

Letter to the Editor

BENGAL NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
4, Clive Ghat Street,

Calcutta, the 2nd January, 1945.

No. Lr-8

Circular No. 3 of 1945.

To All Members and All Affiliated Bodies of the Chamber.

Dear Sirs,

In circulating herewith copy of a letter together with specified form which has been received in this office from the Government of India, Department of Labour, on the question of training abroad of higher technical personnel for post-war industrial development, I beg to request you kindly to forward to this office at an early date the list of your recommendations and full particulars of each candidate, if any, in the enclosed form.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Copy of letter No. TRC II—1140, dated the 12th December, 1944 from the Government of India, Department of Labour to the Chamber.

**Subject :—TRAINING ABROAD OF HIGHER TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
FOR POST-WAR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

I am directed to address you on the action which the Government of India propose to take to make good the serious deficiency in skilled technicians particularly of the higher categories, which will constitute one of the most serious bottle-necks in the industrial development of the country. India will need, for example, large numbers of chemical engineers, mineralogists, electrical and other technicians including those who can design and build machine tools of various kinds. For these higher technical posts the training for the present will inevitably have to be abroad. Steps will have to be taken to ensure that our technicians on their return to India will be capable of developing, planning, organising various branches of industry according to the needs of the programme of future industrial development.

2. With a view to ascertaining the actual requirements of industry certain preliminary enquiries were made in January last and on the basis of the information furnished, the Government of India have been exploring the possibilities of securing the necessary facilities. Unfortunately, it has been found that little progress can be made unless, in the case of each candidate, definite information is available as to his theoretical qualifications, past industrial experience, the specific nature of the training required and also the industry for which this training is required. Unless these

particulars are furnished training institutions and firms abroad are not in a position to indicate what facilities can be made available to Indian technicians.

3. The Government of India feel that, though there may be difficulties in the case of special trades, India's requirements in regard to advanced technical training can be met substantially in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. To enable them to take further action in the matter it is necessary to have the names and the full particulars indicated above of any candidates which your Association or any of your associate members consider should be sent abroad for higher technical training. The candidates will in most cases be persons with a University degree in science or engineering or equivalent diploma and at least three years' industrial experience in India. The duration of the training abroad will be about a year but in special cases it may be extended up to two years. As regards the subject for training and its exact nature, the Government of India would be glad to have the suggestions of your Association in each case. The trainees may be required to take refresher courses in theory, but industrial experience in factories and workshops abroad of the kind on which they will be employed on return to India will constitute the most important part of their training.

4. As regards cost, the Government of India have no doubt that in most cases industrial firms or associations will be able to meet the full expenditure on account of their own trainees provided of course facilities are secured through the Government of India in accordance with their requirements. In special cases, *e.g.*, where training is required for new industries or industries whose development is considered desirable in the national interest and the industrial firm or association concerned is unable to bear the full cost, the Government of India would be prepared to consider giving financial assistance, where such assistance is necessary in respect of trainees who are sent during the war or within six months thereafter. From enquiries so far made, the cost per annum including passage, fees, allowances, etc., for such trainee deputed to the U. K. is estimated at roughly Rs. 7,500. In the case of the U. S. A. it is estimated at roughly 1,800 dollars *plus* the cost of a return passage. These are, however, only tentative figures and the Government of India understand that in the U. S. A. it is possible that trainees may be offered stipends by firms during the period of training. A more detailed estimate of cost will be worked out for each trainee in consultation with the authorities in the U. K. or the U. S. A.

5. I am to request that your Association will kindly assist the Government of India in this matter by obtaining from your associate members a list of their recommendations and the full particulars of each candidate in the enclosed form. I am to add that individual firms are not being addressed as the Government of India hope that your Association and the other associations to whom this letter is being addressed will be able to furnish the necessary information.

(Particulars of candidates recommended for Higher Technical Training Abroad).

1. Name:
2. Father's Name:
3. Religion and Caste, if any:
4. Province of domicile District
5. Date of birth or Age:
6. Address:
 - Present:
 - Permanent.
7. General Education (state Schools or Colleges attended and examinations passed).
8. Technical Education (give particulars of technical schools or colleges attended and examinations passed).
9. Details of Apprenticeship (state the names of workshops or factories where apprenticeship was undergone and the period of apprenticeship).
10. Industrial Experience. (State the appointments held from time to time, duration of each appointment, nature of duties performed and pay).
11. Specific nature of Training required and the Industry for which it is needed.**
12. Whether the Employer is willing to meet the expenditure on training.
13. Remarks by the Employer.

**** NOTE.**—The types of training contemplated are given below, but the list is not exhaustive. The Government of India would be prepared to explore the possibility of securing facilities for other types of training, if required.

1. Mechanical Engineering. 2. Electrical Engineering. 3. Radio Manufacture. 4. Aeronautical Engineering. 5. Shipbuilding. 6. Marine Engineering. 7. Civil Engineering. 8. Structural Engineering. 9. Metallurgy. 10. Generation of Electricity. 11. Locomotive Construction. 12. Chemical Engineering. 13. Fertilisers. 14. Plastics. 15. Glass. 16. Steel Manufacture.
