

VII. Employment

47. The total volume of employment in organised industry showed a further increase during 1961. Average daily employment in cotton textile mills rose from 7·69 lakhs in January—September 1960 to 7·91 lakhs in the first nine months of 1961. The available data in respect of the first 8 months of 1961 regarding employment in coal mines show an increase

from 375,000 in 1960 to 397,000. Many of the new and rapidly growing industries such as general and electrical engineering, chemicals, dyes, paper and paper board and machinery-making industries such as tea processing machinery, sugar mill machinery, machine tools, etc. recorded further increases in employment. Thus employment in a large number of industries for which figures are compiled by the Development Wing of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and which account for roughly one-sixth of the total industrial employment increased by about 8 per cent over the year.

48. In the nature of things, available statistics give only a rough indication of trends in unemployment. In a developing economy where rapid social and economic changes are taking place, it is difficult, for example, to distinguish between actual unemployment and the desire for better employment. Subject to these qualifications, mention may be made of the trends revealed by employment exchange statistics. At the end of 1961 the number of applicants registered with the employment exchanges was 18.3 lakhs as compared to 16.1 lakhs at the end of 1960. The vacancies notified went up from 5.2 lakhs in 1960 to 7.1 lakhs and placements made from 3 lakhs to 4 lakhs. Part of the increase in the number of applicants on the live registers is a consequence of the opening of new exchanges and, as in the past, a considerable number of applicants on the live registers represents those already in employment but seeking better jobs. In 1960, legislation requiring employers to notify certain categories of vacancies of employment to employment exchanges was enforced and this in turn should induce a greater and more effective use of the machinery of employment exchanges.