

ANNUAL REPORT

Smt. GULESTAN R. B. BILLIMORIA

(*Hon. General Secretary, ICSW*)

I deem it a privilege to present to you the Annual Report of the Indian Conference of Social Work for the year 1955, a year which marks the end of a historic period of the first five years of the national plan. During this period, we have not only witnessed large-scale and almost unprecedented development in the field of agricultural production, hydro-electric projects, improvement in health and educational standards, but it has ushered in a new era of awareness for the need for systematic and large-scale social work. This can be attributed to the declaration of a Welfare State and a socialistic pattern of society to which we are committed and, last but not least, to the efforts of the Indian Conference of Social Work. The Government, very rightly, has allocated large sums of money for social welfare projects and a substantial amount out of these is set aside for welfare work in rural areas.

In this exciting journey towards a Welfare State, the Indian Conference of Social Work has a definite role to play and we offer our fullest co-operation in that direction. Our achievements during the year under review will reveal our humble contribution to that progressive movement.

Branches.

With the impending re-organization of States in a short while, we have not considered it advisable to start new State Branches of the ICSW this year. There are already 14 State Branches in existence, *viz.*, in Andhra, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Hyderabad,

Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan, Travancore-Cochin, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal—and these have been consolidating their work generally during the twelve months under review.

New District Branches have been established by various State Branches of the ICSW. Four State Conferences—*viz.*, at Patna, Kozhikode, Trivandrum and Delhi have been organized very successfully this year. It will be seen that several of them have ventured out in new directions and done commendable work in initiating the Citizens Advisory Bureaux Movement, in organizing a Beggars* Home and a Hostel for unattached working boys. One of our branches has been authorized by the State Government to conduct a second Raffle in aid of a Radium Institute and Cancer Hospital, recently opened by the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru. The first Raffle was drawn this year, and approximately Rs. 9 lakhs were collected and Rs. 3 lakhs given away as prize money. One of the District Branches has recently opened a magnificent Kala Mandir built at a cost of Rs. 1,60,000. In addition, a Leprosy Relief Workers' Conference, a socio-economic survey of riskshawpullers, in-service training courses, the organization of a Symposium and Seminars—all these have been undertaken by our branches and carried to a successful conclusion during the past year. It may also interest you all to know that four of our State Branches, *viz.*, Hyderabad, Travancore-Cochin, Bombay City and Delhi, have

secured the services of professionally trained social workers as their paid Executive Secretaries. This is a very encouraging feature and is worthy of emulation by the remaining State Branches, if they wish to organize their work more systematically.

We may also record in this connection, our gratification at the award of *Padma Shri* to Smt. Zarina Currimbhoy, President, Bombay City Branch, and Honorary Treasurer, ICSW, and Smt. Mary Clubwala Jadhav, Honorary General Secretary, Madras State Branch, and Vice-President, ICSW.

Recommendations of the Lucknow Session

One thousand copies of the recommendations, passed at the last Annual Session at Lucknow in December 1954, were printed and circulated to the Central and State Governments as well as semi-official bodies and voluntary all-India social welfare organisations particularly concerned with these recommendations. The response from the various Governmental and voluntary agencies has been very gratifying.

Several other steps for implementing these recommendations were taken during the year. A Memorandum was circulated to the Union and State Governments regarding the setting up of an All-India Cadre of Social Welfare Officers. Most of the State Governments, however, are not in favour of such a move at this juncture.

Regarding the recommendations of the Panel on "Medical Social Work", we wrote to the President, All-India Medical Association, suggesting that a Section on Medical Social Work be set up at the next Conference of the Association and assuring him, of our fullest co-operation in the matter.

A deputation waited upon the Planning Commission, in order to urge the immediate appointment of a high-powered Advisory Committee on Social Welfare to work out the

needs, priorities and targets for the Second Five-Year Plan. The deputation consisted of the following members:

1. Smt. Hansa Mehta (*President*).
2. Smt. Hannah Sen (*Vice-President*).
3. Smt. K. Vellodi.
4. Prof. A. R. Wadia, M.P.

Another deputation led by Smt. Hansa Mehta and consisting of Smt. Hannah Sen, Smt. K. Vellodi, Smt. Gulestan R. B. Billimoria and Shri M. S. Gore, met Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh in order to seek avenues of closer co-operation between the ICSW and the Central Social Welfare Board and the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards.

