

EXEMPTIONS *re* HOURS OF WORK

50. The provisions of the Indian Factories Act in regard to the maximum hours of work for adults (sections 27 and 28) are not applicable to persons holding positions of supervision or management or employed in a confidential capacity. The Local Government may exempt any factory from the provisions of sections 27 and 28 of the Act if such exemption is necessary in order to enable such factory to deal with an exceptional press of work [section 30 (2)]; or, if there is in such factory any work which necessitates working outside the normal limits, or continuous production for technical reasons, or if the work is of an essentially intermittent character [section 30 (1)].

51. The reports received from the Bombay mills show that six mills did not take advantage of any exemptions from the limitation on working hours while three mills did not claim any special exemption other than that allowed by the provisions of the Act. One mill stated that it took advantage of the exemptions which the Act provides for but the mill did not specify the departments or occupations in respect of which exemptions were claimed. Out of two mills which obtained exemptions in respect of their Blow Room Departments one stated that 50 per cent. of the men were required to work in connexion with the cleaning of gutters. In the remaining five mills either some or all employees mainly of the Mechanic, Engine and Boiler, and Electrical Departments were exempted from the provisions of sections 27 and 28 of the Act.

52. Nine out of the 14 mills in Ahmedabad which furnished information stated that no exemption was taken from the provisions of the Factories Act regarding hours of work. One mill had no records. The remaining four mills stated that they only availed themselves of the exemptions provided in the Act in respect of persons holding supervisory or managerial positions. One of the two mills in Sholapur stated that no exemption at all was obtained while the other reported that no special exemptions were applied for.

53. One mill in Bombay City could not furnish any information with regard to the number of overtime hours worked owing to want of records. Six other mills simply stated that there was overtime during the month of July 1926. The other mills which furnished the data required did not all specify the number of overtime hours worked by each department but only gave the aggregate man-hours put in. It is not therefore possible to use the figures to any real advantage or to draw any definite conclusions therefrom. The aggregate number of man-hours worked by way of overtime in the ten mills that supplied figures amounted to 8,109½. Only four mills in Ahmedabad gave figures for the number of hours worked overtime in two *haptas*. The total man-hours worked in addition to the normal working hours were 703. Here also the figures are subject to the same remarks as in the case of the figures for Bombay. The two Sholapur mills reported an aggregate of 846½ overtime hours in July 1926.