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Annual Report of Rural Development Activities in the Province of Bombay

For the Year 1943-44



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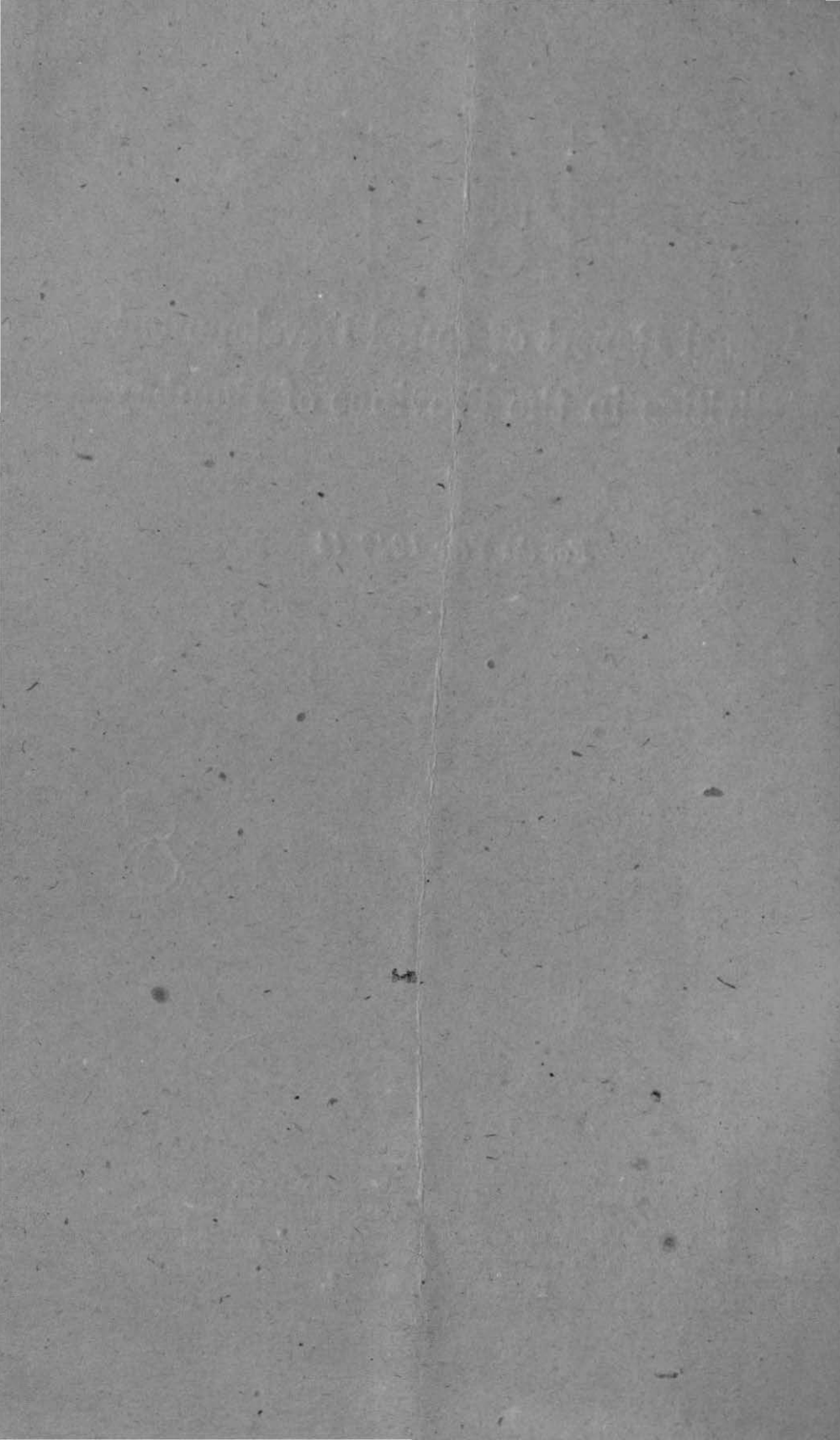
BOMBAY

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS

Obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery,
Bombay, or through the High Commissioner for India, India House,
Aldwych, London, W.C.2, or through any recognized Bookseller

Price—Annas 2 or 3d.

1945



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No. RUL/15 of 1944

Poona, the 4th November 1944.

From

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Registrar, Co-operative Societies, and
Director of Rural Development, Bombay Province,
POONA.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Revenue Department, Secretariat, Fort,
BOMBAY.

SUBJECT.—*Rural Development.*
Report of — Activities.

I submit herewith the Report of the Rural Development Activities in the Province of Bombay for the period beginning on the 1st April 1943 and ending on the 30th June 1944.

General Observations.—During the period under report, the officers of the Revenue Department, who co-ordinate the rural development activities in the districts were preoccupied, among other things, with the work arising on account of the war, and a very difficult food situation in the province, while various other Departments, connected with rural development, were working under many serious handicaps. It will, however, be seen from the following pages that these difficulties were not allowed to interfere with the normal rural development work. As a matter of fact food shortage in this province brought home the need for fully husbanding the agricultural resources of the Province, and the steps, which were taken by the Government for the purpose, led to an enormous increase in the activities of the Agricultural Department. At the same time, the arrangements which were made by Government for distributing foodstuffs and the controlled articles in the rural areas helped the co-operative movement. These arrangements were left to the Collectors and differed from district to district, but on the whole, the co-operative societies got a substantial share of the distribution work in the rural areas and many village co-operative societies were able to enlarge their functions and take up other activities besides supply of rural credit. Activities of the irrigation section of the Public Works Department also received an impetus owing to the need for growing more food crops and bringing the maximum area under irrigation.

Another important feature of the work during the year was the preparation of post-war plans of Government. They have been drawn up with very special attention to the needs of rural areas and will vitally affect the course of rural development in this province, but as the brochure outlining these schemes was published after the close of the period under report, they have not been described here.

I. AGRICULTURE.

(1) LAND DEVELOPMENT.

The progressive and permanent improvement and development of agricultural, forest and waste lands and the prevention of soil erosion in areas liable

to famine received great impetus during the period under report, as a result of the acute famine conditions in some areas of the Province, particularly Bijapur and portions of Sholapur.

In April 1943, Government sanctioned as a famine measure, schemes of large scale experimental bunding in two circles viz. the South Circle comprising the Bijapur district and other parts of the Karnatak and the North Circle including Sholapur and the other Deccan districts. In the South Circle, the area contour-banded and trenched in the Bijapur district alone was 1,25,000 acres, of which 20,000 to 30,000 acres were under contour trenching. Of the total banded area, about 10,000 acres are included in 12 Village Developmental Projects subsidised by the Sir Custow Wadia Trust Fund, the remaining area of well over a lakh of acres being contour-banded at Government expense in connection with large scale experimental bunding projects at 27 centres. Including such large scale bunding projects, Village Developmental Projects and block bunding for private owners, contour-banding work has been carried out in no less than 75 villages in the Bijapur district. In the North Circle, about 37,000 acres have been banded under large scale experimental bunding projects and 3,000 acres under Village Developmental Projects sanctioned in different districts.

The introduction of scientific dry farming methods on the banded areas is now being carried out simultaneously with the actual bund constructions. About 8,000 acres have already been cultivated in accordance with the improved methods, out of which 6,000 acres were in the Bijapur district. The results in better crop production were most noticeable and attracted much attention from the cultivators. The Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1942, is being applied to all areas in which land development work has been or is being carried out with Government assistance or through Government agency.

Under the modified scheme, which came into force from 1st April 1944 Government will carry out the work through the agency of the Land Development Section of the Agricultural Department and will bear 25 per cent. of the total cost which is estimated to be Rs. 12 per acre on an average. The remaining 75 per cent. will be recovered from the holders of the lands in 12 annual equated instalments of annas 12 per acre, free of interest. In addition Government has agreed to bear the cost of day farming operations which works at Rs. 3 per acre.

In addition to the work done by the Land Development Section of the Agricultural Department, many District Rural Development Boards interested themselves in anti-erosion measures and maintained staff and spent money for the purpose. Information regarding the length of the bunds constructed with the help of Boards and the area protected is furnished in statement No. 4 appended to this report.

(2) INTRODUCTION OF :

(i) IMPROVED TILLAGE METHODS.

Activities under this head consisted of efforts to persuade the cultivators to take up to grading of seed with suitable sieves, dibbling of seed, wider sowing of crops, ploughing with iron ploughs, interculturing etc. The Taluka Demonstration Centres, which now number 174 in the province, have been of considerable help in introducing the improved tillage methods in villages round about the centres. The work has been particularly noticeable in the Panch Mahals Sub-division and the districts of Bijapur, Sholapur and Belgaum.

(ii) IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS.

