakhs to meet fresh liabilities made up of the new recurring expenditure undertaken since the year 1936-37 (Rs. 8.27 lakhs), the service of the first public loan (Rs. 2.91 lakhs), the inevitable annual rise in pension charges (Rs. 2 lakhs), the cost of ways and means accommodation (Rs. 1 lakh) and other miscellaneous increases in expenditure necessitated by the new system of Government (Rs. 2 lakhs).

The total amount of revenue foregone or additional liabilities incurred is thus Rs. 47.61 lakhs, while saving in expenditure due to economies or augmentation of resources totals Rs. 25.38 lakhs, leaving a balance of Rs. 23.23 lakhs on the wrong side of the account. Even if no further new expenditure be incurred, this balance may be regarded as the measure of the new taxation Government should be entitled to impose in order merely to balance the budget.

Justification and Scope for New Taxation.—The question before Government was to what extent it would be justified in proposing new taxation in order either to make up the loss of revenue due to extension of prohibition or to finance new expenditure in the nation-building departments. Government was aware of the suggestion that the loss on prohibition should be made up by increasing taxation in the urban areas, but in view of the fact that this is a predominantly agricultural province and urban areas are mostly oversize villages, Government saw no ready means of giving practical effect to this suggestion. Government also foresaw difficulties in being able to tap immediately certain of the other potential reserves of the finances of the province such as, for instance, the enhancement of the share of assets retained by the State in the malguzari areas in the Central Provinces. There was also another reason why Government considered it premature to ask for the approval of the legislature to any ambitious plans of new taxation or to any bold experiments in governance and public finance such as have been announced elsewhere and have evoked just admiration. The whole financial position is being reviewed by a Committee appointed for the

purpose. That Committee has covered much useful ground, but has not so far been able to complete its task. Government expects to find in its recommendations a clear indication of the reserve taxable capacity of the province and of the most prudent and equitable way of tapping. In the meanwhile Government decided to ask the Legislative Assembly to agree only to so much taxation as will suffice to finance inevitable and essential items of new expenditure.

A NOTE ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Budget session of the Provincial Assembly commenced on the 15th March and concluded on the 20th April 1939.

Questions.—The total number of questions received for this session was 682, as against 922 in the September session. Of these as many as 570 questions were answered.

Bills.—In all 18 official and five non-official bills were passed into law during the session; while six official bills were sent to select committees and seven were circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon.

Resolutions.—Out of the 74 non-official resolutions admitted for discussion five were discussed. They related mostly to asking for relief for the agriculturists. Three of these resolutions were withdrawn, one was defeated and one talked out for want of time.

Official Bills

The following are the official bills passed during the session :—

(1) *The Central Provinces Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1938 (77 of 1938).*—This Bill brings certain officials and servants of district councils and local boards within the category of public servants as defined by section 21 of Indian Penal Code.

(2) *The Central Provinces Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (35 of 1939).*—This provides that a candidate for election in a ward shall be resident within the limits of the municipality and shall be enrolled as a voter on the electoral roll of any ward in such municipality.

(3) *The Central Provinces Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (36 of 1939).*—This provides for (1) the election of the President of a municipal committee by the general body of voters, (2) the removal of the President on a no-confidence motion carried by a bare majority, and (3) the increase of the term of office of members from three years to five years.

(4) *The Central Provinces Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (37 of 1939).*—This makes persons residing within the limits of a military cantonment, of a town having a municipality or a notified area eligible for election, selection or appointment as Chairman, Vice-Chairman or member of a district council or local board.

(5) *The Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (16 of 1939).*—This prohibits the advertising of liquor through newspapers, books or other publications or in any other manner, and also the circulation of any publication containing such an advertisement.

(6) *The Central Provinces and Berar Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1938 (12 of 1938).*—This imposes a statutory liability on the owners of factories to obtain registration certificates annually and provides for penalty for failure to obtain such a certificate.

(7) *The Central Provinces Moneylenders (Supplementary) Bill, 1939 (21 of 1939).*—This gives retrospective effect to section 2 of the Central Provinces Moneylenders (Second Amendment) Act, 1937 (XXIV of 1937), which is in force with effect from the 19th March 1937 but shall now be deemed to be in force with effect from the 1st April 1935.

(8) *The Central Provinces and Berar Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (38 of 1939).*—It provides for stay of proceedings in the case of certain decrees of civil courts by removing all ambiguities in the interpretation of section 3 of the Act.

(9) *The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (39 of 1939).*—This Bill removes the difficulty experienced in recovering the cost of registering agreements from the creditors as arrears of land revenue.

(10) *The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (40 of 1939).*—This provides for the postponement of payment of instalments of debts fixed by the Debt Conciliation Boards consequent on the suspension or remission of land revenue or rent due to failure of crops.

(11) *The Central Provinces and Berar Prisoners (Amendment) Bill, 1938 (49 of 1938).*—This Bill provides for a system of release of well-behaved prisoners who are not habitual criminals for short periods under certain conditions in order to enable them to visit their homes.

(12) *The Central Provinces and Berar Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 1938 (9 of 1938).*—This Bill provides for the treatment of political prisoners in jails on a different footing from that given to the ordinary criminals.

(13) *The Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Bill, 1938 (10 of 1938).*—This Bill while retaining the successful features of the Debt Conciliation Act such as the scheme for repayment and simple machinery for recovery of the defaulted instalments as arrears of land revenue, confers wide powers on the Debt Relief Courts which replace the present Debt Conciliation Boards. These courts are given sufficient powers to deal with recalcitrants and to reduce interest and principal in certain cases according to fixed graduated scales.

(14) *The Central Provinces and Berar Indian Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill, 1938 (52 of 1938).*—This brings the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, in so far as it applies to the Advocates of the High Court of Judicature at Nagpur, in conformity with the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, as amended by the Assembly restricting the scope of its section 13 (f) to professional misconduct only.

(15) *The Central Provinces and Berar Indian Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (17 of 1939).*—This enhances the rates of stamp duties on non-judicial stamps to the level prevailing in most other provinces. The additional income derived from this source will be made available for financing schemes for developments. The operation of this measure is limited to one year only.

(16) *The Central Provinces and Berar Motor Vehicles Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (22 of 1939).*—This provides for enhancing the rates of fees payable in respect of certain classes of private motor vehicles. This Act is to remain in force for one year only.

(17) *The Central Provinces and Berar Tobacco Bill, 1939 (23 of 1939).*—This provides for the levy of the licence fees with a view to regulate the sale of tobacco. The Act shall remain in force for a period of one year only.

(18) *The Central Provinces and Berar Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (24 of 1939).*—It provides for the enhancement of the rate of the sales tax on the sale of the motor spirits and lubricants from 5 to 8 per cent. The enhanced rate will remain in force for a period of one year only.

Non-official Bills

The following five are the non-official bills passed during this session :—

(1) *The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1937 (13 of 1937).*—This provides for the exclusion of village profits from the liabilities of debt and also for counting the period of 30 days for filing an objection against the order of the board from the date of receipt of intimation of admission or dismissal of an application for conciliation.

(2) *The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1937 (32 of 1937).*—Provides for the reduction of the percentage of the creditors who should agree from 40 to 30 per cent before an agreement embodying the scheme of conciliation under the Act can be executed.

(3) *The Central Provinces Moneylenders (Amendment) Bill, 1937 (26 of 1937).*—This puts a stop to the practice followed by some moneylenders of capitalizing their interest. The Bill also makes the rule of *Damdūput* absolute in respect of loans made before the Central Provinces Moneylenders Act, 1934, came into force.

(4) *The Central Provinces Moneylenders (Amendment) Bill, 1937 (29 of 1937).*—This affords the same relief to a debtor on whose property a voluntary charge has been created as to a mortgagor.

(5) *The Central Provinces and Berar Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill, 1937 (18 of 1937).*—This restricts the scope of section 13 (f) of the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, to professional misconduct only.

The following are the seven Government bills introduced and circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon :—

(1) *The Berar Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (33 of 1939).*—The object of this Bill is to extinguish the rights of occupant of an abandoned holding by process of purchase by the Crown in auction at a price not less than the arrears due on the holding.

(2) *The Central Provinces and Berar Village Panchayat Bill, 1939 (41 of 1939).*—The object is to create such a democratic village organization pulsating with life that would serve as the unit of administration. The new Gram Panchayat will be the unit not only for the purpose of local administration but it will

also be the unit for all manner of collective activity, social, political, and economic, calculated to benefit the rural population. It is proposed to replace the present Village Panchayat Act by an entirely new measure.

(3) *The Central Provinces and Berar Medical Practitioners Bill, 1939 (44 of 1939).*—The object is to regulate the qualifications and to provide for the registration of practitioners of the Indian system of medicine with a view to encourage the study and spread of such system.

(4) *The Central Provinces Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (45 of 1939).*—The object is to substitute selection by elected members in place of nomination by Provincial Government.

(5) *The Central Provinces Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (46 of 1939).*—The aim is to substitute selection by elected members in place of nomination by Provincial Government.

(6) *The Central Provinces and Berar Harijan Temple Worship (Removal of Disabilities) Bill, 1939 (42 of 1939).*—The object of the Bill is to remove all legal difficulties in the way of those trustees of public temples who are convinced of the justice of the claim of Harijans to make use of Hindu public temples and who desire to throw open their temples to them.

(7) *The Central Provinces and Berar Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (43 of 1939).*—The object is to regulate the rates of ginning and pressing by appointing rate-fixing committees which will prescribe maxima rates.

The following are the six Government bills introduced and referred to Select Committees:—

(1) *The Central Provinces Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 1938 (50 of 1938).*—The object is to invest Government with powers to order the direct payment of malik-makbuza revenue into the Government treasury where such course appears desirable.

(2) *The Berar Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 1938 (51 of 1938).*—The object is to give powers to the Deputy Commissioners in regard to the disposal of unoccupied lands similar to those exercised by them under section 58 of the Berar Land Revenue Code.

(3) *The Central Provinces and Berar Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (11 of 1939).*—The object is to empower the court and the collector to vary the rate of interest between 3 and 6 per cent according to circumstances on the deposit of compensation in court.

(4) *The Central Provinces Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1939 (34 of 1939).*—The object is to provide for the adoption of adult franchise for elections to the local bodies in any municipality to be notified by the Provincial Government.

(5) *The Central Provinces Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1938 (53 of 1938).*—The object is to empower Government to take steps to introduce compulsory education in cases where a local authority does not take initiative in the matter.

