

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR
GOVERNMENT AT WORK

From 1st May to 31st July 1939

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PART I

The following are the measures taken by the Government in this Province from the 1st of May to the 31st of July 1939 :—

General Administration Department

The ban on the publications mentioned below was lifted :—

- (1) Mumukshuche Udgar, Part I, edited and published by Lakshman Ramchandra Pangarkar.
- (2) Mumukshuche Udgar, Hapta Dusara, edited and published by Lakshman Ramchandra Pangarkar.
- (3) A pamphlet in Marathi entitled "Punjabcha Simha".
- (4) A book in Bengali entitled "Pather Dabi" written by Sri Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya.
- (5) Navin Tilakancha Povada and Tilak Git, written in Marathi by Raghunath Krishna Mule Chaphekar.
- (6) Shri Ganpatichya Melyanchi Padyen, Bhag Dusara, written by Trivikrama Kashinath Pitre.
- (7) Sudarshan-Giten, Bhag Tisra, printed by Vishvanath Janardan Karandikar at the Govardhan Press, Poona.
- (8) The New English Teacher, Parts I and II, published by Yadnyeshwar Gopal Dixit.
- (9) Swadeshi Chalwal Natak (i.e., Swadeshi Agitation Drama) by Ismail Yusuf (alias Babaji) Bhaldar.
- (10) The Eight Days Interlude, printed and published at the Jawahar Press, Delhi.
- (11) Kali Kartuten by Mahatma Gandhi.
- (12) Satyagrah Yuddha (Sainikonke janne yogya baten) (Collection of certain writings of Mahatma Gandhi), published by Sitaram Seksaria, Calcutta.
- (13) Satyagrah Yuddha (Sainikonke janne yogya baten) (Collection of certain writings of Mahatma Gandhi), published by Mohanlal Maganlal Bhatt, Ahmadabad.
- (14) Zinda Bano, written by Dattatrya Balkrishna Kelkar.

Government has decided that with effect from the 1st June 1939, the hill allowance drawn by non-gazetted Government servants other than those holding inferior posts in the different departments stationed at Pachmarhi should be reduced from 20 per cent of their pay to 15 per cent subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 per mensem and a minimum of Rs. 7-8-0 per mensem instead of Rs. 30 per mensem and Rs. 10 per mensem, respectively.

The leopard or the tendua (*Felis pardus*) has been excluded from the scope of the Game Act so that no licence is necessary for shooting this animal.

Deputy Commissioners have been authorized to issue, for any area in which the presence of an animal which has killed or maimed human beings is reported, temporary licences without fee for the destruction of that species of animal.

It has been decided to exempt all agriculturists holding land in villages adjoining forests both Government and private from the operation of the Game Act except in regard to birds. The Deputy Commissioners have been asked to furnish lists of such villages.

A bill amending section 10 of the Game Act was introduced in the August session of the Provincial Legislative Assembly and was passed. The object of the bill is to enable the holder of a crop protection licence to pursue a depredatory animal beyond his field.

In pursuance of an undertaking given in the course of the debate on a resolution moved at the March-April session of the Assembly that the age-limit for entry of members of the depressed classes into Government service be increased from 25 to 30, Government has issued instructions to all heads of departments that applications from Harijan candidates for employment in Government service should be entertained up to a limit of 30 years and that if a Harijan candidate between the age of 25 and 30 is otherwise suitable for employment, his application should not be rejected solely on the ground that he is overage.

Political and Military Department

Government has had under consideration the question of reinstating persons who resigned or were dismissed or discharged for political reasons during the Civil Disobedience Movement, 1932-34. Orders have been passed for the reinstatement, under certain conditions, of those who are found suitable and who applied for it. Three such persons have already been reinstated and the cases of others are being considered by the departments concerned.

Since the growth of communal tension in the Province during the past few months had been causing grave anxiety to the Government, it carefully studied all predisposing causes of communal disorders in the Province and in the light of experience gained formulated its policy and issued detailed instructions to all District Magistrates to deal with the breaches of peace and the law arising in their jurisdiction. Government at the same time made an earnest appeal to all citizens not only to lend their whole-hearted support to the execution of its policy but also to exert every means in their power to restore peace and good-will among the communities and in their daily conduct to foster inter-communal amity.

Police Department

The question about the administration of the Arms Act engaged the serious attention of Government. After careful consideration Government came to the conclusion that in areas, in

which crops are liable to be damaged by wild animals, an adult male holder of 20 acres of land should, as of right, be entitled to possess a firearm to protect his crop.

Government, therefore, passed orders for the grant of licences to such persons subject to the following provisos:—

- (a) no licence shall be given to a person convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude,
- (b) in villages with a bad previous record of serious feuds, the licensing authority will have discretion to refuse a licence to a person reported to have been a party to such feuds, etc. In the remaining areas the grant of crop protection licences will continue to be governed by paragraph 15 of the Local Rules and Orders in the Arms Act Manual.

Government also passed orders abrogating the Local Rules and Orders in the Arms Act Manual making the renewal of a licence for the protection of crop dependent on the production of wild pigs' tushes by the licensee.

The maximum age-limit of candidates for admission to the Central Provinces Police Training College, Saugor, was raised from 21 years to 23 years and the paragraph 12 (c) of Appendix C of the Police Regulations regarding preference being given to unmarried candidates was deleted.

Jail Department

With a view to improve the standard of jail manufactures and to ensure better work, the standard tasks laid down in rule 664 of the Central Provinces and Berar Jail Manual were reduced in the case of many industries and the reduced (revised) tasks introduced in jails in 1934 by way of experiment. It has been found by experience that the performance of these revised tasks by prisoners has become easier and orders have accordingly been issued to jails to have the revised tasks adopted permanently.

Government has decided that women prisoners should be allowed to have *supari* out of their jail earnings, if they so desire.

Instructions have been issued regarding the words of command in jails. The first word of command "Sirkar" has been discontinued and the subsequent words of command "Sirkar Ek" and "Sirkar Do" have been substituted by the words of command "Ek" and "Do". The words of command for A and B class prisoners, e.g., "Officer", "Salute", "As you were" have been ordered to be substituted by the words "Attention" and "As you were" as saluting is not done in actual practice.

As female prisoners were finding it difficult to wear heavier saris especially during hot weather, orders have been issued that they should be provided with lighter saris made in jails.

Government has issued instructions that the uniform for Forest Guards prepared in the Jubbulpore Central Jail should be made out of Indian Khaki cloth.

Government has permitted as a special case the tubercular prisoners in the Chhindwara Jail to play card games.

A scheme for the compulsory education of all adult prisoners has been ordered to be introduced in the Jubbulpore Central Jail. If the scheme proves successful, it is proposed to extend it to other jails.

Permission has been granted to selected teachers and boys of Rajkumar College, Raipur, for teaching the prisoners in the Raipur District Jail with a view to remove illiteracy among them.

Government has ordered that, as an experimental measure, machines for extracting fibre from aloe should be installed in two jails.

The Central Provinces and Berar Prisons (Amendment) Act, 1939 (X of 1939), which provides for the special treatment of political prisoners came into force during the month.

Government ordered that persons convicted in connection with the Umrer Satyagraha should be treated as political prisoners.

Judicial Department

Sections 4 to 8 and 10 to 17 of the Central Provinces Probation of Offenders Act, 1936 (I of 1936), have been extended to Waraseoni tahsil and Balaghat and Baihar station-houses in the Balaghat district with effect from the 1st June 1939, to Mandla town in the Mandla district from 20th June and to Katni town in the Jubbulpore district from the 15th July.

Revenue Department

In view of the economic condition of the people, Government has had under consideration for some time the question of the recovery of land revenue and the use of coercive processes therefor. After careful consideration Government decided to suspend, up to the 15th October 1939, the use of coercive processes for the recovery of arrears of land revenue up to and including the arrears of the kharif demand of 1938-39 and issued orders accordingly. This decision was made applicable to the cotton-growing area where suspensions were granted at the last kharif harvest, *i.e.*, to all the four districts of Berar, to Nagpur and Wardha districts, and those tahsils of Chanda and Chhindwara districts where suspensions of the last kharif kist were granted on account of the partial failure of the cotton crop and it was made clear that the concession will not apply to the current rabi demand and that it will not be extended to wilful and habitual defaulters. Similarly, orders were issued suspending all coercive processes in respect of the recovery of taccavi loans.

The Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1939 (XIV of 1939), was brought into force with effect from the 18th July 1939.

The Debt Relief Courts under the Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Act of 1939 were established with effect from the 22nd July 1939.

*Progress report of allotment of taccavi loans till
the end of July 1939.*

Division	Loans under the Land Improve- ment Loans Act	Loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act
(1)	(2)	(3)
	Rs.	Rs.
Jubbulpore ..	10,500	1,11,200
Nagpur ..	60,000	2,47,500
Chhattisgarh ..	35,000	1,44,300
Berar ..	1,50,500	12,06,000
Total ..	2,55,500	17,09,000

*Progress report of suspensions and remissions of land revenue
till the end of July 1939*

District	Suspension		Remission (1st and 2nd kists)	Resus- pension	Remission of old arrears
	1st kist	2nd kist			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Nagpur ..	4,05,139	..	..	9,408	45,721
Wardha ..	2,28,521	..	..	..	32,398
Chanda ..	28,927	36,756	317	6,691	..
Chhindwara ..	51,115	42,091	22,306	2,58,699	..
Betul ..	2,729	2,660	5,433	31,795	16,552
Jubbulpore ..	4,959	14,306	63,863	1,37,944	29,288
Hoshangabad ..	10,417	..	40,124	61,500	..
Nimar ..	..	..	1,615	..	..
Mandla ..	..	4,610	19,517	24,437	2,718
Saugor ..	..	..	3,777	..	..
Bilaspur ..	..	..	4,804	..	..
Drug ..	..	..	1,399	..	..
Bhandara ..	..	1,19,509	590	..	..
Balaghat ..	..	..	620	..	102
Amraoti ..	2,38,256	..	..	..	150
Akola ..	4,13,190	25,710	..	..	93,474
Buldana ..	72,809	6,054	..	..	14,840
Yeotmal ..	1,53,292	3,424	..	..	..
Total ..	16,10,354	2,55,120	1,64,365	5,30,474	2,35,243

Agriculture Department

Studies in the research work of different species of cotton, grain, fruit and soil were continued. Seeds of improved crops were supplied to different persons.

