



Report on the Jails of
the Central Provinces
and Berar for the year
ending 31st December
1932

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GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

JAIL DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 28th July 1933.

READ—

The report on the jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1932.

READ ALSO—

The district reports.

RESOLUTION

1. The number and classification of jails remained the same as in previous years. The statistics of the year include figures relating to civil disobedience prisoners and cannot therefore be compared usefully with the figures of the last year when the movement had ceased. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes rose from 4,847.89 to 5,665.12 out of whom 2,748 prisoners were accounted for by the civil disobedience movement.

2. The Advisory boards continued to do good work and 51 prisoners were released on their recommendation. As a measure of economy meetings of the boards are now held at Nagpur and Raipur only, instead of at six district headquarters.

3. The Governor in Council regrets to note the large increase in the number of short sentences and the number of youthful and adolescent offenders, which has been brought about by convictions for offences connected with the civil disobedience movement which, as before, freely enlisted the services of immature and impressionable young men. The infliction of short sentences cannot, however, be too strongly deprecated and must be avoided as far as possible. The Governor in Council desires to impress upon the District Magistrates the importance of exercising sustained vigilance in the matter.

4. The increase in the number of jail punishments, was due partly to the increase in the jail population and partly to the determination of certain

civil disobedience prisoners to defy authority, necessitating in the case of the Amraoti jail the adoption of special measures. It is therefore satisfactory to find that a high standard of discipline was maintained in all the jails in a year which was none too easy for jail administration.

5. In spite of the increase in the jail population, there was a decrease of Rs. 76,244 in the total expenditure and the average cost per prisoner dropped from Rs. 161-10-0 to Rs. 124-14-0 in the year under report. Economy in administration as well as the general fall in prices have contributed to this decrease. On the other hand the trade depression resulting in lower prices and smaller demand for jail products has made serious inroads on the receipts from jail industries. The Governor in Council notes with pleasure that the net cost per prisoner shows a substantial decline.

6. The record of health during the year has been unusually satisfactory despite the increase in the population. The death rate fell to 8.12 per mille the lowest on record so far and is an indication of the care exercised by the superintendents and medical officers.

7. The Governor in Council desires to place on record an appreciation of the good work done by Colonel Powell and the officers and all ranks serving in the department during a year of exceptional difficulty in which the unpopular nature of their duties has been brought into prominence. The contents of the report and the names selected for mention indicate that Colonel Powell has been very successful in maintaining the morale of his department.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Government of India in the Home Department, and that a copy be forwarded to the Inspector-General of Prisons, for information and also that it be published in the *Central Provinces Gazette*.

By order of the Governor in Council,

N. J. ROUGHTON,

*Chief Secretary to Government,
Central Provinces*