Social Welfare Day

Once again, the Social Welfare Day was observed on February 20, 1955, with a great deal of interest and enthusiasm all over India. Organized meetings, radio talks, articles in the Press, cleanliness and recreational campaigns, all served to focus public attention upon the current social problems as well as on the recommendations of the previous Annual Session at Lucknow. Smt. Hansa Mehta's broadcast talk on the occasion of the Social Welfare Day was relayed throughout the country.

The Central Executive Committee

In consonance with Section 6 (a), Sub-Clause (v) of the Constitution, the President nominated the following five representatives of Government Departments on the Central Executive Committee:

1. Shri K. G. Saiyidain,
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India,
New Delhi.
2. Shri N. S. Mankiker,
Chief Adviser (Factories),
Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India,
New Delhi.

3. Dr. Smt. S. Bhatia,
Adviser in Maternal and Child Welfare, Directorate-General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
4. Shri S. K. Dey, I.C.S.,
Development Commissioner,
Govt. of West Bengal,
Calcutta.
5. Shri K. A. Gafoor,
Director, Department of Social Services, Govt. of Hyderabad,
Hyderabad.

For the first time in the history of the ICSW, the mid-yearly CEC meeting was held outside Bombay. This precedent was broken since many members had felt for some time that meetings of the CEC should be held in different parts of India in order to mobilize public interest all over the country in the work of the ICSW. The meeting was held at New Delhi on 9th April 1955, and mustered a large attendance which was very encouraging.

Two CEC Meetings will be held at the time of the Bangalore Session—the first of these will be on December 27, 1955, and the second on December 31, 1955.

Liaison with Other All-India Social Welfare Organizations

The ICSW, with its eight years of experience in the field of social welfare in India, has come to the conclusion that liaison with other all-India social welfare agencies is extremely desirable and necessary for the following reasons:

1. To foster closer co-operation among national social welfare organizations.
2. To create a business forum for discussion of common problems facing all-India social welfare agencies.
3. To eliminate overlapping and duplication of effort, in short, to co-ordinate and promote social work in India.

4. To draw up common programmes like holding joint-conferences, publishing a common Journal of Social work or a Newsletter, conducting research projects, finance campaigns, a central information bureau, planning a central welfare secretariat for all social work organizations, initiating social legislation and so on.

In pursuit of this object, the Central Executive Committee of the ICSW, at its meeting in Lucknow last December, set up a Sub-Committee to forge better links with other all-India social welfare organizations. The Sub-Committee comprised of Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta (*Chairman*), Smt. Hannah Sen and Shri M. S. Gore (*Convenor*).

As a first step in this direction, a meeting of representatives of all-India social welfare organizations located in Delhi was held on April 10, 1955. It was suggested there that a Committee for Inter-Agency Co-operation appointed by the ICSW, should undertake co-ordination work at the outset. It was also felt that exchange of publications and invitations to all-India agencies to participate in each other's conferences and executive committees should be encouraged.

New Publications

This year, we have published the entire proceedings of our Seventh Annual Conference, held at Lucknow last year, in the March (1955) issue of the *Indian Journal of Social Work*. We have also brought out two issues (June and December 1955) of the *ICSW Bulletin*. We fervently hope more of our members and delegates will subscribe regularly to this six-monthly bulletin, for that would enable us to make it a quarterly! Then too, we have published two Sub-Committee Reports—the one on "Minimum Standards for Child-Care Institutions in India"; the other on "Family Planning and Social

Welfare"—as well as the Recommendations and the complete Report of the Seminar on Casteism and Removal of Untouchability.

The South-East Asia Regional Office, International Conference of Social Work, which works in conjunction with the Indian Conference of Social Work, has recently published "Self-Help in Social Welfare"—*Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference of Social Work*, Toronto, 1954. This volume has been edited by Smt. Gulestan R. B. Billimoria and Smt. Shirin Dastur Patel.

Seminar on Casteism and Removal of Untouchability

With the independence of the country, new forces of national development have been released and we have become more keenly aware of the sentiments that foster narrow sectional loyalties and injustices, which divide our social life. Casteism and Untouchability are two of the main obstacles to social progress. Though these institutions have existed for centuries and many laudable efforts have been made from time to time to eradicate these evils, their pernicious effect seems to be more prevalent in recent years. It is obvious that disrupting forces cannot be allowed to continue, if we have to build a truly democratic, Welfare State enshrined in our Constitution.

Hence it was that the ICSW planned and organized a Seminar on Casteism and Removal of Untouchability at Delhi from September 26 to October 2 this year. The purpose of the Seminar was to discuss the topic of Casteism and Removal of Untouchability from the social, economic, educational psychological, legal, political and welfare angles. We hoped to analyse the problem, evaluate existing efforts to meet this problem as well as to formulate concrete suggestions for the eradication of the twin evils within a given period of time.