An official was sent to Mandla district to treat the pan gardens of those growers who had been granted taccavi loans. About seven acres of pan gradens in Mandla and about one and a half acres at Hirdenagar were treated for the control of diseases and treated gardens are now free from diseases. Arrangements are being made to take on lease about four acres of pan land at Ramtek for experimental work by this department. An Assistant was sent to Tekadi village in Balaghat district for treating orange plants as an experimental measure for the control of a new disease. Advice regarding the control of crop diseases was given to malguzars and cultivators who had been to the Mycologist. Usual research work was continued.

Some orange gardens in and near about Nagpur were visited during the month to find out the extent of attack by *inderbela* sp. and *Stromatium* beetle, which are the two serious borer pests of orange. Gardens below twelve years of age showed no attack of *Stromatium*, but older gardens were heavily infested. Laboratory experiments on the Life History of these pests have been in progress. A scheme of Bee-Keeping was drawn up for the Nagpur District Village Uplift Committee. A new colony of bees from nature was captured during the month and rearing work is in progress.

Marketing surveys on gram, lac, ghee and rape and mustard continued. 276 baskets of oranges were graded during the month of May and despatched to Calcutta for sale.

Grading and disposal of rice of the Raipur Co-operative Growers' Association was taken in hand and 423 bags of graded rice were sold at favourable rates. At Bilaspur and Drug arrangements are being made to grade and dispose of the produce of the co-operative associations.

Under the auspices of the Napur Orange Growers' Association, two more wagon loads each from Kohli and Kalmeshwar were despatched to Calcutta and Delhi during the month of May. The total quantity of fruits sold through the agency of the Association during the season was 46,685 baskets which fetched a gross value of Rs. 48,795-8-0.

Demonstration and propaganda were continued on usual lines but more attention was paid to the supply of improved kharif seeds of paddy 110,000 lb., rahar 2,500 lb., and 3,000 lb. of groundnut were distributed in Eastern circle. In Southern circle total kharif crop seed 25,500 lb. was distributed and in Western circle propaganda against the cultivation of garrowhill cotton was carried out vigorously as a result of which the demand for verum seed far exceeded the supply in many centres. So far 6,566 maunds of improved cotton seed, 1,157 maunds of groundnut seed, 130 maunds of Juar, 89 maunds of tur and 86 maunds of other seeds and 700 fruit plants have been distributed in the circle.

In Southern and Western circles 12,900 lb. of fertilizers have been distributed for manuring cane and garden crops and 878 lb. of copper carbonate have also been supplied to cultivators for treating juar seed against smut disease.

Forty practical demonstrations were given in Southern circle. Arrangements were made to grade and stock growers' rice at their Co-operative Association godowns at Raipur, Bilaspur and Drug. The stock at Raipur was disposed of and the association earned 9 per cent profit and arrangements are being made to dispose of the stock of the Bilaspur and Drug godowns.

Work of organizing a co-operative dairy society at Raipur is in progress.

At Lormi, in the Bilaspur district, arrangements are being made to start an open pan sugar factory. This will help to increase the area under cane in this tract.

Vidya Mandirs.—Suitable agricultural demonstrations were arranged on the 3rd June at Rampura and Kheria Vidya Mandirs on the occasion of the opening of the Vidya Mandir Museums by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister. Agricultural operations are in full swing on Vidya Mandir lands.

The campaign against *Gangai* pest in Sakoli tahsil assumed practical form as all the 12 centres equipped themselves with four petromax lamps and other accessories. The Entomologist together with the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Southern circle, Nagpur, and Tahsildar or Naib-Tahsildar, Sakoli, moved about in some villages demonstrating and advocating the "Light Trap" method. The Entomological Assistant is also moving about in villages where the pest has just made its appearance. Three jamadars are already allotted three or four centres each and the services of one Agricultural Assistant and two jamadars are kept ready if needed. A popular leaflet on *Gangai* pest was printed and copies distributed in the tahsil.

Co-operative Department

The number of all kinds of societies registered during the quarter is 149. Of these 116 are primary agricultural credit societies. The remaining societies include non-agricultural credit societies for Harijans and mill hands, better living and thrift societies, stores, etc.

Propaganda for the organization of thrift and better living societies was continued by the officials of the Co-operative Department. 255 savings boxes have so far been distributed among sweepers, Chamars, etc., in the Saugor district. Three thrift and better living societies for sweepers of Murwara have been registered.

In the Narsinghpur sub-division, three non-agricultural credit societies for Chamars have been organized. Out of seven societies for Chamars and sweepers, five societies were registered this year.

In the Damoh sub-division, two better living societies for the Chamars have been registered. Out of 60 savings boxes supplied in Damoh 27 were opened and the total savings made during the period of three months amount to Rs. 43-9-0.

In the Saugor sub-division, four better living societies were registered and the total number of such societies increased to 12.

Debts amounting to Rs. 95,863 of 193 members of primary societies were conciliated by Debt Conciliation Boards in the province and easy instalments fixed for their repayment.

During the month of May, nine training classes for training the members and office-bearers of societies in rural areas were held which were attended by 566 members including two outsiders.

Three classes for training members of primary credit societies in the principles and practice of co-operation, were conducted by the educational staff of the department during the month of June 1939.

Two training classes, *i.e.*, one for Circle Auditors, Valuers of Land Mortgage Banks and Chief Group Officers and the other for Assistant Group Officers, are being conducted simultaneously by the educational staff of the department from the 3rd July 1939.

Village Uplift.

During the quarter, six district and 30 tahsil village uplift committees were formed.

Demonstrations of various cottage industries were given at Bhamgarh in Nimar district by the Village Uplift Organizer during the district village panchayat conference held on the 11th and 12th May 1939. Simple and cheap rope-making and hemp-twisting contrivances devised by the Village Uplift Board were used to demonstrate the manufacture of ropes from hemp and flax to a large gathering of villagers and village panchayat members. Similar demonstrations of cottage industries and lectures on village uplift were given at Betul for a week to 400 teachers from the 14th to the 20th May 1939.

Another training class of village cottage industries, such as, rope-making, hemp-twisting, wool-spinning, dyeing, calico-printing, niwar, carpet and dari-weaving, bamboo and leather work was conducted at Prabhat Pattan in the Betul district from the 21st to the 29th May 1939.

The Village Uplift Organizer, Central Provinces and Berar, arranged a training class at Chanda under the auspices of the District Village Uplift Committee from the 5th to the 14th June 1939.

About 140 candidates attended the class. Instructions in village sanitation, agriculture, veterinary, bee-keeping and village industry were imparted.

Another class was also held by him for the lady social workers at Chhindawara from the 21st to the 30th June 1939. This class was purely meant to give instruction in cottage industries suitable for ladies.

This organizer toured other places also and helped the people to form uplift committees explaining to them at the same time the usefulness of such work.

Veterinary Department

The control of contagious cattle diseases formed the main activity of the field staff.

The nine quarantine stations established in the Saugor and Hoshangabad districts continued to work satisfactorily though these stations have been temporarily closed from the 1st July. Out of these nine stations, seven (four in Saugor and three in Hoshangabad district) were turned into outlying dispensaries.

Separate Revenue Department

The progress of prohibition in the province is contained in the two Press Notes, dated the 19th June and 24th August, published in Part III of this pamphlet.

Measures taken to check the increase in the consumption of opium in the Narsinghpur sub-division:—

In addition to four opium shops closed from the 1st January 1939, three more shops have been closed from the 16th May 1939. Only twelve shops are now left. Further closure for the ensuing year is under consideration. The question of closing from the next year shops in the surrounding districts within 10 miles from the border of this sub-division is being examined.

The limit of individual possession of opium and that of sale to an individual in any one day has been reduced from one-half to one-fourth tola with effect from the 16th June 1939.

The minimum retail price of one rupee per half a tola of opium has been fixed from the 25th April 1939 for all shops except two shops on the border adjoining the Bhopal State. At these shops opium is sold at 12 annas per half a tola.

The Director of Public Health, Central Provinces and Berar, has been requested to prepare a leaflet on the evils of opium smoking. It is proposed to print such leaflet for wide distribution among the people.

With a view to suppress opium smoking steps are also being taken to amend the Central Provinces Opium Smoking Act, 1929, by substituting imprisonment of either description for simple imprisonment, by extending the term of imprisonment from three to six months and by making provision for the appointment of anti-opium committees and honorary prohibition officers and by making it obligatory on village officials to report offences against this Act.

Anti-opium smoking committees have been formed at nine important centres in the sub-division for carrying on propaganda against opium smoking. The District Congress Committee and Anti-Drink Committees have also been requested to do propaganda work.

The following Amending Acts were brought into force with effect from the 1st July 1939:—

- (1) The Central Provinces and Berar Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1939.
- (2) Central Provinces and Berar Indian Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1939.

Forest Department

The following measures were undertaken in the Forest Department.

The system of sales of mohwa on contract in vogue in the old Saugor Forest division has been replaced by sales on seasonal head-load passes at three annas per pass.

As a measure of scarcity relief, free removal of fuel and other minor produce by the general public has been sanctioned from the reserved forests in the Warora tahsil of the Chanda district.

