

GOVERNMENT OF THE  
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR



REPORT  
ON THE  
EXCISE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE  
CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR  
FOR THE  
CALENDAR YEAR 1938

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NAGPUR  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING, C. P. & BERAR  
1939

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No. 1170-598-VIII  
 GOVERNMENT OF THE  
 CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR  
 SEPARATE REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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*Nagpur, the 5th September 1939.*

READ—

Report on the Excise Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the calendar year 1938.

READ ALSO—

The District Reports.

### RESOLUTION

The year under review marks the beginning of a new era in the excise history of the province. Being convinced of the futility of the policy of gradual and ultimate prohibition and holding the view that advance in moderated stages and gradual betterment has no more place in the abandonment of unwholesome practices by the community than in the reformation of bad habits in the individual, the Provincial Government accepted the policy of immediate and total prohibition and applied it in the first instance to the whole of the Saugor district, the Narsinghpur subdivision of the Hoshangabad district, the Akot taluq of the Akola district and the industrial towns of Hinganghat, Badnera and Katni. The total area declared dry was 9,333 sq. miles with a population of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions. The area had consumed in the preceding year 22,033 proof gallons of country spirit and 73,425 gallons of toddy, bringing in a revenue of Rs.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs. With a view to implementing the policy of total prohibition, a comprehensive law called the Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act, was enacted. Among the special administrative measures taken to ensure the success of prohibition may be mentioned the transfer of the duty of enforcing the Act to the police with a view to removing any possible misapprehension that the prohibition law would not be enforced with the same strictness as the ordinary penal laws. As a safeguard against smuggling and in order to minimise the temptation to visit shops across the prohibition border, all shops within five miles of the "dry" area were closed.

2. As regards the effect of prohibition on the moral and material well-being of the people, the district reports are quite encouraging. A small proportion of addicts take advantage of any legitimate opportunity of obtaining drink in wet areas within easy reach, but there is sufficient evidence to show that the greater proportion have definitely given up the drink habit. Inquiries show that several addicts used to spend a considerable proportion of their earnings on liquor and that the saving on this ruinous expenditure has made a marked difference to the happiness of the family. Women, in particular, seem to be greatly pleased as they and their children are better fed and clothed. Brawls which generally accompanied drinking have become less frequent. When prohibition was introduced, it was apprehended that there would be recrudescence of illicit distillation. The fact that only thirty-three illicit distillation cases were detected in the area under prohibition justified the reliance placed by Government on the generally law-abiding nature of the people of the province for securing the willing acceptance of the new policy. If, however, prohibition is to be a part of the social life of the community it is essential that there should be ceaseless propaganda through non-official agencies, so as to create a strong public opinion against the drink habit. No matter how beneficent legislation may be and how carefully its provisions may have been framed it cannot have its full effect until popular enthusiasm helps to further the activities envisaged in it. The Provincial Government, therefore, take this opportunity to invite the co-operation of all sections of the public in making prohibition a complete success.

3. Usual measures were taken in other areas of the province to reduce the consumption of intoxicants. The rates of issue price of country liquor were raised by 31 per cent and the area under outstills was reduced by 15,759 sq. miles to 9,616 sq. miles. Departmental and commission shops in the Hoshangabad and Jubbulpore districts were discontinued. The toddy tree tax was raised by Re. 1 or Rs. 2 per tree in important toddy districts. The issue price of charas was increased from Rs. 60 to Rs. 66 per seer. All shops for the sale of liquor and hemp drugs both in the urban and rural areas were closed on festivals, like *Holi* and *Muharram*. The effect of these measures is reflected both in a reduction in excise revenue and in the consumption of intoxicants. The excise revenue decreased from Rs. 68·37 lakhs to Rs. 65·97 lakhs. The consumption

of country spirit fell by 27 per cent, of foreign liquor by 74 per cent, of toddy by 5 per cent, of opium by 6 per cent and of hemp drugs by 3 per cent.

4. It is gratifying to note that the consumption of opium continued to fall, the decrease during the year being 567 seers, or 6 per cent. During the last ten years the incidence of consumption per hundred of the population has come down from .17 seer to .06 seer. This indicates that the habits of opium smoking and of administering it to children to keep them quiet are gradually disappearing. The highest consumption was in the Narsinghpur subdivision amounting to .16 seer per hundred of the population which is attributed to the prevalence of the madak habit. The Excise Commissioner has been asked to adopt special measures to bring about a reduction in this area. Since the close of the year seven opium shops have been closed and the limit of individual possession has been reduced from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  tola. The excise staff has been strengthened to enforce the provisions of the Opium Smoking Act and to detect the smuggling of opium from the adjoining State of Bhopal.

