



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON  
INDIAN LABOUR

MEMORANDUM  
OF WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF  
GOVERNMENT WITNESSES  
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

*[For official use only]*

BOMBAY  
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS  
1929.



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON  
INDIAN LABOUR

MEMORANDUM  
OF WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF  
VERNMENT WITNESSES  
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

*[For official use only]*

## CONTENTS

	Pages
Circular letters to witnesses .. .. .	1-2
Terms of Reference .. .. .	3
List of Subjects .. .. .	4-14
Evidence of—	
1. Mr. J. E. P. Curry, Shipping Master, Bombay .. .. .	15-26
2. Mr. O. H. B. Starte, I.C.S., Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer, Bombay Presidency .. .. .	27
3. Mr. R. J. Tata, Certifying Surgeon, Bombay .. .. .	28-30
4. Mr. T. W. Johnstone, M.B.E., Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay	31-42
5. Mrs. K. Wagh, Senior Lady Investigator, Labour Office, Bombay ..	43-57
6. Mr. C. S. C. Harrison, C.I.E., I.S.E., Chief Engineer, Lloyd Barrage and Canals Construction .. .. .	58-67
7. Mr. J. Ghosal, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner, Central Division, Poona .. .. .	68-70
8. Mr. Y. P. Gupto, Acting Certifying Surgeon, Ahmedabad .. .. .	71-72
9. Mr. P. B. Advani, M.Sc., Tech., M.I.E., Director of Industries, Bombay .. .. .	73-80
10. Mr. V. S. Bhide, I.C.S., Bar-at-Law, Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bombay Presidency .. .. .	81-95
11. Mr. F. B. P. Lory, M.A. (Oxon.), I.E.S., Director of Public Instruction, Bombay Presidency .. .. .	96-98
12. Mr. W. H. Phillips, Inspector of Factories, Ahmedabad .. .. .	99-104
13. Mr. W. B. Gilligan, I.C.S., Collector of Ratnagiri .. .. .	105

## APPENDIX A

The following table shows the distribution of women and children in the Industries employing the majority :—

Year.	Women.					
	Gujarat.			Sind.		Total.
	All Industries.	Cotton Spg. & Wvg.	Ginning & Pressing.	All Industries.	Ginning & Pressing.	
1924 ..	14,896	10,490	4,213	1,820	1,177	16,716
1925 ..	17,869	11,773	5,123	1,782	1,032	19,151
1926 ..	17,108	11,904	4,713	1,768	1,000	18,876
1927 ..	17,370	12,371	4,579	1,836	1,105	19,206
1928 ..	17,551	12,969	4,791	2,257	1,542	19,808

Year.	Children.					
	Gujarat.			Sind.		Total.
	All Industries.	Cotton Spg. & Wvg.	Ginning & Pressing.	All Industries.	Ginning & Pressing.	
1924 ..	4,592	4,308	226	956	894	5,548
1925 ..	3,701	3,450	107	819	732	4,520
1926 ..	3,007	2,863	202	706	758	3,765
1927 ..	2,521	2,306	107	611	580	3,101
1928 ..	1,810	1,624	52	613	592	2,423

Mr. W. B. GILLIGAN, I.C.S., Collector of Ratnagiri.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Only about 2/3rd of the total area of 2,564,284 acres in this district being culturable the pressure of population (1,154,244 which excludes for the most part the emigrants who may number about 200,000) is heavy on the land. The district does not yield grains sufficient for the wants of the people. Some of the cultivators are very small landholders and the rest landless. The bulk of them therefore serve as field labourers on daily wages either in kind or cash and cultivate lands of others. But for the most part the chief crops in this district being monsoon crops, agricultural work occupies the husbandmen and labourers in this district for a portion of the year, *viz.*, 4 to 5 months only. So yearly when the harvest is over, hands of able bodied husbandmen and field labourers (who belong chiefly to the Marathas, Kunbis and Mhars Communities) numbering not less than 100,000 go to Bombay and Karachi in search of employment and working there in mills, or as domestic servants or in private firms, docks, etc., during the fair season return to their homes in time for the rice sowing operations. Some of them, however, return to their homes twice—once for the Shimga festival and again at the beginning of the next cultivating season.

No difficulty is ever experienced in this district in securing field labourers. Recently, however, owing to the tension between the tenants and khots in the Northern Division of this district, the khots at some places find it difficult to secure an adequate number of labourers to work on their fields but as the tension is gradually being eased, it is hoped that the normal conditions will soon be restored.

There is no regular agency or organization in this district to secure agricultural labourers for work elsewhere, nor is there any permanent labour force and so the information in the prescribed form cannot be given.

The Royal Indian Marine has recruited its personnel from the Muhamadan Community of this district, particularly of the Northern Division, from time immemorial. Information regarding the number of seamen now in service in the Royal Indian Marine and in private ships is not available in this office. The information may be obtained from the Director, Royal Indian Marine, as to the agency employed by that Department in securing lascars in this district.

I am not in possession of information on any other points.