With a view to give medical relief to the forest villagers of Garhi, the Assistant Medical Officer in charge of the Baihar hospital in the Balaghat district has been ordered to visit the forest village once a week.

The 25 per cent reduction in the privileged and ordinary grazing rates sanctioned last year has been allowed to continue during the current year.

An area of 1,694 acres of reserved forest land in the Dindori tahsil of the Mandla district has been disforested with a view to its formation into a rayaitwari village.

Mr. G. O. Forrester, O.B.E., of Katni, has been granted permission to plant edible fruit trees at his own expense in the area applied for by him in Government Forest Block No. 106 of the Murwara Range in the Jubbulpore division.

Government has decided to exempt under section 9 of the Game Act all agriculturists holding land in villages adjoining forest both Government and private from the operation of the Game Act, except Part A of the Schedule. Rs. 1,347 were spent to the end of June 1939 on famine roads in the Mehkar Range of Buldana to provide work to the labourers in the surrounding villages.

Forest Guard Ganpat Ganganna who had been dismissed in 1930 for taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement was reinstated to his former post under orders of Government.

On account of the shortage of rainfall and the delay in the issue of patwari grazing lists, Government has extended the period for issuing of grazing licences at concessional rates throughout the Central Provinces and Berar.

As a measure of relief Government has sanctioned the deferred collection of grazing dues and free removal of edible fruits by head-loads for consumption (not for sale) in the Sihora and Murwara tahsils of the Jubbulpore division.

As a measure of economy the abolition of the present Amraoti Forest division has been sanctioned with effect from the 1st October 1939, amalgamating the same with the Melghat division.

With a view to establishing a cottage industry for rope-making, a three-year lease for babai grass in the Ganginala Range of the Seoni division was sanctioned for Rs. 120.

Commerce and Industry Department

Industrial schools.—The three Government schools of Handicrafts at Nagpur, Akola and Jubbulpore as also the seven aided industrial schools in the province re-opened from the 16th June 1939 after the summer vacation. Two new aided industrial schools, one at Khandwa and the other at Darwha (Yeotmal district), commenced their first Session with effect from the 16th June 1939. In these schools 10 pupils are admitted, annually, viz., five in the carpentry section and five in blacksmithy section. The course of instruction extends to three years and the pupils are awarded scholarships of Rs. 6 per mensem. Tools and plant to the value of Rs. 8,300 have been purchased for these schools through the Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, while the remaining tools have been supplied either from the existing stock or by local purchase. Four trained instructors, two in carpentry and two in blacksmithy, have been appointed for these schools.

It is proposed to impart training in lacquer work at the Government School of Handicrafts, Nagpur. One of the instructors who has received training in lacquer work at the Mayo School of Arts, Lahore, at Government expense, will conduct this class.

Textile.—Demonstrations in niwar and patty weaving and dyeing and printing were given at the Village Uplift class at Chanda. Detailed information for the starting of a power loom factory as a cottage industry was supplied to the Secretary, Khandwa Electric Supply Company.

Sericulture and tassar silk industry.—Under the schemes for the introduction of sericulture and development of tassar industry in this province negotiations were made to take on lease a piece of land for mulberry plantation at Ellichpur for the sericultural station in Berar and another piece of land at Sonegaon near Nagpur for the sericultural station at Nagpur. The tassar silk work rearing season commenced from the middle of June. The tassar silk worm rearers always find difficulty in getting seed for their first rearing because they do not preserve the seed cocoons from the previous year's rearings and they have to depend on stray cocoons which they pick up in jungles during the hot season. The supply of such seed cocoons is very small and consequently the first rearing is done on a very small scale and by a few rearers only. Large quantity of seed cocoons from previous years rearings were preserved in a specially constructed cool place at the departmental research and seed distribution station at Armor for the production and supply of eggs to the rearers for their first rearing. For the convenience of rearers a sub-station for distribution of seed eggs was opened at Sondar in Bhandara district. Over 7,900 layings weighing 875 tolas of seed eggs of improved variety were produced at the two stations. Most of them were distributed to rearers for rearing and some are reared departmentally in forests taken on lease.

Industrial Survey Committee.—A meeting of the Industrial Survey Committee was held on the 8th July to consider the Volume II of Part I of the Report and lay down the future

programme of work as regards the reporting on the exploitation of the Mineral, the Forest and the Power resources of this province, and on Transport, Taxation and Marketing.

In order to expedite this work, the committee divided itself into the following four sub-committees with the addition of a few co-opted members :—

- (1) Sub-Committee for Forest resources.
- (2) Sub-committee for Mineral resources.
- (3) Sub-committee for Power.
- (4) Sub-committee for Transport, Taxation and Marketing.

All the above four sub-committees are now engaged in their respective work and have sent out the necessary questionnaires to elicit information from officials and non-officials, individuals and organizations.

The Mineral Resources Sub-Committee held its meeting on the 22nd July, the Forest Resources Sub-Committee on the 29th and the Transport, Taxation and Marketing Sub-Committee on the 31st.

Local Self-Government Department

Since local bodies in this province have been more or less in a state of chronic inefficiency for many years, the Provincial Government considered it necessary to examine and review the law and machinery of Local Self-Government in the province and the working of the local self-governing institutions. Accordingly Government constituted a Committee consisting of the following members :—

Chairman

- (1) The Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government.

Members

- (2) Mr. K. P. Pande, M.L.A.
- (3) Mr. B. G. Khaparde, M.L.A.
- (4) Mr. R. G. Tiwari, M.L.A.
- (5) Mr. V. Y. Tamaskar, M.L.A.
- (6) Khan Bahadur Hifazat Ali, M.L.A.
- (7) Mr. Ramshankar Mishra, Betul.
- (8) Mr. Ramprasad Dube, M.L.A.
- (9) Mr. Krishnarao Garadgaonker, M.L.A.
- (10) Mr. Pukhrāj Kochar, M.L.A.
- (11) Mahant L. N. Das, M.L.A.
- (12) Mr. P. S. Patil, M.L.A.
- (13) Mr. L. S. Bhatkar, M. L. A.
- (14) Pandit Sitacharan Dube, Advocate, Hoshangabad.
- (15) Mr. P. Y. Deshpande, Advocate, Nagpur.
- (16) Mr. C. B. Parakh, Advocate, Nagpur.
- (17) Mr. B. A. Mandloi, M.L.A., Khandwa.
- (18) Mr. P. S. Rau, I.C.S.

The Secretary to Government in the Local Self-Government Department will act as Secretary to the Committee.

2. The terms of reference to the Committee are:—

- (1) to suggest changes in the existing structure of local self-government in the province with a view to bringing the system into line with the scheme of Provincial Autonomy as it exists and operates today, with particular reference to the relations which ought to exist between the Provincial Government and local bodies on the one hand and between the local bodies *inter se* on the other;
- (2) to advise in regard to functions to be entrusted to, and the finances of, local bodies;
- (3) to examine the report of the Local Self-Government Committee of 1935 and suggest which of its recommendations should be adopted and given effect to;
- (4) to examine the action taken by other provinces to improve their system of Local Self-Government and the working of the local bodies and to advise to what extent this province can adopt any of the measures taken by them;
- (5) to consider the proposals contained in the Hon'ble Pandit D. P. Misra's brochure "Reconstruction of Local Self-Government";
- (6) to make proposals regarding constitution, functions, responsibilities, liabilities, etc., of the services under local bodies; and
- (7) generally to review the position of Local Self-Government in the province and to formulate measures, legislative and otherwise, to achieve the goal of increased efficiency and more and better government on the spot.

3. The Committee is authorized to co-opt not more than two members having special knowledge of any subject which the Committee may think it necessary to include in its review.

The Committee held its first sitting on the 3rd July 1939 and appointed four sub-committees with various terms of reference.

In response to public opinion instructions have been issued to all local bodies to allow their employees to become members of the various branch committees of the Indian National Congress with the right to carry on propaganda without prejudice to the efficient discharge of their daily official duties. The employees have, however, been prohibited from becoming members of the executive or working committees of these bodies as also from becoming office-bearers.

Government has issued a circular letter explaining that it is no longer necessary for district councils to acquire title to the land over which public markets are held as in view of recent judgments of the Nagpur High Court, the proprietor of such land cannot levy tolls or charge ground rent.

Medical and Public Health Department

With a view to bring qualified medical relief within the reach of the rural areas by a method cheaper than that of opening new dispensaries, Government has revived the scheme of subsidising licentiates of the Assistant Medical Officers class to settle in suitable places, away from existing dispensaries but with a sufficient population to employ the service of a medical man. The original scheme was defective inasmuch as private practitioners were expected to build a remunerative practice within three years. Under the revised scheme the limitation of the payment of the honorarium for three years has been done away with. It has been decided to extend the scheme to medical graduates and to give a graduate practitioner Rs. 50 per mensem and L. M. P. practitioner Rs. 40 per mensem and the usual advance of Rs. 300 for equipment. The practitioner is required to give free help to indigent patients while he will be permitted to charge fees to well-to-do patients. The number of private practitioners will be limited to one in each district or 19 in all for the present.

Government has recently received and examined the report of this Committee and come to the conclusion that besides being popular the indigenous system is comparatively cheap. It has, therefore, decided to extend medical relief in rural areas largely through the indigenous system. To begin with, it has been decided to open 83 Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries, one in each tahsil and to subsidise vaidyas and hakims to settle in each tahsil of the province.

As Government is not in a position to find funds at present to open an Ayurvedic College, it has been decided to encourage the study of Ayurved and Unani by offering scholarships tenable at the Medical School, Madras, Hindu University, Benares, and Tibbi College, Delhi. Provision in the current year's budget has already been made for 15 scholarships each at Rs. 15 per mensem.