In several districts there was a growing recognition of the need for the use of improved implements, as a result of which the demand for the use of these implements has greatly increased. In this field of activity, Taluka Development Associations, Taluka Demonstration Centres, Co-operative Implement Societies and Better Farming Societies rendered useful service by giving on hire various types of implements like Allan Gandhi harrows, iron levellers, improved iron ploughs, Sayan harrows, groundnut drills, Jenkins Clod crushers, etc., to the cultivators. These activities were further supplemented by the Rural Development Boards, which also made arrangements for stocking implements in some cases or arranged for supply of some implements at concession rate. The Rural Development Board, Belgaum, maintained 15 implement Depots in the district where about 500 implements such as iron scrappers, iron ploughs, dust guns, cane-crushers etc., were stocked and given to the cultivators on a nominal rent. The areas, which have reported noteworthy activity under this head; apart from Belgaum, are Kaira, Sholapur, Ahmednagar and Panch Mahals.

As cultivators were experiencing difficulty in many areas in obtaining iron for plough shears, Rahat buckets, gul-boiling pans etc., Government instructed the Agricultural Engineer to collect information about the estimated requirements of iron per each district. As a result, a part of the required quantity of iron has been purchased as released by the Deputy Controller of Iron and Steel and supplied to Taluka Development Associations, Co-operative Implement Supply Societies, approved agents etc., for supplying the requirements of the cultivators.

(iii) MANURE.

Intensive propaganda was made for the use of various manures to increase the fertility of the soil and the need for using sann green manure, compost-making etc., was stressed. In many districts, digging of improved manure pits was advocated and the use of sann and khad seed for green manuring and groundnut cake, as top-dressing to irrigated crops, was emphasised. Preparation of compost by using farm refuse was done in some areas and concentrated manures such as bone meal and groundnut cake were supplied to the cultivators for use on various crops.

Oil cakes.—In order to increase the production of rice and irrigated wheat, groundnut cake was distributed to the cultivator of these food crops at a concession of Rs. 50 per ton. In all, 10,169 tons of groundnut cake were given to the cultivators and the total amount of subsidy given by Government was approximately Rs. 4 lakhs. There was a great demand for Karanja and castor cakes in some districts.

Compost Manure.—Composting of farm wastes has received great impetus by the announcement of a subsidy of Rs. 3 per pit, of which Re. 1 is made available for digging the pit and Rs. 2 when compost has been prepared in it and supplied to food crops in the fields. The Kamgats of all Taluka Demonstration Centres were asked to get 20 pits dug out and filled with farm wastes by the cultivators within a radius of five miles round each Taluka Demonstration Centre. In all, 4,970 pits are dug—2,530 in Northern Division, 1,200 in Central Division, 236 in Southern Division and 1,004 in Konkan. Preparation of compost from the town refuse purchased from the Municipality was also advocated to the cultivators in the vicinity of the towns. About 500 cart-loads of fine compost were prepared by the cultivators around Belgaum in this way.

A scheme for the encouragement and extension of composting of town refuse by the municipalities has been in progress with the financial assistance of the Bombay Government and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The staff appointed under this scheme has received the necessary training at Pandharpur where about 5000 cart-loads (2,500 tons) of compost have been prepared. Most of this compost has been, however, utilized by the sugarcane growers as the cultivators of dry crops round about Pandharpur did not take to its use. It has been thus found necessary to demonstrate the value of compost to these cultivators. Similar work of preparing compost has been undertaken by five other Municipalities viz. Nadiad, Broach, Sholapur, Ahmednagar and Dharwar.

Chemical Fertilizers.—One thousand and nine hundred tons of sulphate of ammonia and 2,000 tons of ammonium phosphate have been allotted to the Bombay Province for manuring of paddy, potatoes, other vegetables and sugarcane. The above quantity has been stocked at the various depots of the Imperial Chemical Industries (India), Ltd., and is being distributed to the cultivators under the supervision of the staff of the Agricultural Department. In Nagar, 3,440 lbs. of bone manure for fruit trees were supplied to the cultivators through co-operative societies and Taluka Development Associations and the use of chemical fertilizers was increasingly made in the areas under vegetable cultivation. In the Karnatak districts and in the Konkan, 177 tons of bone meal was distributed at concessional rate for manuring rice crop and the total amount of subsidy borne by the Government was approximately Rs. 7,500.

(3) SEED MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION.

According to the model scheme prepared by the Director of Agriculture, departmental farms are utilized for the production of pure pedigree seeds of improved crops like paddy, jowar, wheat, bajri, maize, gram etc. In the case of certain farms, especially the Rice Farms at Mugad, Kumta, Karjat and Igatpuri, additional land has been taken for this purpose. These pedigree seeds are distributed to the Taluka Demonstration Centres and other approved cultivators for further multiplication. In Jalgaon and Amalner talukas, a special scheme has been launched for the multiplication of Gulab wheat and during the year 8,220 lbs. of pedigree Gulab wheat seed were distributed. At the end of the second stage the seed is normally handed over to the Rural Development Department for distribution and farther multiplication of these improved strains. The work which is being done by the various Rural Development Boards under this head has been eclipsed during the period under report by the intensified activity of the Agricultural Department under the "Grow More Food Campaign", of which the distribution of improved seed formed an important part, but the scheme remained in operation, and almost all the District Rural Development Boards assisted, in various degrees, in the supply of improved seeds for the crops grown in their areas.

During the year under report, under the "Grow More Food Crops" Campaign, the Agricultural Department opened depots at different centres in the districts for the supply of improved seeds and in all Rs. 12,26,469 were expended in this work of purchase and distribution of improved seed, out of which Rs. 2,55,372 were irrecoverable, being absorbed in concessions and expenses for storage, distribution etc. The above amounts do not include the finance made available by Government for seed distribution in the areas affected by famine.

The figures for the total quantity of improved seed distributed among the cultivators and the area covered are given below for the important food crops :—

Crop.	Total quantity in maunds.	Area covered in acres.
Paddy	35,540	46,103
Bajri	7,902	1,14,881
Jowar	30,313	1,53,858
Wheat	32,600	50,318
Maize	8,206	8,464

The schemes of increased vegetable cultivation, entrusted by Government to the Department of Agriculture, increased the demand for vegetable seed and this demand was met partly by growing vegetables on the farms for seed production and partly by supply obtained from abroad under lease-lend.

(4) CROP PROTECTION AGAINST :

(a) INSECT PESTS.

Extensive propaganda was carried on by the officers of the Rural Development and the Agricultural Departments for the use of various control measures for insect pests and diseases. In several districts, where crops were affected by insect pests, suitable measures to deal with them were adopted.

Caterpillars, Hoppers, etc.—In the Bombay Suburban district, remedial measures were explained to the villagers against cocoon caterpillars. In Ahmednagar the work of controlling the grass-hoppers in the canal area was continued and measures like spraying of crude oil, dragging coal tarred iron sheets etc. were adopted. In Belgaum, the Collector sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2,000 from his discretionary grant to provide for the use of tarred tin sheets to control the attack of grass-hoppers. There was also an attack of grass-hoppers on paddy and the Rural Development Board took measures to control about 300 acres of paddy. Similarly, 1,550 acres under vegetable were protected by spraying and dusting operations from time to time.

Other pests.—In the Panch Mahals, the Assistant Collector sanctioned a sum of Rs. 100 for supply of 10 lbs. cynogas dust for killing white ants and field rats. In Kaira, the kharif season was marred by the ravages of rats, which also attacked wheat and jowar-crop. Nearly 10 lakhs poison baits were supplied free of charge and rats burrows were fumigated in some talukas. In Ahmedabad, the Rural Development Board spent a sum of Rs. 362 to deal with the ravages of field rats in Dholka, Dhandhuka and Dascroi talukas.

(b) PLANT DISEASES.

Use of Sulphur Dust.—The main protection against smut on jowar and various other plant diseases is the use of sulphur dust. It has become difficult to apply this on large scale on account of shortage of sulphur, but in areas where old stocks existed or some sulphur was available it was distributed at concession rate. Work under this head is reported, from Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Dharwar and Bijapur, but the most remarkable work was done in East Khandesh, where the Central Co-operative Bank distributed 12,000 sulphur dust packets to prevent black smut on jowar and 5,000 santra and mosambi plants and 15 mango trees were treated against stem-borer. In Panvel taluka of Kolaba, insecticides and fungicides were supplied free for use on garden crops.

Use of Bordeaux Mixture.—In Ahmednagar, bordeaux mixture was used against mildew on grapes and in East Khandesh, use of creosote oil was made for 3,000 mosambi plants. In Kanara spraying of bordeaux mixture against koleroga was continued and 10,000 acres under betelnut were sprayed.

(c) WILD ANIMALS.

The Shikar Officer, with his Assistants, continued to carry out the work of protecting crops from the ravages of the wild animals through the organisation of gun clubs in various districts. In all, there were 71 gun clubs and 2,458 wild animals were destroyed during the period under report. Other organizations like co-operative crop protection societies and fencing societies also made useful contribution in some districts in tackling this problem.

In Kaira, the District Rural Development Board sanctioned Rs. 500 by way of rewards to gun clubs for killing wild pigs. Two new gun clubs were started during the year. The Shikar Officer received considerable assistance from the Police Department in protecting crops against wild animals and 672 nilgai were killed during the year.