(6) *The Central Provinces and Berar Collection of Statistics Bill, 1938 (55 of 1938).*—The object is to provide for the statutory authority for the collection of statistics regarding the economic condition of the people of the province.

Statement showing expenditure on nation building departments of Government, Central Provinces and Berar.

Provinces—Central Provinces and Berar

Population—1,53 lakhs.

Departments	Expenditure			Percentage to total expenditure			Expenditure per lakh of population		
	1937-38 Trs.	1938-39 Trs.	1939-40 Trs.	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1937-38 Trs.	1938-39 Trs.	1939-40 Trs.
Scientific	.. 20	15	16	0·04	0·03	0·03	0·13	0·10	0·11
Education	.. 54,94	56,35	56,77	11·70	11·90	11·74	35·88	36·80	37·20
Medical	.. 16,34	16,94	17,45	3·51	3·58	3·62	10·69	11·07	11·41
Public Health	.. 3,92	5,27	5,57	0·84	1·11	1·15	2·56	3·45	3·65
Agriculture	.. 9,94	10,16	10,58	2·13	2·14	2·19	6·49	6·64	6·80
Veterinary	.. 4,88	4,50	5,04	1·05	0·95	1·04	3·19	2·94	3·30
Co-operative	.. 2,60	2,73	2,83	0·56	0·58	0·59	1·70	1·78	1·85
Industries	.. 2,83	2,92	3,78	0·61	0·62	0·78	1·85	1·91	2·47
Total of above	.. 95,35	99,02	1,02,18	20·44	20·91	21·14	62·49	64·69	66·79
Total expenditure	.. 4,66,00	4,74,59	4,83,36	100·00	100·00	100·00	304·58	310·19	316·00

B.—Departmental Activities

NOTE.—Legislative business of the various departments is given in the preceding section A of Part I.

General Administration.

The ban on the publication mentioned below was lifted :—

“Life of Sardar Bhagat Singh” written by Shri Chandiram Hari Palnitkar.

Circular instructions have been issued to all Heads of Departments to the effect that Government would like khadi to be used on a wider scale all over the province. In particular in order to dispel any prevailing misconception on the subject they have been asked to make it clear to all Government servants that Government does not regard with the slightest disfavour the wearing of khadi by them.

Candidates belonging to scheduled castes have been exempted for a period of one year from the payment of fees on applications—

- (1) for appointment to a post in a Provincial, Subordinate or Ministerial Service,
- (2) for registration of the applicant's name for appointment, and
- (3) for scholarships in Government institutions.

It was brought to the notice of Government that it is the practice with some touring officers halting at the headquarters of a tahsil to require the mukaddam to arrange for the supply of rasad to them. This practice is in contravention of the standing orders in which it is laid down that, where there exist regular shops and markets, or where a temporary bazar can be established at which the articles required can be obtained, it should not be necessary to collect special supplies through the agency of the mukaddam and in such places the mukaddam should not be called upon to collect supplies. Instructions have therefore been issued to Deputy Commissioners that the orders should be strictly complied with in future.

The question of retiring Government servants, not covered by Article 465-A, Civil Service Regulations, on account of inefficiency, has been settled, and it has now been decided that there should be a provision for enabling Government to retire such officers on this ground on the completion of a qualifying service of 25 years. This decision is in effect a deliberalization of the existing pension rules in the case of Government servants in service on the 30th November 1933, Government servants recruited on or after the 1st December 1933 having already been warned of the possible deliberalization of pension rules. On grounds of equity, Government has therefore decided that Government servants in service on the 30th November 1933 if retired for reasons of inefficiency should receive a pension equal to 30/60 of the average emoluments: Those recruited on or after the 1st December 1933 will, when retired, receive pension equal to 25-30/60 of their average emoluments.

Political and Military.

An amount of Rs. 187 collected by the people for holding a Pargana Parishad at Chimore in the Warora tahsil was seized by the Police during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1932. Under verbal orders of the then Deputy Commissioner, the amount was spent in carrying out repairs to the sarai and the road at Chimore. The whole amount has now been refunded by Government to the Taluka Congress Committee, Warora.

Police Department.

Government has accepted the recommendations of the Economy Committee, 1937, and sanctioned the introduction of the following revised scales of pay for constables and head constables with effect from the 1st March 1939:—

Constables	..	..	Rs. 15—21	
Head Constables—				
		Grade I	Grade II	Grade III
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Class I	..	40	33	28
Class II	...	30	26	22

The revised scales of pay will apply only to future entrants. The constables now in service, when promoted to be head constables, will draw the existing scales of pay.

Similarly, in accordance with the recommendations of the Economy Committee Government has sanctioned the abolition of the payment of stipends to all candidates selected for training as Sub-Inspectors in the Police Training College at Saugor and has substituted a system of scholarships at the rate of Rs. 30 per mensem each. The number of scholarships awarded in any one year will not exceed one-third of the number of candidates admitted for training in that year. The scholarships will be awarded only to those candidates who really stand in need of them. The scheme will be given effect to from the commencement of the next annual session of the College.

Government has issued orders that the names of persons convicted during the Civil Disobedience Movement, which are at present entered in the Village Crime Note-book, described in regulations 646—651 of the Central Provinces and Berar Police Regulations and in the Village Watchman's Report Book, along with the names of persons convicted of ordinary offences, should be deleted from both the books.

Government has decided that the dismounting of the mounted police force, as previously reported, should take effect from the 31st July 1939 at the latest instead of from the 1st April 1939.

Jail Department.

Executive instructions have been issued to all Superintendents of jails in the Province regarding the treatment of prisoners and the behaviour of the jail staff towards the visitors.

It has been emphasised that the conduct of all jail officials should be one of uniform courtesy, politeness and civility to the members of the public visiting jails on some business and to the friends and relations of the prisoners themselves. All jail officials have further been instructed to treat prisoners with good temper, humanity and strict impartiality and particularly to listen to any complaint or grievance, while at the same time maintaining strict discipline and enforcing observance of rules and regulations. It has in conclusion been impressed upon them that the purpose of imprisonment is reformatory rather than punitive.

Instructions have been issued that details of every case in which whipping is inflicted as a jail punishment, should, in future, be reported to Government.

In the Chhindwara jail where tubercular prisoners are confined special amenities have been provided for more indoor games to enable the sick prisoners to while away the time which hangs heavily upon them.

With a view to encourage provincial enterprise, the trained *Mochis* of the Government School of Handicrafts, Nagpur, have been formed into a Co-operative Society and the contract for the supply of boots to the Warder staff of the Jail Department has been given to the Society.

Judicial Department.

Sections 4 to 8 and 10 to 17 of the Central Provinces Probation of Offenders Act, 1936 (I of 1936), as applied to Berar, have been extended to the Malkapur and Khamgaon towns in the Buldana district with effect from the 15th February 1939 and to the Drug town and Wardha district with effect from 1st May 1939.

One more post of Subordinate Judge of the second class has been held in abeyance until further orders with effect from the 1st April 1939. One is already held in abeyance with effect from the 16th December 1938.

Revenue Department

Suspensions and remissions for 1938-39.—It will be remembered that in January last, Government issued a press communique announcing the policy of Government to afford effective relief to cultivators in tracts where crops had suffered from unfavourable and adverse climatic conditions. Special instructions were issued to Revenue Officers to make crop experiments over as wide an area as possible associating leading non-officials with them. The Deputy Commissioners were also instructed to interpret the rules regulating suspension liberally. As a result of the enquiries made by the Revenue Officers the estimated suspension of land revenue in the cotton districts of the province was Rs. 14,74,000. Since then the actual suspension and remission on account of the current demand sanctioned up to 31st May 1939 amount to Rs. 18,06,403

(Suspension—Rs. 17,78,687 and Remission—Rs. 27,716), as detailed below:—

District	Suspension		Remission
	1st kist	2nd kist	
	Rs.	Rs.	
Nagpur ..	4,06,139	..	..
Wardha ..	2,26,069	..	..
Chanda ..	28,927	36,756	291
Chhindwara ..	51,115	11,994	2,890
Betul ..	2,729	..	..
Jubbulpore ..	4,959	..	..
Hoshangabad ..	10,417	..	1,444
Nimar ..	..	..	1,615
Mandla ..	..	4,610	19,487
Drug ..	..	..	1,399
Bhandara ..	..	1,07,947	590
Amraoti ..	2,38,256	..	..
Akola ..	4,13,190	..	..
Buldana ..	72,809	6,054	..
Yeotmal ..	1,53,292	3,424	..
Total ..	16,07,902	1,70,785	27,716

Government has also sanctioned the resuspension and remission of old arrears of land revenue as under—

District	Resuspension	Remission
	Rs.	Rs.
Nagpur ..	9,408	45,721
Wardha ..	..	32,398
Chhindwara ..	2,27,153	..
Hoshangabad ..	13,518	..
Mandla ..	24,437	2,718
Chanda ..	6,691	..
Balaghat ..	..	102
Total ..	2,81,207	80,939

N.B.—Proposals received after the 31st May are not included in the above figures.

Taccavi Allotments for 1939-40.—This year Rs. 1,60,000 and Rs. 12,00,000 were budgeted for loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act, respectively. An additional allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 is also sanctioned by Government for loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act, and of Rs. 4,06,000 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, increasing the budgeted amounts to Rs. 2,60,000 and Rs. 16,06,000, respectively. Amounts as detailed below have

been placed at the disposal of the Commissioners of Divisions, Central Provinces and Berar :—

Division	Land Improve-	Agriculturists'
	ment Loans Act	Loans Act
	Rs.	Rs.
Jubbulpore ..	10,500	80,000
Nagpur ..	60,000	1,50,000
Chhattisgarh ..	35,000	1,40,000
Berar ..	1,50,000	12,06,000
Total ..	<u>2,55,500</u>	<u>15,76,000</u>

Test Works.—Test works with a view to provide work for agricultural labourers in the districts of Amraoti, Akola, Buldana, Yeotmal, Nagpur and Wardha have been started. Instructions have also been issued to start earthwork in addition to metal-breaking wherever it is found desirable to do so.

The Revenue Committee which was appointed to overhaul the land revenue and tenancy system in this province has submitted its report. The proposals of the Committee regarding the Tenancy Act have been considered by Government and a bill to amend the Act has been drafted and is being published for public opinion. The Committee's proposals regarding the Land Revenue Act are being considered by Government.

The Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Bill No. 10 of 1938.—The Debt Relief Bill was finally passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 20th April 1939. It has not yet received the assent of the Governor-General.

The main features of the Bill are that Debt Relief Courts will be established for debts below Rs. 25,000 to give relief to such agriculturists as are unable to pay their debts. The Debt Relief Court is empowered to reopen all transactions made twelve years before the last transaction or before the 1st January 1932 whichever is earlier. After ascertaining the liabilities, the Debt Relief Court will calculate interest and reduce the principal of loans originally advanced prior to the 1st January 1932 in accordance with the Schedules appended to the Bill and prepare a scheme for repayment of the debts by transfer of property or by annual instalments after providing a sufficient margin for the maintenance of the debtor. The defaulted instalments can be recovered as arrears of land revenue through the Deputy Commissioner. The Debt Relief Bill excludes from its purview certain classes of debts including the agreements executed before a Debt Conciliation Board. However, in selected areas a Debt Relief Court can be empowered by Government for readjustment of instalments fixed under the Debt Conciliation Act. Revision of the orders of a Debt Relief Court before the District Judge has been provided.

Debt Conciliation Boards.—On the 31st March 1939, there were 37 boards working in 39 tahsils. According to the progressive totals of all the boards so far established up to the end

of March 1939, debts amounting to Rs. 1,139.83 lakhs were conciliated for Rs. 556.64 lakhs effecting a remission of 51 per cent of the demand. 16,644 certificates under section 15 (1) of the Central Provinces Debt Conciliation Act for claims amounting to Rs. 154.43 lakhs were issued declaring that creditors had unreasonably refused amicable settlement.

Co-operation.—The number of all kinds of societies registered during the period is 144. Of these 120 are primary agricultural credit societies. The remaining 24 societies include 16 non-agricultural credit societies for sweepers, shoe-makers and Harijans, two multi-purpose societies, one thrift society, one land mortgage bank, one better living society, one peoples' bank, one crop growers' association and one store.

As a result of the propaganda carried on by the department, two credit and one better living societies have been registered in the prohibition areas of the Narsinghpur sub-division and the Saugor district. Seven proposals for the registration of the thrift and better living societies have been prepared in the areas of the Saugor and the Akola districts. In all 130 *hundi* boxes have so far been supplied amongst bidi-makers, sweepers and shoe-makers in the Saugor town and villages round about Rehli, Khurai and Saugor tahsils.

A draft co-operative societies bill to replace the existing Act has been prepared by the department and submitted to Government.

Concession in respect of the utilization of interest on reserve fund of primary societies for reducing the rate of interest to members has further been extended for the year 1938-39.

During the period (from the 1st February 1939 to the 15th April 1939) 116 applications for loans from primary land mortgage banks involving an amount of Rs. 97,577 have been sanctioned. One new land mortgage bank has been registered at Betul in this period in pursuance of the policy of Government to have a land mortgage bank for each old district in the province.

Debts amounting to Rs. 1,22,796 of the members of primary credit societies have been conciliated by Debt Conciliation Boards in the province and easy instalments have been fixed for their repayment.

The opening ceremony of the newly constructed building of the Chhindwara Co-operative Central Bank, Ltd., was performed by the Hon'ble Pandit Dwarka Prasad Misra, Minister for Co-operation, on the 12th February 1939.

The joint meeting of the Standing Committee of the All-India Co-operative Institute's Association and the Indian Provincial Co-operative Banks' Association was held at Jabulpore on the 8th and 9th April 1939. The Hon'ble Pandit Dwarka Prasad Misra, Minister in charge of Co-operation, who was invited by the Honorary Secretary of the Institute's Association to attend the meeting and to deliver the inaugural address, could not attend it on account of previous engagement. The Registrar and the Senior Deputy Registrar attended the Conference. The message sent by the Hon'ble Minister was read by the Registrar,

In view of the growing deterioration in the co-operative movement in the northern districts and with the object of taking remedial measures, a conference of representatives of central banks in the northern districts was held at Jubbulpore on the 10th April 1939. Pandit K. P. Pande, M.L.A., Chairman of the Northern Divisions Co-operative Institute, was elected President of the meeting. It was attended by the representatives of all except Harda, Betul and Nimar banks. The Conference passed the following resolution unanimously :—

“This meeting of the representatives of the banks in the northern districts requests the Provincial Government to appoint a representative committee to investigate the financial position of the central banks in these districts and to suggest ways and means for the rehabilitation of the movement.”

During the period 23 training classes for members of primary societies were held. They were attended by 1,469 members and 11 non-members. Out of these, 864 members and two non-members came out successful at the test held after the termination of each class. Besides, 12 rallies were arranged at which lectures on co-operation and allied subjects were delivered. In the Bilaspur Bank, a move has been made by which the illiterate members are trained at least to sign their names. By this method 45 members were trained to sign their names.

Agriculture Department

A detailed study of single line cultures of cotton, juar and bajra was carried out with the chief object of isolating superior strains capable of giving higher yields. All the Asiatic types of cotton grown in this section have been examined in detail.

The progeny of improved varieties crossed with the American *Blue Rose* to evolve a variety with bold and translucent rice for the export market were under examination and a study of their grain and endosperm characters was made. Research was carried on in regard to wheat, gram, sann-hemp and castor.

A report of damage to orange trees by *Indarbela* at Kareli (Narsinghpur) was received and the affected plants were treated with chlorasol. The following research problems have been taken in hand :—

- (1) Finding out a cheaper method than chlorasol of treating *Indarbela*.
- (2) Extent of damage by beetle-borer to orange.
- (3) Orange fruit moths.
- (4) Insecticidal value of certain indigenous plants.

A serious infestation of tobacco caterpillars (*Prodenia litura*) which threatened to destroy the valuable clover crop at Telinkheri was successfully brought under control in a few days.

Attacks by Aphis and the Red pumpkin beetle (*Anlacophora*) on melon creepers in the Nimar district were dealt with. Agricultural work is receiving attention.

Some orange and mosambique gardens attacked by disease were examined and necessary advice for the control of the disease was given. Some *pan* gardens at Mandla were also treated. Usual research work was continued.

Work on linseed, sesamum, niger and safflower is being done with a view to evolving higher yielding and disease-resistant varieties possessing a higher oil percentage. Many indigenous and foreign varieties were under investigation.

Experiments to evolve economic methods for extracting fibres from linseed stalks were conducted and it is found that the fibre can be extracted directly from the unretted stalks. It has also been found possible to cottonise the fibre, the product being a cotton-like fibre which can be spun into yarn, pure or mixed with cotton in different proportions.

At the Nagpur orange grading station 2,785 baskets of oranges were graded according to the "Agmark" Act and these were disposed of in Calcutta. A few consignments of graded oranges were sent to the All-India Industrial Exhibition at Karachi and the All-India Swadeshi Exhibition at Trichur with a view to stimulating the "Agmark" orange trade.

Varieties of fine rice are being physically analysed for the purpose of fixing grade standards.

Working of ghee grading stations and co-operative ghee societies has been studied by an Assistant Marketing Officer who visited Delhi, Khurja, Etawa and Cawnpore in this connection.

An agricultural exhibition was held at the Tripuri Congress session when a number of graphs and charts showing the production, imports, exports and consumption of crops such as wheat, rice, linseed, groundnut, tobacco, oranges and animal products such as butter, milk, hides and skins were prepared for exhibition. Improved varieties of seeds, crops and fodder grasses were also exhibited. An exhibition was arranged on the 28th February at the College Farm, Nagpur, in connection with the Malguzars' Conference.

Agricultural exhibitions and magic lantern shows were arranged at the important fairs in the province. A Village Uplift Rally was arranged at Roshni village in the rural Korku area of the Harsud tahsil of the Nimar district. Sindewahi improved furnace for gur-making was demonstrated at Mehkar. The demonstration cinema lorry has been touring in the Berar for propaganda purposes. A "Farmers' Day" was also organized on the Betul farm.

Work on Vidya Mandir plots in connection with land improvement, construction of cattle sheds, and cropping made steady progress.

Pure seed of the improved varieties of groundnut, juar and cotton was distributed on a large scale. Pooling of cultivators' cotton for processing and sale was done at different centres and resulted in very satisfactory prices being obtained.

Three co-operative growers' associations were organized in each of the Raipur, Bilaspur and Drug districts to help the growers to get the best prices for their rice. A few godowns have been placed at the disposal of the growers' association free of rent for storing their produce.

Bilaspur Dairy Co-operative Society was organized by the department with the object of supplying pure milk to the Bilaspur town.

Under the auspices of the Nagpur Orange Growers' Association 16 wagons of oranges from Kohli and 15 wagons from Kalambha were despatched to Calcutta, Delhi, Lucknow and Madras, and an average net price of nine annas per basket was obtained. This was 30 to 40 per cent more than the prices obtained in the Nagpur market during February and March.

Co-operative Tahsil Agricultural Associations have also been formed in some taluqs with the object of meeting the agricultural requirements of the cultivators.

Veterinary Department

During the period the control of cattle diseases formed the main activity of the field staff. 4,662 outbreaks of cattle diseases were reported and detected and 34,263 cattle were treated for contagious diseases.

31,003 heads of cattle entering the province from outside passed through the nine quarantine stations opened in Saugor and Hoshangabad districts and were vaccinated against rinderpest so as to render them incapable of disseminating disease amongst the cattle of the province.

Divisional laboratories were equipped with necessary apparatus for the production of goat virus at the divisional headquarter veterinary dispensaries with a view to supply quickly virus to the field workers for immediate use and thus avoid unnecessary delay and minimize the chances of deterioration of this product.

Twenty-six breeding bulls were sold from the cattle-breeding farms for the improvement of live-stock. Fifteen white leghorn cockrels were distributed from the Telinkheri Poultry-breeding Farm.

The Farm Jamadar who was deputed for a short course of training in sheep-breeding returned from Hissar and has been posted to the sheep-breeding farm at Betul. Three hundred locally selected ewes, 12 rams and two goats were purchased and have been penned in the farm.

Twenty-six breeding bulls purchased from the Government of India grant have been located in different breeding units formed in the province. In addition to this, two bulls were purchased from the Nagpur District Live-stock Improvement Association funds and located in two new breeding units. In Chhattisgarh division seven approved bulls were purchased by private cattle owners and placed at suitable centres and 11 small live-stock improvement committees were formed.