In the matter of opening new dispensaries the Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries will be placed on the same basis as the Allopathic dispensaries and Government has decided to give financial assistance to the local bodies.

Similarly to induce vaidas and hakims to settle in rural areas Government has decided to pay them a subsidy of Rs. 25 per mensem with a view to encourage them to settle in rural areas and also an advance of Rs. 240 for initial expenses, for instruments and equipments to be recovered in monthly instalment of Rs. 10. Provision has been made in the current year's budget for subsidising one such practitioner in each tahsil of the province and Deputy Commissioners have also been asked to take personal interest in the working of the above schemes and to speak to the office-bearers of the district councils in order to expedite consideration and enforcement of the schemes so that the chances of lapse of funds for want of timely enforcement of these schemes may be minimized.

It has been decided by Government to draft a Public Health Bill for this province on the lines of the Madras Public Health Bill which has since been passed into law. A small informal

committee has also been appointed to help the Director of Public Health in drafting the Bill so as to suit local conditions.

The following bills have been referred to Select Committees:—

- (1) The Central Provinces and Berar Medical Practitioners' Bill No. 44 of 1939.
- (2) The Central Provinces and Berar Artificial Ghee Colourisation Bill No. 36 of 1939.

Public Works Department

A road programme of about Rs. 47 lakhs as approved by the Provincial Board of Communications was submitted to the Government of India for their approval in December 1938, who have since approved a programme of road works costing Rs. 30.12 lakhs and it will spread over a period of five years ending March 1944.

Education Department

A Committee of 19 members has been appointed to report on matters connected with Secondary Education with definite terms of reference. This Committee held its first meeting on the 10th and 11th July 1939 and drafted a questionnaire, which has been issued.

Committees have been constituted for the preparation of lists of books, newspapers and periodicals in Hindi, Marathi and Urdu suitable for use in Village Public Libraries attached to middle schools under local bodies in the Central Provinces and Berar, and also for circulating libraries.

Most of the buildings of the 100 Vidya Mandirs have been completed, teachers have been posted to them and work has been started. Necessary allotments for equipment of these Vidya Mandirs have been made to Deputy Commissioners.

A separate text-book committee for examining Telugu books has been constituted.

Two short courses of training in Basic Craft for Assistant District Inspectors—one from the 8th to 28th May 1939 and the other from the 29th May to 17th June 1939—were held at in the Vidya Mandir Training School.

Assistant Inspectresses of Schools, Central Provinces and Berar, were deputed for training in the Basic Craft at Wardha from the 29th May 1939.

Sanction has been accorded for the opening of a Training Institute at the Vidya Mandir Training School, Wardha, with effect from the 1st July 1939 for imparting training in the Wardha syllabus to the staff of Government Normal Schools.

PART II.—IMPORTANT EVENTS CONNECTED WITH MINISTERIAL VISITS AND FUNCTIONS

3rd June 1939:—The Hon'ble the Prime Minister accompanied by the Hon'ble Minister for Education visited Rampur, Khiria and Sohagpur in the Sohagpur tahsil of the Hoshangabad district and inspected the working of the Vidya Mandirs. The municipal committee, Sohagpur, presented an address of welcome to the Hon'ble Ministers.

3rd July 1939:—The Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government presided over the first meeting of the Local Self-Government Committee appointed by the Government for the purpose of reviewing and overhauling the machinery of Local Self-Government in the Province.

4th July 1939:—The Hon'ble the Prime Minister accompanied by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education performed the opening ceremony of the Vidya Mandir Training College at Wardha.

4th July 1939:—The Hon'ble the Minister for Law and Finance received a deputation of the Nagpur Bar Association which placed before the Hon'ble Minister the inconveniences caused to the pleaders and litigants in going to the tahsil office and pleaded for the shifting of this office to a suitable place near about other offices in Nagpur. The Hon'ble Minister assured the deputation that he would look into the matter.

20th and 21st July 1939:—The Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue visited Simla and attended the meeting of the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

24th July 1939:—The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue visited Hoshangabad and inspected the Powarkheda farm and agricultural school.

27th and 28th July 1939:—The Hon'ble Minister for Industries attended the meeting of the Fourth Transport Advisory Council at Simla.

30th July 1939:—The Hon'ble Minister for Education performed the opening ceremony of the Rifle Club of the Amraoti Resident Government High School.

PART III.—IMPORTANT PRESS NOTES COMMUNIQUES, ETC.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 19th June 1939.

The Provincial Government has observed a growing tendency on the part of the public to send to Hon'ble Ministers, Heads of Departments, and Deputy Commissioners telegrams, the allegations in some of which have, on enquiry, been found to be either false or exaggerated. The occurrence of communal clashes or proceedings for the recovery of land revenue or taccavi provide the commonest occasions for the despatch of telegrams of this type. It is the practice of Government and its officers to take prompt action on all telegrams. It is a waste of public time and money, however, to make enquiries into telegrams containing allegations which are false or exaggerated. It is also very unfair to make allegations against officers of Government or members of the public or a particular community when these allegations are, to the knowledge of the sender of the telegram, not correct. It is very desirable, if not essential, that in this matter the public should act with a due sense of responsibility. Government have no intention of discouraging the public from sending telegrams containing genuine grievances, but it appeals to them not to send telegrams containing allegations known to be false or exaggerated.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 22nd June 1939.

In a press note, dated the 31st May 1939, Government stated that it would announce very shortly the details of the measures it had under contemplation for dealing with the communal situation. Government has now issued a comprehensive letter on this subject to District Magistrates. A copy of that letter is attached to this press note.

2. A spirit of harmony between the communities living in the province is essential to its well-ordered progress and incitement to violence or communal ill-will by words spoken or written must inevitably retard this progress. Government feels certain that the existing state of communal tension in parts of the province must be a cause of grave concern to all citizens who have the best interests of the province at heart and all reasonable persons must have observed with particular regret that religious festivals are too frequently made the occasion for communal disturbances. Government has now made its policy clear and it appeals most earnestly to all citizens—both men and women—not only to lend their whole-hearted support to the execution of that policy but also to exert every means in their power to restore peace and goodwill among the communities and in their daily conduct to foster inter-communal amity.

3. Government has carefully studied the predisposing causes of communal disorders in the province in March last, and in the light of the experience gained would exhort the public to take action on the following lines:—

Firstly, questions like those of music before mosques or of routes of processions should be handled by leaders of all communities with an earnest desire not to provoke a conflict and in a spirit of mutual tolerance. Past experience is often a valuable guide in this matter, and in the last resort a judicial decision may well prove to be a permanent solution.

Secondly, when communal feelings are disturbed, it is most unwise to introduce innovations in the celebrations of festivals, *e.g.*, by the organisation of a procession which has not been the established feature of a festival, by carrying a sacrificial cow in processions, or by carrying lathis contrary to custom.

Thirdly, recent experience has shown that the shouting of provocative slogans is a fruitful source of communal conflicts. It behoves all who love peace to set their face against this form of provocation.

Fourthly, there are speakers—some from outside the province—whose speeches tend to foment feelings of enmity and hatred between different communities. All peace-loving persons should regard with stern disfavour the activities of these speakers and should discountenance them in every way.

Fifthly, a section of the Press, losing sight of its real duty to the public, indulges in writings the object of which is to fan the flame of communalism. The

remedy lies in the hands of the public who should refuse to extend their patronage to newspapers of this type.

4. Government has taken the public into its confidence because it feels that the steps which will now be taken in pursuance of its instructions to District Magistrates, if not actively and continuously aided by the efforts of the public in the cause of peace and goodwill between the communities, may not by themselves lead to lasting results.

No. 691-479-V

GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR
POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEPARTMENT

FROM

C. M. TRIVEDI, ESQ., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.,

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

TO

ALL DISTRICT MAGISTRATES,

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR,

Nagpur, the 20th June 1939.

SUBJECT.—*Communal situation.*

SIR,

The growth of communal tension in the province during recent months has been causing grave anxiety to the Provincial Government. The *Moharrum* and *Holi* festivals in March last were unfortunately marred by communal disturbances at Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Raipur, Murtizapur, Khamgaon and Malkapur, while at a number of other places in the provinces breaches of the public peace were only narrowly averted. Nor has the situation materially improved in the interval, and it seems to the Government that unless stringent measures are adopted the next festival season may be the occasion for increased communal bitterness, if not for actual strife. It is the considered view of the Government that the time has come when it is essential to curb such activities—on the part of any community—as are likely to increase communal ill-will or to lead to a breach of the peace. The steps that Government expects its officers to take are detailed in the paragraphs that follow.

2. Anti-Hindu or anti-Muslim speeches, frequently delivered, some by persons who do not belong to this province, have largely contributed to the prevailing state of affairs. I am to make it clear that Government does not intend to tolerate speeches which are deliberately designed to foment feelings of hatred between the different communities. Orders exist for the full and accurate reporting of all communal speeches. If

any speech falls within the mischief of section 153-A, section 295-A or section 505 of the Indian Penal Code, you should submit a report of the speech without any delay for the orders of Government. Government on their side will not hesitate to sanction prosecution if the facts warrant this course. If the action of any person falls within the scope of section 298, Indian Penal Code, you may take steps, on your own authority, to prosecute him under that section.

