

at Ahmedabad. The returns for three mills were forwarded to Headquarters in December 1926, for four mills in January, two mills in March, three in April and one each in May, June, August and October 1927. The last batch of returns was received eighteen months after the date of the Census. The returns for several mills had to be sent back to the Investigator at Ahmedabad for further particulars or corrections from time to time in light of the critical examination to which they were further subjected at Headquarters. Owing to the great difficulties experienced during tabulation on account of the variations due to the prevalence of varying *hapta* systems, the Ahmedabad returns could not be passed for final tabulation until the beginning of the year 1929.

20. With regard to the two mills from Sholapur the returns from one mill were received in May and from the other in September 1927. The difficulties in connexion with the Sholapur Census were mainly confined to the value of the cash equivalent earned by the workers from the Grain Allowance.

21. With regard to the tabulation of the figures from the returns this was first undertaken on the basis of the direct use of mechanical tabulating machines (comptometers) without transferring the figures for each tabulation to posting sheets. As the results in checking and rechecking produced varying figures owing to difficulties experienced in connexion with the proper classification of the various terms used by different mills for designating particular occupations, this method had to be abandoned; and fresh tabulations were undertaken on the basis of preliminary transference of the respective figures for each tabulation to posting sheets. This method has ensured the highest degree of accuracy possible in the final averages.

22. The tabulation of the returns for the 1921 and 1923 Enquiries, the results of which were published about two years from the date of each Enquiry, only involved calculations in respect of mass figures for groups of workers. For the 1923 Enquiry, Government sanctioned the engagement of a special temporary staff of six Junior clerks for purposes of tabulation only for a period of one month. The tabulations of the returns for the 1926 Enquiry involved calculations with regard to many sets of figures for each of 71,576 workers. Owing to financial stringency, no special staff was asked for by the Labour Office for this Enquiry and all the tabulating work was undertaken by the permanent staff of the office.