In Ahmednagar, a Special Shikar Officer was engaged to organize gun clubs in Kopergaon, Rahuri and Sangamner talukas and help the cultivators in killing bats who had become a great menace to fruit trees. Other areas, where energetic measures were taken against wild animals, were East Khandesh, Kolaba, Belgaum, Dharwar and Bijapur. In Dharwar, in addition to gun clubs, this activity is carried out through the co-operative fencing societies. The Supervisor of the Fencing Societies' Union was responsible for killing 84 wild pigs.

(5) HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

During the year, there has been a great demand for grafts, seedlings, suckers, etc., of reliable fruit trees and also of vegetable seed in almost all districts. In most districts the propaganda for the development of fruit culture was made.

Supply of Plants, etc.—In addition to many commercial concerns, the Ganeshkhind Fruit Farm, maintained by the Agricultural Department, made large supplies of fruit-tree stocks available to growers. In Kolaba, North Kanara, Belgaum, Dharwar, Kaira, East Khandesh and Bijapur, the Rural Development Boards assisted in supply of plants, often at concession rates, to the agriculturists.

Maintenance of Nurseries.—District Nurseries for growing fruit have been established in the six districts of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Nasik, Kolaba, Panch Mahals and Ratnagiri, and on some of the agricultural departmental farms. The Horticulturist to Government is maintaining shade tree nurseries on some of the departmental farms and Taluka Demonstration Centres and during the year, over one lakh seedlings were distributed for planting on "Arbor Days" in the districts. The Wilson Anti-famine Institute, Bijapur, Kolaba Rural Development Board and Ahmednagar Rural Development Board gave Rs. 680, Rs. 830 and Rs. 1,000 respectively, for maintenance of nurseries for raising shade trees and other plants. Good work in this connection is also reported from Kaira and North Kanara.

Tree Planting days.—Tree planting days were celebrated in the districts of Sholapur, Satara and Ahmednagar.

(6) ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

Premium bulls.—The most important activity of the Livestock Section of the Department of Agriculture is that of cattle improvement, and it has got over 650 premium bulls and 18 gift bulls on its working list. The majority of the gift bulls are working in East Khandesh district. The gift bull fund has now been converted into the "District Livestock Advance Fund" and the amount allotted to each district will be used for the issue of premium bulls. There are over 300 premium cows on the records of the Livestock Section.

The District Rural Development Boards have done a lot to supplement the work of the Agricultural Department. The Surat Board, last year, sanctioned a scheme for purchase of pre-bred kankrej cows from Ahmedabad district and now there are 230 cows with 90 pre-bred calves, out of which 27 typical male calves are selected for rearing as future stud bulls. The Broach District Rural Development Board gave financial help of Rs. 2,000 for purchase of premium bulls and premium cows of kankrej breed. The Rural Development Board also spent Rs. 600 for supply of Kankrej cows to poor cultivators free of cost and a further amount of Rs. 1,200 in supplying kankrej cows and stud bulls to the villagers of Haldar at half cost.

In several other districts viz. Kaira, Thana, Nasik, East Khandesh, Sholapur, Satara, Poona, Bijapur and Dharwar, the District Rural Development Boards interested themselves in these activities and made contributions on a varying scale for the purchase of breeding bulls and cows which were supplied to selected villages at various concessions.

Cattle Breeding Organizations.—Cattle Breeding Associations working in Ahmedabad (for Kankrej breed), Sholapur (for Khillar breed) and East Khandesh (for Nimar breed) were responsible for tattooing and registering 1,500 pure bred animals. The Rural Development Boards assisted these and other organizations interested in cattle breeding with the help of grants. The Sholapur Rural Development Association sold cows to Harijans at 50 per cent. and to soldiers' families at 75 per cent. concessional rates.

The Livestock Improvement Act has been applied to over 100 villages and about 30 were surveyed with a view to seek Government permission for application of the Act to those villages. For the preservation and improvement of fodder, 10 cattle breeders' societies were formed mainly for collective and rotational grazing besides improvement of cattle.

Cattle Rallies.—Amongst other measures, cattle shows and cattle rallies, which were held in several districts, served a useful purpose in bringing home to the agriculturists the need for maintaining good breeds of cattle. Three All India Regional Cattle Shows were held at Mahud in Sholapur district for khillar breed from 5th to 9th December 1943, at Sanand in Ahmedabad district for Kankrej breed from 9th to 11th January 1944, and at Nasik Road in Nasik district for Dangi breed from 1st to 3rd February 1944. The show at Sanand was opened by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay. All the shows were largely attended and a large number of cattle was exhibited thereat. Twelve other (District) Cattle Shows were held during the period under report. All these shows were partly financed from the All India Cattle Show Fund. Amongst the District shows, the District Agricultural and Cattle Show at Sarangkhedra in West Khandesh held from 10th to 12th December 1943, deserves special mention. The show was opened by the Commissioner, Central Division, and at the show 198 cattle heads of different breeds were exhibited.

The cattle rallies held at Haldar (in Broach and Panch Mahals district), Nadiad (Kaira), Savargaonpeth and Puntamba (in Ahmednagar district) and at Naitala (in Nasik district) call for special mention. In East Khandesh, Pola days were held in 10 selected villages of each taluka and peta, where programmes of cattle improvement were organised. Leaflets were distributed and speeches on care of the cattle were made.

Veterinary Work.—Amongst other measures, the Veterinary Department took steps for protecting a large number of cattle against outbreak of Rinderpest in various parts of the Province. Similar steps for vaccination or serum inoculation of cattle were taken against Haemorrhagic Septicemia and black quarter and anthrax. Foot and mouth diseases appeared in many districts and the officers of the Veterinary Department did their best to cope with the problem. At Veterinary Dispensaries throughout the Province, over 2½ lakhs of animals were treated for medical and surgical diseases and about a lakh of animals were treated in villages by the officers of the Veterinary Department while on tour. The Department has placed 47 village medical chests for treatment of animals in the villages of the Province.

Poultry Farming.—The three Government Poultry Farms at Kirkee, Dharwar and Dhulla rendered valuable help to all the Rural Development Boards in promoting this activity. In Sholapur, Satara, West Khandesh and Poona districts, the poultry extension work has been so extensive and has so far penetrated into the villages that the big demand of the Military both for birds and eggs for their units was met from these districts.

In Kaira, Thana, Panch Mahals, Ahmednagar, East Khandesh, Sholapur, Belgaum and Kolaba also the District Rural Development Boards encouraged poultry farming by various items of assistance. In East Khandesh, the Rural Development Board maintained a poultry kamgar to supervise and guide the poultry improvement work, while in Sholapur, the Rural Development Association maintained a poultry farm at Kurduwadi.

Sheep Farming.—The sheep improvement work mainly aims at the introduction of better woolled white sheep in the selected sheep breeding areas of the Province. Two sub-stations under main Sheep Breeding Research Scheme at Poona have been established at Javale in Sangola taluka in Sholapur district and at Anagwadi in Bagalkot taluka of Bijapur district, with the object of extending the benefit of the research work to the rural areas. At these centres the co-operation of the local shepherds has been obtained and rams with superior white wool are introduced into their flocks for grading up of the local sheep population. In the Sheep Breeding area of Sangola taluka there are now 52 selected rams heading flocks of the local breeders with about 1200 white breeding ewes. Recently 10 flocks of better woolled type have been located in the vicinity of the sub-station near Anagwadi. The work of introduction of white woolled rams to head the flocks of the Backward Class agriculturists of Bijapur district is now undertaken and 20 rams are placed among the flocks owned by the Lamanis.

(7) GRASS LAND AND FODDER SUPPLY.

In many districts steps were taken to introduce new varieties of grass and fodder and to train agriculturists in proper methods of conservation of grass and the rightlines of grazing. The work done in Broach, Dharwar and Bijapur deserves special mention. In Bijapur, where scarcity of fodder was greatly felt during

the year owing to the failure of crops, the Bijapur Famine Relief Committee, Bombay, helped in saving the cattle by opening mass feeding centres in the district and cattle camps at suitable centres.

The construction of silos is an important step in the proper storage and preservation of fodder and during the period under report, 32 silo pits were filled and demonstrations made in different parts of the province. Most of these were financed by the Rural Development Boards.

II. CO-OPERATION AND MARKETING.

RURAL CREDIT.

Most of the co-operative societies in the rural areas aim at supplying credit on easy and reasonable terms to the agriculturists. Out of a total number of 6135 co-operative institutions in the Province, 4094 are primary agricultural credit societies. In recent times, however, a large number of well-managed agricultural credit societies have widened their sphere of activities and are taking up additional items of work, like supply of seed, manure, implements and domestic requirements etc. in addition to the supply of finance. During the period under report, this tendency received a fillip on account of the recent Government policy of utilising efficient and well-managed co-operative societies as agencies for distribution of food-grains and other controlled articles in rural areas and has afforded them a useful opportunity to prove their utility not only to their members but to the general public.

The Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act.—The Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act has been in operation in 16 talukas and petas of the Province for some time past. A committee was appointed to review the working of the Act and to suggest improvements. As a result of the report of the committee, Government proposes to amend the Act and to extend its working to 76 talukas and petas of the Province. With the extension of the Act, arrangements for provision of finance to debtors of their cultivation needs are being made, and Government expects that this will be done mainly by the co-operative societies. Steps are being taken to organise, in the areas selected for the extension of the Act, a net work of co-operative credit societies which would be able to finance debtor at a reasonably low rate of interest. With a view to link up credit for crop finance with the marketing of produce of the debtors, steps to organize sale organisations in the areas where the Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act would be extended, are also in progress.

