



Report on the Jails of
the Central Provinces
and Berar for the year
1930

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GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
JAIL DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 30th October 1931.

READ—

The Report on the jails of the Central Provinces and Berar
for the year 1930.

Read also—

The District Reports.

RESOLUTION

The Jail Department was faced during 1930 with problems of an unusual nature owing to the abnormal situation created by the civil disobedience movement. As a result of the movement, nearly 4,000 more prisoners were admitted to jail than in the previous year. The number of prisoners admitted who had no employment was conspicuous and over 1,000 were adolescents. These factors no doubt help to explain the large number of prisoners committed to jail in default of payment of fine only, as well as the substantial increase in the number of short terms of imprisonment. The increase in jail population taxed the available accommodation to the fullest extent, and with this and other demands on the resources of the jails, it is to the credit of the staff that discipline was so well maintained with resort to relatively fewer punishments than usual. In contrast to the increase of admissions as a whole the number of reconvicted prisoners shows a substantial fall, which was probably due to the favourable economic position of the labouring classes. The number of women imprisoned during the year also decreased slightly. On the other hand the increase in the number of juveniles in recent years is disquieting.

2. The general standard of health of prisoners on admission was lower than the average in ordinary years in consequence of the influx of a large number of prisoners of a type different from the usual, so that there was some increase in the daily average of prisoners reported sick. But the physical condition of prisoners while in jail and at the time of release was maintained at the normal standard.

3. Pre-occupation with urgent demands and the increasing financial stringency inevitably postponed the

development of the schemes for the betterment of prison régime which the report mentions. A new classification of prisoners according to their ordinary status and mode of life, however, was introduced during the year and, while it adds to the difficulties of jail administration in respect of accommodation and guards, it has not found favour with all prisoners. It will be easier to appreciate the results of its working when it has been in operation for a period in normal times. Welfare work amongst female prisoners was continued in Nagpur and Jubbulpore Central Jails and Government endorses the Inspector-General's appreciation of the beneficent work of the ladies who devote their time and interest to this object. The appointments of schoolmasters, which had to be postponed in the previous year, were made in the larger jails during the year. It is hoped that their efforts will stimulate the demands for schooling on the part of illiterate prisoners and that their lot in jail will be ameliorated and their outlook on life for the future improved by what they learn in school.

4. Despite the increased strain on the staff, the outturn and efficiency of jail industries were well maintained and, considering the circumstances of the year, the results of the sale of jail products were satisfactory.

5. The Governor in Council has noted with pleasure the tribute which the Inspector-General has paid to the Civil Surgeons in charge of jails and the names of the officers of all ranks whom he has commended for their good work in a year of exceptional difficulty for the whole department. The Governor in Council thanks Col. Powell and Major Jatar, who held charge for eight months of the year, for their efficient control and successful administration of the department.

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

By order of the Governor in Council,

H. GOWAN,

Chief Secretary to Government,

Central Provinces.

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