GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

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REGULATION OF WAGES AND OTHER PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR IN INDIA

Patna University

(Banaili Readership Lectures, 1939-40)

By

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PREFACE

THIS publication embodies the lectures delivered by me as Banaili Reader of the Patna University from 26th March to 2nd April, 1940, at Patna. They are printed substantially as they were delivered with only a few verbal alterations and the addition of reference material, etc. In the case of Lectures 4 and 5, the division in the actual delivery was different from that in the publication in order to achieve an even distribution in time.

When I received the invitation from the Patna University to deliver these lectures, I had been for some time engaged on the work of the Bombay Textile Labour Enquiry Committee. This explains the choice of subject. It might also explain, at least partially, the somewhat scrappy character of the exposition. The contents of these lectures were largely determined by the plan of the reports of that Committee. I desired to avoid dealing at length with all the subjects that were being treated in detail by the Committee. For a large number of topics not dealt with adequately here, I would, therefore, refer the reader to the reports of the Bombay Textile Labour Enquiry Committee. It follows that I am specially indebted to the members and the associate members with whom I worked on that Committee. It was chiefly work on this Committee that gave shape to my ideas on this subject, and most of what might be found to be of value in the lectures is the result of the joint deliberations and enquiries with my colleagues on the Committee. I have also been fortunate in being able to draw freely upon the wide and deep knowledge of Indian labour problems possessed by my friend, Mr. S. R. Deshpande.

Ordinarily the lectures would have, in course of time, been printed by the Patna University. As, however, I was anxious to publish them early, the authorities of that University were kind enough to permit me to do so. My thanks are due to the Manager, the Oriental Watchman Publishing House, Poona, for bringing out the publication within a very short period. An early publication was also made possible by Messrs. N. V. Sovani and D. V. Deodhar, who looked after the larger part of the work of seeing the lectures through the press.

D. R. GADGIL.

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