Veterinary, animal husbandry and poultry stalls were put up at Tripuri All-India Exhibition held in Jubbulpore and these attracted large crowds. Propaganda and demonstration work was done at this exhibition. Lectures with the aid of magic lantern slides were also delivered.

Local Self-Government Department

The attention of Government having been drawn to a circular issued by a local board asking the Head Masters of all schools including Urdu schools to celebrate the *Gandhi Jayanti* by worshipping Mahatma Gandhi's photograph. Government issued instructions to local bodies explaining its policy in the matter of celebrating such functions. It was emphasized that

the policy of the Government is that there should be no compulsion whatsoever in educational institutions in matters of this kind, and that it should be left to the option of the staff and students whether or not to attend such functions.

Similarly, Government issued instructions laying down its policy in regard to the singing of Vande Mataram song in the schools under the jurisdiction of local bodies. It was pointed out that while the local bodies could permit the singing of this song in the schools under their management, they should not compel the Muslim pupils either to sing it or remain present when it was sung against their will.

Government issued instructions to all Deputy Commissioners regarding the supply by them of the information concerning the affairs of local bodies to members of the Legislative Assembly. It was laid down that when information concerning local bodies is asked by a member of the Assembly, he should be ordinarily referred to the President or Chairman of the local body concerned. In cases in which the member fails to obtain it from the local body, or which have formed the subject-matter of correspondence between the Deputy Commissioner and the local body, or which are likely to be of interest to Government from the point of view of general control, the Deputy Commissioner should furnish the information after obtaining it from the local body, if necessary, except information relating to—

- (a) confidential subjects,
- (b) recommendations made to superior authorities,
- (c) personal cases, and
- (d) matters pending or likely to be the subject of adjudication in a court of law.

Village Panchayats.—During the quarter ending the 30th April 1939 the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government introduced the Village Panchayat Bill—an important and far-reaching legislative measure vitally affecting the rural areas—in the Legislative Assembly.

Five new panchayats were established and proposals for the establishment of nine new panchayats were sanctioned by the Deputy Commissioners.

The Village Panchayat Officer held eight tahsil rallies in which 46 panchayats participated and were instructed. Two panchayats which had been languishing and were recommended for disestablishment were revived. One District Village Panchayat Conference for the Nagpur district was held at Ramtek and it was inaugurated by the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government. Successful propaganda was done at one centre.

Village Uplift.—The village uplift and cottage industries organizer was asked to proceed to Tripuri Congress to give the practical demonstrations in various cottage industries. Demonstrations were accordingly given under the auspices of the Provincial Village Uplift Board in fruit canning and preserving, rope-making, hemp-spinning, turning of bamboos into walking and umbrella sticks, flower pots, boxes and making of spring door mats.

The methods employed were the simplest possible devices so improvised as to be suitable for any village workman to turn out.

The three districts of Wardha, Chanda and Bhandara were visited and schemes of village uplift and cottage industries were discussed with Presidents of District Village Uplift Committees. At two places in Bhandara district, viz., Shendurwafa and Warthi, village uplift centres were opened and village uplift committees formed.

Government grant of Rs. 1,860 has been distributed to the following District Village Uplift Committees for doing village uplift work :—

Nagpur District Village Uplift Committee.

	Rs.
Bee-keeping	72
Demonstration for the extinction of <i>indarbela quad-</i> <i>rinotata.</i>	66
Fruit bottling and preservation	50
Grant to Hislop College Social Service League Society	102
Total ..	290

Balaghat District Village Uplift Committee.

	Rs.
Village Nursing Scheme	50
Purchase of magic lantern slides on rural uplift for propaganda work.	100
Transport and maintenance of magic lanterns	100
Repairs to roads, wells and tanks	500
Total ..	750

Yeotmal District Village Uplift Committee.

	Rs.
Seaman's Nursing scheme	585
Rural medical relief	585

Drug District Village Uplift Committee.

	Rs.
Village Nursing scheme	87

Basim Taluq Village Uplift Committee.

	Rs.
Pay of nurse at Ekamba	48
Cost of medicines	75
Village library at Ekamba	25
Total ..	148

Medical Department.

Government examined the suggestion of the Officer on Special Duty as to how the work of the Deputy Commissioners could be reduced and decided that Deputy Commissioners should be relieved of the presidentship of hospital committees which in future will elect their own chairmen.

Public Works Department.

The following measures of retrenchment have been adopted:—

- (i) The post of Personal Assistant to the Superintending Engineer, Mahandi Circle, has been held in abeyance and a post of Superintendent created instead, the approximate resultant saving being Rs. 5,800 per annum.
- (ii) Owing to the introduction of A-I agreements, one post of the Canal Deputy Collector, four posts of Irrigation Inspectors and 60 posts of Amins have been abolished which will yield a saving of about Rs. 20,000 per annum.

Commerce and Industry Department.

Under the Central Provinces State Aid to Industries Act, 1933, Government has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 15,000 to the Central Potteries, Limited, Nagpur.

In order to meet the requirements of the Central Museum, Nagpur, Government has sanctioned—

- (i) purchase of show cases,
- (ii) creation of a post of modeller-artist, and
- (iii) appointment of a guide-lecturer as an experimental measure for illiterate visitors.

It has been decided to open an aided Industrial School of Handicrafts at Khandwa and also at Darwha in the Yeotmal district with Urdu as medium of instruction.

It has been decided to grant five scholarships of the value of Rs. 6 per mensem each tenable at the Dead Cattle Institute, Nagpur.

A sum of Rs. 22,260 has been sanctioned for the encouragement of hand-spinning and hand-weaving in rural areas in accordance with the scheme submitted by the Maharashtra Charkha Sangh of the All-India Spinners' Association. The Industrial Survey Committee has submitted its preliminary report and it is under the consideration of Government.

Separate Revenue Department.

Prohibition.—In the dry areas prohibition propaganda was carried on by means of posters, leaflets, and magic lantern slides and lectures. Bhajans and kirtans were organized at places where there were liquor shops in Wardha district. Warning boards regarding prohibition are put up at conspicuous places in Wardha district and Badnera town. Similar boards are being prepared for other prohibition areas. Thrift societies have been started at Akola, Pulgaon, Bina and in Narsinghpur sub-division, and

they are being organized at other places. 195 saving boxes have been supplied in Saugor district and savings will be counted shortly. Government has sanctioned in April 1939 the employment of seven propagandists for doing propaganda in the dry areas. They will be paid Rs. 75 including travelling allowance and contingent expenditure. Applications have been invited and selections will be made soon. The Mahua Rules regulating possession, export, import, sale, etc., in excess of five seers, have come into force from the 16th February 1939 in Akola and Wardha districts. These rules are intended to control traffic in mahua flowers and prevent their misuse for illicit distillation.

In the Akot taluq of the Akola district where prohibition is in operation from the beginning of 1938, there is undoubted improvement. An economic survey of this taluq is being made by Messrs. N. M. Joglekar and V. S. Date, under the general guidance of Mr. A. C. Sen-Gupta, I.E.S., Principal, Morris College, Nagpur. There is also a remarkable improvement in the standard of living of the addicts of liquor in the Wardha district. The economic depression has caused a set back but instances are not wanting to indicate that *ex-drinkers* have considerably been relieved of their liabilities of pre-prohibition days and their families consider prohibition as a great boon. It is reported from Saugor that there is a gradual but distinct improvement in the social and economic condition of previous liquor consumers who now appear better clad and fed. In Narsinghpur sub-division prohibition has a salutary effect on the lives of the people addicted to drink. They are now having better food and living a more contented life. Everywhere women are greatly pleased as abstinence has brought peace into their homes and their men folk have more money to spend on food and clothing. There is a considerable saving to the former drinking classes which were in pre-prohibition days required to serve liquor to their guests on the occasions of marriages, births, etc. Now sweets and jaggery have taken the place of liquor and men as well as women are able to enjoy them.

During the period under review 74 cases under the Prohibition Act were detected. The largest number of cases were detected in Akola district (21) and Saugor district (19). Wardha district and Katni town each contributed 10 cases, Narsinghpur sub-division 9 and Badnera 5 cases. Buses, cars and carts were checked and trains were visited for prevention and detection of offences. Prohibition offences are under control and there is no outbreak of illicit distillation or other offences anywhere in the dry areas.

Campaign against opium smoking in Narsinghpur sub-division.—In Narsinghpur sub-division, the incidence of opium consumption being highest in the province owing to the prevalence of the opium smoking habit special measures have been taken to suppress the vice. Seven opium shops have been closed and a minimum price has been fixed for the sale of opium. The question of reduction of the limits of individual possession is under consideration. Eight anti-opium committees consisting wholly of non-officials have been formed at different places and two more are being formed. They will do propaganda against opium smoking and use their influence on the addicts to give up the habit. The Excise staff has been increased by four sub-inspectors and several peons who are working under an Excise

Inspector specially appointed for the purpose. Their duties include the prevention and detection of offences relating to opium smoking and smuggling. During the period from the 1st January to the end of April 1939, 140 offences have been detected against 30 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Education Department.

Selected trained teachers have now been posted to Vidya Mandirs and they have started their work in right earnest. Several Vidya Mandir buildings have also been completed. The total number of Vidya Mandirs to be opened is fixed at one hundred.

The Wardha Scheme of Basic National Education has been adopted by the Government as its accepted policy in regard to instruction in primary schools.

The Vidya Mandir Training School, Wardha, reopened on the 17th of April and commenced training of selected district council school teachers on the lines of the Wardha Syllabus. Half of the cadre of Assistant District Inspectors of Schools was also deputed to Wardha to receive instructions in the principles of Basic Education.

Government approved a plan for the training of Normal School staff in the principles of Basic Education at Wardha and decided to expand the Vidya Mandir Training School into an Institute with additional staff for the purpose. The courses of the Institute will commence on the 1st July, and will be attended by selected teachers from Government Normal Schools, Government High Schools and Government Indian English Middle Schools.

All school authorities were informed that they might introduce such portions of the Wardha Syllabus as they are in a position to teach forthwith and copies of the Syllabus of Basic Education were despatched to them for guidance.

In order to enable the staff of the Government Normal Schools to proceed to Wardha for training, Government decided to close the first year class in Government Normal Schools during the current year, 1939-40.

