

Our Economic Condition

Data compiled by

THE ECONOMICS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Edited by

DR. BALJIT SINGH, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D.

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Preface.

The statistical data analysed in this brochure was collected by the members of the Economics Research Committee to make an unbiased study of the present economic situation in the country. To have an adequate understanding of the complex problems, with which we are faced today, and to set forth a strictly scientific view unbiased in any way by the apparently distorted elements in the situation, a historical approach of the subject was but necessary. At the present momentous time in the history of the country, the scientists have a special responsibility to seek and unfold the truth, and the members of the Committee feel that the present study is an effort in that spirit. It is an attempt to present to the intelligent man the economic realism in a clear perspective, so that he may arrive at his own conclusions, and thus be able to take right decisions concerning his individual, communal or collective future actions and policies. The members are well aware of the limitations of an empirical approach, particularly in this country where published statistics are defective in more ways than one, and where the all-India figures after 1937 (due to separation of Burma) are not strictly comparable with the previous figures. The figures, however, contain and measure truth in a way, in which unaided letters can never do.

The members of the Committee were assembling for discussions of the various problems from day to day and the editor was charged with the duty of expressing the views and conclusions arrived at those sittings and append the same in the form of brief chapters to the statistical data collected for the monograph. It was suggested at one stage that chart and diagrams might serve the same purpose in a better way but the proposal was given up on account of certain technical and financial difficulties. I have tried to interpret the statistical data in simple language without being biased or prejudiced in any way, and to present nothing but the strictly scientific view, so that the reader may be able to take an independent judgment, just as he would have done by looking at those proposed lines and curves. Obviously, the views expressed herein, do not commit any other member of the Committee but myself, except those of Professor K.L. Garg for the last chapter, as the same has been written by him.

Incidentally, the booklet covers a major portion of Indian Economics and as such may prove exceedingly useful for the

students of degree and post-graduate classes. Its primary object is, however, to enlighten the intelligent man about our economic condition today, so that he may make his full contribution to the economic development of the country.

I wish to express my indebtedness and deep gratitude to all my collaborators for the pains that they have taken to unearth the truth, and in particular to Principal Ram Karan Singh who has been the motor force in the present work. My thanks are also due to my wife, who has gone through the early stages of the manuscript and the proofs, besides helping me constantly in sifting the dry statistical data, a really unwholesome work for the fair sex. I also acknowledge my indebtedness to the printers and the publishers for the promptitude that they have shown in their work, particularly in these extra-ordinary times.

MUSSOORIE.
20th May 1944.

BALJIT SINGH,
Editor.

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