

cent. of the total number of textile employees in Ahmedabad should be selected. The Labour Investigator at Ahmedabad was instructed to make a provisional selection on the basis of adequate representation of different mills paying different rates of wages and from different territorial groups. Sixteen mills were finally selected in consultation with the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Union.

11. With regard to the month to be selected for the Enquiry, the Committee of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association objected to July because absenteeism in the Ahmedabad mills during that month is higher than normal on account of the beginning of the monsoon when cotton mill operatives have a tendency to remain absent for work on the fields. It was eventually decided, therefore, to take the month of May 1926 as the Census month for the Ahmedabad mills.

SHOLAPUR

12. On the 19th August 1926, the Director of the Labour Office discussed the question of the best method of conducting the Cotton Mill Wage Census for Sholapur with the late Mr. Narottam Morarjee of Messrs. Morarjee Goculdas & Co., the Agents of the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., and with Mr. J. F. McDonnell of the Bombay Co., Ltd., the Agents of the Laxmi and the Vishnu Mills. Both Mr. Narottam Morarjee and Mr. McDonnell expressed general agreement with the proposals for the Enquiry. The main difficulty in connexion with the holding of a Wage Census for cotton mills in Sholapur City is the manner in which the grain allowance granted to the workers should be dealt with. All operatives in the Sholapur cotton mills who do not lose more than four days in the month get a grain allowance which takes the form of a right ordinarily to purchase 20 seers of grain—18 seers of *jowari* and 2 seers of *dal*—for a sum of Rs. 2, irrespective of the retail selling prices of these food-grains in the City. In the case of one mill, jobbers are allowed to purchase 31 seers of grain for a sum of Rs. 3-8-0. Half-timers have the right to purchase 10 seers of grain for one rupee. In the case of another mill, only two-loom weavers have the right to purchase 20 seers and one-loom weavers and half-timers can only purchase 10 seers. The value of the grain given differs from month to month according to the variation in prices. No option of a cash equivalent is given and the workers sell the grain if it is not required for their own consumption although such instances are very rare. The net gain to a worker who gets 18 seers of *jowari* and 2 seers of *dal* works out at about Rs. 1-8-0 but this is, of course, subject to variation according to the retail prices in the City. Although, technically, the grain allowance is dependent on good attendance, the Millowners at Sholapur consider it as a part of the dearness allowance. No account was taken in the Wage Censuses of 1921 and 1923 of the additional gain to those workers who secured the grain allowance.

13. The Director of the Labour Office had a meeting at Sholapur on the 17th November 1926 with Mr. Grier, representing the Laxmi and the