

B. R. R. No. 566 of 1941

G-2(18)



Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Bombay Smoke-nuisances Commission

For the Year 1940-41

14875

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BOMBAY

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TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOMBAY SMOKE NUISANCES COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1940-41.

This report covers the period from 1st April 1940 to 31st March 1941.
The Commission consisted of the following members:—

President.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| (1) Mr. S. R. Deshpande, M.B.E., B.A.
(Bom.), B.Litt. (Oxon.), Commis-
sioner of Labour, from 1st April
1940 to 31st July 1940 ; | } <i>Ex-officio.</i> |
| Mr. D. S. Bakhle, I.C.S., Commis-
sioner of Labour, from 1st
August 1940 to 31st March 1941. | |

Members.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (2) Mr. N. V. S. Murti | } Nominated by Govern-
ment. |
| (3) Mr. R. B. McGregor | |
| (4) Vacant from 1st April 1940 to
9th March 1941. | |
| Mr. Nathubhai K. Patel, from
10th March 1941 to 31st March
1941. | |
| (5) Mr. W. F. Webb | } Elected by the Bombay
Mill-owners' Associa-
tion. |
| (6) Mr. Mark Binnie | |
| (7) Mr. H. F. Milne | |
| | } Elected by the Chamber
of Commerce,
Bombay. |

SUB-COMMITTEE FOR AHMEDABAD.

Chairman.

- (1) Mr. G. G. Drewe, I.C.S., Collector *Ex-officio.*
of Ahmedabad.

Members.

- (2) Mr. B. S. Vyas, Executive Engineer, *Ex-officio.*
Ahmedabad Division.
- (3) Dr. Hariprasad Vrajrai Desai .. Elected by the
Ahmedabad Municipality.
- (4) Seth Nanddas Haridas .. Elected by the Mill-
owners' Association,
Ahmedabad.

During the year three meetings of the Commission were held in Bombay, and the Sub-Committee met twice in Ahmedabad.

In Bombay, the time of one Inspector was mainly devoted to smoke nuisance throughout the year, while in Ahmedabad the work was done by the Resident and District Inspectors in addition to their boiler inspection duties.

The following table summarises the work of the year and compares it with that of the preceeding year in the two areas :—

		Observations of chimneys.	Visits to factories.	Test of appliances.
Bombay ..	{ 1939-40 ..	2,420	559	30
	{ 1940-41 ..	2,613	630	29
Ahmedabad ..	{ 1939-40 ..	2,761	710	22
	{ 1940-41 ..	2,831	776	19
Total ..	{ 1939-40 ..	5,181	1,269	52
	{ 1940-41 ..	5,444	1,406	48

The changing of the mills and factories from coal to oil fuel still continues in Bombay with encouraging results.

The number of complaints forwarded by the Bombay Municipality and by the public direct to this office was 37 as against 40 received last year.

The number of observations and visits to factories show an increase over the last year's figures while the number of test of appliances was nearly the same as last year.

The emission of smoke is recorded according to the following table :—

Scale No. 1 ..	..	No smoke.
„ No. 2 ..	..	Light grey.
„ No. 3 ..	..	Grey.
„ No. 4 ..	..	Very dark grey.
„ No. 5 ..	..	Black.
„ No. 6 ..	..	Dense black.

For the purpose of smoke nuisance inspection, only Scales Nos. 4, 5 and 6 are important. In Bombay and other areas to which this Act has been applied, the emission of dense black smoke (Scale No. 6) is prohibited. Scales Nos. 5 and 4 are related to Scale No. 6 as follows :—

One minute of Scale No. 5 (black) is taken as equal to .55 minute of Scale No. 6 (dense black smoke) and one minute of Scale No. 4 (very dark grey) is taken as equal to .37 minute of Scale No. 6.

On this basis the average emission of smoke was equal to .568 minute per hour of dense black smoke for each of 2,353 full hour observations of the chimneys in Bombay as compared with .645 in the preceding year.

For each of the 2,414 observations of the chimneys for one hour at Ahmedabad, the average emission was equal to .88 minute as compared with 1.0 per hour for the preceding year. The improvement is due to the strict vigilance of the Inspectors and the Sub-Committee who accompanied the Inspector for smoke observations on four occasions during the year and also to several mills working on electrical power purchased from the Supply Company for their extra load.

There were at the close of the year 1,244 stationary chimneys in Bombay Island and Coorla and 161 in Ahmedabad on the Register of the Commission. The above figures represent the number of existing chimneys only, those removed being struck off the Register. During the year 72 chimneys were added to the Register in Bombay and 7 at Ahmedabad. In addition to the registered stationary chimneys, there are many portable chimneys controlled by the Commission such as those connected to Railway Locomotives, road rollers, portable engines, steamships and launches etc.

Observations are taken daily of the smoke emitted from the various chimneys to see that they do not exceed the limits prescribed under the Rules. For the purpose of comparison and record, a series of observations of one hour duration are taken from which are compiled the monthly and the annual averages of smoke emission. The following table shows the yearly average emissions of smoke for Bombay and Ahmedabad since the statistics have been maintained.

