



PROGRESS OF EDUCATION  
IN  
INDIA  
1947—1952

QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW

With an Introductory Survey

By

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## P R E F A C E

Readers of *Progress of Education in India 1947—52* will perhaps be struck by the material difference in the form of the present Report. In the past, the Quinquennial Review was both a survey of developments during the five years and a detailed report on the last year of the quinquennium. I have for some time felt that such an arrangement suffers from several drawbacks. The combination of the annual and the quinquennial report makes it impossible to keep the volume uniform with the Annual Reports of the other four years. It has also invariably delayed the publication of the Quinquennial Review. The Annual Reports contain a mass of detailed information on diverse topics whose collection cannot be completed till after a considerable interval. Thus the Annual Reports have been issued only up to the year 1948-49. Besides, the inclusion in the Quinquennial Report of detailed data concerning the last year of the Quinquennium tends to detract from its interest for the general reader without any compensating advantage to the educationist.

When the question of preparing the Report for 1947—52 came up before the meeting of the Directors of Education, I made the suggestion that we may in future issue an Annual Report in the standard form for the fifth as for other years. This would serve the needs of educationists and research scholars better as they would have a uniform series of Annual Reports every year. It would also enable the Quinquennial Review to be presented in a form which would make it more

readable and thus help to arouse interest in educational matters among a wider public. The Directors approved of this suggestion and it was decided that the Review would in future be presented as a general account of educational progress in the country without burdening it with too much statistical data and other miscellaneous information.

In his Decennial Survey, Sir John Sargent referred to the fact that the period saw eight Hon'ble Members or Ministers. During the Quinquennium under report, the direction of education in the country was throughout in the hands of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. His wide scholarship and imaginative handling of educational problems have been of the greatest help and encouragement to all Educational Advisers during this period.

Sir John Sargent continued as Educational Adviser for a few months at the beginning of the Quinquennium and left in 1947 after he had served for almost ten years. In the Decennial Survey he has mentioned that he held the office longer than any other individual. One may add that few have held it with greater distinction. India will always remember him for the part he played in framing our first integrated and comprehensive scheme of national education.

Sir John Sargent was followed by Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar who, during his four months' tenure, helped in the establishment of the Central Institute of Education and the implementation of the interim recommendation of the Scientific Man-power Committee. Dr. Tara Chand, who succeeded him, was Educational Adviser for the major part of the Quinquennium and relinquished charge only in December, 1951. The most important developments during his tenure of office were the Report of the Universities Education Commission and the

establishment of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur besides the formulation of a unified policy about the medium of instruction at all stages.

The Quinquennial Review is predominantly factual and based on compilation of data supplied by the Directorates. I have, however, added an Introductory survey and also a Section at the beginning of each Chapter in which I have occasionally permitted myself the liberty of expressing an opinion. I must make it clear that any opinions expressed in this Review are mine and do not in any way commit the Government of India.

Obviously a Survey like the present Report cannot be any one man's work. It is the loyal cooperation of colleagues in the Ministry and of Directorates in the States which has enabled the completion of what is at any time a fairly arduous task and was rendered more difficult by the peculiar circumstances of the Quinquennium. With the integration of the Princely States, this is the first Survey which seeks to cover the whole of India. This has not only increased the magnitude of the work but added considerably to its difficulties. Areas are being covered for the first time for which adequate records do not exist. I wish to express my appreciation of the unstinted cooperation and help I have received from the Directorates as well as officers and staff of the Ministry. Last, but not least, I must thank the Government of India Press, New Delhi, for the despatch and care with which they have rushed the work through the Press.

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