



Report of the Bombay Economic and
Industrial Survey Committee
1938-1940

Volume II

Notes on the Economy and Industries of the different
Districts of the Bombay Province

AHMEDNAGAR

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Volume II of the Report contains notes on the economy and industries of the various districts of the Province and of the City of Bombay. These notes have been drafted by Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao and are based upon the reports collected by the Committee's investigators, the records of their interviews with the artisans and traders and such other information as was available to the Committee in the form of published documents and memoranda submitted by officials and non-officials; the notes were discussed by the Committee and they resolved that the same be published as Volume II of the Report.

It must be made clear that these notes are not intended to be recommendatory to Government, nor do the information and suggestions contained therein represent the views either of Dr. Rao or of the other members of the Committee. Such views as these notes contain are in most cases the views of the artisans and traders interviewed by the investigators and in some cases they also include the views of the investigators themselves. The Committee, therefore, do not hold themselves responsible for any of the views expressed in this Volume.

The Committee are aware that the data contained in these notes is not always adequate and in some cases it is possible that some inaccuracies of fact might have crept into these notes. After all, it must be remembered that the investigators on whose returns these notes are mainly based, cannot have spent on an average more than 15 days in a district and their main function was to record views. They have faithfully done that and if there are any inaccuracies or erroneous beliefs or undue expectations about the industrial possibilities, they merely represent part of the accepted ideas of those who are engaged in industrial occupations in the districts. The Committee were anxious that data should be collected regarding the number of those engaged in different industries and with this end in view suggested to Government that a sample industrial census should be taken of the Province. But Government did not see their way to accept the scheme submitted by the Committee with the result that it has not been possible for the Committee to collect statistical data regarding the condition of small scale and cottage industries of the Province. With

the limited staff and funds at their disposal, the Committee had to restrict themselves to ascertaining the experience, views and difficulties of those who are engaged in small scale and cottage industries of the Province ; and as persons engaged in small scale and cottage industries are scattered, unorganised, and spread over the whole of the Province, the Committee had to appoint investigators for the purpose of interviewing a few persons in each district who are engaged in different cottage and small scale industries. The industrial side of the notes, which follow, merely sums up the information collected by the investigators from the artisans and traders whom they interviewed. The Committee nevertheless have to recommend the publication of this material as Volume II of their Report in order that public interest may be roused in the economic and industrial conditions of the Province and these reports should be made the starting point for further and more elaborate investigation. They hope that Government will follow this up with a sample industrial census of the Province ; if this is done, these notes together with the results yielded by such a census will constitute a valuable storehouse of information for those who are engaged in the task of planning the industrial future of the Province.

PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS,

May 3, 1940.

Chairman.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

These Notes on the Economy and Industries of the various districts in the Province and of the Bombay City, comprising Volume II of the Report of the Bombay Economic and Industrial Survey Committee, were submitted to Government by the Committee in May 1940. The Committee expressed the view that these Notes should be printed for general information in order that public interest might be roused in the economic and industrial conditions of the Province. The Notes as received by Government needed, however, revision and re-shaping before they could be published. Government, therefore, appointed with effect from 3rd January, 1941, Mr. P. S. Nadkarni of the Finance Department, who had worked as the Assistant Secretary of the Committee, to carry out this work. Mr. Nadkarni worked under the general supervision of the Director of Industries and in the preliminary stages, in consultation with the Chairman and the Secretary of the Committee. Beyond putting into shape, and editing the Notes for purposes of publication, no alterations have been made in the drafts as originally submitted to Government by the Committee.

March, 1941.

P. B. ADVANI,
Director of Industries.

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