The provision of special courses of instruction for *ex-Osmania* students in Robertson College, Jubbulpore, and Science College, Nagpur, and in the Government Engineering School, Nagpur, during the vacation, was implemented by continuing the employment of most of the teachers specially recruited for this purpose and by placing a number of the permanent staff of these colleges on duty during the vacation.

Government sanctioned the creation of two posts of teachers for teaching Agriculture in the Government Indian-English Middle Schools at Multai and Talegaon Dasasar.

Grants were sanctioned for 14 new primary schools for the aborigines in Mandla district and increased grants were made to certain Harijan and Aboriginal hostels.

Forest Department.

The outstanding feature of activity during the period under review was the supply made by the department

of timber and bamboos, free of royalty, for the construction of 66 Vidya Mandirs throughout the province.

The collection of grazing dues for the year 1939-40 was deferred until 15th December 1939 in the following districts:—

- (i) Yeotmal.
- (ii) Akola.
- (iii) Buldana.
- (iv) Amraoti (excluding the Melghat taluq).

Subject to certain restrictions, the free removal of fuel by *head-loads* for *bona fide* household requirements has been sanctioned over an area of about 3,463 square miles throughout the province. The power of sanctioning the free removal of slash from coupes on the expiry of leases has also been delegated to Conservators.

With a view to creating a demand for grass in sal areas, silage operations are in progress along the Raipur Forest Tramway in the Raipur division. If results are encouraging, a number of pits will be sunk and exploitation on commercial lines will be attempted.

The Dumartarai forest block of the Bilaspur division has been leased out to the Department of Agriculture for purposes of establishing a co-operative dairy.

An area of 4,208 acres of Government forest has been handed over to the Veterinary Department for the purpose of starting a cattle-breeding farm in the Saugor division.

A sum of Rs. 5,000 has been sanctioned in the budget estimates for 1939-40 for the construction of bunds to improve the water-supply for cattle grazing in Government forests and orders have been issued to start the work immediately.

As a measure of economy, Government has decided that only those officials who are occupying Government residences free of rent and are in receipt of pay not exceeding Rs. 42 per mensem should be exempted from payment of municipal taxes with effect from 1st April 1939. Hitherto Government servants drawing pay up to Rs. 150 per mensem had been so exempted.

A provision of Rs. 12,000 has been made in the budget estimates for 1939-40 to raise the initial pay of forest guards from Rs. 12 to Rs. 13 per mensem.

Remedial measures for the elimination of the disease known as *yaws* in the Bilaspur division are in progress. Injections have been obtained and are being supplied free of cost to the aboriginal sufferers of the complaint.

Negotiations for starting a paper pulp factory at Ballarshah in the Chanda district by a Bombay firm are in progress.

Forest Village Schools.—To foster the spread of education among the aboriginal population 13 schools were started in 1937-38 and 19 in 1938-39. A further provision of Rs. 12,000 has been made in the budget estimate of the Forest Department for the year 1939-40 for opening 12 more schools in forest villages.

The educational authorities (Deputy Inspectors of Schools) will inspect these schools. Divisional Forest Officers and Range Officers act as attendance authorities to encourage boys to go to school.

PART II.—IMPORTANT EVENTS CONNECTED WITH MINISTERIAL VISITS

7th and 8th February: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister with his colleagues attended the conference of the Muslim members of the Provincial Assembly convened by him and discussed with them the question of giving an impetus to Muslim education. Nawabzada Liyakat Ali Khan, Secretary, All-India Muslim League, was also present at this conference.

12th February: The Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government visited Chhindwara, opened the Central Bank, received an address from the district council and addressed a public meeting in the evening.

13th February: The Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government received an address from the Municipal Committee, Chhindwara. He visited Saoner and addressed a public meeting there.

15th to 21st February: The Hon'ble Minister for Finance who is also in charge of Forest toured in the Mandla district in order to acquaint himself first hand with the conditions of the aborigines. The Hon'ble Minister also visited the backward tracts in the Chhindwara district and acquainted himself with the conditions prevailing there.

16th February: The Hon'ble Minister for Industries visited Chanda. He received an address from the municipal committee and later visited the Education Society's High School, the Chanda Ceramic Works and the Match Factory.

19th and 20th February: The Hon'ble Minister for Industries attended the Conference of the agriculturists of the Sakoli and Gondia tahsils of the Bhandara district and explained to them the revenue policy of the Government.

24th February: The Hon'ble Minister for Industries left Nagpur for Patna to attend a meeting of the Joint Lac Control Board.

15th March: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister for Industries received the spokesmen of the workers of the Empress Mills, Nagpur, in the Assembly building and discussed with them their grievances. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister assured the leaders that Government would do all in its power to redress their grievances whereupon they decided to call off the strike.

19th March: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister visited Chandur Biswa on hearing of the murder of Mr. Jagadeorao Patil and interviewed several officials and non-officials on the spot in connection with the situation.

20th March: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister visited Khamgaon (Buldana district) and addressed a crowded public meeting there on the need of maintaining cordial relations between the Hindus and Muslims. He also received representatives of Hindu Mahasabha, Arya Samaj Varnashram and the Muslims.

22nd March: The Hon'ble Minister for Education received a deputation of prominent citizens of Mandla at Nagpur in connection with the question of the grant-in-aid to the municipal Indian-English Middle School, Mandla, and promised to consider the question sympathetically.

29th March: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister received at Nagpur a Muslim deputation led by Mr. Samiulla Khan on behalf of the local Anglo-Urdu School. He received another deputation led by Mr. Nisar Ali on behalf of the Nagpur Waqf Committee. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister promised to consider the representations made by these two deputations.

30th March: The Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue received a deputation of prominent congressmen and citizens of Narsinghpur sub-division and heard their complaints regarding the use of coercive processes by Revenue Officers in the collection of Government-dues. The Hon'ble Ministers gave a patient hearing and promised to look into the matter.

3rd April: The Hon'ble Minister for Industries met the leaders of Bidi workers of Nagpur within the premises of the Assembly House, heard their grievances and gave them assurances on behalf of the Government.

9th April: The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Education visited Akola and inaugurated the eleventh annual session of the Berar Government Secondary Teachers' Conference.

He received at the Circuit House the agriculturists and their spokesmen from the Akot, Basim and Mangrulpir taluqs, listened to their grievances and assured them of their sympathetic consideration.

The Hon'ble Minister also inspected the Government farm at Akola.

24th and 25th April: The Hon'ble Minister for Industries visited Yeotmal and inspected the Dead Cattle Institute and also the scarcity works in the Kelapur and Yeotmal taluqs. He also addressed a public meeting and explained to the people the activities of Government.

25th April: The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Education visited Jubbulpore. He granted interviews to officials and non-officials including the local members of the Legislative Assembly and discussed with them the taccavi position in the division.

The Hon'ble Minister for Industries visited Pandharkawada and received an address of welcome from the local municipal committee.

26th April: The Hon'ble Minister for Industries accompanied by the Director of Industries and the Labour Officer visited Badnera and discussed with the management of the Badnera Mills the question of wage increase. The Hon'ble Minister was able to persuade the Management to agree to a further wage increase of about 27 per cent of the remaining cut. The Hon'ble Minister received an address of welcome from the municipal committee, Yeotmal.

The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Education visited Damoh and granted interviews to officials and non-officials and discussed with them the taccavi position.

He also received a deputation of malguzars.

27th April: The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Education visited Saugor and discussed with local leaders of public opinion the taccavi and the general agricultural position.

28th April: The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Education visited Narsinghpur and discussed the general agricultural outlook with the people's representatives. The Hon'ble Minister received a deputation of Muslims who placed before him their educational needs. The Hon'ble Minister also visited the Borstal Institute in the evening.

29th April: The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Education visited Chhindwara and discussed the general agrarian situation with the officials and non-officials of the place.

PART III.—IMPORTANT PRESS NOTES,
COMMUNIQUES, ETC.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 9th February 1939.

This press note which deals with the allegations made against the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar at pages 49—58 of the Report of the Committee (known as Pirpur Committee) appointed by the Council of the All-India Muslim League to enquire into Muslim grievances in Congress provinces is published for the information of the public in pursuance of the announcement made on the 26th January 1939 that a press note on the subject would be issued as soon as possible.

As the paragraphs below will show, the allegations made against Government are without any foundation. Since the Congress Ministry assumed office in July 1937, Government has consistently followed a policy of justice and fair-play in the treatment of all questions affecting Muslims. Further, it has been the deliberate policy of Government to do all in its power to promote cordial relations between the different communities committed to its charge. The Muslim community may rest assured that no allegations, however wild, made against Government will deflect it from the policy it has hitherto pursued.

2. *Bande Matram*—*Allegation No. 1.*—Muslims from all parts of the province complain that the song *Bande Matram* is forced upon Muslim boys in Government schools and in those managed by municipalities and other local bodies.

Reply.—The orders issued are only permissive and not mandatory. There is not a single instance in which the song has been forced on Muslim boys in Government educational institutions. It is permissible to sing the song in schools managed by local bodies, but it is equally open to pupils who do not want to sing it, not to remain present during the singing of the song. Complaints were received however that the two local bodies were attempting to make the singing of the song compulsory. On the matter being brought to its notice, Government took suitable action to prevent a recurrence of such complaints. Government understands that even in these two cases, no Muslim boy has been penalized in any way for not singing the song or for not being present when it is sung.

Allegation No. 2.—Khan Sahib Abdur Rahman Khan, M.L.A., visited the Vidya Mandir Training College and found that Muslim boys were compelled to stand with folded hands when this song was sung.

Reply.—Enquiries show that no Muslim boy has ever been compelled to sing the song or asked to stand with folded hands when it was sung.

Allegation No. 3.—The Premier has issued instructions that all officials should stand when *Bande Matram* is sung.

Reply.—It is a fact that at the instance of Government the Inspector-General of Police has issued instructions that "if police officers are present at any meeting or function at which the audience rises to sing the *Bande Matram* song they should stand like every one else as a matter of courtesy." This practice is also followed in similar circumstances by officers of other

departments. Government does not consider that either the practice or the instructions are open to any reasonable criticism, especially when it is clear that standing up is only an act of courtesy which was observed by the late Sir Hyde Gowan when as Governor he attended a function at which the song was sung.

Allegation No. 4.—At the village school of Pandhurna in the district of Chhindwara, before the day's work begins, the Muslim boys have to offer, with folded hands, along with the Hindu boys, "*parasthana*" before the image of the Goddess Saraswati. It was also found that the Muslim boys are not allowed to wish each other in their Islamic way, but to say *Namaste* and *Ramji-ki-jai*.

