

CHAPTER XVI.

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES.

LABOUR WELFARE.

For the successful implementation of the different objectives to be realised through various labour laws regarding advancement of the general condition of work, health, remuneration, safety and security it had been contemplated in the two Five-Year Plans to augment the strength of the Factory Inspectorate so that frequency of inspection may be increased. To achieve the end the Conference of the Labour Ministry prescribed the standard of inspection by one Inspector between 100 and 150 factories registered under section 2 (M) (1) and 2 (M) (2) of the Factories Act per year. Two hundred—three hundred factories registered under section 85 of Factories Act are also to be inspected within a span of one year only. Under this scheme one Inspector of Factories with staff has been posted at Monghyr.

One more Labour Officer at Khagaria and Labour Superintendent at Monghyr are posted under the programme of expansion of the Labour Department also. This has become necessary due to the increase in the sphere of activities of the Labour Department consequent on the Labour legislations relating to the employees of the Shops and Establishments and of the Minimum Wages Act in Agriculture.

Two Labour Welfare Centres at Monghyr, one at Basudeopur and the other at Laldarwaza, are running with suitable yearly contribution offered by Government. The Welfare Centre at Basudeopur is being run by the Imperial Tobacco Workers' Union, with an annual Government subsidy being granted to the Union to meet a portion of the cost of equipment for recreation. The other Welfare Centre at Laldarwaza caters to the workers of the Electrical Power House and other industrial centres workers in and around the area. The two premier industrial centres in the district, namely, Imperial Tobacco Manufacturing Company and the Railway Workshop at Jamalpur have provided quite a number of amenities to the workers.

Welfare amenities supplied by Imperial Tobacco Company of Monghyr.

Welfare Facilities under the Factories Act.

Creche.—A creche is provided for the children of the female workers. The average attendance is 12, and the children are daily supplied with milk and a fruit each. Toys to play with are also provided. A nurse has been appointed to look after them.

Canteen.—A canteen has been provided for workers in which the management pay overheads, but try to recover the cost of food stuffs. Tea and snacks are provided in the morning and meals during the break. Approximately 200 meals per day are served.

The arrangement has been now completed for a very fine new canteen which is due to be opened very shortly.

Rest Shelter.—A rest shelter with benches has been provided where drinking water is supplied.

Washing Places.—A number of washing places have also been provided for the workers engaged in such work at which they are liable to become dirty. Such workers are issued with a weekly ration of soap.

Drinking Water Facilities.—At present drinking water facilities are provided from both taps and earthen-ware pitchers, but in the near future a refrigerated water-supply system will be installed. At present during the hot weather water is cooled by ice.

Medical Facilities.—A dispensary for both workers and their dependants is provided. This dispensary is staffed by two full-time doctors, three compounders and a nurse, in addition to the dressers, sweepers, etc. When necessary, one doctor visits workers at their home. If a second opinion is necessary, workers are sent to the Civil Surgeon at the Company's expense.

Facilities not covered by the Factories Act.

Housing.—The Company had built under the Government of India subsidised Housing Scheme 54 *pucca* one-roomed tenements with flush type sanitary arrangements which are rented to the workers at Rs. 7-8-0 per month inclusive of electrical and water charges. The Housing Estate is at Shakarpur.

A further 26 two-roomed tenements and 120 one-roomed tenements have been built in 1959.

Institute.—The Company has provided an Institute with the aim of advancing the social, cultural, educational and physical well being of the workers.

Hospital.—The Company has built a hospital for workers and their dependants. It is expected to be taken over in due course under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

Cigarette Allowance.—The Company gives a Cigarette Allowance of five packets of "Scissors" cigarettes per week to the monthly paid workers and one packet of "Passing Show" cigarettes per week to the daily paid workers.

Uniforms.—Uniforms are supplied to all workers other than the clerical staff.

Educational.—School fees for 300 workers' children are paid annually and scholarships are awarded annually four of Rs. 50 per month and four of Rs. 25 per month.

Provident Fund.—All workers are members of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme of 1952.

Charity Scheme.—Workers who are permitted to leave the Company's service before retirement or who die before attaining the retirement age, or who retire at the age of 50 years receive a gratuity at the following rates :—

Leave Gratuity.—For 5 to 10 years' service, there is provision for one-fourth of a month's basic salary per completed year of service. For 10 to 15 years' service there is provision for three-eighths of a month's basic salary per completed year of service.

