

GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
JAIL DEPARTMENT
IN THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE
31ST DECEMBER 1938

NAGPUR
GOVERNMENT PRINTING, C. P. & BEFAR
1939

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GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR
JAIL DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 15th September 1939.

READ—

The report on the jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1938.

READ ALSO—

The District Reports.

RESOLUTION

The introduction of jaii reforms, which are described at length in the report, has been the most outstanding feature of the year. The effect of these reforms, which have been much appreciated by the prisoners, has been wholly beneficial. They have resulted in a considerable improvement in the amenities in jails and are very largely responsible for the decline in jail offences by 300. The bills referred to in the report for the statutory recognition of a new class of prisoner, *viz.*, political prisoner, and the release on parole of well-behaved prisoners for short periods under certain conditions in order to enable them to visit their homes, have now been passed into law, and action is being taken to frame the necessary rules. No further legislation is contemplated at present, but Government is fully alive to the fact that there is scope for further improvements in the field of administration. While the maintenance of discipline in jails is essential, it is no less essential that all grades of the jail staff should always show courtesy and consideration to the prisoners committed to their care. The Inspector-General of Prisons has issued suitable instructions in the matter, and Government has no doubt that their observance will be insisted upon most rigorously. Government has also under consideration the question of

revising the existing qualifications for entry in the Jail Department in order to obtain a better and more educated class of candidates. Further, the Provincial Government is anxious to bring into operation the Children Act enacted in 1928 but, faced as the Province is with acute financial stringency, it seems probable that this reform, though overdue, will have to wait for some time longer.

2. The department continues to be administered efficiently. The year opened with a jail population of 4,785 [5,272] and closed with a population of 4,639. Admissions numbered 6,396 [6,265]. The variations are not appreciable. On the other hand, the average daily number declined from 4,942 to 4,522, due to the premature release of prisoners as a result of the grant of two months' special remission in commemoration of the announcement of the jail reforms. Discipline continued to be well-maintained, jail offences having fallen from 2,089 in 1936 to 1,316 in the year under report. The total expenditure declined from Rs. 6.82 lakhs to Rs. 6.43 lakhs owing to the fall in the jail population, the reduction of the status of the Amraoti jail, and the enforcement of strict economy. The cash profits rose from Rs. 1.34 lakhs to Rs. 1.94 lakhs.

3. Although the number of offenders dealt with under the Borstal Act has increased from 81 to 111, Government wishes to stress once again the desirability of magistrates making greater use of the Act than at present. It also commends for general adoption the practice followed in some districts of entrusting the trials of offences committed by adolescents to one magistrate. Government regrets to observe that the number of prisoners sentenced to simple imprisonment has risen from 439 to 644 and the number of sentences of one month and less from 457 to 640. This was perhaps inevitable in a large number of cases, but a more careful scrutiny of calendar statements seems indicated and Government trusts that the whole question will receive the systematic attention of District Magistrates.

4. Lieutenant-Colonel N. S. Jatar, C.I.E., D.S.O., I.M.S., was in charge of the department until the beginning of April when he went on leave and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Modi, I.M.S., who officiated as Inspector-General of Prisons during the remaining part of the

year. Lieutenant-Colonel N. S. Jatar was of great assistance to Government in formulating the scheme of jail reforms, while the brunt of carrying them into effect fell on Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Modi. Government desires to place on record its thanks to both officers for another year of successful administration of the department.

By order of the Governor,
Central Provinces & Berar,

C. M. TRIVEDI,
Secy. to Govt., C. P. & Berar,
Jail Departmen

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