NON-CREDIT WORK IN RURAL AREAS.

The number of agricultural non-credit societies undertaking agricultural propaganda and activities of Rural Development like marketing of agricultural produce, supply of improved seed, etc., increased from 441 to 570.

(1) TALUKA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND BETTER FARMING SOCIETIES.

Taluka Development Associations.—With the registration of 2 Taluka Development Associations in Nasik and Belgaum districts, the number of Taluka Development Associations rose from 113 to 115. In addition to their usual activities of propaganda for and demonstration of quality seed, improved methods and improved implements to raise the agricultural production of

cultivators, these associations continued to take a prominent part in the "Grow More Food Crops Campaign". They were utilized by the Agricultural Department and the Rural Development Boards as agencies for distribution of improved seed and manure at concessional rates.

A few Taluka Development Associations, particularly those in the East Khandesh district, were, owing to their well built financial position, able to undertake some of the additional activities like maintenance of cattle breeding farms and running of poultry farm. The Jalgaon Taluka Development Association graded 7,812 eggs, of which 2,460 were given for hatching purposes. It maintained a cattle breeding farm at Pimple for improving Nemar breed of bulls. The Raver Taluka Development Association did useful work in protecting crops from the ravages of wild beasts by arranging for the killing of 70 wild animals. The Indi Taluka Development Association in Bijapur district supplied 1000 banana plants to cultivators and has maintained a nursery at Indi. The Taluka Development Associations at Khed and Junnar concerned themselves with the work of distribution of food-grains and sale of standard cloth. The Dhulia Taluka Development Association paid special attention to digging of manure pits and in its area of operations 2131 pits were dug during the year. The Shahade Taluka Development Association is reported to have supplied 11,785 grafts of fruit-trees.

Better Farming Societies.—The number of better farming societies increased from 46 to 52, during the period under report. These societies supplement the work undertaken by Taluka Development Association. In view of their compact areas and smaller membership, they are able to help their members in realizing better results from definite items of agricultural improvements selected for being carried out by them. In addition to their usual activities, like supply of improved seed, manure, hiring implements, many of them concentrated on specific items of work like mass bunding or cattle breeding. The Tharpuji Better Farming Society in Poona district, which has been concentrating on land development work only, has been able to protect 717 acres of land by means of bunds. The total length of the bunds constructed measures 1,07,597 feet. Better Farming Societies in Dharwar district concentrated on cattle breeding work. During the year under report, many of the Better Farming Societies were granted a non-recurring grant of Rs. 250 for purchase of agricultural implements.

(2) SALE SOCIETIES, AGRICULTURAL REQUISITE SOCIETIES AND IMPLEMENT SOCIETIES, ETC.

The number of co-operative marketing societies increased from 124 to 189 during the year.

Bombay Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society.—One of the principal objects of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society has been to sell the produce of the agriculturists. The restrictions on the movement of food grains and the difficulties in securing transport have made the realization of this object very difficult, but the Society was able to undertake the sale of fruits and vegetables as well as supply of ration and non-rationed articles to consumers societies and the distribution of charcoal to consumers in Bombay through authorised dealers. The Society was appointed by Government as its authorised agent for the purchase and despatch of groundnut oil cake for distribution to the cultivators in the province in connection with the "Grow More Food Crops" Scheme. The quantity of oil cake supplied during the period under report was more than 10 thousand tons valued at over Rs. 10 lacs. The work of distribution of charcoal resulted in an increase of

authorised charcoal dealers' shops from 100 to 300 during the year. The quantity of charcoal distributed was 47,127 tons valued at over Rs. 43 lacs. The Society also supplied some iron and steel required by the co-operative organisations for their members' use. The Society has recently been recognised as Central Purchasing Agency of the co-operative organisations in the province by the Controller General of Civil Supplies, Bombay and the Provincial Textile Controller, Bombay.

The Society suffered a serious setback last year owing to certain sales on credit, but now all its losses have been made up, and at the Registrar's suggestion, it has created a special Reserve Fund for extending the functions of the Society and dealing with the problems, which will arise in the post-war period. This Fund, which cannot be spent except with the permission of the Registrar stood at Rs. 50,837 on the 30th June 1944.

Cotton sale Societies.—The cotton sale societies in Gujerat and Karnatak continued to assist agriculturists in securing better prices for their cotton. The number of cotton sale societies organized in the East Khandesh under the Scheme for multiplication of jarilla seed and marketing of jarilla lint, increased from 8 to 15. The cost of secretarial and other staff for managing these societies continued to be borne by Government.

A similar scheme for organising cotton sale societies in West Khandesh on the lines of the scheme undertaken in East Khandesh was inaugurated and three cotton sale societies were organized during the year. Government has rendered the same assistance to these societies by way of provision of secretarial and other staff as in the case of the East Khandesh district.

Other Sale Societies.—An all round increase in the prices of agricultural commodities and comparative improvement in the economic position of the agriculturists have greatly helped the co-operative movement, and inspite of the restrictions on transport and on dealing in food grains, co-operative marketing fared very well during the year under report. Sale societies in the canal area like Baramati, Kopergaon and Malsiras, which mainly deal with gul, showed a tremendous increase in their working during the period under report. These societies were utilized by the Agricultural Department for sale of groundnut cake and manure at concessional rates to agriculturists in the area. The Nira Canal Purchase and Sale Society sold 1,247 tons of groundnut cakes. The supply of adequate quantities of vegetables to the military have helped the vegetable sale societies in Nasik, Nagar and Belgaum districts. The Ahmedabad Potato Growers' Association continued to show good progress. The Association imported from Simla seed potatoes of the improved variety valued at Rs. 97,227 and received a Government grant of about Rs. 1,500. It sold potatoes worth Rs. 3,33,862 and earned a commission of Rs. 11,000. The Belgaum Gardeners' Sale Society sold vegetables valued at Rs. 70,000 during the period under report. The Nandurbar Purchase and Sale Union which has been only recently started, made good progress and has opened a number of branches and depots in the Bhil area in Nandurbar taluka and Navapur Peta. Kaira District Purchase and Sale Union, which acted as agent for Government for purchase of paddy and bajri, was responsible for making purchases valued at over Rs. 10 lacs from the agriculturists.

Agricultural Requisite and Implement Societies.—The Shevgaon and Pathardi Societies in the Nagar district and those at Madha and Malsiras in the Sholapur district, which possess a large stock of iron ploughs and other implements, did very good work during the period under report. The Pathardi Implement Society has now extended its sphere of working and has been functioning as a sale society also.

(3) MULTI-PURPOSE SOCIETIES, CREDIT SOCIETIES AND CENTRAL BANKS.

The number of multi-purpose societies increased from 79 to 105. This large increase was due to the need for having suitable co-operative organisations at the grain distribution centres in rural areas under the rural grain distribution scheme of Government. The existing multi-purpose societies, particularly those at minor market places, have shown a varied degree of success. The Nabipur and Haldar Multi-purpose Societies in the Broach district did useful work in the supply of pure cotton seed. The Mirajgaon Multi-purpose Society in the Nagar district sold members' produce valued at Rs. 2,625 and also supplied cloth and other domestic requirements valued at Rs. 2,615. The Vatwa Multi-purpose Society in Ahmedabad district did valuable work in the year. The purchases made by the Society amounted to Rs. 44,000 and it sold standard cloth valued at Rs. 1,987.

(4) OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Amongst other activities undertaken by the co-operative societies in promoting rural development work, could be mentioned the work done by some agricultural societies in construction of roads, distribution of medicine chests, maintenance of libraries, running of fair price shops, etc. Kyadagi Multi-purpose Society of the North Kanara district distributed quinine pills free of cost and also helped the bee keeping industry by maintaining 22 bee-hive boxes. The Society also undertook encouragement of cane industry and assisted in repairing the roads. It also supplied fruit plants and paddy seeds. The Haliyal Multi-purpose Society distributed about 400 bags of bone meal manure. The Kallabe Rural Reconstruction Society distributed 150 fruit plants and improved paddy seed of 250 lbs. The Society is also running a village hospital. The Arge Better Farming Society is running one adult school at Shahakarbaj which was attended to by about 30 adults. Three dam construction and irrigation societies in North Kanara district, which were able to irrigate about 930 acres of land, are said to have assisted in raising crops valued at Rs. 6,23,000. The work of distributing medicine chests was undertaken by rural Co-operative Societies in Nagar district and about 100 medicine chests were distributed.

(5) GENERAL MARKETING WORK.

The Chief Marketing Officer and the staff under him continued to attend to the work relating to the establishment of regulated markets, development of co-operative marketing, grading and preparation of survey reports. The services of the Marketing Inspectors in several districts were utilised by the Collectors for the work of price control and for kindred work relating to purchase and distribution of food grains.

(6) REGULATED MARKETS.