Fifteen years and above half month's basic salary per completed year of service.

Retirement Gratuity.—For 15 years' service or above or having attained the age of 50 years one is entitled to half month's basic salary per completed year of service.

Death Gratuity.—There is provision for half month's basic salary per completed year of service up to a maximum 15 months' salary only.

Loans, Ex-Gratia Payments, etc.—Following the agreement, dated the 23rd November, 1954 an interest-free loan amounting to Rs. 50,000 was made available to the Co-operative Credit Society for granting advances to its members.

Following the agreement, dated the 19th July, 1955 an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 1,00,000 was made available to the Monghyr Imperial Tobacco Employees' Multi-purpose and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited for furthering its aims and objects as laid down in its Constitution and Rules.

Following the agreement, dated the 19th July, 1956 an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 40,000 was made to the Union for the benefit of its members to be utilised for the promotion and advancement of the social, cultural, educational and physical well-being of the workmen.

Jamalpur Railway Workshop.

Accommodation for Staff.—The Workshop is pre-eminently situated in a rural area although the small township growing round it has modern amenities of life, e.g., water-supply and electricity. There are only 752 units of Railway quarters of different types available at the station, whereas the total number of staff of Mechanical, Electrical, Accounts, Stores, Medical and Engineering Departments is in the neighbourhood of 16,000. Out of this total

number for 1,100 workers of all departments, who are residents of the outlying villages, free transport is provided by the Railway by three Workmen's Trains plying between Jamalpur and three Railway stations two of which are situated at a distance of 19 and 15 miles each way and the other at a distance of six miles only.

Hospital.—A fully equipped hospital including a modern X'Ray plant is maintained by the Railway to cater to the needs of the staff. It is in charge of a District Medical Officer who is helped by a qualified staff. The hospital provides for 86 beds and the operation theatre is equipped with modern appliances in view of Jamalpur being an industrial town. The main hospital is situated in ideal environments at the foot of a hill, not very close to the Workshop, and is efficiently managed. The total annual cost per bed during 1950-51, including charges for supervision was Rs. 2,235.

Educational Facilities.—There are at present four Railway schools run at the cost of the Railway for education of the children of the employees up to the High School standard. The total number of students reading in these four schools is in the vicinity of 1,000. Besides 10 non-Railway schools in the area adjoining Jamalpur are receiving annual financial aid from the Railway.

Sports and Pastimes.—Besides the two Railway institutes which provide for outdoor and indoor recreations for staff, the Jamalpur Sports Association, which is a premier sports organisation in the State of Bihar, conducts all kinds of sports for its members and holds annual sports meets.

Welfare Organisation.—The Welfare Organisation always maintains a personal contact with the workers and settles their grievances quickly with the result that there has not been any major labour trouble in the recent years.

Co-operative Stores.—There are two properly registered Co-operative Stores run by the Railway workers, one of them was established in 1892 and the other in 1942.

Prohibition.—No effective concrete measures are in operation for prohibition in the district. But the prices of excisable articles are raised up. It is expected that because of higher prices a lesser number of people will be consuming the intoxicants. No other effective steps have been taken to bring about prohibition.

Backward Classes.

Welfare work for the betterment of the lot of the Backward Classes had been in progress from before but got much more encouragement since 1948 when a separate department for the Backward Classes came into existence to work under the direct control of the District Officer.

All the three categories of the Backward Classes are mentioned below against the district population of 28,49,127—

Scheduled Castes	4,39,977
Scheduled Tribes	56,712
Other Backward Classes	7,74,841
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	12,71,530

Thus it will be found that the Backward Classes form 44.6 per cent of the total population of the district.

Economic Welfare.

Backward Classes' families are mostly landless and hence unable to stand on their own legs. They have to suffer in the absence of resources for making efforts to ameliorate their lots. Even if, some how or other, land is available, seeds and money are to be procured on credit from the village usurer which again pushes them in the whirl of indebtedness, exploitation, and finally landlessness and living the life of a bondman. Twenty-two grain *golas* have been established to make available to these poverty-stricken people seed on credit and also grain for food in times of scarcity. An interest of 25 per cent is charged and the credit is recovered at the time of the coming harvest. Previously this facility existed only for the Scheduled Tribes but due to subsequent amendment in the Grain Gola Rules, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Class of Annexure I can also get the benefits of these grain *golas*. Now attempts are afoot to link this Grain Golas Scheme with the *Gram Panchayats* and Co-operative Societies in the village.