3. In a communique, dated the 30th August 1938 (copy enclosed for ready reference), Government appealed to the Press not to indulge in propoganda constituting a menace to the maintenance of harmony and goodwill between the different communities of the province. Government regrets to observe that certain organs of the Press still continue to publish matter calculated to promote communal discord. In future, if a newspaper printed and published within the province contains matter which tends directly or indirectly to foment feelings of enmity or hatred between different communities in the province, i.e., offends against section 4 (1) (h) of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, security under that Act will be demanded from the publisher of the paper as well as from the keeper of the press. The question of action against the publisher of the paper under section 153-A, Indian Penal Code, will also be considered. There are certain extra-provincial newspapers articles in which tend directly or indirectly to foment communal discord within the province. It is not possible to demand security from such papers, but I am to say that Government is advised that prosecution of the publisher under section 153-A, Indian Penal Code, is possible provided that the paper has circulation, however restricted, within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate taking cognizance of the offence. In suitable cases Government is prepared therefore to sanction prosecutions under section 153-A or any other relevant section of the Indian Penal Code. I am to add that arrangements have been made in the Publicity Branch for a careful scrutiny of all communal matter appearing both in the provincial Press and in extra-provincial papers, which have circulation in the province. It has been suggested that in times of actual or apprehended communal trouble, some kind of censorship of the local Press should be established. It is possible to carry out this suggestion by an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, directing the printer, the publisher and the editor of a newspaper not to publish any news or articles on communal subjects or not to publish such matter without its submission to the District Magistrate for approval. Such an order can be promulgated only if there is imminent risk of a disturbance of the public tranquillity or a riot or an affray. The Provincial Government of set policy is opposed to undue curtailment of the liberty of the Press. In its opinion, reliance should be placed mainly on the use of powers conferred by the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Press Act in dealing with the Press, but should the circumstances prevailing in any district necessitate, in the judgment of a competent Magistrate, the censorship of any newspaper within his jurisdiction, Government would have no objection to an order under section 144.

Criminal Procedure Code, being passed, provided of course, that the pre-requisites for an order under that section are fulfilled.

4. You are aware that the shouting of provocative and insulting anti-Hindu or anti-Muslim slogans during periods of communal tension has been the immediate cause of recent communal disorders at some places. Government desires, therefore, that where a state of communal tension exists and where it is found that the situation is being aggravated by the shouting of communal slogans, either by processionists or by any group of persons, orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting this practice should be issued immediately and any breach of the order should invariably be followed by immediate prosecution under section 153, Indian Penal Code, or section 188, Indian Penal Code. If in your judgment a breach of the peace or a disturbance of the public tranquillity cannot be otherwise prevented, it may be necessary for you in the last resort to disperse processions which in spite of orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, continue to shout provocative slogans.

5. The use to which section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, can be put in certain circumstances has been indicated in the last two paragraphs. District Magistrates have, in times of actual or apprehended disturbances, promulgated temporary orders under that section prohibiting assemblies of more than five persons, the carrying of sticks, *lathis*, etc. Curfew orders have also been passed. Government is of the opinion that, whenever the situation so warrants, section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, should continue to be so used on the principle that "prevention is better than cure". Government is, however, anxious that wholesale interference with the liberties of the general public should be avoided as far as possible and it desires that before recourse is had to the use of section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, you should satisfy yourself that action under, e.g., sections 107 and 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code would not be sufficient to meet the situation. In this connection, I am to bring to your notice that places of religious worship have occasionally been used in the past for depositing collections of stones, brickbats or *lathis*, for use in the event of trouble. During periods of communal tension a watch should be kept on this, and managers of such places should be warned not to allow them to be misused in this manner. If the warning is not heeded or is not likely to be heeded, an appropriate order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, should be promulgated. Stones, brickbats and like materials are also sometimes collected at selected points on the routes of processions during festivals. This matter calls for constant vigilance on the part of the Police. I am also to draw your attention and that of the competent police authorities to sections 30 and 30-A of the Police Act of 1861, which provide for the regulation of public assemblies and processions and for licensing of the same, and which also confer power with regard to assemblies and processions violating conditions of their licence. These powers should be used when the situation so demands.

6. The question of enacting legislation on the lines of the Goonda Acts in force in certain other provinces is being examined. Pending the results of this examination, I am to say that, sometime prior to festivals, recognised *goondas* should be sought out and action taken against them under section 107, 109 or 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Action taken in the past to bind professional rowdies under the security sections of the Code has had beneficial results on the general communal situation.

7. I am to draw your attention to section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which authorises a police officer to arrest, without orders from a Magistrate and without a warrant, any person designing to commit a cognizable offence, if it appears to such officer that the commission of the offence cannot otherwise be prevented. This section should be used during periods of communal tension. The procedure after arrest is laid down in section 60 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

8. Government desires that in suitable cases, the powers conferred by sections 15 (quartering of additional police in disturbed or dangerous districts) and 15-A (awarding compensation to sufferers from misconduct of inhabitants or persons interested in land) of the Police Act of 1861 should be used, and should the circumstances of any area render action under those sections necessary, you should submit your recommendations in the matter for the orders of Government. In submitting these recommendations, you should on each occasion consider whether the members of any community which may be shown on the facts to be demonstrably responsible for disorder, loss and injury to life and property should not be made to bear the entire cost of additional police quartered in the area and for any compensation payable to innocent sufferers.

9. The establishment of peace committees or conciliation boards for the mitigation of local causes of communal friction or for bringing communal disorders under control has been suggested to Government. This question has often been examined in the past, but previous experience of such boards or committees in this province has not been very encouraging. Government will, however, welcome the establishment of these boards or committees wherever this course is likely to promote harmony and goodwill among different communities.

10. The orders on the subject of music before mosques are contained in General Administration Department's letter No. 598-1790-IV, dated the 25th March 1926, to the Commissioner, Berar. In the opinion of Government, these orders need no modification, and should be used by you as a guide in settling disputes regarding music before mosques.

11. It is sometimes alleged that individual officers of Government show a communal bias in dealing with the communal situation. Baseless as this allegation often is, you should lose no opportunity of impressing upon all your subordinates that any one found guilty of displaying communal bias will render himself liable to immediate dismissal.

12. Government recognises that the orders and instructions contained in this letter cannot in the nature of things be exhaustive, and that they must leave it to your discretion to adopt such other measures as in your judgment are necessary to prevent a breach of the peace or to bring disorders under prompt and effective control when they occur. The whole subject, however, is one of extreme delicacy and it is obvious that ill-considered action far from allaying communal bitterness may on the contrary only acerbate ill-feeling. With this fact in mind the Government while not wishing to fetter your discretion in cases where the only relevant consideration is the immediate maintenance of the public peace does desire that when you are in doubt and if time for consultation exists you should inform them of your intentions and take their previous approval to the action which you propose to take.

13. A copy of this letter is being released to the Press, together with a press note containing an appeal to the public to lend its whole-hearted support to Government in the measures it considers necessary in order to maintain the public peace.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. M. TRIVEDI,

*Secy. to Govt., C. P. & Berar,
Political and Military Department*

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Nagpur, the 30th August 1938.

The Provincial Government has observed with much concern the publication in certain newspapers of the province of articles which tend to encourage violence or excite or increase communal and regional bitterness. It has also noted with great regret that a section of the Press has indulged in attacks on eminent Indian leaders in a manner which is not only a most deplorable lapse from taste but which sometimes is unmistakable incitement to the youth of the province to commit acts of violence.

2. Government wishes to give the public an indication of the kind of matter, which is published in some papers. Some-time ago, one paper published a series of articles under the heading "Wounds and Salt", which was calculated to excite

feelings of hatred between Hindus and Muhammadans. The same paper has published recently another series of articles under the caption "Sparks" giving an account of the revolutionary movement in India. A translation of a portion of one such article runs as follows :—

"It was in Poona that the first lesson in revolutionary activities was given by Chaphekar brothers. By the murder of Rand and Iyerst they created a confidence among future revolutionaries of the valour possessed by the Hindus. In short, the history of Poona is very inspiring and bright. Poona kept up its traditions till very recently. When impotent lessons of cowardly peace and non-violence were given, Gogte's attack on Hotson thrilled the hearts of Marathas and reminded them of Shivaji's attack on Shahiste Khan. The atmosphere of Maharashtra is being daily resounded with the songs of praise dedicated to adorable persons like Chaphekar brothers, Ranade, Sawarkar, Senapati Bapat, Gogte and others. But the history of the unknown revolutionary heroes of Maharashtra is not sufficiently known to Maharashtra. To honour these heroes, to offer them a homage and to sing their praise has become an unpardonable crime in the present Gandhian age!" In another article, the same paper describes Mahatma Gandhi as "a scoundrel and an incorrigible evil soul" and says that "this worm of a saint rolling on the dunghill of untruthfulness, deception, treachery and sins for the whole of his life does not possess a grain of goodness in him." It then calls upon the youth of the province to drag "this astute cheat before their seat of justice." Finally, it winds up by saying that "this justice-loving Baniya should immediately get ready without raising false bugbears of silence, fasts, or blood-pressure to receive his punishment from the young generation whom he deceived and ruined. In case he does not do so, the youth must carry on agitation till this creature blackens his face. The youth must tear out the blood-sucking lice and must blow away with a kick the sweet-tongued rogues."

3. It is the considered view of Government that propaganda of this nature constitutes a menace to the maintenance of harmony and goodwill between the different parts and communities of the province. The plain incitement to violence in some of the articles referred to in paragraph 1 above, is obviously not conducive to the growth of democratic Government on orderly and peaceful lines. Government is anxious fully to uphold the liberty of the Press. It welcomes reasoned criticism. As the public is no doubt aware, Government has utilised all available opportunities of keeping in close touch with the Press and taking it into its confidence. But now Government must make it clear that it has no intention of tolerating licence which falls within the mischief of the law, and encroaches on the liberties of fellowmen and sister communities. Government trusts that under the circumstances whenever it feels constrained to repress licence which, in the name of civic liberty, indulges in orgies of filth and incitement to violence, it will receive the full support of those who are as zealous of the liberties of others as of their own.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 19th June 1939.

The total prohibition of liquor was introduced in certain parts of the Central Provinces and Berar on the 1st January 1938, and although quarterly press notes reviewing the progress made have been issued from time to time it is felt that it would be convenient for the public to have the results for the year as a whole summarised in one place together with an indication of the main factors bearing on the position. The following review of the working of total prohibition in the province during the excise year 1938 is therefore published.