There has been an increasing demand for regulation of markets in several districts but owing to the limited staff at the disposal of the Director of Rural Development and also the need for watching the working of the Act in the initial stages before its large scale expansion, the pace of development has been unavoidably slow. During the period under report, 6 new markets were established under the Bombay Agricultural Produce Markets Act at Hubli, Gadag, Viramgam, Bavala, Sanand and Karad-Umbraj. Except at Karad-Umbraj where purchase and sale of groundnut was regulated, the commodity regulated in all other markets was cotton.

(7) GRADING AND STANDARDISATION.

The work of grading and marking of cotton—1027 A.L.F. and Suyog cotton in Surat district in Gujerat and Jayawant in Karnatak was continued under the supervision of the Cotton Superintendents. As a result of this process, 26,817 bales of cotton were certified under Agmark.

Out of the seven persons authorised by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India for grading and marking of gul at different centres, e.g. Sankeshwar, Nipani, Kopergaon, etc., only five graded and Agmarked gul weighing 1414 Bengali maunds valued at Rs. 22,860. The policy of issue of Certificates of Authorisation to individuals has, however, been recently revised by the Government of India and it has been decided to issue authorisation certificates for grading only to co-operative producers' societies and to those who would undertake to grade at least 10,000 maunds of gul during one season.

Amongst other grading activities, the grading of Santras and Mosambis, which was continued on a large scale in Ahmednagar and Poona and to a smaller extent in Khandesh, deserves mention. During the period under report, Mosambis worth nearly Rs. 1½ lacs and Santras valued at Rs. 18,330 were graded in these districts.

The grading and marking of Alphonso mangoes was also undertaken, particularly in Surat and Ratnagiri districts. The District Rural Development Boards subsidised these activities. In Surat, fruits numbering over a lac were graded while in Ratnagiri, the total number graded was 91,131.

The grading of ghee, butter and eggs was also continued during the year, but conditions for promoting grading were not favourable on account of shortage of commodities and high prices.

III. GRAIN DEPOTS.

The policy of Government to provide grain advances to the people in backward areas by a simple system of grain banks, worked by village Talatias or Patils was continued during the year, but there was a small modification in the lines of approach. Ordinarily all grain depots are under the control of the Revenue Department but in order to meet the needs of the areas where there are no grain depots organised by the Revenue Department and where the Commissioners have no objection to registration of the depots on a co-operative basis, Government has withdrawn the ban imposed on the registration of grain banks under Bombay Co-operative Societies Act. These grain depots formed on the co-operative model are, however, to be styled as "Co-operative Grain Stores" and not "Grain Depots".

During the period under report, grants amounting to Rs. 1,18,360 in aggregate were placed at the disposal of the Collectors of Thana, Poona and Satara and West Khandesh, Broach and Panch Mahals for opening grain depots in the areas inhabited by backward classes. A special grant of Rs. 6,000 was also placed at the disposal of the Collector of Broach and Panch Mahals for opening grain depots in Godhra taluka.

In Ratnagiri, where there are no Revenue Patils or Talatias working in the areas where the khoti system of tenure prevails, rules for management of grain depots were suitably amended to provide for appointment of Police Patil as Ex-officio Chairman of the Village Grain Depot Committee.

As in the past, the Thana district continues to lead in this type of activity. 24 new grain depots were started in the partially excluded areas of the district bringing the total number of grain depots to 194. In Kolaba, there are

146 grain depots which were responsible for distributing 14,000 maunds of paddy. The need for organising grain depots is increasingly felt in partially excluded areas and this led to a large increase in their number in West Khandesh and Broach and Panch Mahals districts.

Statement No. 5 appended to this report indicates the number of grain depots in this province as on the 30th June 1944 and the value of grain distributed by them.

After the close of the year Government passed orders approving in principle the conversion of grain depots and recently started distribution centres in the Aboriginal and Hill tribes tracts of West Khandesh and other similar areas into grain-cum-commodities depots. The ultimate aim is to have one grain-cum-commodity depot in each saza in the Aboriginal and Hill tribes tracts of the Province.

In so far as the Aboriginal and Hill tribe tracts of West Khandesh are concerned, Government has already approved conversion of 30 selected grain depots and distribution centres into grain-cum-commodities depots which would be linked up with the Nandurbar Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union and its branch at Nawapur, so that the surplus grain of the depots would be sold and the commodities required by the depots would be obtained through the Union.

IV. RURAL INDUSTRIES.

In the sphere of rural industries, the work of the Industries Department consisted chiefly of experiments to devise improved appliances and training of the artisans and others in the use of these appliances. In addition, subsidies were sanctioned in some cases and other assistance was offered to the trained artisans by grant of loans for buying appliances, and marketing of the finished products. Arrangements, as usual, were made to train villagers in use of improved oil ghani designed by the Department and manufacture of glass and glass bangles on improved lines at the Village Industries Experimental Workshop, Poona. The trainees were given free instruction with the benefit of scholarships of Rs. 20 each per month and facilities of free dormitories for stay in Poona during their course of training. The rural workers, who received training at the various demonstrations, were further helped by way of loans and subsidies. During the year, 170 artisans were sanctioned grants and loans amounting to Rs. 47,404.

Sales Depots.—The sales depots, maintained by the Industries Department at Bombay, Surat, Belgaum and Nasik helped in the marketing of articles prepared by village artisans. The Depot at Bombay received goods on consignment basis from the District Co-operative Industrial Associations, Leather Working School, Honawar Sandalwood Workers' Co-operative Society, etc. Sales amounting to Rs. 73,500, effected by the Belgaum Sales Depot, deserve special mention.

Co-operative Industrial Associations.—As regards marketing of handloom products, this was done under the Government of India scheme through the agency of the District Industrial Associations. The working of these Associations was hampered by many difficulties during the period under report, but on the whole, they continued to work successfully and with one exception made good profits.

Work of Rural Development Boards.—Various Rural Development Boards supplemented the work of the Industries Department and took an increasing interest in making arrangements for the training of the artisans in various

types of industries and in organising the demonstration classes. The Boards also rendered financial assistance by grant of scholarships for these purposes on a varying scale. The Surat Rural Development Board, for example, spent a sum of Rs. 2,000 in organising a tanning demonstration class at Kachholi. The Kaira Rural Development Board made a grant of Rs. 200 each to Kaira Stree Mandal and Mehamadabad Jyoti Mandal for conducting sewing, knitting and embroidery classes. In Nagar, a class for women was opened to give instruction in preparing fancy articles from sisal fibre. The expenses of the class were met from the sum of Rs. 175 given by the Collector from his discretionary grant. The Nasik Rural Development Board sent 13 students from Peint Mahal to Poona for training in cane bamboo, fibre wool turning, boot lace, pottery etc. A wool weaving training centre was also organised at a cost of Rs. 840 at Naigaon to train wool weavers in the manufacture of rugs and blankets. The Belgaum Rural Development Board gave scholarships amounting to Rs. 1,130 for getting artisan trained in glass and bangle making, pottery making, cane and bamboo works, lacquer work, wool weaving etc., at different institutions.

The rural industries, which receive concentrated attention, apart from handloom weaving, were poultry farming, bee-keeping and the coir industry.

Bee Keeping.—The work done to promote poultry farming has been described in Chapter II, but so far as bee-keeping is concerned, the progress has been most marked in North Kanara. The Kanara Rural Development Board undertook the scheme of extension of bee-keeping industry in collaboration with the similar scheme of the Agricultural Department in Karwar and Yellapur talukas. The Honawar Bee-Keeping Co-operative Society showed good progress. In Ratnagiri and Kolaba also, the Rural Development Boards gave assistance to the bee-keeping industry.

Other Items.—The coir industry also continued to make headway in Kanara. The Coir Spinning and Weaving Co-operative Society at Honawar manufactured and sold goods mostly door mats. The rural industries in Kanara have received valuable help from Mr. Kallapur, District Honorary Organiser of Co-operative Societies, who has now organised a Carpenter's and Blacksmith's Co-operative Society at Honawar for manufacturing and repairing agricultural and village industries implements within a short period of 2 months, the Society was able to manufacture articles valued at Rs. 3,400.

To encourage the use of vegetable oil for lighting purposes, the Industries Department has encouraged the manufacture of a specially suitable lamp known as "Nur Imdad" lamp. Government has authorised the Industries Department to make a free distribution of such lamps to villagers at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,000. In Surat, large number of Nur Imdad lamps were distributed throughout the district with the help of the Rural Assistants. In Nasik, since 1942, 400 such lamps have been distributed and have proved very popular and useful. The Ratnagiri Rural Development Board gave a grant of Rs. 200 to Mr. Vaidya of Dapoli for manufacture of sweet oil lanterns including petromaxes.

V. COMMUNICATIONS.

The responsibilities for looking after the communications in this province are primarily that of the Public Works Department, and the District Local Boards. During the period under report, these organisations carried on their work in the normal course and their activities were supplemented by the various Rural

Development Boards. In almost all districts, the Collectors and the District Rural Development Boards encouraged propaganda amongst the villagers for effecting improvements in communications particularly by construction of and repairs to village approach roads and also gave grants for this purpose on a varying scale. The villagers in most places rendered financial assistance and supplied free labour for carrying out the work. "Better Communication Weeks", which were celebrated in a number of districts, also helped to promote this activity. The Surat, Kaira and Broach and Panch Mahals district Rural Development Boards spent particularly large sums on construction of and repairs to village roads.