Agriculture subsidy to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes have also been granted. The maximum amount which can be offered to one individual member of these Backward Classes is Rs. 500.

Housing Scheme.

Nearly 4,000 acres of *gairmazrua* waste land has been settled with the Scheduled Tribes, Harijans to provide them with land for cultivation as well as abode. Housing schemes have also been sanctioned at an estimated cost of rupees six hundred seventy-four per house. The following are the details of the housing schemes :—

Begusarai subdivision—	
Ulao	18
Pokharia	3
Ratanpur	5
Jaimangalgarh	17
Gaurabdih	14
Sadar subdivision—	
Lakhisarai	6
Jamui subdivision—	
Kalyanpur	13

Sweepers' Quarters, Monghyr.

Quarters for 10 families of sweepers working under the Monghyr Municipality have been constructed by Government.

Co-operation.

Harijan families are being brought in the co-operative fold. There are two Harijan Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies in Jhajha police-station. There are Sweepers' Credit Co-operative Societies at Monghyr and Khagaria.

Loans.

Loans under State Aid to Industries Act, 1923 have also been advanced to members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes up to a maximum of Rs. 500 only for which they have not to offer additional securities except the tools and plants or the materials for which the loans are taken. They have been exempted from the payment of stamp duty on the document relating to loans thus secured. Subsidy for starting industries under the Cottage Industries Act has also been made available to them.

Bihar Privileged Persons' Homestead Tenancy Act, 1947.

This Act has conferred the right of acquiring and holding homestead land to the Backward Classes. The right and title of tenancy accrues within the space of one year only. It also provides for extending legal assistance to these privileged persons free of cost.

Educational Welfare.

In 1954-55 Government of Bihar sanctioned a scheme for welfare of Paharia Scheduled Tribes who inhabit the hilly region of the district of Santhal Parganas. There are four main welfare centres running at present under the scheme, namely, Baghi in Rajmahal subdivision, Parkola in Pakaur subdivision, Dhamins in Godda subdivision and Gopi Kandar in Dumka subdivision. In Monghyr district also this scheme extends in the areas contiguous to Santhal district in the southern portion. The chief items of the programme are :—

- (1) Education—establishing Residential Senior Basic School,
- (2) Cottage Industries,
- (3) supply of paddy through grain *golas*,
- (4) encouraging terrace cultivation, piggery, poultry, farming
• and tree planting,
- (5) improvement of communication, and
- (6) provisions of medical and public health facilities.

The programme also covers the southern portion of this district contiguous to the Santhal Parganas. Santhal Parganas Seva Mandal is the non-official executive agency of this programme in Monghyr district.

Thakkar Bappa Scheme.

Under this scheme 26 primary and one middle schools are being run for the Scheduled Tribes inhabiting two subdivisions of the district. One Industrial Training-cum-Production Centre is also being run where provision for training in cane work and furniture work exists. Pahariya Seva Mandal, a philanthropic organisation has taken up this work.

Hostels.

In order to solve the problem of accommodation of the students of these Backward communities, State Government have sanctioned hostels at the following places for which the expenditure is borne by the Government: Khagaria, Begusarai, Jamui and Jhajha. Usually one Superintendent and one cook are provided to every hostel in addition to the house rent and the cost of utensils are borne by the State Government. Every boarder at the hostel gets a grant of Rs. 15 only as well. No seat rent is charged from the students. In addition to these hostels for which buildings have been hired at the abovementioned places, four bigger hostel buildings are going to be built at Monghyr, Khagaria, Barbigaha and Jhajha. There is no exclusive reservation to boys of the Backward Classes only. If seats are available, students of other castes are also admitted. The problem of untouchability can be solved by offering opportunities to the so-called high castes students by living together with the students of the Backward Classes.

Stipends and book grants are allowed to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes through the District Stipend Committee, constituted by the State Government for the same purpose for the students reading in middle and secondary schools. Boys reading in colleges are awarded stipends and book grants through the State and Central Stipend Committee also.

