

41. The normal hours of work in the case of all the reporting mills in Ahmedabad were 10 for both male and female operatives and 5 for children. Two mills did not employ children, but in certain mills which employed them it was reported that the children worked in two sets, each set working for five hours. The normal hours of work were observed without variation by eleven mills. One mill reported a variation in the case of Coalmen and Oilers in the Engine Department, but the actual hours worked by them were not stated. Another mill reported that the Hand Folders in the Folding Department worked for only nine hours a day. A third mill stated that the normal hours of work were $9\frac{1}{2}$ per day for Carpenters and Mechanics and 8 for Folders and Bundlers.

42. In Sholapur, both the mills selected for the Enquiry reported that the normal working hours were ten per day for men and women and five for children, who were employed in two batches. One of these mills reported that the normal working hours varied to 11 for the Engine Department and $9\frac{1}{2}$ for Mechanics, Fitters, Masons, Carpenters, Line Levellers, Roller Coverers and Reelers and also for all workers in the Mixing Department.

INTERVALS

43. Under the provisions of the Indian Factories Act, each person employed in a factory is entitled to a period of rest of not less than one hour for each period of six hours' work done [section 21 (1) (a) (i)]. The rest interval may, at the request of the employees concerned, be so arranged that there will be a period of rest of not less than half an hour each for periods of work not exceeding five hours, the total duration of the periods of rest on any working day not being less than one hour for each period of six hours' work done [section 21 (1) (a) (ii)]. Each child working for more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours in any day is likewise entitled to a period of rest of not less than half an hour [section 21 (1) (b)], and this period requires to be so fixed that no such child shall be required to work continuously for more than four hours [section 21 (2)]. These intervals are generally utilised by the workers for taking their midday meal although in a few cases it was reported that workers observed unauthorised intervals for meals.

44. The present Enquiry showed that an allowance of an interval to the operatives for the midday meal is a normal feature in all the mills selected for the Census. In Bombay City work usually starts at 7 a.m. and the one hour recess is generally granted between 12 noon and 1 p.m. There is practically no variation either in the duration or the starting time of the interval except in two mills. In one mill the one hour recess was shifted to 1 to 2 p.m. in the case of the Mechanics Shop. In another mill the interval was longer and amounted to $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours from 12-15 p.m. to 1-30 p.m. for men in the Bleaching, Dyeing, Folding, Finishing, Bundling and Baling Departments, and for women in the Reeling, Winding, Bleaching, Dyeing, Folding and Finishing Departments.

45. In the Ahmedabad mills the rest interval uniformly lasted for one hour from 12 noon to 1 p.m. except for Coalmen and Oilers alone in one mill where these operatives were required to work from 6-30 a.m.