VI. IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY.

The arrangements for irrigation of agricultural lands received great impetus owing to the need for growing more food crops and fodder. On a representation made by the Agricultural Department, Government has made canal water available at concession rates to irrigators for food crops production. Water charges for kharif food crops were reduced from Rs. 3 to Re. 1 per acre and for rabi crops from Rs. 5 to Rs. 3 per acre.

Irrigation.—The main activities under this head could briefly be summarised as under :—

In Broach, the Public Works Department constructed, repaired and investigated schemes of drainage channels in water-logged areas and of protective bunds, and considerable work was done in several talukas of the district. In the Panch Mahals, 20 irrigation works of the Special Development Programme were under progress during the period under report. These works were likely to provide facilities to the irrigators, and would when completed help the "Grow More Food Campaign".

In the Central Division, an amount of Rs. 1,75,481 was spent on construction of and repairs to "Minor Irrigation Works". In order to increase the water supply further, investigation of 14 Irrigation Works has been approved by Government.

In the Southern Division, the Commissioner, S. D., sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5,000 for maintenance and repairs to "Minor Irrigation Works", only a small part of which was utilised for the works of repairs. The Commissioner, S. D., also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 70,000 for "Minor Irrigation Works" through the agency of P. W. D., of which Rs. 57,601 were utilized by the Executive Engineers, Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar, Kanara and Ratnagiri districts for repairs of about 250 tanks.

Village Water Supply.—A subsidised scheme for the construction of new wells and improvement of old wells of the agriculturists in the dry and scarcity areas of the province has been started during this year under the supervision of the Agricultural Engineer to Government of Bombay and during the period under report, 33 applications for construction of wells and 141 for improvement of wells were approved.

The problem of village water supply received attention in almost all the districts and several village water supply works were executed through the agency of the Rural Development Boards.

The following is a synopsis of the work done in this field of activity :—

In Ahmedabad, Government sanctioned a scheme of providing water supply in the Bhal tract, comprising portions of Dholka and Dhanduka talukas and allotted a sum of Rs. 10,000 for carrying out the scheme in 1944-45. The Public Works Department was also entrusted with 7 water supply works out of which 3 were completed at a cost of Rs. 13,445. Several

other projects were surveyed with the help of grants from the Rural Development Board. In Broach and Panch Mahals, the Public Works Department carried out on behalf of the Rural Development Boards, works relating to conversion of step wells into draw wells in several talukas. In Thana, 150 projects of village water supply have been completed for Wada, Shahapur, Mokhada, Dahanu and Umbergaon talukas at a cost of Rs. 51,700.

The Commissioner, C. D., allotted a sum of Rs. 1,40,000 for village water supply works in his division but the entire amount was not utilised. In view of the increase in prices of materials required for water works, Government empowered District Local Boards to accept tenders for village water supply works up to 25 per cent. in excess of the estimated cost or even higher in some cases.

In the Southern Division, an allotment of Rs. 1,70,000 was made for expenditure on village water supply works to be executed through the agency of Rural Development Boards. Out of this amount, Rs. 84,879 were spent by P. W. D. and District Local Boards for construction of new wells and repairs of old ones and also for carrying out improvements to other minor water supply works. The progress of work in the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and Ratnagiri was appreciable. In Bijapur, apart from about 45 wells dug by the P. W. D. at a cost of Rs. 86,600, several village water supply works in different talukas were constructed during the famine period at a cost of Rs. 7,50,000.

In addition to the activities of the Public Works Department, fairly substantial work was done in various districts by the Rural Development Boards.

VII. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

In the sphere of public health and sanitation, various agencies e.g. the Public Health Department, the Medical Department, the Health section of the District Local Boards, Rural Development Boards and other institution interested themselves in the adoption of measures beneficial to the health of the rural population.

The following is a brief account of the activities carried out during the year:—

Health Propaganda.—In most districts steps were taken to carry on propaganda to promote village sanitation and rural health. Lectures were delivered by the Civil Surgeons, Health Officers, or Subsidised Medical Officers, illustrated with cinema films obtained from Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association, or with magic lantern slides.

A Health Unit has been started in collaboration with the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, since 1st December 1939. An area comprising 32 villages in Sirur Peta of the Poona district is served by the staff of the Unit. The staff of the Units consists of:—

- 1 Medical Officer of Health.
- 1 Lady Doctor.
- 4 Sanitary Inspectors.
- 8 Midwives.
- 1 Clerk.
- 1 Peon.
- 4 Orderlies.
- 4 Health visitors.

The intention in starting the Unit is to do concentrated health work in a compact area to serve as a model to Public Health workers.

The Bombay Mofussil Maternity, Child Welfare and Health Council has, in the past, been subsidizing various welfare centres in the province and lately it has itself opened in rural areas elaborate welfare units. The first unit of this kind was started in 1942 at Chakan in Poona district with a Lady Medical Officer, Health Visitor, 2 Midwives and one Certified Senior Dai. The unit contains various sections like Maternity Home, out-patient department, Ante-natal and Post-natal departments, Infant and Child Welfare Centres, etc. The activities of the unit, during the period under report, consisted of carrying out anti-plague vaccination, anti-cholera inoculations, propaganda against opium-drugging of infants and lectures and demonstrations on infectious diseases and nutrition. Twelve maternity cases were conducted at the Maternity Home of the unit and sewing classes were also started for mothers.

After the close of the year, the Council started a similar unit at Bhilwadi with a centre at Walva in Satara district, for which Government gave a grant of Rs. 50,000.

In Bijapur, the Health Officer of the Public Health Department carried out extensive relief measures and epidemic preventive measures which were largely responsible for keeping the incidence of death statistics low in spite of the severe famine conditions prevailing in the district in 1943.

Preventive Measures against Epidemics.—Both the Public Health and the Medical departments received considerable assistance from the Local Boards and Rural Development Boards in taking prophylactic measures against epidemics. The work under this head consisted mainly of supplying quinine for malaria, vaccination and revaccination against small-pox, inoculation against cholera and plague, and disinfection of wells and water supply. This work was carried on in a varying degree in all districts, but the work done in Dharwar and Sholapur calls for special mention. In Dharwar, where cholera spread to 109 villages of 6 talukas, the Epidemic Officer of the Public Health Department helped to bring it under control by carrying out systematic disinfection of soiled clothes, etc. In Sholapur, plague broke out in certain villages of Madha, Pandharpur and Barsi talukas. To check its spread, inoculation, fumigation with cynogasing and disinfection by kerosene oil soap emulsion were carried out on a large scale. In Kanara, the upghat talukas were got surveyed for preventive measures against malaria by the All India Malaria Institute.

Child Welfare.—Problems relating to promotion of child welfare received increased attention in almost all the districts of the province. The Public Health Department paid the annual grant of Rs. 5,000 to the Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association to carry on public health propaganda and made handsome grants to various voluntary associations such as the Bombay Mofussil Maternity, Child Welfare and Health Council and the Bombay Presidency Infant Welfare Society for doing valuable work in this direction. The department also appointed Health Visitors in Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Khandesh for carrying on propaganda against the administration of opium to children.

The Rural Development Boards also assisted in the work by making grants.

In the Sirur Peta of Poona district, 4 new maternity and child welfare centres and a day creche for the children of working mothers were opened with the help of villagers.

In Bijapur, the Health Officer of the Public Health Department assisted by Epidemic Medical Officers carried out a nutrition survey of more than 50,000 children from 72 schools of 43 villages. Advice on diet was given.

Training of Dais.—The training of Dais under the rural medical relief scheme was carried on vigorously in the Kaira district where 8 nurse midwives were appointed at various medical dispensaries.

In Thana, a new scheme was introduced under which every cottage hospital is provided with a trained Dai to assist the Medical Officer in his work.

Table Dispensaries and Medicine Chests.—The Thana district continued to pay special attention to the question of providing medical relief in rural areas. Arrangements for taking indoor patients were made at 11 Allopathic Centres where there is a Medical Officer in charge of each centre assisted by a trained Dai. In addition, there were 50 table dispensaries which received supplies of Ayurvedic medicines worth Rs. 2,500 from the Rural Development Board. All these dispensaries are working satisfactorily and rendered useful assistance to the villagers. These dispensaries are in charge of primary school teachers who have been trained by the Civil Surgeon, Thana.

The subsidised dispensaries in Bijapur, numbering 15 treated 1,89,293 patients during the year. The Collector granted a sum of Rs. 400 out of his discretionary grant to the village dispensaries at Kamatgi and Chadchan run by private medical practitioners for supply of medicines and purchase of surgical instruments.

As in the past, in many districts medical relief was provided in those areas where there were no qualified practitioners, by supply of small medicine chests containing standard medicines like quinine, boric-acid, tincture of iodine etc. Many Rural Development Boards made handsome grants for supply of these medicine chests and maintenance of table dispensaries.