Prof. A. R. Wadia, M.P., and Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, was appointed the Director of the Seminar. He was mainly responsible for the preliminary work in connection with the Seminar. Unfortunately, he fell seriously ill a week before the Seminar began and was thus prevented from guiding its deliberations. In his stead, Dr. M. N. Srinivas, Head of the Department of Sociology University of Baroda, steered the deliberations during the Seminar Week very ably.

Shri P. L. Majmudar, President, Gujarat Harijan Sevak Sangh, acted as the Associate Director, and Dr. I. P. Desai, Reader in Sociology, University of Baroda, as the Seminar Recorder.

The participants were limited to experts on various aspects of the problem, including sociologists, psychologists, educationists, economists, legal experts and social workers. Representatives of the Harijan Sevak Sangh, other scheduled classes' organizations, the Post-graduate Schools of Social Work and the Central and State Governments also participated in the deliberations of the Seminar. Altogether, there were approximately 45 participants and this small compact body was very conducive to a friendly, informal atmosphere. The papers contributed as well as the discussions that arose from each of these papers were of a relatively high order. The publicity received by the Seminar was excellent, and this was made possible through the unstinted co-operation given to us by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India, set the ball rolling with a brilliant Inaugural Address and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant rounded off the Seminar with a sober, thought-provoking, concluding speech.

Our first attempt at organizing a National Seminar has, thus, been considered a resounding success. No small part of the credit is due to the generous financial aid given us in this connection by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, as well as by the States of Andhra, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Delhi, Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Saurashtra and Uttar Pradesh. (For detailed grants, please refer to the Section "FINANCE" in the latter part of the Report.)

Immediately after the Seminar, we had 1,000 copies of the Seminar conclusions printed and distributed to various Governments and voluntary agencies concerned with Casteism and Removal of Untouchability. A complete, detailed Report of the Seminar Proceedings has now been published.

Representation at Various Conferences, etc.

Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta presided over the State Conference organized by the Bihar State Branch, ICSW, at Patna, in July 1955.

Smt. Gulestan R. B. Billimoria, Hon. Gen. Secretary, attended a meeting of the Advisory Board on Social Welfare of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, at New Delhi, on 6th September 1955. At this meeting, courses were framed for the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Foreign Service, and the Indian Police Service.

Shri B. Chatterjee, Executive Secretary, ICSW, visited Poona on the Social Welfare Day—February 20, 1955, in connection with the organization of a Poona District Branch of ICSW, in collaboration with the Poona Co-ordinating Council. He also attended the Third Tribal Welfare Conference held at Jagdalpur (M.P.) in March 1955.

Further, as Assistant Secretary-General, South-East Asia Regional Office, Inter-

national Conference of Social Work, he inaugurated a Biennial Conference at Melbourne organized by the Australian Association of Social Workers in August 1955.* During transit, he established useful contacts in Ceylon, Singapore and Thailand. In September 1955, he attended an Executive Committee Meeting of the International Conference of Social Work in Athens, Greece. Next, he participated in the First Pakistan Conference of Social Work held at Karachi, in November 1955. Thereafter, he attended the Third Annual Conference of the All-India Labour and Welfare Officers at Nagpur and the Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Asian Countries on Child Welfare, in Delhi, and also the First Delhi State Conference of Social Work, in December this year.

Smt. Shirin Dastur Patel, Assistant Secretary, ICSW, was nominated, at the beginning of this year, a Member of the Bureau of Juvenile Delinquency Statistics and Research. This Bureau is conducted by the Children's Aid Society, Bombay, on the basis of a grant made to it by the Central Social Welfare Board. The results of the research undertaken by this Bureau will be published shortly.

Smt. Dastur Patel was also deputed to attend a week's course on "Recreation Leadership Training" organized jointly by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, and the Y.M.C.A. (Bombay). Prof. Harry D. Edgren, a Fulbright Professor of Group Work, directed this short-term course. She also attended the Third Convention of the Bharat Sewak Samaj held at Nagpur from March 11-13, 1955.

The Bangalore Session of the ICSW, December 1955

The programme of our Eighth Annual Session at Bangalore is quite varied and will, we hope, cater to the needs and interests of

*The Education Ministry of India Government made a grant of Rs. 3,000 towards the travel expenses of Shri B. Chatterjee in regard to the Australian trip.

all our delegates and observers. Three special Sub-Committees have been appointed to study, in a thorough and detailed manner, "A National Child-Care Code", "A Model Department of Social Welfare at the State-Level" and "Emergency Relief" (including famines, floods, fires, earthquakes and other disasters). These Sub-Committees began their work some time ago with the objects of presenting authentic memoranda on their respective subjects at the Bangalore Session.