5. Illicit distillation continues to be one of the major problems of the department. The number of cases detected increased from 1,877 in the previous year to 1,954 in the year under review, involving the prosecution of 2,089 persons. The hilly nature of a large part of the province with its extensive forest areas and with the prevalence of the mahua tree facilitates illicit distillation. This pernicious but lucrative trade is no longer confined to backward tracts, 191 cases having been detected in towns and 1,347 cases in open and well developed rural areas. The towns of Nagpur and Kamptee contributed 49 cases and Jubbulpore 17. Detection is becoming increasingly difficult as described in paragraph 33 of the report. Government expects the more enlightened members of the public to co-operate with the Excise and the Police Departments in suppressing this nefarious traffic.

6. Thanks to the energetic measures taken by the Excise Commissioner, there was an improvement in the collection of excise dues. The demand for the year under review was practically recovered in full, the amount outstanding being only Rs. 13,266 out of a total of Rs. 24.48 lakhs. Of the old arrears amounting to Rs. 1,35,572 a sum

of Rs. 34,549 or 25 per cent was recovered, and Rs. 11,696 or 9 per cent was written off as irrecoverable, leaving a balance of Rs. 89,327 at the close of the year. These arrears are long outstanding and Government desires that special efforts should be made to recover them as quickly as possible.

7. In conclusion, Government desires to thank Mr. P. S. Rau, I.C.S., for his vigilant administration of the department of which he held charge during practically the whole of the year. He showed commendable zeal and energy in tackling the difficult and novel problems with which the department was faced as a result of the new policy of immediate and total prohibition. Its thanks are also due to the numerous non-official workers in the cause of temperance and prohibition.

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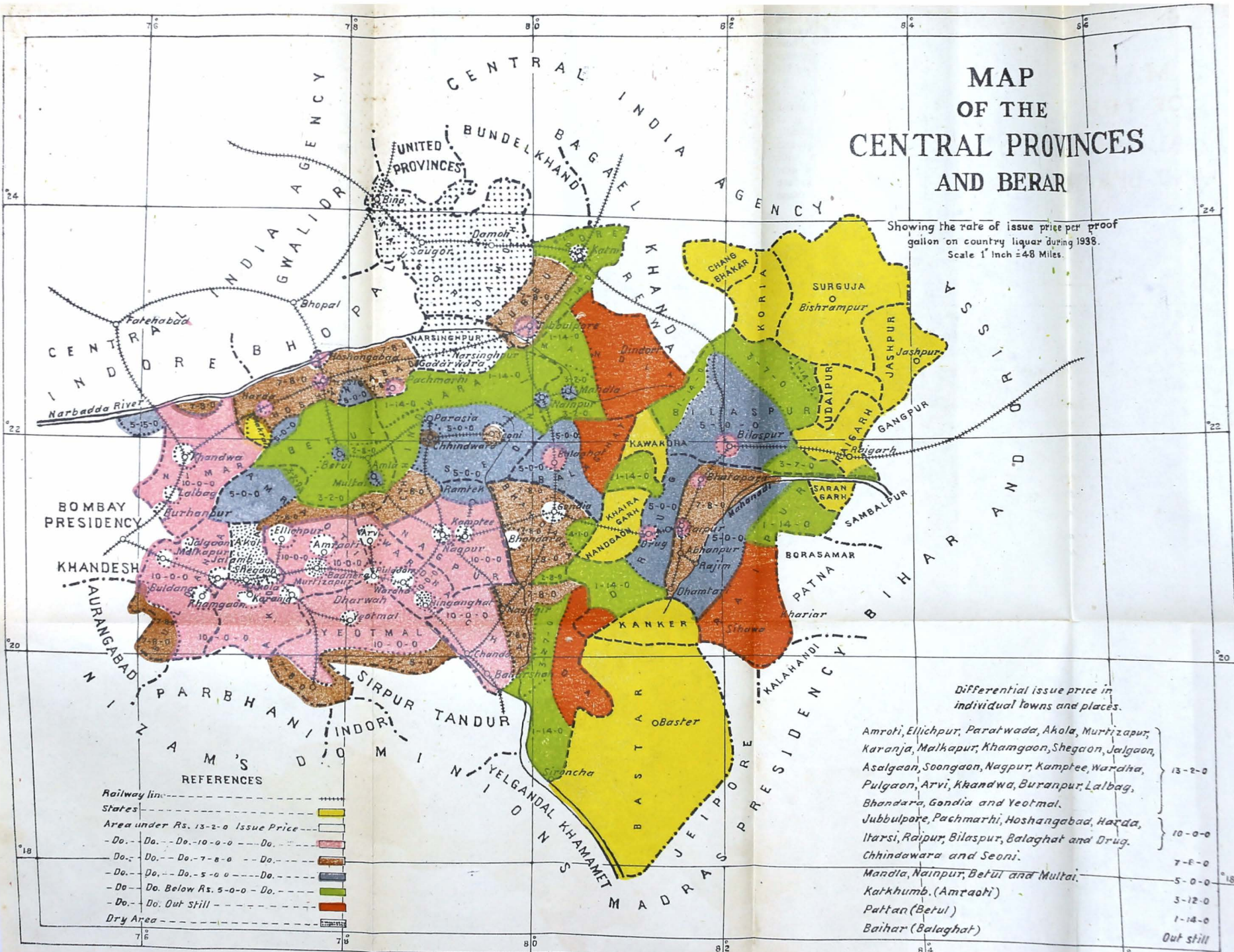
ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Excise Commissioner, Central Provinces and Berar, for information and guidance, also that it be published in the *Central Provinces and Berar Gazette*.