Reply.—In one school at Pandhurna, which has some Muhammadan boys on its roll, it is customary for a prayer to be sung before the image of Saraswati at the commencement of school work. No compulsion in this matter has been brought to bear on any boy, much less a Muslim boy. The allegation about Muslim boys being asked to greet one another in a particular manner has not been brought to the notice of Government before. An enquiry is being made.

3. Local Bodies—*Allegation No. 5.*—Previous Government used to redress communal inequalities by means of nominations. But since the Congress has assumed the reins of Government, even this method does not help the Muslims, for nominations are made for party purposes and the interests of Muslims are ignored. Muslims are thus much worse off than they were under the previous Government.

Reply.—The Municipalities and the Local Self-Government Acts against the provisions of which there has never been, except recently, any objection, do not provide for separate electorates for minority communities or for reservation of seats for them. The representation of these communities, including the Muslims who form 4.4 per cent of the total population of the province is, however, secured by the system of nominations. The present Government has made no change in the policy pursued by previous Governments. The Congress Government has made nominations on 52 municipal and notified area committees and one district council. In 38 municipal and notified area committees and one district council the number of Muslims nominated was the same as that by the previous Government; in two cases, the number was more and in 12 the number was less. In none of the 12 cases however the Muslims remained unrepresented as they secured seats by election or selection.

4. Debt Conciliation Boards—*Allegation No. 6.*—Prior to the assumption of office by the Congress, there was not a single board without at least one Muslim on it. But now under the Congress regime there are many such boards without any Muslim representation.

Reply.—It is not the policy of Government to take communal considerations into account in making nominations on debt conciliation boards. On the 30th June 1937, *i.e.*, about a fortnight prior to the assumption of office by the Congress, there were 43 boards in the province with a total strength of 325 non-official members, of whom 36 were Muslims. Eight out of 43 boards had no Muslim members. At present there are

41 boards with 296 non-official members, of whom 32 are Muslims. Eleven boards have no Muslim members. It is obvious therefore that the proportion of Muslim members has not altered appreciably since July 1937.

5. Cow Protection—*Allegation No. 7.*—The Muslims complain that if the Central Provinces Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Bill is passed into law, it will make impossible not only animal slaughter for commercial purposes but also for social and religious purposes.

Reply.—The Committee presumably refers to the Bill introduced by Mr. M. G. Chitnavis, M.L.A. The Bill is a private measure and has not yet reached the stage of consideration in the Assembly. The member-in-charge of the Bill does not belong to the Congress Assembly Party.

Allegation No. 8.—Reports of organized efforts in the cattle markets preventing the sale of cattle to Muslims were also made to us.

Reply.—The Committee has not given any specific instances. No such complaints in this matter have reached Government.

Allegation No. 9.—The majority of local bodies have put heavy restrictions and have levied prohibitive fees on the slaughter of animals, the most objectionable of them being those which were adopted in the regime of the Hon'ble Mr. D. P. Misra (now a Congress Minister) as Chairman of Jubbulpore municipality. The byelaws prepared by Mr. Misra were kept in abeyance on the interference of the Central Provinces Government and that of the Government of India, but they were confirmed and brought into force on the very day on which the Congress Government accepted office and Mr. D. P. Misra assumed the charge of the Local Self-Government portfolio.

Reply.—The fees on the slaughter of animals are levied under the byelaws made by the municipal committees. The model byelaws which were framed long before the Congress assumed office prescribe a fee of four annas per sheep or goat and eight annas per bullock or other horned cattle. The incorrectness of the allegation that the majority of the local bodies have levied prohibitive fees is clear from the following figures concerning 79 municipal committees, about which information is available:—

(1)	For sheep and goats	Other animals
	(2)	(3)
Number of municipal committees which have levied fees according to model byelaws.	7	12
Number which have levied fees lower than those prescribed in the model byelaws.	68	39
Number which have levied fees in excess of those prescribed by the model byelaws.	Nil	7
Number which do not levy any fees	4	21

As regards the municipal committee, Jubbulpore, the byelaws relating to slaughter-houses were revised in 1935 when the present Minister in charge of Local Self-Government was not the President of the municipal committee. The fees levied under these byelaws are six pies per sheep or goat and one anna

per bullock or other horned cattle as against four annas and eight annas, respectively, prescribed in the model byelaws. The allegation that the byelaws were confirmed and brought into force on the very day on which the Congress Government accepted office is obviously incorrect.

6. Suppression of language and culture—*Allegation No. 10.*—The Muslims generally complain of want of Urdu schools even in districts such as Saugor and Mandla where the number of Muslims is enough to justify the opening of such schools.

Reply.—The question of the establishment of primary schools rests with the local bodies. For the province as a whole, these bodies cannot be said to have dealt unfairly with the question of starting Urdu schools. Muslims form 4.4 per cent of the total population, while the percentage of Urdu schools to the total number of vernacular schools in the province for the year 1937-38 was about 7.3. There are seven Urdu primary schools in the urban areas of the Saugor district. It is true that there are no separate Urdu schools in the rural areas of that district, but this is due to the number of pupils with Urdu as their mother-tongue not being sufficient to justify the starting of such schools. For the same reason there are no separate Urdu schools in the Mandla district but Urdu is taught as an optional subject in the municipal combined school, Mandla, and Railway Combined School, Nainpur. The number of Muslim teachers under the district council, Mandla is 10 and that under the municipal committee, Mandla, is 2. The question of opening a separate Urdu primary school at Mandla has been referred to the municipal committee, Mandla, for consideration.

Allegation No. 11.—In high schools the medium of instruction is Hindi or Marathi.

Reply.—This statement is incomplete. The medium of instruction is Urdu also in those high schools where a sufficient number of Urdu boys is enrolled, e.g., in some of the Government High Schools in Berar.

Allegation No. 12.—Some municipal boards have abolished Urdu classes, while one refused grant to a secondary Urdu school.

Reply.—The first allegation is vague. If it refers to the Urdu classes at Betul, it may be pointed out that the municipal Urdu school at Betul was not abolished but was amalgamated with a Hindi school. The latter part of the statement being indefinite is not capable of verification. It may however be pointed out that under the Municipalities Act the first claims on the resources of the municipal committees in the matter of education are those of primary and middle vernacular education.

Allegation No. 13.—The Anjuman Islamia Press at Jubbulpore was supported by the old Government. An arrangement was made by which Government printing work was given to that press and the profits were utilized for the maintenance of the Anjuman Islamia High School. The Congress Government is now contemplating to change this arrangement without providing funds for the school.

Reply.—For several years past, the Anjuman Islamia Press, Jubbulpore, was printing, supplying and distributing the land records and settlement forms. A formal agreement was entered into for the first time in 1923 and renewed in 1929 till the 31st March 1939. The question of terminating the agreement was taken up in November 1935, i.e., long before the Congress assumed office as it was found that the arrangement involving as it did a loss of about Rs. 7,500 per annum to Government, was uneconomical. The decision to terminate the agreement has been taken purely on financial grounds. The Robertson Anjuman High School, Jubbulpore, is already in receipt of a grant of Rs. 7,227 per annum.

Allegation No. 14.—Complaints are also made of the want of supervision in Urdu primary schools.

Reply.—The allegation has little substance. In Berar there is one Muslim Assistant District Inspector for each of the four districts, whose duty it is to inspect Urdu primary schools. In addition, Akola and Buldana have Muslim District Inspectors. The Urdu primary schools in Nagpur, Wardha and Chanda districts are supervised by a Muslim Assistant District Inspector. The Urdu primary schools in the Jubbulpore city and the adjoining areas are supervised by a Urdu-knowing District Inspector and a Muslim Assistant District Inspector. There is also a Muslim Assistant District Inspector at Raipur. The fact that there are 12 Muslim Assistant District Inspectors and nine non-Muslim Assistant District Inspectors possessing a thorough knowledge of Urdu in a total cadre of 69 shows that the supervision of Urdu primary schools receives adequate attention.

Allegation No. 15.—Speeches delivered in Urdu in the Assembly are reported either in Hindi script or a short summary of them is given in English. When the Speaker was approached and questions were asked in the Assembly, both the Speaker and the Premier expressed their inability to grant a request for the reporting of the speeches in Urdu.

Reply.—The main reason for not getting the speeches printed in the Persian script was the inability of the Government Printing Press to do the work, without a large initial expenditure for the purchase of types, etc., and an increase in the staff of Urdu compositors and proof-readers. Even, if the extra staff for this purpose was sanctioned, the difficulty of utilizing their services during long breaks, when the Assembly is not in session, was not capable of easy solution. There was also the difficulty of securing efficient reporters well-conversant with both the Nagari and Persian scripts. It was therefore decided purely as a temporary measure to print Urdu speeches either in the Nagari script or in English according to the wishes of the speaker. The whole question is still under the consideration of Government and the Hon'ble the Speaker, who are anxious to do everything in their power to meet the wishes of the Muslim members in this behalf as far as they possibly can.

Allegation No. 16.—The whole of the Betul district has been converted into a compulsory education area. The Government has provided for expenditure with the express condition that the medium of instruction will be only Hindi.

Reply.—According to the Census Report of 1931, the Muslim population of the Betul district is 7,037 out of a total population of 406,252, *i.e.*, 1.7 per cent. Under the Primary Education Act, it is open to any local body to submit to Government schemes for the introduction of compulsory primary education in the areas within its jurisdiction. While submitting its scheme for compulsory education in the Betul district, the District Council, Betul, laid down Hindi as the medium of instruction, doubtless because the district is almost exclusively a Hindi area. Government sanctioned the proposals of the district council. It is not therefore correct to say that Government itself laid down the express condition referred to in the allegation.

Allegation No. 17.—The Committee quotes the circular issued by the Chandur local board asking Head Masters of Urdu schools to have the worship of an image of Mahatma Gandhi as part of the birthday celebrations and considers this as an instance of the callousness of the Congress to the religious sentiments of the Muslims, whose rights are supposed to be safe in the Karachi Congress resolution on minority rights.

