Annual Report on Industrial Co-operative Societies for the Province of Rombay for the year ended June 1947

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT. Revenue Department, Secretariat, Bombay 1:

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Poona, the 4th July 1948.

I forward herewith the Annual Report on Industrial Co-operatives Societies and Village Industries in the province for the year ended 30th June 1947, submitted by the Joint Registrar, Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries.

- 2. The Joint Registrar's report is a fairly exhaustive review of the activities of the Cottage Industries Section (including industrial co-operatives) the administration of which is now the responsibility of this Department. The various views expressed by the Joint Registrar with regard to the future lines of development and measures under contemplation for revival and rehabilitation of Cottage Industries are generally in accordance with the discussions he has had with me from It will be noticed that the period under report was time to time. a preparatory stage during which attention was mostly concentrated on re-examining the working of the various schemes (referred to in para. 3 of the Joint Registrar's report) transferred from the Industries Department, reorganising the technical institutions etc. An outstanding feature of the new plans of development is the greater emphasis on the need for co-operative effort amongst the artisans—so that, apart from the provision of necessary technical knowledge, equipment etc., the co-operative machinery could be harnessed effectively to their lasting benefit.
- 3. The appointment of the village Industries Committee which synchronised with the decision of Government to transfer the Cottage Industries Section to this Department is an indication of the importance which is attached to the need for securing active participation of norofficial workers in our schemes of development. As pointed out by the Joint Registrar, the village Industries committee which has its head office in Bombay, works through its three regional centres—one for each of the linguistic divisions, and is not only responsible for submission of detailed plans of work but also for the execution of the schemes. The Provincial Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries Conference held at Poona in November 1946, also provided a very useful platform in eliciting the views of the non-official workers, and institutions on several important questions such as the structure of the industrial co-operative movement, financing of cottage Industries by the state, development or cottage Industries in selected areas, intensive establishment of a co-ordination committee etc.
 - 4. In the field of industrial co-operation, the increase in the number of industrial co-operative societies engaged in various types of industries like tanning and leather work, fishing, Bee-keeping, metal work, pottery

manufactures etc., from 69 to 124, and of weavers societies from 130 to 174 augurs well for further development. To foster the healthy growth of industrial Co-operatives, the plans drawn up aim at broadening the basis of existing District Industrial Associations so as to enable them to undertake the work not only relating to the development of hand loom weaving industry but also other cottage and subsidiary industries, and establishment of such new organisations in Districts which were hitherto lagging behind in this type of activity. During the year while steps were in progress for enlargement of the functions of the existing associations, five new associations were also registered. To co-ordinate the activities of District Industrial Associations, and to help the development of small scale industries, a Provincial Industrial Co-operative Association at Bombay has also organised; this top-most storey in the structure of industrial co-operatives constitutes a land mark in the history of co-operative movement in this province, and if only the association can play its role effectively on the development of business and production, there is every reason to be confident in future of industrial co-operatives. Steps taken to foster the growth of industrial co-operatives have also brought in their wake, several important problems viz. satisfactory arrangements for finance evolution of an efficient system of supervision etc. which are at present engaging the attention of the Department.

5. In conclusion, I might add that I fully agree with the views expressed by the Joint Registrial Industrial Co-operatives in para. 147 of his report. The success of our schemes aiming at rehabilitation of cottage industries is, apart from the efforts of the official staff, financial assistance from Government etc., greatly dependent on the initiative and enthusiasm of non-official workers and non-official institutions. The co-ordination committee appointed by Government to consider the recommendations contained Manu Subedar Committee's report and formulate schemes relating to the promotion of cottage industries is already at work, but any large scale expansion which may have to be undertaken on a planned basis as a result of the committees' labours would undoubtedly call forth an increasing measure of support from the non-official workers.

B. P. PATEL.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES IN THE PROVINCE OF BOMBAY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1947.

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