BENGAL.

Agent: Sjt. Satischandras Gupta
Head Quarters, 129, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta.

Khadi work in Bengal is carried on by independent organizations who have however received large financial aid from the Association. Bengal had no production in 1921 or 1922 and very little, even in 1923. But it now stands third among the provinces in the extent both of its production and sale. The result is predominantly due to the efforts of the Khadi Pratishthan, whose activities are directed by Sjt. Satischandras Gupta. There are other organizations, now working, that came later into the field. Of these, the earliest as well as the most important is the Abhoy Ashram, Comilla; the Vidyashram, Sylhet and the Prabhat Sangh Chandra-nagore came still later. Besides the above there are two other small organizations, the Khadi Karya, Arambagh and the Khadi Kendra, Bhimpur, which are doing intensive work in their areas.

One noteworthy feature of Bengal work is that all the khadi that is produced in the province is consumed within the province itself and practically not a yard is exported.
The Khadi Pratisthan is the biggest of the Bengal organisations. It has received Rs. 1,50,000 from the Association and has its own capital of Rs. 107,000. It has now twelve production centres and twenty-five sale depots. It produces about Rs. 10,000 per month. Its production activities support 475 weavers and about 6800 spinners. The count of yarn produced usually ranges about the average quality now generally available viz., 10 to 14 counts. There is also some quantity of yarn of higher counts produced up to 40. All widths from 28" to 54" are woven. The texture is usually 24 x 30 per inch. All varieties of cloth are manufactured including embroidered cloth, Dacca sarees, printed lace, table cloths, etc. Dyed and printed goods of all descriptions are available. The prices are as under:

- Dhoti 8 x 44" @ Rs. 1.40 per piece.
- Shirting 12 yds. 36" @ Rs. 4.14-9.
- Coating 12 yds. 29" @ Rs. 7.29-0.

The above prices are whole-sale cheapest rates for plain articles. Delivery free by railway. Goods go steamer to any station in Bengal for orders worth Rs. 100 and over.

The Pratistan also makes and sells charkhas, taklis and pinjais. These are available at the following rates:

- Charkha (Pratishan) Rs. 9.10-0 each.
- Charkha (Travelling) Rs. 15.0-0.0
- Bardolpinjan Rs. 0.12-0.
- Taklia (lead) Rs. 0.25-0.1
- Taklia (earth) Rs. 0.25-0.1
- Hand Pin Rs. 2.0-0.
All these are stocked at all the sale centres of the Pratishthan. It also makes special magic lantern slides suitable for propaganda work and supplies lanterns and accessories for the same.

The Pratishthan also maintains a special publicity and propaganda department of its own. It has issued several useful publications, the most important of which is the Khadi Manual dealing with the managing of production and sale centres as well as the history of the cotton industry in the past.

The following are the production centres of the Pratishthan:

1. Feni.
2. Munshirhat.
3. Parshram.
4. Durgapur.
5. Sucha.
7. Mahajenhat.
10. Gaygar.
11. Tarpur.
12. Dacca.

There are besides the following sale centres:

1. 170, Bowbazar St., Calcutta.
2. 15, College Square.
5. Chandpur.
6. Choumahan.
7. Dacca.
8. Dinajpur.
11. Tessore.
15. Rajshahi.
16. Tezpur.
17. Ratanganj.
18. Madanpur.
20. Raruli.
22. Khalispur.
23. Coyghar.
24. Banigram.
25. Gouripur.
The Pratishthan also maintains an ashram for the training of Khadi workers at Sodepur. The ashram is run under the personal guidance and direction of Syt. Satischandra Das Gupta on lines somewhat similar to the Satyagrahashram, Sabarmati. Here at Sodepur is also erected the dyehouse of the Pratishthan with efficient arrangements for the dyeing and bleaching of large quantities of khadi. The dye house was opened by Mahatma J in January 2nd 1927 and since then considerable progress has been made in this direction, so that several fine and lasting shades are now given to yarn and fabric. Chrome khaki dyeing also is being successfully conducted, the special plant requisite for the work having been installed.

The Publicity and Propaganda Department, besides issuing publications as mentioned above, organises exhibitions and propaganda tours with lantern lectures. Special lantern slides are prepared by the Pratishthan on the following subjects for propaganda:

1. Bengal and Khadi Series containing 112 slides.
2. The South African Satyagraha Series containing 114 slides.
3. The Jallianwala Bagh Series containing 23 slides.

The total number of workers serving in the different branches of the Pratishthan organisation is 160.

The Abhoy Ashram with its head quarters at Comilla is the next biggest organisation in the province. Dr. Suresh Chandra Benerjee is the President and Dr. P. C. Ghosh and Smt. A. P. Chowdhury are among the most prominent workers. It has nine production centres and twelve sale centres. The average production,
per month is Rs. 9000 (nine thousand). The A. I. S. A., has given a loan of Rs. 54,550/-. 

The centres of production are mainly situated in the Chittagong division. The cotton used is the Comilla cotton. The average quality of yarn produced is from 8 to 15 counts. Widths up to 54” are woven. The shirtings are usually of 36” width, the coastings of 32”", dhoties and sarees from 44” to 52” and Chaddars of 54”.

The texture is generally 34 to 36 threads per inch in warp and 30 to 32 in the weft. All varieties of cloth are manufactured, dhoties, sarees, shirtings, coastings, towels, curtain cloths etc. Dyeing and printing work is carried on in the Ashram's dye house. Both yarn and khadi are dyed in 25 different shades of fast colour. Embroidered cloths are also available. These are a speciality of Dacca.