Stipends.

	Number of students benefited.		Amounts awarded.	
	1956-57.	1957-58.	1956-57.	1957-58.
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs.	Rs.
Scheduled Castes	1,298	1,738	94,872	1,27,032
Scheduled Tribes	62	107	7,074	8,976
Backward Classes	342	377	52,720	60,420
Backward Muslims	97	330	17,496	22,320

Book Grants.

	Number of students benefited.		Amounts awarded.	
	1956-57.	1957-58.	1956-57.	1957-58.
	1	2	4	5
			Rs.	Rs.
Scheduled Castes	261	260	2,610	2,700
Scheduled Tribes	26	20	210	200
Backward Classes	402	320	3,700	4,100
Backward Muslims	53	69	522	522

Other petty grants to the students of these sections have also been granted.

	No. of primary students benefited.	Amount.
		Rs.
<i>Petty Grants (1957-58).</i>		
Scheduled Castes	1,959	8,258
<i>Petty Grants (1957-58).</i>		
Scheduled Castes	948	5,867

Medical and Public Health Welfare.

Water-supply and Public Health.—Attempts are being made to provide the facilities of drinking water-supply to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes and schemes in this connection are executed not only through the Welfare Department but also through *Gram Panchayats* and the National Extension Service and Community Development Programme. Wells have been sunk from the fund of the Welfare Department. Government contribution to 75 per cent has been made admissible for these works, keeping in view the pecuniary condition of these classes.

Public Health.—For bringing medical and health facilities within easy reach to the Scheduled Tribes, three dispensaries have been started at Batia in Jhajha police-station, Dullampur in Chakai police-station and Barhat in Lakshmipur police-station. Every dispensary has got one *Vaidya* who gets grant for purchasing medicines for free distribution in the area.

Social and Cultural Programme.—Bihar Harijan (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act, 1947 was put on the statute book in order to bring all offenders for practising untouchability to book and three prosecutions have been initiated in this district. By now when the above Act has been amended by the Untouchability Offence Act (Central), 1955 the consciousness of the removal of the untouchability is slowly coming in.

Removal of untouchability is essentially a social and cultural problem. Harijan Sewak Sangh, Patna, Mushhar Seva Mandal, Rosera, Darbhanga, Dalit Verga Sangh, Patna are carrying on the programme of social reconstruction and education in this district through their branches in this district. They have been aided financially by the State and Central Governments. Publicity and propaganda for throwing open the temples and removal of untouchability and other social disabilities have been carried on through social *melas*, meetings and films.

Reservation.—Reservation of seats of the representatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Parliament, State Legislature, District and Local Boards exists.

The following are the numbers of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes represented through election in them:—

	Scheduled Castes.	Scheduled Tribes.
(1) House of People ..	1	Nil.
(2) State Assembly ..	4	1
(3) District Board ..	2	Nil.

Reservation for representatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also have been made in the appointments to III and IV grades services.

Reservation.

	Class of the services.	Percentage seats.
Scheduled Castes	III	12½ per cent.
Scheduled Castes	IV	28 per cent.
Scheduled Tribes	III	2 per cent.
Scheduled Tribes	IV	4 per cent.

EX-CRIMINAL TRIBES WELFARE.

Dharhi tribe is known to have a propensity for committing crimes. In Chakai police-station, model housing scheme is going to

be launched for which land has been made available out of the *gair-mazarua* waste land. Land for agriculture has also been provided to them. It is expected housing will solve the problem to some extent. Voluntary organisations have not been able to touch the Dharis effectively yet.

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES.

Article 275 of Indian Constitution permits grants-in-aid out of the consolidated fund of India to be made to a State for undertaking schemes with approval of the Government of India for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. Some welfare schemes are being executed under this programme.

HILL PATH WAYS.

Three schemes of Hill Path Ways have also been sanctioned. They are—

	Estimated cost.
	Rs.
(1) 26th Mile Sono-Chakai Road to Sarai Sole—2 miles.	4,564
(2) Nawadih-Batia Road 7th mile to Bewa and Asuta—2½ miles.	6,920
(3) Dharahra to Bangalwa—4 miles	9,316