

CHAPTER VI

Limitations in Comparison as between Centres or with Previous Years

90. The use of the sampling method imposes certain limitations where only a few hands are employed in some section of a mill, as sometimes happens when as pointed out on a previous page there are several hundred different occupations in a cotton mill. The averages for several occupations containing a small number of workers differ widely from the averages for similar occupations in the results of the 1921 and 1923 enquiries. In some cases the differences may be due to faulty grouping of occupations in the returns of the 1921 and 1923 enquiries but in most cases they are due to the inadequacy of the sample obtained from the 1926 Enquiry. These remarks, however, only apply to the figures for those occupations which cover very few workers in each case, and even then not in all cases. For all the main occupations the sample was thoroughly representative in view of the great care taken to secure equal representation for all types of mills. For example, in the case of Ahmedabad, the sample included nine mills paying medium or the predominant rates of wages with a representation of 22·8 per cent. of the total number of workers in all the Ahmedabad mills, two mills paying low wages with a representation of 4·3 per cent. of the total number employed and five mills paying high wages with a representation of 4 per cent. of the total number employed. The averages for the main groups of workers are therefore irreproachable. But if a particular occupation group only contains a few workers from a high wage paying or a low wage paying mill the sample becomes defective and the resulting averages do not represent the actual averages which would result if all the units in a particular centre were covered. This is what actually happened in some cases in Ahmedabad and in Sholapur. It is not necessary to delete such cases from the tabulation because they should rightly be included in the figures regarding Attendance, Absenteeism, etc. The earnings of such workers have also been included in arriving at group and centre averages, which would otherwise not be representative of the selected sample. It should also be pointed out, that in the case of Sholapur the results of the Enquiry in respect of the Winding, Reeling, Warping, Sizing, Drawing-In, Dyeing, Yarn Bundling and Baling, Cloth Folding, Mechanics and Maintenance Departments only relate to one mill because the other unit covered did not furnish any figures for operatives in these Departments. Figures for the main departments, *i.e.*, Spinning and Weaving, were, however, returned by both mills.

91. With regard to the question of comparability of the results of this Census as between centre and centre, it may be pointed out that this Report is not concerned with the reasons why the averages for a