The following are the prices of the principal varieties of bleached khadi:

- Dhotis 4yds x 44” Rs. 1-12-0 to 2-2-0 each.
- Sarees, 5yds x 46” 3-5-0 to 2-11-0 “
- Plain shirting 12 yds. 36” 4-14-0 to 6-0-0 “
- plain Coating, 12” x 24” 6-12-0 to 7-8-0 “
- Drill coating, 13” x 32” 9-4-0 to 10-0-0 “
- Double thread Chaddar, 3” x 54” 2-14-0 to 3-10-0 “
- Bed covers, 2½ yds. x 54” 3-12-0 to 6-8-0 “
- Towels (Honey-comb.) 1yd. x 20” 0-12-0 each.
The above prices are subject to a wholesale commission of 3½% for orders of Rs. 100 worth and more.

The central depot is at Comilla to which all orders have to be addressed. This depot also supplies charkhas at a price ranging from 2-4-0 to 2-8-0. Guts for carding bows are also available at nine pies to one anna per yard.

The following are the production centres of the Abhoy Ashram:

1. Comilla
2. Feni
3. Munshirhat
4. Lemua
5. Barkamta
6. Mithachara
7. Dacca
8. Chouddagram
9. Chagrabandha

The Ashram has besides the following sale centres:

1. Comilla Town nepot.
2. Calcutta.
4. Faridpur.
5. Midnapur.
8. Palong.
11. Muradnagar.
12. Narayanganj

The production activities of the Abhoy Ashram supply work to 250 weavers. The yarn being generally purchased at bazaars and through middle-men, it is difficult to get the exact number of spinners. The spinners are generally Mussulman women.

In addition to khadi work the Ashram is also carrying on the following other activities for the benefit of the villagers in some of the villages:

1. Opening and maintaining primary schools for boys and girls.
2. Starting libraries and reading rooms.
3. dispensaries and Seva Samiti.
The Vidyashram at Sylhet and The Prabartak Sangh, Chandranagore have only recently started work on a large scale. The A. I. S. A., has advanced Rs. 14,000 to the Vidyashram and Rs. 1800 to the Prabartak Sangh as loan. Each of these organisations is conducted by a small group of devoted and earnest workers.

The Vidyashram’s activities are directed by Syt. Dhirendra Nath Das Gupta with the assistance of 17 workers. Its activities supply work to 40 weavers and about 500 spinners. Not all these are regular spinners, only about 195 of them being so. Widths up to 60'' are woven. The texture is 30 threads per inch in warp and 30 to 38 in weft. The usual varieties of goods are produced. Dyed goods are also available. Single or double coloured printed goods can also be had. Some embroidery work is also done. Prices are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dhoties, 10' x 45''</td>
<td>2-7-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarees, (with 3'' border)</td>
<td>3-9-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirting plain 33''</td>
<td>0-8-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Striped</td>
<td>0-8-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Coloured</td>
<td>0-11-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coating plain single thread 36''</td>
<td>C-9-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; double thread 39''</td>
<td>C-10-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaddar 6' x 54'' double plain</td>
<td>3-2-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; single</td>
<td>2-3-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Double twill.</td>
<td>4-0-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the bleached goods 0-1-6 per yard is charged extra, for dyed goods two to four annas. The Vidyashram has sale bhandars at Sylhet, Kulaura and Beani Bazar, all in Sylhet district. The average production per month is over Rs. 1000 and average sales Rs. 900.
The Prabartak Sangh of Sjt. Motilal Ray has its head-quarters at Chandranagore. Syt. Ray is assisted in this work by 8 other workers. The production activities support 110 weavers and about 750 spinners. It has two production centres at Kutubdia and Tetaiya and three sale centres at Mymensingh, Calcutta and Chittagong. Widths upto 58" are woven. The yarn used is usually of 8 to 15 counts. The prices are as under:

**Kutubdia.**

Shirting plain 12 yds, x 36"  4—12—0 to 5—8—0 per piece.

" striped.  5—0—0 to 5—12—0 per piece.

Shirting coloured 12 yds, 36"  6—4—0 to 7—0—0 per piece.

Sarees plain.  10 x 45"  5—8—0 to 6—4—0 per pair.

Dhoties.  9 x 45"  4—4—0 to 4—12—0 per piece.

Double thread coating 12 yds, x 36"  6—4—0 to 6—12—0 per piece.

Coloured coating 12 x 28"  8—12—0 to 9—8—0 per piece.

Designed coating  7—0—0 to 8—0—0

**Tetaiya.**

Shirting 12 yds, x 36"  3—4—0 per piece.

Single thread coating 12 x 34"  6—0—0 per piece.

Muga border chaddars 6 x 54"  5—4—0 per piece.

Plain chaddars 6 x 54"  4—0—0 per piece.

Dhoties 10 x 44" to 48"  4—12—0 per pair.

Double thread coatings 12 x 31"  6—8—0 per piece.

Chaddars can be printed @ 0—8—0 to 0—12—0 per piece extra. The Prabartak Sangh on an average produces Rs. 1300 and sells Rs. 1600 per month,
The two other small organisations at Arambagh and Bhimpore are, as stated above, carrying on intensive work in their particular areas. The output of khadi at Aramgagh is nearly Rs. 4000 worth per year. This organisation, like the other Bengal organisations, is carry-
on proganda with a view to imparting political educa-
tion to the villagers and has also organised other so-
cial service activities like medical relief etc. They have
also organised takli spinning at the Deodando Jatiya Pathasala with great success.

The work at Bhimpur was only started last year by Syt. B. N. Sen and the Association has given him a loan of Rs. 500 for the work. Sjt. Sen expects to achieve very good results in the near future.