Reply.—It is a fact that the local board Chandur issued the circular referred to the Head Masters of Schools within its jurisdiction. This was done without consulting either the local officers or the Government. On the matter being brought to its notice, Government ordered an enquiry. The Chairman of the local board explains that the forwarding of the circular to the Urdu schools was definitely a mistake, and that there was no intention to make it obligatory for the Muslim teachers or Muslim boys to worship the photograph of Mahatma Gandhi. Government understands that no Head Master of any Urdu School performed the ceremony of worship, nor was any action taken against any one. The policy of Government is one of allowing complete freedom to the staff and boys of educational institutions in this matter.

7. *Vidya Mandir Scheme—Allegation No. 18.*—The word “Mandir” in common parlance means a place of idol worship. As such, the very name goes against the grain of Islamic tenets and becomes repulsive to a Muslim.

Reply.—Government wishes once more to assure the Muslims that the term “Vidya Mandir” has no communal or religious or political significance whatever. Further, it is not correct to assume that the word “Mandir” in common parlance refers to a temple or a Hindu God or Goddess when it is used as a part of a compound word. Moreover, Government has made it clear on more than one occasion that any Muslim who donates land for starting a school is at liberty to name it “Bait-ul-ilm” which is an exact synonym of the word “Vidya Mandir” or by any other name of his choice.

Allegation No. 19.—In theory the scheme does not neglect Urdu, but in actual practice Urdu has been entirely extinguished.

Reply.—It may be stated categorically that the institution of Vidya Mandirs does not in any way alter the existing policy in regard to the medium of instruction. In all the schools under the scheme, provision will be made for imparting instruction through the mother-tongue of the area in which the schools are situated. Further, a careful study of the scheme will show that

the syllabus, which is based on the Wardha Scheme of basic education, prescribes a seven years' course and makes adequate provision for the teaching of Hindustani either in Nagri or Urdu script according to the choice of the pupils. Accordingly "Vidya Mandir" teachers have been trained in Urdu as well as Nagri scripts.

8. Communal tendencies of the Congress Régime—*Allegation No. 20.*—One of the Ministers presided over a gathering held in honour of the President of the Hindu Mahasabha.

Reply.—This presumably refers to a meeting held at Nagpur in December 1937 to accord a public reception to Mr. Savarkar, over which Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, the then Minister for Public Works, presided. It is far-fetched to regard this as an indication of the communal tendencies of the Congress régime. This will be clear from the fact that the Provincial Government has taken action under the law against the Hindu Mahasabha speakers and the Mahasabha press, e.g., the prosecution of Mr. J. P. Verma, Secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha, Nagpur, under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, for speeches tending to incite communal hatred, the administration of a warning to the *Sawadhan* for publishing articles with an objectionable communal heading in December 1937 and the subsequent demand of a security under the Press Act from that paper for publishing matter calculated to promote communal ill-will, and the giving of formal warnings to some other Hindu Mahasabha speakers for delivering speeches tending to promote communal discord.

Allegation No. 21.—Congress Government has provided a huge sum of money for the Hanuman Akhara, which is the training ground for the Mahasabha.

Reply.—This is entirely incorrect. Government has not made any such provision for a grant to this institution. As the object of the institution is to promote physical culture, there would be nothing wrong for any Government to aid such an institution.

Allegation No. 22.—The Central Provinces Congress Committee, according to Mr. Abdur Rahman's statement, has issued instructions that, while a Hindu could enlist himself as a member of the Mahasabha and the Congress at one and the same time, no Muslim could become a member both of the Muslim League and the Congress.

Reply.—So far as Government is aware, no such circular has been issued. On the other hand, it is common knowledge that the Congress has recently declared both the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim League as communal organizations.

9. Undue influence on Muslims—*Allegation No. 23.*—In the village Rehli, Saugor district, Muslim labourers were turned out by their Hindu employers because they had voted for the Muslim League candidate in the Assembly bye-election.

Reply.—This has not come to the notice of Government. On the other hand, it is on record that there was friction at Rehli immediately after the bye-election, largely as a result of anti-Hindu and anti-Congress speeches by the spokesmen in favour of the Muslim League candidate. The sequel was the desecration of a small temple at Rehli, two small idols being found to

have been thrown outside the temple. In consequence, the Hindu shop-keepers boycotted the Muslims, but the boycott did not last long.

Allegation No. 24.—A sum of Rs. 500 used to be paid to the Mohammad Ali Serai but since the Congress came into power the amount has been stopped and a resolution passed transferring the amount to the Shradhanand Ashan.

Reply.—The allegation is entirely baseless. The Provincial Government makes no grant either to the Mohammad Ali Serai or the Shradhanand Ashram, Nagpur. During the year 1936-37 the municipal committee, Nagpur, paid a contribution of Rs. 501 towards the construction of the Mohammad Ali Serai. This was not an annual grant. The municipal committee has made an annual contribution equal to the municipal taxes on the serai which amounted to Rs. 164-8-0 in the current year. The committee makes an annual contribution of Rs. 500 to the Shradhanand Ashram since a long time. It is incorrect to say that any sum which was paid to the Serai has been transferred to the Ashram.

10. Communal riots—*Allegation No. 25.*—Cases against all those arrested and charged with rioting in Jubbulpore have been withdrawn by the prosecution. The Muslims have strongly protested against this action of the Congress Government. It is action like this that leads to more communal tension and makes Muslims lose confidence in the Government of the day.

Reply.—The position is that, after very careful consideration, Government came to the conclusion that it was desirable to withdraw pending prosecutions with a view to facilitate the restoration of a spirit of goodwill between Hindus and Muslims at Jubbulpore. As a result of this decision cases were withdrawn against 60 Hindus and 77 Muslims. Government also decided to remit the unexpired portions of sentences on three persons, who were convicted of offences connected with the communal disturbances at Jubbulpore. Of these, two were Hindus and one was a Muslim. The Muslim was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. Although the decision of Government was adversely criticized by the Muslims at the time, Government believes that the ultimate effect of the decision has been good. This is shown by the fact that Muslim leaders co-operated whole-heartedly with the Hindus and the authorities in maintaining peace during the last *Dussehra* festival. Government has thanked both Hindu and Muslim leaders for their valuable services in the cause of peace. *Dussehra* at other places in the north, which are centres of trouble, e.g., Saugor, Burhanpur and Mandla, also passed off without any untoward incident, unlike in 1937, when there was some trouble both at Mandla and Saugor. This is also another proof of the soundness of Government's policy in the matter. Encouraged by this result, Government has also withdrawn the case at Nagpur arising out of a communal riot in October 1937, in which both Hindus and Muslims were involved. It has also remitted the sentences passed in connection with a communal riot at Akot in September 1937 in which all the accused numbering 11 were Muslims.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Nagpur, the 10th February 1939.

1. In a Press Note, dated the 26th January 1939, it was stated that the Hon'ble the Prime Minister had decided to convene a Conference of Muslim members of the Central Provinces and Berar Legislative Assembly with a view to discuss with them the question of giving an impetus to Muslim Education. This decision was in pursuance of a promise made to Nawabzada Liaquat-ali Khan, Honorary Secretary, All-India Muslim League, who met the Hon'ble the Prime Minister on the 18th December 1938. The Conference was held on the 7th and the 8th February and was attended by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and his colleagues, Nawabza Liaquat-ali Khan and all except two Muslim Members of the Central Provinces and Berar Legislative Assembly.

Several grievances and new demands were placed before the Hon'ble the Prime Minister. After a full and frank discussion, the Conference formulated certain proposals on the various points raised which the Hon'ble the Prime Minister promised to place before the Government for careful and sympathetic consideration.

2. Further, the Conference fully discussed the Vidya Mandir Scheme in connection with which the Muslims had started *satyagraha* at Nagpur, without awaiting the results of the Conference. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister explained the scheme in detail. He emphasized that his object in initiating the scheme was to remove illiteracy in the rural areas irrespective of caste and creed and that the scheme rested on endowments of land and money made by donors. He also assured the Conference and through it the Muslims of the Province that in giving the scheme the name Vidya Mandir he had no intention whatever of hurting the feelings of any community or making the scheme a religious or communal one. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister further pointed out that a private registered Association had now been formed under the name "The Madhya Prant-Berar Vidya Mandir Samiti, Nagpur" open to all classes and all that the Government undertook was to assist, as far as the financial resources of the Government would permit, this Association or any other private enterprise, if it was able to find the endowments necessary to meet the recurring expenses of schools started under the scheme. He said that at the same time he would welcome the formation by the Muslims of a similar Association under any suitable name and assured the Conference that Government would give that Association the same assistance as that to the Madhya Prant-Berar Vidya Mandir Samiti, Nagpur, or to any other private enterprise. The Nawabzada has stated that the Muslims desire to call this Association "Anjuman Madina-tul-ilm" and that the scheme under which the Urdu schools would be started by this Association will be named "Madina-tul-ilm" scheme. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister saw no objection to this proposal. It would of course be open to the Muslim Association to give any name to the schools started under its auspices. The Muslim members of the Conference brought to the notice of the Hon'ble the Prime Minister that on account of their poverty the Muslims in the province might not be able to obtain sufficient endowments to start schools and take advantage of the offer of assistance

made. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister assured the Conference that he and his colleagues would make their best endeavours to obtain endowments from Muslim gentlemen. He had every hope that if all concerned made a united effort, there should be very little difficulty in making such an Association the success it deserved to be. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister also made it clear that no minimum number of boys was necessary as a condition precedent to starting a school under the scheme. All that was necessary was that the endowments created for this school should be sufficient to give a net income of Rs. 200 per annum for the maintenance of the teacher and the school. He also undertook to see that in any area where compulsory education was introduced, Muslim boys would not be compelled to attend the Vidya Mandirs if they did not wish to do so. A reference was made in the Conference to the syllabus to be taught under the scheme. The Nawabzada brought to the notice of the Hon'ble the Prime Minister that the All-India Muslim League had appointed a committee to examine the Wardha Scheme on Basic Education and that he was, therefore, not in a position to state at this stage whether, so far as the education of Muslim boys was concerned, the Wardha Syllabus would be acceptable to the Muslims in the schools started by the Muslim Association referred to above. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister explained the syllabus prescribed for the Vidya Mandir Scheme and stated that it was based on the recommendations of the Zakir Husain Committee appointed by the Provincial Government. At the same time, the Hon'ble the Prime Minister took note of the point raised by the Nawabzada and said that as the question of the syllabus was still under the consideration of the Muslim League he could not commit the Government in advance.

3. In view of what has been stated above and the cordial atmosphere at the Conference, the Government hopes that all agitation based on misunderstanding and distrust will now be a thing of the past thus enabling it to consider the proposal formulated at the Conference in an atmosphere of goodwill.

