



Report on the Jails of the
Central Provinces and
Berar for the year ending
31st December 1933

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NAGPUR
GOVERNMENT PRINTING, C. P.
1934

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No. 252-280-V (a)

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
JAIL DEPARTMENT*Nagpur, the 11th July 1934.*

READ—

The report on the jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1933.

READ ALSO—

The district reports.

RESOLUTION

1. The subsidence of the civil disobedience movement explains most of the differences in the figures of the year as compared with those of 1932. With the fall in the daily average number of prisoners of all classes from 5,665 to 4,901, the jail population has almost returned to the normal. Admissions fell by no less than 4,392.

2. The Governor in Council is pleased to observe the substantial reductions in the number of short sentences, of youthful and adolescent convicts, and of jail punishments. The attention of district magistrates is being directed to the desirability of making more use of the Borstal Act and, where possible, of appointing selected magistrates of experience to try cases against adolescents. The steady rise in the number of admissions of habitual criminals is no doubt the result of the economic depression, and the position may be expected to improve when better times return. In 31 cases prisoners were released before the expiry of their terms as a result of the recommendations of the Advisory Boards. In most cases the recommendations made were supported by the district authorities and were accepted by Government.

3. The total expenditure in guarding and maintaining prisoners again decreased, the fall being Rs. 58,576 though the total cost per head increased to Rs. 132-6-5 from Rs. 124-14-0 as a result of the smaller average population; but the average cost is still well below the figure for 1931 and the Governor in Council is satisfied that rigorous economy has been maintained. The continuance of the trade depression and the reduction in the number of convicts have led to a shrinkage in the gross profits from jail industries by Rs. 9,584, but the average profit per head of the convicts sentenced to labour has increased to Rs. 27-9-9 from Rs. 25-7-0, and the results obtained are not unsatisfactory.