Year.	BOMBAY.			Scale Nos. 6, 5 and 4 reduced to Scale No.6, i.e., dense black, minutes per hour.
1913 February	11.6
1913 March	6.5
1914 "	1.86
1915 "	1.474
1916 "	1.432
1917 "	1.235
1918 "	1.203
1919 "	1.144
1920 "	1.254
1921 "	1.406
1922 "	1.82
1923 "	1.55
1924 "	1.949
1925 "	1.416

Scales Nos. 6, 5 and 4
reduced to Scale No. 6,
i.e., dense black,
minutes per hour.

Year.

BOMBAY—*contd.*

1926	March	..	..	..	1.146
1927	"	..	..	..	1.26
1928	"	..	..	..	1.104
1929	"	..	..	..	.61
1930	"	..	..	..	.51
1931	"	..	..	..	.477
1932	"	..	..	..	.623
1933	"	..	..	..	.430
1934	"	..	..	..	.392
1935	"	..	..	..	.377
1936	"	..	..	..	.411
1937	"	..	..	..	.499
1938	"	..	..	..	.493
1939	"	..	..	..	.524
1940	"	..	..	..	.645
1941	"	..	..	..	.568

AHMEDABAD.

1924	(November 1923 to March 1924)	..	..	..	6.56
1925	March	..	..	..	3.95
1926	"	..	..	..	3.5
1927	"	..	..	..	2.68
1928	"	..	..	..	2.63
1929	"	..	..	..	2.00
1930	"	..	..	..	2.23
1931	"	..	..	..	1.4
1932	"	..	..	..	1.59
1933	"	..	..	..	1.73
1934	"	..	..	..	1.52
1935	"	..	..	..	.97
1936	"	..	..	..	.99
1937	"	..	..	..	.99
1938	"	..	..	..	1.01
1939	"	..	..	..	1.1
1940	"	..	..	..	1.0
1941	"	..	..	..	.88

The following notices, intimations and statutory warnings were issued during the year :—

				Notices.	Intima- tions.	Statutory warnings.
Bombay	..	{	Factories	222	32	19
			Locomotives	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
			Steam lorries, road Rollers, Cranes and single boilers ..	4	Nil.	Nil.
			Steamships	22	Nil.	Nil.
			Tugs and launches	1	Nil.	Nil.
Ahmedabad	..	{	Factories	353	1	37
			Locomotives	4	Nil.	Nil.
			Road Rollers	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
			Cranes	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Thirty-seven complaints were received from the public in Bombay during the year and all possible steps were taken to minimise the nuisance complained of. Most of the complaints were mainly against small concerns such as bakeries, metal casting bhutties, eating houses etc.

During the year, three complaints were received from the public at Ahmedabad. Two of the complaints were against the metal casting bhutties and were due to the absence of chimneys over the bhutties. The owners of these bhutties have now erected proper hoods and chimneys and eliminated the nuisance complained of. The last complaint was against small factories having short chimneys. The owners have been warned that the full height of 100 feet as required by Rule 26 of the Rules under the Act will be required if smoke is emitted beyond permissible limit.

There was no prosecution in Bombay during the year under report.

Of the two prosecution cases filed in Ahmedabad during the last year and decided during the current year, one was successful resulting in a total fine of Rs. 400. The other prosecution failed in a revision application filed before the High Court and the fine of Rs. 100 imposed by the City Magistrate, Ahmedabad, was ordered to be refunded.

During the year under report three prosecutions were filed in Ahmedabad of which two were successfully decided by the end of March 1941 resulting in the total collection of Rs. 100. The remaining case is pending.

During the year, the Commission examined at Bombay 19 plans of proposed flues and chimneys, and 6 at Ahmedabad. The plans in

Bombay related to new as well as old concerns while plans in Ahmedabad related to additions and alterations to the existing plants.

The question of erecting a cabin on the Madhav Baug High Level Water Reservoir is still under the consideration of the Ahmedabad Municipality.

The thanks of the Commission are due to the mill and factory owners, heads of engineering departments, public bodies, shipping agencies etc. for their cordial co-operation with the Inspectors in securing the abatement of smoke nuisance by dealing departmentally with negligent drivers and firemen responsible for causing unnecessary smoke. Such co-operation is necessary if the best results are to be obtained and although domestic smoke is outside the scope of the Commission, the general public can also assist by using coke or other smokeless fuel.

As usual the officers of the Bombay Municipality and particularly those of the Health and Licensing Departments gave their full co-operation by forwarding complaints, supplying information regarding new and defective installations and advising complainants to get in touch with the Smoke Nuisances Department.

The thanks of the Commission are due to Mr. J. Pratt and to the inspecting and clerical staff for the efficient manner in which the work has been carried out throughout the year.

D. S. BAKHLE,

Commissioner of Labour and President,
Bombay Smoke Nuisance Commission.

Bombay, 2nd May 1941.

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