similar training facilities in Tamil Nad and on the West Coast. A Ceramic school at Gudur to train students in pottery, refractories and in glass and enamel technologies will begin to function soon, as an adjunct to the ceramic factory opened there recently. The activities of the Government Coir School, Beypore, in the West Coast, established in 1937, have now been expanded and a hostel has been attached to the institution.

Harijan Upl.ft.

18. The activities of the Government for the welfare and uplift of Harijans were considerably expanded during the course of the year. Education is the most potent weapon in this direction and in June 1948 orders were issued granting full-fee concessions to Harijan pupils in secondary schools—the system to be in force for a period of ten years. The Government further extended the full-fee concessions admissible in colleges to students studying in institutions maintained by the Universities, compensating the Universities for the loss involved. As a result, poor Harijan pupils now enjoy full-fee concessions throughout their educational career from their admission in elementary schools till they graduate from Arts or Professional Colleges. It is possible that a few managements of elementary schools are still collecting some fee from Harijan pupils at present. The Government have now under consideration a proposal to make it obligatory on the part of such managements to exempt Harijan pupils from the payment of fees. The Government have also ordered that Harijans need not produce any poverty certificate for claiming educational concessions, unless the head of the institution has reason to believe that pupils claiming the concession are not really poor. The income limits for this purpose have been raised to Rs. 1,200 per annum in the case of secondary schools and Rs. 1,500 per annum in the case of colleges.

There are in all nearly 1,200 labour schools in the Province with a strength of over 84,000. The individual boarding grants sanctioned to students in the various boarding homes under the control of the Labour department have been replaced by lump-sum boarding grants at a uniform rate with the result that more institutions have now become eligible for additional boarding grants. The additional expenditure on this account works out to Rs. 3·06 lakhs and the total boarding grants payable this year to 242 hostels

in the Province comes to over Rs. 10 lakhs. Managing Committees will be formed for the efficient supervision of the working of these hostels. The Labour department is paying special attention to the provision of house-sites for Harijan families and in maintaining 8,500 wells for their use. The District Harijan Welfare Committees are being strengthened by the nomination of the respective District Educational Officers, District Health Officers and the District Superintendents of Police. The Government are also making a beginning in the constitution of Village Vigilance Committees, consisting of Harijans and caste-Hindus in equal proportion, to bring to the notice of Collectors from time to time the difficulties of Harijans with a view to their speedy removal.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Harijan Welfare Committee, the Government have decided to constitute a separate department for Harijan Welfare with effect from 1st April 1949. In addition to the work now done by the Labour department, the new department will pay special attention to the implementation of the five-year plan of work in the villages recommended by the Committee.

The total expenditure on the uplift of Harijans during the current year will work out to about Rs. 63 lakhs—Rs. 58 lakhs from general revenues and Rs. 5 lakhs from the Harijan Uplift Fund. This is exclusive of the loss of fee income by the grant of concessions to Harijans.

The budget for 1949–50 provides for an addition of Rs. 5 lakhs to the Harijan Uplift Fund from general revenues. We are adding on to the Fund because we are getting depleted.

Backward communities other than Harijans.

19. Backward communities are eligible for half-fee concessions in educational institutions. They also enjoy in practice some preference in regard to grant of Government scholarships, though no special scholarships are earmarked to students belonging to these communities. As the Honourable Members are aware, a provision of Rs. 1 lakh has been made for the betterment of the backward communities during the current year and the Government have decided to utilize this sum for the award of scholarships to promising students of backward communities studying in the Arts and Professional Colleges including Law Colleges, preference being given to women. The question of compensating Universities for the loss sustained by them in granting educational concessions