

The housing problem can be divided into two parts, the settled communities such as Abadan, and the development areas like the new oilfields. It is not economic for the Company to attempt to provide for all workers in a development field, because after the field has been developed, roads built, borings completed, storehouses, offices, etc., erected, the number of employees will fall to less than 50% of the previously employed.

It is estimated that it will be from two to five years (according to the district) before the minimum housing requirements are met, and the problem is complicated by the imminent transfer of the field centre of one of the principal development areas, namely, Agha Jari, to a point ten miles away. In Agha Jari, which was the centre of severe disturbances last year, of the 2,400 direct employees 1,320 are in houses and 380 are in tents, the balance (mainly juniors, single men, etc.) are in lodgings. By the end of the year 337 houses of all types, some temporary and others permanent, will be built. In Masjid-i-Suleiman, a model village, 149 two-roomed type houses and 95 three-roomed type are being constructed at the present time, together with a cinema, indoor club, swimming pool, shops and a dispensary.

In Abadan area 2,500 houses are under construction in addition to the 6,000 houses already built which house approximately 35,000 workers and dependants. Houses are allotted on a points system based on wages plus length of service. There is in addition staff accommodation for 7,000 people. One of the special problems of the district is the provision of ice and water. The Abadan ice plant produces 140 tons of ice per day during the summer, and in Agha Jari one and a third million gallons of water per day are provided.

In Agha Jari a new brick kiln is turning out half a million bricks per month, and another one, which will come into operation after the rains, will produce one

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