Other Activities.—Special mention deserves to be made of the research work on the incidence of malaria and causes of and measures against malaria and guinea-worms conducted by Prof. P. W. Gideon of the Biological Department of the Karnatak College, Dharwar. A pilot survey of some villages of Bankapur taluka was made to investigate the effect of malaria on the dwindling of population. Similarly, investigations were carried out in Masur village of Kod taluka into examination of all spots likely to breed mosquitoes and for taking steps in the draining, oiling and stocking with larvivoracious fish of all breeding places of malarial mosquitoes. The Dharwar Rural Development Board gave a grant of Rs. 2,100 for this purpose.

VIII. EDUCATION.

(i) ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY.

Primary Education.—The problem of primary education in rural areas continues to be tackled through the establishment of schools by local authorities in villages with a population of over 700 and by encouraging private enterprise to open voluntary schools in villages with a population of less than 700. The schools under the latter category are entitled, under recent orders of Government, to receive a maximum grant of Rs. 350 direct from Government. The number of primary schools recorded an increase of 620 during the year ended 31st March 1944, bringing the total to 13,250, of which the number of voluntary schools in villages with a population of less than 700 was 5,375.

Some of the Rural Development Boards encouraged primary education by payment of handsome grants to the schools.

Adult Education Classes.—Another direction in which attempts are being continued to reduce illiteracy in villages is by encouraging adult education. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulties in obtaining adequate supplies of kerosene for night work, the progress of the scheme was considerably impeded, but in spite of this handicap, 520 classes were maintained and were attended by over 13,000 adults. These classes received over Rs. 30,000 in grant from Government. In addition, about 115 teachers and workers of adult schools were trained at 3 centres at a cost of Rs. 2,500.

The Rural Development Boards at Dharwar, Kanara, Satara and West Khandesh sanctioned small grants to assist adult education.

(ii) *Provision for school buildings and play grounds.*—The building activities, which are under the guidance of the District Building Committees (with Divisional Educational Inspectors as Chairmen), have also unfortunately received a setback during the last 2 years owing to the difficulties in obtaining building materials and the rise in prices. These activities, however, are not entirely at a standstill and during the year, over 120 buildings were under construction.

(iii) *Village Libraries.*—Under the Post-literacy scheme, introduced in the year 1941-42, 300 new libraries were registered, bringing the total number of village libraries under the scheme to 1,500. In addition to the initial grant ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 for purchases of equipment, these libraries receive an annual subsidy of Rs. 10 each. The libraries receive news-sheets and other reading materials published by the Adult Education Committee. Special subsidies are also given to certain papers which publish suitable material for the new literates.

In the Panchmahals, the Rural Development Board financed a scheme of touring village libraries. Under the scheme, 32 centres received books which are transferred from one centre to another at an interval of 3 months.

The village libraries and reading rooms received grants on a varying scale from Dharwar, Bijapur, Kanara, Panchmahals, Ahmedabad, Satara, Ahmednagar and Kaira District Rural Development Boards, while the Belgaum Rural Development Board gave a sum of Rs. 200 for a library building in the district.

(iv) *Physical Training.*—Physical instruction now forms an integral part of general education and arrangements for physical training and games were made in all the primary schools. Of the total number of 13,250 primary schools, 3,800 maintained play grounds and over 7,500 stocked adequate physical apparatus. The Educational Department made a grant of Rs. 30,000 to the Local Authorities for meeting expenditure on physical education. During the year, the Educational Department held short term courses in physical education at various centres for the benefit of primary teachers. In addition, arrangements were made by a number of local authorities for medical examination of children attending the primary schools through the medical officers of the subsidised local bodies' dispensaries.

IX. GENERAL PROPAGANDA.

Grow more food Campaign.—The period under report was characterised by the strenuous efforts which were continued to be made by the Agricultural Department, the Revenue Department, the Co-operative Department, Rural Development Staff and other agencies in intensifying the "Grow More Food" campaign.

In the organization and conduct of the campaign, numerous village meetings were arranged in all parts of the province to impress upon the agriculturists the necessity for increased crop production and to bring directly to their notice, the concessions and facilities, which Government had made available to encourage the cultivation of the food crops. In all 15,573 such meetings were held during the year 2,426 in the Northern Division, 5,272 in the Central Division, 6,069 in the Southern Division and 1,806 in the Konkan. In addition to the large number of meetings, a number of leaflets and striking pictorial posters were issued and over 20 ballad singers and non-official agents were employed to help in the work. The campaign was a great success but it was found that in spite of intensive propaganda, in some areas there was still some scope for increased replacement of non-food crops i.e. cotton, tobacco, etc. by food crops. It was felt that propaganda work in this direction had reached the limit of its achievement and legislation would be essential to bring about further reduction in non-food crops. A "Growth of Food Crops Act" has been promulgated on the 29th April 1944 to achieve this object.

Shows, publications, Demonstrations, Classes, etc.—In addition to the special measures taken to popularise the "Grow More Food" campaign, the propaganda in favour of adoption of improved methods of agriculture was carried on, on a vigorous scale. Steps were taken in almost all districts to organise demonstrations, agricultural shows, village improvement weeks, lantern lectures, cinema shows, etc. Jamabandi Darbars were also taken advantage of for explaining the advantages of using improved varieties of seeds, implements, manures, to the agriculturists and Taluka Demonstration Centres were also utilised for holding demonstrations in the cultural methods of crops, use of pedigree seeds and improved implements. Officers of the various departments also utilised their tours in giving lectures on various subjects.

Agricultural and Cattle shows were organised in the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Thana, Poona, Nagar, Nasik, East Khandesh, Satara and Dharwar. The shows at Ahmedabad, Kaira and Nasik were opened by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay and the District Agricultural Show at Satara was opened by the Adviser (Finance) to the Governor of Bombay. All these shows were largely attended and proved a great success. Lectures on subjects bearing on fruit and vegetables, different varieties of grain, hand-crafts of ladies, crop exhibits, industrial projects, cattle, land development, cottage industries, etc., were delivered by officers of different departments.

"Farmers' Weeks" were a noteworthy feature of the propaganda activities in the districts of Surat, Broach and Panchmahals, Nagar, West Khandesh and Belgaum and attracted a large number of visitors.

Village Uplift Vans.—The Village Uplift Vans continued to tour in almost all districts and proved an effective medium for carrying on propaganda in favour of village improvement activities. Officers of the various departments co-operated in giving lectures on various subjects during the itineraries of the van.

Village Film Scheme.—The village film scheme was in operation in all the districts. The cinema operators stationed in the districts carried out demonstrations on various subjects such as hygiene, sanitation, education, agriculture, etc. The scheme has proved successful in attracting the masses as it combines instruction with amusement.

Rural Broadcasting Scheme.—An interesting feature of the period under report was the inauguration of the rural radio scheme in this province. The scheme came into operation on the 17th April 1944 and will form an integral part of the plans for rural development. Government of India has made available about 800 radio sets of which over 100 have already been installed in Thana, Bombay Suburban, Nasik and Kolaba districts. The radio service is intended to keep the villagers in touch with the latest ideas in agriculture and similar occupations, keep them informed of what Government is doing in all matters affecting their daily life. The villagers will also have latest news about the war and happenings in Bombay city and other parts of India and would also have a daily programme of entertainment to brighten their leisure after the day's work is finished.

A daily programme lasting 35 minutes and containing market rates, news talks of rural interest and of entertainment are given every day between 7-30 p.m. and 8-5 p.m. When the installation of all sets is complete, daily broadcasting lasting an hour in each of the regional languages is proposed to be taken up.

X. TRAINING CENTRES FOR RURAL ASSISTANTS.

The Scheme for training of Rural Assistants for propaganda and rural development work, sanctioned under Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 15/33, dated the 8th March 1939, was terminated with effect from the 30th April 1944 and the four official centres at Broach, Dhulia, Devhosur and Manjri as well as one non-official centre at Bordi were closed. The arrangements, under which the Rajapur Centre supplied 10 trained students each year for employment as Rural Assistants, however, continue as these boys undergo agricultural course at the school for 2 years before selection for the Rural Assistants' course and they can after little more tuition be usefully employed in the Agricultural Department.

During the period under report, 158 candidates received training at the various centres. On completion of the training, 64 were allotted to the Agricultural Department, 43 to the Co-operative Department and the remaining 51 were utilised for the Revenue Department—26 for the Rural Development Boards and 25 Village Panchayats.

FINANCE.

Statement No. 1 appended to the report shows the expenditure incurred on rural development during the period under report. These figures, however, relate to the work carried on by or with the assistance of the Rural Development Boards and do not indicate the expenditure incurred by various autonomous departments on their work in rural areas.

(Signed) S. M. IKRAM,
Registrar, Co-operative Societies,
& Director of Rural Development,
Bombay Province, Poona.

STATEMENT No. 1.

Expenditure on Rural Development during the year 1943-44.