2. The decision to substitute a policy of immediate prohibition for the former policy of gradual and ultimate prohibition was taken in August 1937 with a full realisation of the difficult administrative and financial problems involved. It was realised that the old policy had nearly broken down under the stress of the economic depression and had given rise to widespread illicit distillation on a commercial scale, the control of which was imposing a severe strain on the resources of the Excise Department. That there are certain important conditions adverse to a successful prohibition policy operating in the province was not overlooked. These are—

- (i) the jungly and hilly nature of a large part of the province with an abundance of *mahua*, the most important base for distillation;
- (ii) a substantial proportion of aboriginal tribes in the population who regard drink as a vital necessity; and
- (iii) the situation on the borders of province of numerous non-prohibition Indian States and the existence in consequence of facilities for smuggling.

Scepticism in some official quarters in the success of any ambitious prohibition experiment was reinforced by the almost complete absence of any temperance propaganda. The provincial finances also, debilitated by a succession of bad agricultural seasons, held out no hope of replacing the excise revenue which must disappear with the advent and extension of prohibition. Government did not, however, allow itself to be daunted by these difficulties. A careful analysis of the problem revealed that the main reasons for the admitted failure of the policy of gradual and ultimate prohibition was its half-heartedness, and that illicit liquor found easy cover only in an area in which licit liquor was tolerated. The problem of financing prohibition was felt to be in essence a problem of readjusting the burden of taxation and not of sacrificing a useful source of revenue. On reflection the prevailing economic depression, also, seemed to be a factor favouring total prohibition rather than the reverse. The political consciousness awakened by the assumption of office by the Congress was, moreover, felt to be susceptible of employment in furtherance of prohibition. Reliance was also placed on the generally law-abiding nature of the inhabitants of the province for securing a willing acceptance of the new policy.

3. On account of certain procedural difficulties in the Assembly there was some delay in the passing of the Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Bill, which was not enacted until April 1938. Prohibition was, however, introduced in selected areas on the basis of the Central Provinces Excise Act, 1915, on the 1st January 1938. The areas selected were—

- (i) The Saugor district including the sub-division of Damoh which has been dry since 1927.
- (ii) The Narsinghpur sub-division of the Hoshangabad district.
- (iii) The Akot taluq of the Akola district.
- (iv) The industrial towns of Katni-Murwara in the Jubbulpore, Hinganghat in the Wardha and Badnera in the Amraoti districts.

The areas were intended to be representative as far as possible of the varying conditions likely to be met in extending prohibition. While Saugor and Narsinghpur, for example, were typical of the northern rural districts where drink has never been a serious problem and ganja and opium are preferred, the Akot taluq represented the open and advanced cotton country where consumption of liquor has always been relatively heavy. The three industrial towns contain a large population of workers habituated to drink and on account of their position as "dry" islands surrounded by "wet" territory presented special difficulties in the way of enforcing prohibition—markedly so in Katni-Murwara which is an important Railway junction, is situated on the main road to Allahabad and has easy access to liquor shops in an adjoining Indian State. The total dry area was 9,333 square miles out of the provincial total of 99,000 square miles, with a population of about 1½ millions out of 16 millions. The loss of revenue anticipated for the calendar year was about Rs. 3.5 lakhs.

4. It remains to be added that there has been no special preparation of the ground in this area preparatory to the introduction of prohibition except in Damoh. Public opinion generally was, however, in favour of such a step. The social and religious background was also favourable, as in common with other parts of India the religions condemn drink and social stigma attaches to the drunkard.

5. The special measures taken to ensure the success of prohibition included one of primary importance, viz., the transfer of the duty of enforcing the Act to the police. The object was to remove any possible misapprehension that the prohibition law would not be enforced with the same strictness as the ordinary penal laws. This decision, however, was not taken till the middle of the year and owing to administrative difficulties there was some delay in implementing it, in Katni-Murwara the transfer of responsibility having taken place as late as November 1938. The tour of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge undertaken with the specific object of inaugurating prohibition in the different areas created considerable local enthusiasm, but propaganda by means of lectures, through

magic lanterns, posters, placards, leaflets, etc., has largely been confined to official efforts. There was some inevitable delay in the beginning in the formation of statutory Anti-Drink Committees, and progress in their taking up their duties has been slow. There is a committee for each town and each revenue inspector's circle, and instructions were issued in the latter half of the year for directing the activities of these committees. Considerable assistance in weaning addicts from the liquor has been received from the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board, who have 13 stalls in the dry areas from which cups of tea are distributed free and which, it is reported, are very largely patronised. Financial stringency has, however, stood in the way of the development of what may be called the constructive side of prohibition. It has not been possible to promote on any appreciable scale rural uplift activity particularly in the direction of organising counter-attractions to drink such as sports clubs and recreation centres. The matter is, however, receiving attention. A football club has been organised for sweepers at Hinganghat; and the Anti-Drink Committee has resolved to instal a radio for the recreation of addicts. The Badnera Anti-Drink Committee has decided to hold rural dramas near the free tea stalls on pay days. Owing to its preoccupation with its own present problems the Co-operative Department was also unable to attempt anything in the way of starting better living or thrift societies.

6. As prohibition in the province extends only to liquor there was anxiety that there might be a diversion of custom to denatured spirit, opium or hemp drugs. Such diversion of custom as has been noticed has not, however, been serious except in Saugor where the consumption of *charas* and *bhang* has risen steadily since the introduction of prohibition. This is perhaps due to the fact that the Saugor district has always been particularly open to the influence of *charas* on account of easy communication with the northern provinces where the *charas* habit is prevalent. Though a slight decline in the consumption of these drugs was noticed towards the end of the year, there are reasons to believe that some of the former liquor addicts have taken to the drug habit. The misuse of denatured spirit for purposes of drink was specially noticeable at Katni in the beginning of the period under review. Persistent watch over the sales, and the recent introduction of stringent rules have, however, succeeded in bringing down the sales to their normal level. In order to prevent sale by the licensee to undesirable persons, the licence for the sale of denatured spirit for 1939 has been issued in Katni to a member of the local Anti-Drink Committee.

7. The existence of easily accessible shops beyond the borders of the dry areas has been a difficult problem for the Excise Department to tackle. Wherever possible an adequate shopless zone has been established both to discourage liquor addicts from visiting distant shops and to minimize the chances of smuggling. Some adjoining States have whole-heartedly co-operated with this Government in the matter of the establishment of shopless zones, sometimes even at the risk of loss of

revenue, and Government's thanks are due to them, but there are some with whom correspondence is going and whose co-operation is still being sought. In spite of these precautions the danger of the diversion of custom to shops outside the dry area is real. Liquor addicts of Saugor town have been frequenting the State shop at Chhatarpur while those of Khurai and Bina visit Bandaota and Kurwari Kaithora. Illegal sale of country liquor still continues at the Kurwari Kaithora railway station in spite of considerable help from the State authorities. Two cases of smuggling of country liquor from Kurwai State and Pathari State were detected in November. There has been considerable amount of smuggling of liquor from the shop at Jukehi in the Maihar State. Three such cases were detected in October alone. Smuggling through the agency of railway subordinates is not infrequent, and in one of the three cases mentioned above a railway porter who was involved was convicted. The Maihar Durbar has been addressed in this connection. Persons from Badnera occasionally visit the liquor shops at Amraoti, but no appreciable increase in the sales of liquor in the latter place has been reported.

8. Motor lorries and railway trains are not uncommonly used for the smuggling of liquor. The District Superintendent of Police, Saugor, who was perhaps not quite satisfied with the results in spite of great vigilance on the part of the police writes—

“It is still apparent that the favourite method of importing liquor is by bus and I am impressing on my staff the importance of surprise checks of buses on the road when there is suspicion that the liquor is being carried.”

This is no doubt true as may be seen from the large number of cases of smuggling through motor lorries detected in all dry areas. Unlike trains lorries can pick up and set down passengers anywhere on the road, and hence the chances of detection by the police are not great. But even trains have been responsible for a number of offences. In the month of October a railway driver imported country liquor into Badnera from Murtizapur in a pint bottle hidden in a box-bag. In November there was a similar case of smuggling of liquor from the Amraoti town into the Badnera railway station. In December a bottle containing 8 drams of Kotah State liquor was found in the box of a fireman at the Bina railway station. Local police officials have made arrangements for the strict checking of trains and motor lorries.

9. An analysis of the prohibition crime shows that 130 cases were detected in the dry areas in the year under review. Of these 79 were detected by the excise staff, 44 by the police, and 5 by village officials. Non-officials were responsible for the detection of only two cases which perhaps is due to the late formation of Anti-Drink Committees and lack of adequate interests in the enforcement of law. The Saugor district contributed 43 cases while the Narsinghpur sub-division, the Akotalua, and the towns of Badnera and Hinganghat contributed 14, 11, 12, and 14 cases, respectively. Compared to these figures, the crime in the Katni town was very heavy, accounting

as it did for 36 cases. Of these 36 cases as many as 7 were of illicit distillation and 12 of smuggling. It is clear that this town demands constant attention.

