

APPENDIX IV
WORKING HOURS OF JUTE MILLS IN INDIA

Year	Working Hours	Limitation of looms
1872	Up to 1872 mills worked between 6 A.M. and 6 P.M. with two breaks at 9 to 10 A.M. and 1 to 2 P.M. <i>i.e.</i> , 10 hours a day.	
1878 onwards	Mills worked throughout the day for 12 hours under a crude system of relieving squads.	
1886 From 15th February onwards.	The first agreement for six months dating from 15th February was subsequently renewed at intervals without a break for 5 years up to 15th February, 1891. During these 5 years the extent of the short-time varied between 4 days a week, 9 days a fortnight and 5 days a week. The exceptions to this agreement were Hooghly and Serajgunje Mills.	An important feature of the agreement was an undertaking by the parties not to increase their spinning power during the currency of the agreement. Besides short-time working 10% of the sacking looms were shut down for a short period in 1890.
1895	Electric light came into general use from this year and regular multiple shift system of working was followed, machinery working for 15 hours per day.	
1899 1st April onwards.	A six months' agreement came into force on 1st April, 1899, but it lasted for 2 months only.	In some cases, over 25% of the machinery was rendered idle for lack of workers, owing to outbreak of plague.
1906 From 1st January to 30th June.	Mills agreed to curtail production by stopping the electric light, and worked from sunrise to sunset for 6 months, from 1st January, 1906.	
1908 15th March to 1909 30th September.	Extension in some mills and establishment of new mills augmented production to such an extent that it was found expedient to work 5 days a week.	
1910 May to August	Due to absence of unanimity among members of the Association, short time working of 4 days a week was postponed from January till April 1910. An agreement to work 5 days a week was in operation from May to August.	

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1910 1st September to 1912 30th June.	The agreement to work five-day week was continued with some variations.	
1921 1st April to 1929 30th June.	Mills worked 54 hours per week (No restriction).	
1929 1st July to 1930 30th June.	Mills worked 60 hours per week (No restriction).	
1930 1st July to 30th September.	Mills worked 54 hours per week (No restriction).	
1930 1st October to 1931 28th February.	Mills worked 54 hours per week but closed down for one week per month.	
1931 2nd March to 1934 31st October.	Mills, with certain exceptions, worked 40 hours per week.	15% of the total looms sealed up. The sealing was effected on Hessain looms of 40" read space or over. In May 1932 the new mills were allowed to work 54 hours per week after the personal intervention of Sir John Anderson, the then Governor of Bengal.
1934 1st November to 1935 30th April.	Mills worked 40 hours per week	12½% of the total looms remained sealed.
1935 1st May to 4th August.	Mills worked 40 hours per week	10% of the total looms remained sealed.
5th August to 10th November.	Mills worked 40 hours per week	7½% of the total looms remained sealed.
1935 11th November to 1936 31st March	Mills worked 40 hours per week	5% of the total looms remained sealed up to 16th February, 1936, after which they were released.
1936 1st April to 30th June.	Mills worked an average of 46.28 hours per week.	
1st July to 3rd August.	Mills worked 50 hours per week.	
1936 4th August to 1937 28th February.	Mills worked 54 hours per week (No restriction).	
1937 1st March to 1938 25th September.	All other restrictions withdrawn and majority of mills worked 54 hours per week.	
1938 26th September to 1939 19th February.	Mills worked 45 hours per week with the exception of those with 175 looms or under which were permitted to work 72 hours per week.	
20th February to 30th July.	Mills worked 45 hours per week but those having registered complements of looms not exceeding 220 worked 72 hours per week.	

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31st July to September.	Mills worked 40 hours per week	Mills were required to seal the number of looms necessary to give the requisite number of loom hours on the basis of 45 hours per week with 20% hessain loom and 7½% sacking looms sealed.
		All looms previously sealed were released.
13th September to 24th September.	Mills worked 45 hours per week.	
25th September to 2nd November.	Mills worked 54 hours per week (No restriction).	
1939 3rd November to 1940 7th April.	Mills with more than 220 looms worked 60 hours a week others 72 hours a week. Exemption granted from the provisions of Indian Factories Act.	
8th April to 18th August.	Mills worked 54 hours per week. (No restriction).	
19th August to 31st August.	Mills worked 45 hours per week.	
1st September to 30th November.	Mills worked 45 hours per week with one week closed in every four.	
December . . .	Mills worked 45 hours per week with second week of December closed.	
1941 January to March.	Mills worked 45 hours per week. Those with more than 220 looms were closed for one week of each month except February.	
April to 31st August	Mills worked 45 hours per week without restrictions.	
1st September to 12th October.	Mills worked 50 hours per week.	
13th October to 5th November.	Mills worked 54 hours per week.	
1942 6th November to 17th May.	Mills with more than 220 looms worked 60 hours per week while other mills worked 72 hours per week.	
1943 18th May to 12th March.	Mills worked 54 hours per week.	10 per cent looms remained sealed.
13th March to 30th April.	Mills worked 60 hours per week.	

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1st May to mid-June	Mills worked 54 hours per week	10 per cent looms remained sealed.
Mid-June to 30th June.	Mills worked 54 hours per week	
1st July to 31st December.	Mills worked 54 hours per week. In Bengal, they were closed for a week per month except in October when they closed for 2 weeks.	
1944 1st January to 11th December.	Mills worked 54 hours per week.	
12th December to 1946 31st July.	Mills with more than 220 looms worked 54 hours per week ; others worked 72 hours per week.	
1st August to 1947 27th August.	Mills with more than 220 looms worked 48 hours per week ; working hours for others remained unchanged.	
28th August to 1949 1st May.	Mills worked 60 hours per week. Electrically driven mills were permitted to work double shifts.	
2nd May to 1947 30th June.	Mills located in West Bengal worked 48 hours per week while mills outside West Bengal remained unaffected.	West Bengal mills having more than 220 looms worked with 12½ per cent of the hessian looms sealed.
1949 1st July to 4th December.	Mills worked 48 hours per week with one week closed every month.	12½ per cent hessian looms of those mills in West Bengal having more than 220 looms however remained sealed.
5th December to 1951 9th December.	Mills worked 42½ hours per week without any closure.	12½ per cent looms of West Bengal mills remained sealed as before ; but the greatest weight was on sacking looms. Mills outside West Bengal, however, remained unaffected.
10th December 1951 30th March 1952	Mills worked 48 hours per week without any closure.	Looms to the extent of 12½ per cent remained sealed as before in West Bengal.
31st March to	Mills working 42½ hours per week without any closure.	Looms to the extent of 12½ per cent remained sealed as before in West Bengal.

*Regular and detailed information is available since March 1921 ; the information refers to Association Mills only.;

NOTE—Indian Jute Manufacturers Association was founded in 1884, the name of which was changed to Indian Jute Mills Association in 1902.

Sources :—1. Romance of Jute by D. R. Wallace.

2. The Jute Crisis by B. D. Bhatler and N. L. emenyi.

3. Reports, Indian Jute Mills Association.

(From I. C. J. C.'s report on Marketing of jute and jute products 1952)