General Administration—	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
W.—1—Rural Development staff—						
(1) Pay of Establishment ...	1,61,195	6	0			
(2) Allowances and Honoraria ...	69,200	12	0			
(3) Contingencies ...	20,583	5	0			
				2,50,979	7	0
Discretionary grants to Collectors for Rural Development ...	1,56,469	7	9			
District Rural Development Boards—						
(1) Pay of Establishment ...	86,203	5	0			
(2) Allowances and Honoraria ...	12,925	0	0			
(3) Contingencies ...	7,000	7	3			
				56,128	12	3
Prizes in connection with Village improvement Scheme ...	18,000	0	0			
Economic development and improvement of rural areas (Government of India Grant) ...	26,582	13	0			
Special Development Programme ...	2,25,862	4	9			
Agriculture—				7,34,022	12	9
Grant-in-aid, contributions—						
(a) Subsidies to Taluka Development Associations ...	53,991	0	0			
(b) Cotton Seed Distribution Scheme ...	1,26,928	0	0			
Agricultural Demonstration and propaganda, etc.—						
(1) Taluka Demonstration Centres ...	558	0	0			
(2) Seed Multiplication and Distribution ...	6,970	0	0			
(3) Cotton Transport Check Stations ...	.....				
Special Development Programme—						
(a) Training of Rural Assistants ...	1,05,451	0	0			
(b) Bunding and Dry Farming Survey Scheme ...	9,52,291	0	0			
(c) New Additional Taluka Demonstration Centres ...	1,13,854	0	0			
Co-operation—				13,60,043	0	0
Grant-in-aid—						
(1) Grant-in-aid to Co-operative Marketing Co-operative Production and Better Farming Societies ...	18,600	0	0			
(2) Grant-in-aid to Multi-purpose Societies ...	3,930	0	0			
(3) Grant-in-aid to Local Bodies Cotton Market Committees ...	.....				
Scheme for improvement of Agricultural Marketing in India—						
(1) Pay of Officers ...	11,387	0	0			
(2) Pay of Establishment ...	4,973	0	0			
(3) Allowances and Honoraria ...	7,263	0	0			
(4) Contingencies ...	1,993	0	0			
				48,146	0	0
Grant Total ...				21,42,222	12	9

STATEMENT No. 2.

Subject.—*Distribution of Manures.*

Serial No.	Name of the District.	Total amount spent by District Rural Development Boards, other societies and Taluka Development Associations for supplying manure.		Main kinds of manure supplied.
		Quantity.	Amount.	
			Rs. a. p.	
1	Ahmedabad ...	3,814,920	.....	Sann-seed, Amonium Sulphate.
2	Kaira ...	3,584,120	.....	Groundnut cake, Bone-meal, Sann-seed.
3	Surat ...	1,088,800	.....	Groundnut cake, Bone-meal, Fish manure, Sann-seed.
4	Broach and Panch Mahals.	114,800	.....	Oil-cake and Groundnut cake.
5	Thana ...	6,525,120	.....	Groundnut cake.
6	Bombay Suburban District.	247,000	.....	Sulphate of Amonia, Oil cakes, Groundnut cake, Castor cake, Pits, etc.
7	Poona ...	15,761,678	.....	Groundnut cake, Castor cake, Sulphate of Amonia, Sann-seed, Red-label Mixture and other manures.
8	Ahmednagar ...	260,551	.....	Sulphate of Amonia, Oil cakes, Groundnut cakes, Castor cakes, Sann-seed, Bone-meal, Pits, Compost.
9	Satara ...	2,455,649	66,923 0 0	Groundnut oil cake, Sann-seed and Bone meal.
10	Sholapur ...	13,581,200	.....	Sulphate of Amonia, Oil cakes, Groundnut cakes, Castor cakes, Sann-seed, Bone meal, Pits, Compost.
11	Nasik ...	22,933,005	.....	Groundnut cake.
12	East Khandesh ...	7,425	.....	Groundnut cake, Sulphate of Amonia, Bone meal, Red-label Mixture, Sann-seed.
13	West Khandesh ...	.....	5,622 15 9	Groundnut cake, Sulphate of Amonia, Bone meal, Sun-Brand Mixture, Sann-seed, Red-label Mixture.
14	Dharwar ...	914,720	.....	Sulphate of Amonia, Oil cakes, Groundnut cakes, Castor cakes, Sann-seed, Pits, Compost.
15	Belgaum ...	5,133,100	.....	Sulphate of Amonia, Oil cakes, Groundnut cakes, Castor cakes, Bone-meal, Compost, Karaj cakes and Fish Manure.
16	Bijapur ...	250 lbs. 200 pits.	.....	Sulphate of Amonia, Oil cakes, Groundnut cakes, Castor cakes and Compost.
17	North Kanara ...	4,588,168	.....	Sulphate of Amonia, Bone-meal, Pits, Red-label Mixture, Denatured Salt and Fish Manure.
18	Kolaba ...	14,806	904 14 0	Groundnut cake.
19	Ratnagiri ...	3,588,168	.....	Denatured Salt, Groundnut cake, Bone-meal.

STATEMENT No. 3.

Subject.—SEED DISTRIBUTION WORK.

Serial No.	Name of the District.	Banilla Cotton and other cotton varieties.	Jarilla cotton.	Akola Bajri and other varieties.	Wheat of different varieties.	1027 A. L. F. cotton.	Groundnut of different varieties.	Sugar-cane.	Jowar of different varieties.	Rice of different varieties.	Other seeds.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Ahmedabad	.....	.....	24,163	22,750	...	.....	.....	2,62,180	.....	6,37,155
2	Kaira	.....	.....	50,801	1,57,209	40,799	.....	.....	8,12,220	11,985	41,449
3	Surat	.....	.....	.....	1,56,257	.....	.....	.....	13,745	.....	75,041
4	Broach and Panch- Mahals.	.....	.....	.....	1,12,635	.....	.....	.....	56,116	45,670	2,87,311
5	Thana	.....	.....	.....	600	...	10	.....	.....	1,06,372	1,540
6	Bombay Suburban District.	.....	.....	.....	150	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,640	27,240
7	Poona	.....	.....	1,58,700	1,84,500	...	.....	.....	4,29,120	97,000	8,12,240
8	Ahmednagar	.....	230	93,396	1,23,037	...	2,325	160	1,19,528	19,300	41,441
9	Satara	.....	.....	43,501	57,327	...	1,500	1,67,500	90,128	30,665	10,85,814
10	East Khandesh	.....	50,04,350	72,425	1,81,109	...	.....	.....	11,250	.....	.....
11	West Khandesh	.....	3,59,343	1,43,650	3,09,084	62,410	1,70,200	2,40,240	1,16,764	4,21,625	51,165
12	Sholapur	.....	12,939	4,725	1,68,750	.....	.....	.....	15,65,300	2,848	.....
13	Nasik	.....	2,64,320	9,06,775	2,08,875	.....	.....	.....	53,490	400	4,95,855
14	Dharwar	37,30,860	20,25,720	.....	11,66,400	.....	5,481	1,44,400	64,531	1,95,920	2,63,340
15	Belgaum	2,500	9,500	.....	76,800	.....	45,000	.....	23,550	39,400	60,050
16	Bijapur	11,710	.....	2,51,567	15,30,632	.....	.....	.....	7,66,792	1,500	5,07,571
17	North Kanara	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,75,000	.....	9,43,920	(Rs. 5,500)
18	Kolaba	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73,560
19	Ratnagiri	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,96,320	.....

STATEMENT No. 4.

Subject.—Land Development.

Serial No.	Name of the District.	Length of Bunds constructed during the year (in feet).	Area of Lands protected by bunds (in acres).
1	Ahmedabad	90	60
2	Kaira	.....	.....
3	Surat	.....	.....
4	Broach and Panch Mahals	Nil.	Nil.
5	Thana	5	4
6	Bombay Suburban District	Nil.	Nil.
7	Poona	1,790	11½
8	Ahmednagar	304,752	1,949½
9	Satara	609,800	5,702
10	Sholapur	2,368,372	19,055½
11	Nasik	640,000	6,400
12	East Khandesh	2,402	6,200
13	West Khandesh	367,825	7,682½
14	Dharwar	328,057	6,551½
15	Belgaum	.....	1,407½
16	North Kanara	619,586	6,099
17	Kolaba	Nil.	Nil.
18	Ratnagiri	Nil.	Nil.
19	Bijapur	.....	4½

STATEMENT No. 5.

Serial No.	Name of the District.	Grain Depots.	Value of grains distributed.	Quantity of grains distributed.
1	Ahmedabad	.....	Rs.	.....
2	Thana	1	1,000	.....
3	Broach and Panch Mahals	19½	1,12,552	.....
4	Bombay Suburban District	67	.....	.....
5	Surat	5	5,975	.....
6	North Kanara	18	12,071	.....
7	Bijapur	17	22,000	.....
8	Belgaum	6	.....	4,000 maunds.
9	Kolaba	19	.....	.....
10	Ratnagiri	146	.....	14,000 do.
11	Poona	29	.....	8,000 do.
12	West Khandesh	3	44,366	.....
13	Nagar	62	41,803	.....
14	Nasik	4	10,000	.....
15	East Khandesh	24	60,000	.....
16	Satara	11	.....	.....
		3	.....	.....
		609	3,10,067	.....

(Sholapur, Kaira and Dharwar—Nil).