10. The organization of a satisfactory system of intelligence which is the basis of any real appreciation of the situation and of effective administrative action has taken some time to complete. The reported facts on which the review is based might possibly have been incomplete but even with this qualification it seems clear that on the whole prohibition has had encouraging results. During the first quarter of the year a few addicts left Akot in search of places in which prohibition has not been extended from Hinganghat, two fatal cases were reported arising out of nervous exhaustion owing to unsatisfied craving for drink. A small proportion of addicts take advantage of any legitimate opportunity of obtaining drink in wet areas within reach but there is sufficient evidence to show that the greater proportion of liquor addicts have definitely given up drinking. Whether this result is due merely to lack of opportunity or also to a mental reformation it is too early to say. It is certain, however, that whatever may be the attitude of the present generation a new generation is growing up in the dry areas who will not be familiar with liquor and its degradation. There is also evidence to show that family life has improved as a result of prohibition. The families of *ex*-addicts have benefited financially to the extent of about Rs. 4½ lakhs. Systematic enquiries have been made by local officials into the financial conditions of such families and the general finding has emerged that several families have repaid debts or purchased ornaments or clothes and are better fed and dressed. Enquiries showed that several addicts used to spend a considerable proportion of their earnings on liquor and that the saving of this ruinous expenditure has made a marked difference to the happiness of the family, particularly from the women's point of view. The gratitude of several addicts has found expression in letters of thanks to Government for the introduction of prohibition. Prohibition, calculated as it is, to bring about an improvement in the efficiency of labour, should have a particularly enthusiastic backing by proprietors of industrial concerns. Reports show, however, that with a few exceptions they have not so far rendered any active assistance in promoting the cause of prohibition. At Hinganghat the mills were closed during the part of the year on account of a prolonged strike, but prior to the closure of the mills the managers were of assistance in giving information about the conditions of the labourers working in the mills. The Berar Manufacturing Company, Badnera, have hitherto rendered no assistance, but are prepared to cooperate in furthering prohibition. The Olpherts Paint Works, the Cement Factory and the C. I. Electric Supply Co., all of Katni, have agreed to assist in the enforcement of prohibition and to provide amenities for their labourers. The Electric Supply Co. is already running Volley Ball Club. On the whole the evidence available warrants the conclusion that prohibition in the province is not likely to fail, provided the public do not allow their enthusiasm to wane and continue to cooperate whole-heartedly in official efforts to make it an accomplished fact.

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

Nagpur, the 28th June 1939.

It is notified for general information that the tax on sales of motor spirit and lubricants at present levied at the rate of 5 per cent under the Central Provinces and Berar Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Act, 1938 (XIV of 1938), has been raised to 8 per cent for a period of one year by the Central Provinces and Berar Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1939 (IX of 1939). The tax at the enhanced rate will be levied and collected with effect from the 1st July 1939.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 4th July 1939.

The Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has appointed all District Superintendents of Police, Central Provinces and Berar, as Registration Officers for the purposes of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, for the areas under their respective jurisdiction.

NOTIFICATION

Nagpur, the 24th June 1939.

No. 3922-1112-XIV.—With the object of bringing medical relief within easy reach of the rural population, the Provincial Government has decided to introduce a scheme for subsidising Vaid and Hakims to settle in rural areas and is accordingly pleased to make the following rules for the purpose:—

Scheme for subsidising Vaid and Hakims to settle in rural areas

Rules.

1. In these rules "subsidised Vaid or Hakim" means a Vaid or Hakim who is appointed and paid subsidy under these rules.
2. The selection of Vaid and Hakims for appointment as subsidised Vaid and Hakims shall be made by a Selection Committee to be appointed by the Provincial Government. The appointment and posting of subsidised Vaid and Hakims shall be made by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Central Provinces and Berar.
3. A candidate for appointment as a subsidised Vaid or Hakim must be a *bona fide* resident of the Central Provinces and Berar and must have passed the final examination of a recognized Ayurvedic or Unani College.
4. A subsidised Vaid or Hakim will be at liberty to select a place for his practice subject to the approval of the Civil Surgeon and to the final sanction of the Inspector-General of

Civil Hospitals. The selected place should not ordinarily be within a radius of ten miles from a place having a dispensary or a subsidised medical practitioner, or a subsidised Vaid or Hakim.

5. The Provincial Government will pay to the Vaid or Hakim appointed under rule 2, a subsidy of Rs. 25 per mensem.

6. The subsidised Vaid or Hakim will also be given an advance of such amount as he may require up to a maximum of Rs. 240, free of interest, for his initial expenses for instruments and equipments. The amount thus advanced will be repayable in monthly instalments of Rs. 10 each in the second and third year and will be covered by a bond and security for the total amount.

7. The subsidised Vaid or Hakim will be required to treat free indigent patients (persons or members of their families whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 30) and all Government servants and members of their families residing in the village or halting at the village while on tour.

8. The subsidised Vaid or Hakim will be required to perform epidemic duty without any additional charge within a radius of 5 miles from his place if called upon by the Civil Surgeon to do so. For this work the Vaid or Hakim will be given such additional medicines and appliances as may be considered necessary by the Civil Surgeon.

9. The subsidised Vaid or Hakim will be required to maintain such books and registers and furnish such periodical reports and returns as may be required by the Civil Surgeon from time to time. The books and registers shall be open to inspection by Inspectors to be appointed under the Central Provinces and Berar Medical Practitioners Bill.

10. The Inspector will inspect the practice of the subsidised Vaid or Hakim twice a year and submit a copy of his inspection report to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Central Provinces and Berar, through the Deputy Commissioner. A copy of the inspection report will also be furnished to the subsidised Vaid or Hakim.

11. The subsidised Vaid or Hakim will be at liberty to charge fees for treatment of persons other than indigent persons.

12. The subsidised Vaid or Hakim may remain absent from his practice with the permission of the Civil Surgeon for a period not exceeding 10 days at any one time and not exceeding 15 days in the aggregate during the course of a calendar year.

13. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Central Provinces and Berar, will be empowered, with the previous approval of the Provincial Government, to give 3 months' notice of termination of the service to any subsidised Vaid or Hakim, should it be considered desirable.

14. The number of subsidised Vaid or Hakims will be limited to 83 (one in each tahsil).

15. The subsidised Vaid or Hakim shall execute a security bond in the form appended.

16. In case of any doubt regarding the interpretation of these rules the matter will be referred to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Central Provinces and Berar, whose decision shall be final and binding on the subsidised Vaid or Hakim.

SECURITY BOND

Know all men by these presents that we (1).....son of.....a subsidised Vaid/Hakim at.....(hereinafter called the principal), (2).....son of.....of.....(first surety) (3).....son of.....of.....(second surety) are jointly and severally bound unto the Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar in the sum of Rs.....to be paid to the said Governor, his successors or assigns for which payment well and truly to be made we hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators and representatives jointly and each of us binds himself his heirs, executors, administrators and representatives severally firmly by these presents signed by us this.....day of.....1939.

Whereas the said principal has been appointed as a subsidised Vaid/Hakim at.....in the.....by the Provincial Government under their scheme for subsidising Vaid and Hakims and has been given an advance of Rs.....free of interest but repayable in monthly instalments as hereafter provided for his initial expenses for instruments, medicines and other equipment.

Now the condition of this bond is that if the above bounden (1).....(2).....and (3)....., their heirs, executors, administrators and representatives, do and shall faithfully and truly pay, or cause to be paid, to the said Governor his successors or assigns the said sum of Rs.....only by twenty-four monthly instalments of Rs.....each in the second year and of Rs.....each in the third year after the expiry of one year from the month in which the said advance is paid then the above written bond shall be void and of no effect, otherwise the same shall remain in full force and virtue.

It is hereby agreed and declared that all moneys payable to the said Governor under this bond shall be recoverable from the said principal or the said sureties or any of them as an arrear

of land revenue, and that if at any time the said principal ceases to hold the said appointment, the whole of the advance then remaining unpaid shall forthwith become payable.

Signed this.....day of.....1939.

(1)

Witnesses—

Principal.

..... (2)

..... (3)

Sureties.

By order of the Governor,
Central Provinces & Berar.

C. C. DESAI,

Secy. to Govt., C. P. & Berar,
Medical Department.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 9th August 1939.

The prolonged break in the monsoon is naturally exercising the public mind and several alarming reports are current and have also been published in the press. This press note is being issued to allay the public anxiety and to inform the public about the action which Government has already undertaken and is contemplating.

This year the current of monsoon which arrived about the middle of June was weak in the beginning and in the month of June rainfall was generally deficient. Later, however, the current strengthened and in most parts of the Province rain in sufficient quantity was received. About the middle of July, however, a break set in. This break was very opportune, but unfortunately it has been too prolonged and the effects of it are observable on the crops. Speaking generally, in the Jubbulpore Division, except in Nimar district, crops are in a satisfactory condition. Rainfall has been generally satisfactory and well distributed. In Nimar district, where cotton is an important crop, the crops are showing signs of damage by the drought. In Nagpur Division the reports received indicate that so far cotton and juar are satisfactory in Nagpur district, but transplantation of paddy has been held up for want of rain. In Betul on the whole conditions are satisfactory. In Chhindwara the absence of rainfall has damaged cotton and juar in portions of Sausar tahsil. In Wardha not much damage has been caused so far. In Chanda district rainfall has been very inadequate, and although cotton and juar are in a fairly satisfactory condition, the paddy crop has suffered for want of sufficient rain. In the old Chhattisgarh Division, the condition of the crop is

satisfactory. Information from Bhandara and Balaghat districts is awaited. In Berar the general position is that the monsoon has been late and scanty. Germination has been generally good, but re-sowing of cotton has been necessary in a few areas. Standing crops are generally in good condition but rain has been so patchy that there are probably areas where there has been withering and considerable amount of damage. In Buldana district specially, some taluqs have received very little rain. More rain is badly wanted all over the Province, and if the break continues much longer the crops will suffer serious damage.

One result of the prolonged drought is that there is much less employment for agricultural labour than usual. Weeds are not so prolific and the cultivators have had ample time to do the weeding themselves. This means lower expenses for the cultivator but less employment for the labourer.