The Panel Discussion, adjudged a great success last year, has been continued once again, this time on a different subject, *viz.*, "Mental Hygiene and Social Welfare".

Then too, we shall be having three Sectional Meetings which will concern themselves with, (1) "Welfare Projects in Rural Areas", (2) "Current Problems in Social Welfare", and (3) "Welfare of the Tribals and Other Backward Classes". The first subject of "Welfare Projects in Rural Areas" has been specially selected in view of the growing importance of community welfare programmes, initiated in rural areas by the Community Projects Administration and the Welfare Extension Projects of the Central Social Welfare Board. Two current and significant problems have been chosen for discussion in Section II. *viz.*, "The Beggar Problem", and "Legal Aid for the Poor". Section III will be divided into "Welfare of Socially Handicapped Tribes" (formerly known as '*ex-criminal*' tribes) and a discussion on the recent "Seminar on Casteism and Removal of Untouchability".

Aside of these items, we have also planned a number of workshops where social workers, working in a particular field, could assemble and discuss their problems. The following five fields have been specifically selected:

- (i) Correctional Administration.
- (ii) Labour Welfare.
- (iii) Tribal Welfare.

(iv) Family and Child Welfare.

(v) Community Welfare.

Meeting of Teachers of Schools of Social Work

In order to obviate extra expenditure, time and energy, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, and the ICSW will be organizing, during the Bangalore Session, a meeting of Teachers of Schools of Social Work in India to discuss training of social workers at various levels. This is particularly significant at a time when the demand for trained social workers at different levels is ever on the increase.

Finances

The regular annual grants towards the work of the Indian Conference of Social Work have unfortunately been very few indeed as can be seen from the following statement:

Govt. of Hyderabad	..	Rs. 500
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	..	Rs. 1,000
Govt. of Rajasthan	..	Rs. 1,000
Govt. of Saurashtra	..	Rs. 250
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	..	Rs. 1,000
		Rs. 3,750
Total	..	Rs. 3,750

Two non-recurring special grants were received from the Ministry of Education, Government of India:

A Research Grant	Rs. 5,000
A Grant towards the travel expenses of the Executive Secretary for his visit to Australia (in connection with the Conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers)	Rs. 3,000
Total	.. Rs. 8,000

However, a very encouraging response, for which we are most grateful, was forthcoming to an appeal for funds towards the expenses of the Special Seminar on Casteism and Removal of Untouchability. The grants are listed below:

Ministry of Home Affairs,		
Govt. of India	..	Rs. 10,000
Govt. of Andhra	..	Rs. 300
Govt. of Assam	..	Rs. 2,000
Govt. of Bihar	..	Rs. 1,000
Govt. of Bombay	..	Rs. 2,000
Govt. of Delhi	..	Rs. 1,000
Govt. of Hyderabad	..	Rs. 500
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	..	Rs. 1,000
Govt. of Madras	..	Rs. 1,000
Govt. of Saurashtra	..	Rs. 250
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	..	Rs. 1,000
Total		Rs. 20,050

[For detailed financial statements, please see pages 18-19.]

Staff and Establishment

The Office of the ICSW is still located in the Government Hutments, 6/A, Coopersage, Bombay, in spite of our best efforts to get suitable accommodation elsewhere.

There has been no change as far as the staff of the Central Office of the ICSW is concerned. Shri R. G. Bapat, our Accounts Clerk, has, however, been deputed to attend one year's Librarianship course conducted by the Bombay University. On completion of this course, Shri R. G. Bapat will attend to our expanding Library and Reading Room in addition to his other duties. Our peon, Shri C. K. Karunakaran, has recently passed S.S.C. Examination in the Second Division.

The Working Committee

A Working Committee, comprising of the following members, was appointed at the beginning of the year:

- 1.: Smt. Hansa Mehta (*President*).
2. Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta (*Ex-officio*).
3. Smt. Zarina E. G. Currimbhoy (*Hon. Treasurer*).
4. Prof. A. R. Wadia.
5. Prof. R. D. Choksi.
6. Shri L. S. Kudchedkar.
7. Shri N. F. Kaikobad.
8. Smt. Gulestan R. B. Billimoria (*Hon. Gen. Secretary*).
9. Shri B. Chatterjee, *Executive Secretary (Ex-officio)*.
10. Smt. Shirin Dastur Patel, *Assistant Secretary (Ex-officio)*.