No. 1035-923-II

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
AND BERAR

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To

ALL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS,

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR,

Nagpur, the 11th/12th May 1939.

SUBJECT.—*Amendment of section 10 of the Central Provinces Game Act, 1935.*

It has been represented to Government that section 10 of the Game Act, which exempts from the operation of the Act the

shooting at or killing of any animal found in the immediate vicinity of cultivated lands in the interests of crop protection, is unduly restrictive in that it does not allow the holder of a crop protection licence to pursue a depredatory animal beyond his field. Government considers that there is much force in this contention and therefore proposes to introduce in the next session of the Assembly a Bill to amend section 10 of the Act on the following lines:—

“Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to prevent any person from shooting at or killing, or from pursuing and shooting at or killing, any bird or animal to which this Act applies, found upon, or in the vicinity of, cultivated lands for the purpose of protecting his crops, or to prevent any person from shooting at or killing any such bird or animal in defence of himself or any other person or of his property.”

Pending the passing of the Bill, Government desires that in the actual administration of the Act, section 10 should be construed as if it had been so amended and the last sentence of paragraph 3 of the Pamphlet to be issued with gun licences and game licences deleted. Please instruct all Revenue and other officers concerned with the administration of the Act accordingly. Due publicity should be given to these orders particularly in rural areas, through the land record staff.

K. RADHAKRISHNAN,

for Secy. to Govt., C. P. & Berar,
General Administration Department.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
AND BERAR
LOCAL-SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
NOTIFICATION

Nagpur, the 16th May 1939.

✓ No. 2974-776-D-XIII.—Government has been aware for some time of the sense of dissatisfaction prevalent among the public at the small measure of success which has hitherto attended the efforts of the various rural uplift agencies which are operating in the province. This dissatisfaction has found expression in the press and on public platforms and criticism of the existing state of affairs has frequently been voiced in the Provincial Legislature. While Government itself is inclined to the view that the chief defect in the existing methods is a lack of co-ordination between the various agencies employed upon this vital work of regeneration of village life, it realizes that the problem is a complex one and is of opinion that it would be unwise to take any important step in the way of drastic alteration in existing methods until the whole field has been thoroughly explored.

The Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar has therefore decided to appoint the following Committee to examine the whole question:—

Chairman.

- (1) The Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government.

Members.

- (2) The Hon'ble Minister for Finance.
 (3) Thakur Chhedilal, M.L.A.
 (4) Pandit K. P. Pande, M.L.A.
 (5) Mr. D. B. Naik, M.L.A.
 (6) Mr. L. N. Nahte, M.L.A.
 (7) Mr. N. Y. Deotale, M.L.A.
 (8) Mr. Anantram, M.L.A.
 (9) Mr. P. L. Dhagat, M.L.A.
 (10) Mr. M. M. Haq, M.L.A.
 (11) Mr. G. A. Gavai, M.L.A.
 (12) Seth Khushalchand, M.L.A.
 (13) Seth Shrikrishna Das Jaju, Wardha.
 (14) Mr. N. A. Dravid, Hitavada Office, Nagpur.
 (15) Mr. N. K. Kelkar, Balaghat.
 (16) R. B. U. S. Patil, Chairman, District Council, Amraoti.
 (17) Miss Mary Barr (Khedi) Betul.

The Secretary to Government in the Local Self-Government Department will act as Secretary to the Committee.

2. The terms of reference to the Committee will be—

- (a) to review the existing organization and progress of village uplift in the province;
 (b) to study the systems of village uplift recently introduced in other provinces particularly Bombay, the United Provinces and Bihar and to report how far these systems could be adopted to suit the local requirements of the province;
 (c) to suggest measures for the co-ordination of the village uplift activities of Government with a view to evolving a definite plan of action if possible with a definite time limit;
 (d) to report whether a separate port-folio of rural reconstruction should not be created with the object of correlating the activities of the various departments of Government which affect rural economy;
 (e) to devise means, e.g., for achieving closer co-ordination between village panchayats and rural uplift organizations and to make recommendations with regard to the place such institutions as village panchayats, co-operative societies, etc., should have in a comprehensive scheme of rural reconstruction; and
 (f) to make recommendations regarding the means by which the funds required to give effect to the proposals embodied in the report of the Committee are to be secured.

3. The Committee has been requested to submit its report, if possible, by the end of June.

4. The Committee is authorized to co-opt not more than three members having special knowledge of any subject which the Committee may think it necessary to include in their review.

By order of the Governor,
Central Provinces and Berar,

C. C. DESAI.

Secy. to Govt., C. P. & Berar,
Local Self-Government Department.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 20th May 1939.

The attention of Government has been drawn to a resolution passed at the Umrer Tahsil Kisan Conference at Mandhal on the 24th April 1939. The resolution criticizes the suspensions granted by Government in Umrer tahsil as very inadequate, and demands, under a threat of offering Satyagraha, that all coercive processes for the recovery of land revenue, rents, taccavi, debt conciliation boards instalments, and moneylenders' dues and all ejectment proceeding should be stopped at once. A Satyagraha Committee was also formed.

2. Government regrets very much that such a resolution should have been adopted by the conference. Government has explained its position fully on the floor of the Legislative Assembly and in previous Press Notes and *Communiqués*. Government feels that the resolution of the conference is based on an incomplete appreciation of the facts and circumstances, and is confident that once the real facts are placed before the people and the organizers of the movement in Umrer, they will realize the error of the proposed course.

3. Government wishes in the first place to emphasise its genuine sympathy with the agriculturists in the plight in which they find themselves, and its constant endeavours to do all that is possible to help them. Of all the cotton districts in the Central Provinces and Berar, Nagpur has the least cause of complaint. In Umrer tahsil, out of the current kharif demand of a little over Rs. 95,000, suspensions amount to over Rs. 50,000 and old suspended arrears amounting to Rs. 4,464 have been altogether remitted. Besides, out of the rabi demand of about Rs. 1,82,000 it is anticipated that about a lakh will have to be suspended. It will thus be realized that the charge of inadequate relief is baseless.

4. Mention has been made in the resolution of ejectment proceedings. With regard to them it may be pointed out that the powers of Government are circumscribed by section 24 of the Tenancy Act. Ejectments take place at the instance of malguzars in execution of decrees for previous rental arrears, and as the law stands at present, Government is powerless to interfere. Government is, however, taking steps to amend section 24 of the Tenancy Act in accordance with the recommendations of the Revenue Committee. It may also be stated that the

figures of ejectments actually ordered in Umrer tahsil during the last three years have been examined. Their number is very small in proportion to the total number of holdings.

5. In the matter of debt conciliation boards instalments also, Government has no power to stop proceedings for their recovery. However, in villages where suspensions or remissions of land revenue have been granted the debtors can, if their agreements contain a clause to that effect, easily secure postponement of the proceedings by making an application to the Deputy Commissioner. The remedy, therefore, is simple and is in the hands of the debtors. At the last session of the Legislative Assembly, however, Government introduced a Bill for the automatic suspension of debt conciliation boards instalments in the event of suspension or remission of land revenue. The Bill has been enacted and will, it is hoped, soon come into force. When this happens, even the necessity of an application to the Deputy Commissioner would be obviated.

6. So far as sowcars' dues are concerned, these are private rights, and Government is powerless to intervene directly. Nevertheless, Government has by its measures of debt legislation, by extension of the period of the Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act, and by prohibiting sales of immovable property during monsoon, done all that was possible to mitigate hardship to the people. The public is also aware that the Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Bill has been enacted by the Legislature during the last session and will come into force as soon as the Governor-General's sanction is obtained.

7. From the foregoing it would be clear that Government has always been alive to the condition and needs of the people and has been doing all that was possible, and that there is no justification for launching on a movement which can only bring further hardship and misery to the tenants.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 30th May 1939.

Government has had under consideration the question of re-instating persons who resigned or were dismissed or discharged for political reasons during the civil disobedience movements of 1930-31 and 1932-34. The enquiry that was made from Heads of Departments revealed that only nine persons resigned or were dismissed during these two movements. Of these, the whereabouts of one is not known and another is reported to have died. A third one was really dismissed for embezzling Government money and not for political reasons, while a fourth is thoroughly unreliable and is therefore unfit for Government service. Three of the remaining five have applied to Government for re-instatement and Government has passed orders for their re-instatement in their respective offices on the terms noted below:—

- (i) They must produce a medical certificate of fitness from a civil surgeon before they are re-appointed.

- (ii) On re-appointment, they will draw the same pay as they drew on the date on which they left service. They will be eligible for increments in the time-scale in force on the date of their quitting service.
- (iii) For purposes of seniority, they will be junior to all officials, who have been appointed to the service concerned before the date of their re-instatement.
- (iv) The break in the service will not count for leave and pension; but notwithstanding such break of service, their previous service will count for pension and any leave that may have been due to them at the time of their resignation would be brought forward and credited to their leave account on the date of their re-instatement.
- (v) They will continue to be governed by the leave rules in force on the date of their resignation.
- (vi) The re-instatement should not involve the creation of an additional post. They should be appointed in existing vacancies. If there be no vacancy at present, they should be employed as soon as they occur.

These orders are to be given effect to as soon as possible.

2. Two others, an Assistant Medical Officer and a Forest Guard, have not so far applied for re-instatement. Government has directed that should they apply for re-instatement within three months of the date of issue of the above orders, they should be re-instated in their respective appointments on the above conditions. The Heads of Departments concerned have been directed to communicate these orders to these two officials.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 31st May 1939.

The growth of communal tension in the province during recent months has been causing grave concern to the Provincial Government. As the public are aware, the Moharrum and Holi festivals in March last were unfortunately marred by communal disturbances at Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Raipur, Murtizapur, Khamgaon and Malkapur, and breaches of the peace were narrowly averted at other places. Government regrets to note that tension is still being kept alive, largely by the anti-Hindu or anti-Muslim speeches of communal speakers, some of whom do not belong to this province, and partly by the publication in a section of the press of matter calculated to foment communal disorder. It is the considered view of Government that the time has now come for stringent action to curb such activities on the part of any community as are likely to foster communal ill-will or to lead to a breach of the peace. Government wishes to state for the information of the public that the whole question of the communal situation in the province is under its earnest consideration and that urgent measures to deal with it are under contemplation. The details of these measures will be announced very shortly.