From several parts of the Province where rain has been inadequate reports have been received of unrest amongst agricultural labourers and of a tendency to take the law in their own hands. For instance, it has been reported in the Press that in Karanja grain-shops were looted. The facts, however, are that on the 7th evening, grain worth Rs. 15-20 was removed by a crowd of labourers from six very small grain-shops, in spite of the fact that the President of the Municipal Committee had collected very considerable sums to provide work for the unemployed but very few labourers expressed themselves as willing to work.

Government has been continuously in touch with the situation. As early as the 27th July, the Commissioner, Berar, had addressed the Deputy Commissioners instructing them that the situation would require careful watching and that they should be prepared to open works should the necessity arise. In several places revenue officers have succeeded in persuading well-to-do persons to make special arrangements for giving employment. In Amraoti district the Deputy Commissioner has arranged to open about 20 works. Arrangements are also being made to start immediately work on the Daryapur-Badner-Gangai road. In Akola district 12 works have been opened. In Buldana 9 works have been opened and six more are contemplated. In Yeotmal also, orders have been issued for opening 8 works, and the question of starting work immediately on Akot-Badner-Gangai road is being examined. The Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, has intimated that he would be submitting his proposals for starting works within a few days. The Deputy Commissioner, Chhindwara, has also intimated that he would have probably to open a few relief works. Telegraphic orders are being issued to open works in Wardha. Government has issued instructions to all the Deputy Commissioners to keep the most careful watch on the situation and to take adequate steps to provide work for the unemployed, with the least possible delay. Orders have also been issued that side by side with metal-breaking works, earth work should be provided wherever possible. In cases of extreme urgency, the Deputy Commissioners have even been authorized to start the works in anticipation of sanction.

Government hopes that it will be clear to the public that Government is taking all steps necessary to meet the situation. If unfortunately no rain is received for some time, a serious situation might arise, and Government appeals to the public not to be panicky and to rest assured that all necessary steps, including expansion of relief works, will be taken. Government also appeals to all public workers to help the local authorities whole-heartedly in their difficult task.

PRESS NOTE

Nagpur, the 24th August 1939.

A press note issued on the 19th June 1939 summarised the progress of prohibition during the calendar year 1938. The following account relates to the half-year ending the 30th June 1939.

2. In consequence of the success of prohibition in the areas where it had been in operation for over a year Government decided to extend it to the Akola and Wardha districts. Prohibition campaigns were inaugurated on the 1st January 1939 in the two districts by the Hon'ble Minister for Excise and as in other areas already declared dry they aroused considerable enthusiasm. A whirlwind tour by the Hon'ble Minister in the interior of the districts and his speeches on the benefits of prohibition gave people first-hand information about the ideals which had prompted Government to introduce this important social reform.

3. The number of offences under the Prohibition Act was the highest in the Akola district, being 63. The Saugor district comes next with 41. The large number of offences under the Act in the Saugor district is attributed to the facility with which liquor can be procured from bordering States. Thus, in two cases liquor was smuggled from the Kurwai State, and in another a subject of the Panna State was found in possession of large quantities of State bhang, opium and liquor. Similarly, in one case four bottles of Kotah State liquor were found in the battery box below a bogie concealed by a railway fitter at Bina. Efforts are being made to secure the co-operation of the States bordering the Saugor district and to induce them to create suitable shopless zones in the areas adjoining the border. The part played by omnibuses, trains, carts and other conveyances in importing prohibited goods into dry areas has attracted the special attention of the police and excise staff and in the Saugor district alone during March 154 buses, 4 cars and 693 carts were checked and 306 trains were met by the police. In Katni a Brahmin was caught with 8 bottles of State liquor while alighting from a train and has been awarded 8 months' rigorous imprisonment. Several cases of drunkenness and disorderliness were detected in Badnera, all the offenders having purchased liquor at Amraoti. In Katni an Anglo-Indian's house was raided by the police and two members of the local anti-drink committee and a distillery apparatus with 35 seers of fermented *mahua* and some liquor were seized. A few offences concerning foreign liquor were also detected. One bottle of such

liquor was illegally sold in Wardha and three cases of illegal possession were detected, one each in Wardha, Badnera and Katni. At the Wardha railway station the Assistant Station Master purchased some brandy from the restaurant car attached to the Bombay Mail and is being prosecuted.

4. In a few cases confirmed drunkards are reported to have resorted to denatured spirits in the absence of liquor but there is no reason to believe that denatured spirits will generally attract the drink addicts. In the Saugor district and in Katni the consumption of ganja and bhang has appreciably increased. but this is in a great measure attributable to the total prohibition of charas within these areas. There has been no diversion of custom to opium. It would therefore be safe to conclude that at present there is no indication of diversion of custom to any of the drugs or of misuse of denatured spirits.

5. Active propaganda was carried on through lectures, slides, posters and songs. At the Sankrant fair at Narsinghpur, and at the fairs at Kapsi, Koteshwar and Dhaga in the Wardha district lantern-slide lectures were given and were greatly appreciated by huge congregations. The anti-drink committees with a few exceptions have, however, falsified the hopes that they would develop into the most effective tools of propaganda. In Saugor 24 rural and 6 urban committees were formed but did little work. Propaganda has fallen mainly on the shoulders of official agencies though at Narsinghpur and Basim some non-officials rendered useful help.

6. Tea as a counter-attraction to liquor has succeeded in weaning many an addict from liquor. The Indian Tea Market Expansion Board opened a stall at Akola which proved as popular with the *ex*-addicts as similar stalls had been in other dry towns. In Saugor, 2,000 cups of tea were distributed free. The stall at Badnera is closed and those at Akot and Katni now charge one pice per cup. The policy of Government is not only to eliminate the drink-evil but also to induce simultaneously better habits of life. To this end the formation of thrift and better-living societies and the distribution of saving boxes are actively encouraged. Saugor now boasts of 195 saving boxes, and 13 better-living and thrift societies. Narsinghpur has 10 thrift societies and Katni and Akola each has three such societies.

7. District reports continue to mention instances of substantial physical, moral and economic elevation that have been the direct consequences of prohibition. Concrete examples are given showing how prohibition has enabled former drunkards to clear off liabilities incurred in pre-prohibition days or to spend on deserving items the money which would have otherwise been wasted in quenching their thirst for liquor. A systematic comparative study of the economic condition of the population in the Akot taluq has been carried out and its results will be awaited with interest. It is too early yet to say if prohibition has successfully and permanently weaned away the inveterate inebriates from the drink-habit, but the results achieved so far are most encouraging.

8. Government takes this opportunity to invite the co-operation of the public in the dry areas in a larger measure than has been exhibited so far in making prohibition a complete success. No matter how beneficent legislation may be and how carefully its provisions may have been framed, it cannot have its full effect until popular-enthusiasm helps to further the activities envisaged in that legislation. In order to make prohibition a part of the social life of the community it is essential that there should be ceaseless propaganda through non-official agencies so as to create a strong public opinion against the drink-habit.

PART IV ACTS ASSENTED TO BY GOVERNOR AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL

No. of Act	Title of Act	No. of Bill	Date of assent of Governor	Date of assent of Governor-General
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
May 1939				
IV of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces and Berar Prisoners (Amendment) Act, 1939.	49 of 1938	24th May 1939.	..
V of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1939.	16 of 1939	do.	..
VI of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces and Berar Indian Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1939.	17 of 1939	do.	..
VII of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces and Berar Motor Vehicles Fees (Amendment) Act, 1939.	22 of 1939	do.	..
VIII of 1939..	The Central Provinces and Berar Tobacco Act, 1939.	23 of 1939	do.	..
IX of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces and Berar Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1939.	24 of 1939	do.	..
June 1939				
X of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces and Berar Prisons (Amendment) Act, 1939.	9 of 1938	24th June 1939.	..
XI of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 1939.	35 of 1939	do.	..

No. of Act	Title of Act	No. of Bill	Date of assent of Governor	Date of assent of Governor-General
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
June 1939—concl'd.				
XII of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces Municipalities (Second Amendment) Act, 1939.	36 of 1939	24th June 1939.	..
XIII of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1939.	37 of 1939	do.	..
July 1939				
XIV of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1939.	10 of 1938	..	13th July 1939.
XV of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces and Berar Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees (Amendment) Act, 1939.	38 of 1939	..	11th July 1939.
XVI of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces Local Self-Government (Second Amendment) Act, 1939.	77 of 1938	..	do.
XVII of 1939	The Central Provinces Moneylenders' (Supplementary) Act, 1939.	21 of 1939	..	22nd July 1939.
XVIII of 1939	The Central Provinces Moneylenders (Amendment) Act, 1939.	26 of 1937	..	do.
XIX of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 1939.	13 of 1937	..	do.
XX of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 1939.	39 of 1939	..	24th July 1939.
XXI of 1939 ..	The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 1939.	40 of 1939	..	25th July 1939.
XXII of 1939	The Central Provinces Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 1939.	32 of 1937	..	20th July 1939.

No. of Act	Title of Act	No. of Bill	Date of assent of Governor	Date of assent of Governor-General
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
August 1939				
XXIII of 1939	The Central Provinces Moneylenders (Amendment) Act, 1939.	29 of 1937	..	16th August 1939.
XXIV of 1939	The Central Provinces and Berar Indian Bar Councils (Amendment) Act, 1939.	52 of 1938	..	17th August 1939.
XXV of 1939	The Central Provinces and Berar Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Act, 1939.	18 of 1937	..	do.
September 1939				
XXVI of 1939	The Berar Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Act, 1939.	51 of 1938	9th September 1939.	
XXVII of 1939	The Central Provinces and Berar Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, 1939.	11 of 1939	do.	
XXVIII of 1939.	The Central Provinces Municipalities (Third Amendment) Act, 1939.	34 of 1939	do.	
XXIX of 1939	The Central Provinces Game (Amendment) Act, 1939.	55 of 1939	do.	
XXX of 1939	The Central Provinces Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Act, 1939.	50 of 1938	11th September 1939.	