Four meetings of the Working Committee were held during the year—the first on February 2nd, 1955, the second on June 2nd, 1955, the third on July 26, 1955, and the fourth on December 13, 1955.

As the President was stationed out of Bombay, a Sub-Committee with Dr. Mehta as Chairman, and Smt. Billimoria, Smt. Zarina Currimbhoy, and Prof. R. D. Choksi as members was appointed to attend to any urgent matters that needed instant decisions. Needless to say, these were subject to confirmation by the President.

Acknowledgments

Smt. Hansa Mehta, our President, has rendered us considerable help during our work throughout the year, and for that we are very grateful to her. Our gratitude is equally heartfelt to Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta, who, in his inimitable way, has guided and supported us at every turn. Our thanks are also due to the members of the Central Executive and Working Committees, who travel up and down the country to attend various meetings and take a keen interest in the development of our organization. We are deeply appreciative of the timely financial aid rendered us by the various Governments. We are also thankful to Shri M. J. Gazdar, our Hon. Constitutional Referee, to our Hon.

Auditors—Messrs. P. C. Hansotia & Co., to our office-bearers, our colleagues at the Central Office and to every single member of the ICSW for his or her sustained interest and enthusiasm during the year.

Finally, our hearty thanks are due to the Mysore State Branch, its Chairman, Shri T. Singaravelu Mudaliar, its hard-worked

Secretaries, Shri A. N. Ram Rao and Shri V. R. Ruthnam, as well as other members of its Executive Committee. To Shri T. Siddalingaiya, Chairman, and the members and volunteers of the Reception Committee, we are deeply indebted for the excellent work they have put in towards the organization of hospitality arrangements for our Eighth Annual Session at Bangalore.

The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, Registered No. F-321

Name of the Public Trust: INDIAN

Income and Expenditure Account

EXPENDITURE

	Rs.	as.	ps.	Rs.	as.	ps.
To Expenses in respect of Properties, etc.				Nil		
„ Establishment Expenses	21,615	8	0			
Less Salary from Hyderabad Branch	1,693	0	0			
				19,922	8	0
„ Remuneration to Trustees				Nil		
„ Remuneration (in the case of a math) to the head of the math, including his household expenditure, if any				Nil		
„ Legal Expenses				Nil		
„ Audit Fees				150	0	0
„ Contribution and Fees				178	4	0
„ Amounts written off, etc.				Nil		
„ Miscellaneous Expenses				2,347	10	3
„ Depreciation				Nil		
„ Amounts transferred to Reserve or Specific Funds				Nil		
„ Expenditure on Objects of the Trust—						
(a) Religious				Nil		
(b) Educational	5,758	9	9			
(c) Medical Relief				Nil		
(d) Relief of Poverty				Nil		
(e) Other Charitable Objects				Nil		
				5,758	9	9
„ Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet				Nil		
TOTAL				28,357	0	0

As per our report of even date.

(Sd.) P. C. HANSOTIA & Co.,
Chartered Accountants,
Auditors.

BOMBAY,
Dated 29th September 1955.

INDIAN CONFERENCE

Statement of Receipts and Payments Account

RECEIPTS

	Rs.	as.	ps.	Rs.	as.	ps.
To Balance—						
Central Bank of India	3,520	1	8			
Cash in hand	66	6	9			
				3,586	8	5
„ Memberships Fees—						
Affiliation Fees	78	4	0			
Delegate Fees	1,330	0	0			
Intitutional	240	0	0			
Ordinary	35	0	0			
Observer	295	0	0			
				1,978	4	0
„ Miscellaneous Receipts				10	10	0
„ Grants—						
Govt. of Bihar	1,000	0	0			
„ „ Saurashtra	250	0	0			
„ „ India	3,000	0	0			
„ „ India	5,000	0	0			
„ „ Madhya Pradesh	1,000	0	0			
„ „ Rajasthan	1,000	0	0			
„ „ Hyderabad	500	0	0			
				11,750	0	0
„ Seminar Account				16,050	0	0
„ Sale of Literature				347	15	0
„ Subscription for Bulletin				60	0	0
„ Temporary Advance				44	0	0
„ Interest Account—						
Interest on 3% Loan Rs. 15,000	165	7	0			
Interest on 3½% Treasury Saving Certificate	174	8	0			
Interest on Refund of Income-Tax	410	10	0			
Interest on Current Account	5	13	0			
				756	6	0

