

(D) EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS

Employment

In the absence of annual aggregate data the only rough indicator of the annual movement in the level of unemployment is the data relating to the number of registrants at employment exchanges. At the end of 1963, the number of registrants at employment exchanges was 0.2 per cent lower than at the end of the previous year. These numbers increased steadily during the third and fourth quarters of 1964, so that at the end of December 1964, the number of registrants totalled 165,456 compared with 151,922 at the end of December 1963. During the course of the year there was an increase in registration by persons seeking technical and clerical employment, so that at the end of the year these registrants numbered 14.7 per cent more than at the end of December 1963. The number of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled registrants increased by 8.2 per cent, 5.3 per cent and 7.9 per cent respectively, than at the end of December 1963. Complete data relating to employment created in 1964 in the Government sector, semi-Government Corporations and the private sector are not available.

The following table shows the number of persons who have been placed in employment in recent years together with the percentage which such placements bear to total registrants on the books, in each category.

TABLE II (D) 1

The number of Persons placed in Employment and their relative importance to total Registrants in each category

Year	Technical & Clerical	%	Skilled	%	Semi-skilled	%	Unskilled	%	Total	%
1955	2,166	14.9	1,064	12.5	1,187	5.9	3,791	13.6	8,208	11.6
1956	1,913	11.9	845	8.6	1,565	6.1	4,162	12.1	8,485	9.9
1957	1,176	6.3	709	5.3	1,180	3.8	3,053	6.4	6,118	5.5
1958	1,827	9.2	800	5.9	1,006	3.1	2,251	4.4	5,884	5.0
1959	1,667	8.0	1,045	7.5	1,275	3.8	3,218	5.4	7,205	5.6
1960	1,400	5.3	771	4.6	1,247	3.6	4,744	6.5	8,162	5.4
1961	1,259	4.6	631	3.5	964	2.8	2,794	3.9	5,648	3.7
1962	1,263	3.7	468	2.7	809	2.3	2,315	3.5	4,857	3.2
1963	1,322	3.7	502	3.0	839	2.3	2,466	3.9	5,129	3.4
1964*	1,722	4.2	535	3.0	945	2.5	3,599	5.3	6,801	4.1

* Provisional

Source: Department of Labour.

The number of persons placed in employment during 1964 has been somewhat higher than in recent years. The largest number of persons placed has been in the unskilled category. The percentage of persons placed to total registrants has also been highest in this category, namely, 5.3 per cent. The percentage of placings to total registrants among technical and clerical registrants was a close second. These percentages were generally equal to or higher than those for the previous year among all categories of workers.

Labour Relations

The data on strikes serve as a partial barometer of the changes in the climate of employer-employee relations. The Table below shows the number of strikes, the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost as a result of strikes.

TABLE II (D) 2

Strikes

Year	Plantations			Other Employments		
	No. of Strikes	Workers Involved	Man-days lost	No. of Strikes	Workers Involved	Man-days lost
1955	160	1,143	69,913	47	11,293	36,016
1956	99	56,908	200,888	115	31,852	152,966
1957	177	297,061	618,050	127	70,239	190,443
1958	123	39,372	340,632	96	42,713	399,228
1959	177	47,318	352,095	71	42,453	460,141
1960	123	42,528	259,948	37	4,839	15,139½
1961	90	29,223	317,866	39	38,013	170,372
1962	138	42,569	193,792	50	25,730	801,882
1963	174	62,511	359,905	58	29,819	479,678
1964*	178	61,529	554,953	82	16,887	213,514

* Provisional

Source: Dept. of Labour.

In 1964 the number of strikes on plantations was slightly higher than in 1963, while the number of strikes in other employments was considerably higher. The plantation sector, where the major part of the organised working population is employed, continued to record the largest number of strikes. In 1964 the number of strikes on plantations and other employments totalled 178 and 82 compared with 174 and 58 respectively in 1963. Though the number of workers involved was smaller in the plantation sector, the number of man-days lost was larger than in the previous year. In other employments the number of workers involved and number of man-days lost were smaller.

Strikes in the plantation sector lasted on an average 9.0 days in 1964, compared with an average of 5.8 days in 1963. Strikes in other employments are generally more protracted than on plantations. However, the duration of these strikes was reduced from an average of 16.1 days in 1963 to 12.6 days in 1964.

Regarding the reasons underlying strikes, according to the classification made by the Department of Labour, dismissal or loss of employment accounted for 29.6 per cent, estate rules, discipline, working arrangements etc. for 26.9 per cent and wage disputes, such as non-payment and delay in payment of wages, for 11.9 per cent of strikes and these took place mainly on plantations. General demands accounted for 9.6 per cent of the strikes. Strikes arising from demands for wage increases were relatively small, accounting for only 2.3 per cent of all strikes and took place mainly in the non-plantation sector,