By order of the Governor,  
Central Provinces & Berar,  
C. M. TRIVEDI,  
*Chief Secretary to Govt., C. P. & Berar.*



# MAP OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

Showing the rate of issue price per proof gallon on country liquor during 1938.  
Scale 1" Inch = 48 Miles.



- REFERENCES**
- Railway line
  - States
  - Area under Rs. 13-2-0 Issue Price
  - Do. - Do. - Do. - 10-0-0 - Do.
  - Do. - Do. - Do. - 7-8-0 - Do.
  - Do. - Do. - Do. - 5-0-0 - Do.
  - Do. - Do. - Do. Below Rs. 5-0-0 - Do.
  - Do. - Do. - Do. Out still
  - Dry Area

- Differential issue price in individual towns and places.
- Amrohi, Ellichpur, Paratwada, Akola, Murizapur, Karanja, Malkapur, Khangaon, Shegaon, Jalgaon, Asalgaon, Soongaon, Nagpur, Kamptee, Wardha, Pulgaon, Arvi, Khandwa, Buranpur, Lalbag, Bhandara, Gondia and Yeotmal. } 13-2-0
  - Jubbulpore, Pachmarhi, Hoshangabad, Harda, Itarsi, Raipur, Bilaspur, Balaghat and Drug, Chhindawara and Seoni. } 10-0-0
  - Mandia, Nainpur, Betul and Multai. } 7-8-0
  - Karkhumb. (Amraoti) } 5-0-0
  - Pattan (Betul) } 5-12-0
  - Baihar (Balaghat) } 1-14-0
  - Out still

No. SL/2671

FROM

P. S. RAU, ESQ., I.C.S.,  
EXCISE COMMISSIONER,  
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR,  
SEPARATE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

*Nagpur, the 27th April 1939.*

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the report on the excise administration of this province for the calendar year 1938, together with the prescribed statements and the district reports.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

P. S. RAU,  
*Excise Commissioner,  
Central Provinces and Berar.*



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Errata to the Report on the Excise Administration of the  
Central Provinces and Berar for the Calendar year 1938

*No. 1, dated Nagpur, the 14th August 1939.*

*Page 2, paragraph 2, line 15.—Substitute “defaulters” for “defauters”.*

*Page 7, paragraph 11, line 12.—Substitute “excisable” for “exciseable”.*

*Page 8, paragraph 13, line 24.—Substitute “picketted” for “picked”.*

*Page 9, paragraph 14, line 37.—Substitute “22,039” for “22,033”.*

*Page 10, paragraph 14, line 43.—Insert ( between the words “convicted” and “the”.*

*Page 11, paragraph 14, line 5.—Substitute “gauge” for “guage”.*

[No. 1, dated the 14th August 1939.]

GPN—1198-L—EC—23-8-39—248,

favourable monsoon conditions combined with low prices of cotton and wheat there was no improvement in the economic condition of the agricultural classes. Food was plentiful but cultivators were short of money and this also affected to some extent the wages of labourers. Rice districts however fared better.

The effects of the seasons coupled with the introduction of prohibition in the Saugor district, Narsinghpur subdivision, Akot taluq of the Akola district and the towns of Hinganghat, Badnera and Katni and the general enhancement of the issue price of country liquor by 31 per cent are reflected in the reduced revenue and consumption. The gross revenue declined by Rs. 2.22 to 66.15 [Rs. 68.37] lakhs. All the principal heads of revenue shared in the fall, the details of which are given in subsequent paragraphs. The revenue dropped in ten districts and rose in nine districts. Marked falls occurred in Akola (-Rs. 88,049), Saugor (-Rs. 72,113), Buldana (-Rs. 67,823), Hoshangabad (-Rs. 41,087), Wardha (-Rs. 32,038) and Amraoti (-Rs. 30,174). The districts showing noticeable increases were Betul (+Rs. 38,765),

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