



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/1980/6/Add.5
21 December 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)
by States Parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by
articles 10 to 12

NORWAY

/12 October 1979/

Article 10: Protection of the family, mothers and children

A. Protection of the family

(1) It is the express aim of the Norwegian Government to pursue a policy which can protect and strengthen the family. An important goal will be to safeguard the security of family members and conduct a policy which provides opportunities for freedom of choice and self-development to all family members. 1/

Women and men are placed on an equal footing under the rules of the Marriage Act of 1918, the Act of 1927 concerning Property Relationship between Spouses, and the Probate Act of 1930.

Women have the same right as men only to enter into marriage of their own free will and full consent.

Women have the same rights as men during marriage and at its dissolution, both as regards personal rights and property rights.

Marriage before the parties have reached 18 years of age requires the consent of the County Governor. This follows from the Marriage Act of 1918.

According to the Marriage Act (sect. 20), marriage is entered into by solemnization in church or by a civil solemnization.

Women have the right to retain their family name during marriage or at its dissolution.

1/ Source: Parliamentary Report No. 75, Norwegian Long-Term Programme 1978-1981.

In principle women and men have the same rights and responsibilities in relation to their children. However, as a general rule the woman alone has parental authority when the child is born out of wedlock. Women also have certain preferential rights to assume parental authority over small children in the event of separation and divorce.

During recent years common-law marriages have increased in number in Norway. Accordingly, a proposal for a new act has recently been made concerning matters relating to parents and children. 1/ The main purpose of the proposal is to promote equality between the mother and the father in rights and duties towards their children without regard to the legal status of their relationship.

The Government's family policy emphasizes clearly that all children born shall be wanted, and that they shall be secured a safe environment in which to grow up. Measures designed to achieve this aim include the further development of family guidance and efforts to encourage family planning.

In 1978, the Government made a proposal on contraception 2/ as well as a proposal for an act concerning abortion on demand until the twelfth week of pregnancy. 3/ The current act concerning abortion entered into force on 1 January 1979. Recent statistical information shows a slight decrease in demands for termination of pregnancy.

MCH Centres - a decentralized public health service where the aim is distinctly preventive - form an important anchor for parent education. This is also in accordance with the guidelines drawn up in the MCH Centres Act. 4/

It is vital that a policy to strengthen the family and avert social problems include both the family itself and the surrounding environment. The measures will be directed towards:

- greater stability and versatility in residential areas and local environment.
- more time for common activities in the family and for activity in the local community.
- improved housing conditions and residential environments.
- co-operation on common tasks in the local community.

1/ Norwegian Public Report (NOU) 1977:35, Act concerning children and parents (Children Act).

2/ Governmental proposal to the Storting No. 122, 1977-78, on contraception and assistance measures for disadvantaged pregnant women.

3/ Act of 13 June 1975 No. 50 concerning termination of pregnancy as amended by the Act of 16 June 1978 No. 66.

4/ Act dated 16 June 1962 concerning Mother and Child Health Centres and Health Measures for Children.

- decentralization of public services.
- improved arrangements for local activities in culture, sports, outdoor life, etc. 1/

(2) In Norway, no one is compelled to marry without his or her free and full consent. Relevant legal provisions are mentioned below, but in practice there is no need to apply them.

If a party has been forced to enter into the marriage through illegal conduct calculated to instil serious fear, he or she may demand judgement for annulment of the marriage, cf. first paragraph, subparagraph 5 of section 35 of the Marriage Act (annex 1). Section 221 of the General Civil Penal Code (Penal Code) of 22 May 1902 (annex 2) provides that anyone who enters into a marriage which the spouse can request to have annulled because of error or coercion, or who is accessory to such marriage being entered into, shall be punished with imprisonment up to four years.

In this connexion it seems natural to mention here that, subject to specific conditions, a maternity allowance is granted to a divorced or separated woman who is expecting a child. The maternity allowance, which is a lump sum payment at present amounting to approximately Nkr 5,600, is intended as financial support for the special expenses connected with the birth of the child.

(3) and (4) Subparagraphs (3) and (4) are most naturally answered together.

Family planning

The general view in Norway today is that family planning is both desirable and necessary. Every individual is entitled to ethical guidance, information on sex and personal relationships and advice on family planning, with the aim of creating a responsible attitude towards sex and personal relationships. It is felt that such knowledge and attitudes are essential, among other things in order to keep the number of unwanted pregnancies at a minimum. It is the local medical officer who is responsible for seeing that the municipalities work out a plan for the operation of MCH centres.

Mental hygiene measures - parent guidance

The Government aims to meet the increasing need for mental hygiene measures, including parent guidance, following in the wake of social changes.

Family advice

There are now 40 family advice centres in Norway, half of which are government-run and half run by the church. The family guidance facilities are to be extended,

1/ Source: Parliamentary Report No. 75, Norwegian Long-Term Programme 1978-81.

with the establishment of official centres in all counties still without them. The extension of facilities will include strengthening the offices which are at present understaffed. Measures have also been initiated in a number of fields concerned with mother-and-child health. Of special importance in this work is the Act relating to mother-and-child health centres and health measures for children etc. which was adopted on 16 June 1972 and entered into force on 1 April 1974. The purpose of the Act is to prevent inherited and acquired injuries to children, as well as to promote children's physical and mental health. By 31 December 1978, in all 1,313 MCH centres had been established in Norway.

In the field of psychiatry since 1978, under the Norwegian Association for the Mentally Handicapped, a parent-service scheme has so far been set up in three counties, with the aim of giving support to the parents of mentally handicapped children at the human and practical level in the first period. The scheme will represent a supplement to the primary health and social welfare services in the local community and the State provides a certain measure of financial support to the scheme.

Housing, social and income policies

The whole body of housing, social and incomes policies in Norway contains a great number of elements which directly or indirectly, purposely or not, facilitate the establishment of a family and help maintain, strengthen or protect the existing family.

As a general rule, families with children have a poorer economy than families in other phases of life. The Government therefore utilizes measures designed to keep the living expenses of the individual family at a reasonable level in relation to income. It has been particularly emphasized that housing costs for young families must not be too high.

A number of measures may be seen as specifically serving the purposes mentioned, reflecting and partially counteracting the fact that income is not fixed according to the size and composition of families.

- Family Allowances were introduced on 1 October 1946. The Act has since been amended.

With certain exceptions, any person supporting children under 16 years of age qualifies for benefits under this scheme. The children should be domiciled in Norway, but this rule may be waived by the National Insurance Institution according to certain regulations.

Benefits granted for each supported child under 16 years of age:

The annual benefits per 1 January 1979 are Nkr 804 for the first child, Nkr 2,028 for the second, Nkr 3,048 for the third, Nkr 3,324 for the fourth, and Nkr 612 for the fifth and for each additional child.

A lone parent receives benefits for one child more than the real number of supported children under 16 years.

/...

About 559,470 families received family allowances in 1978. Benefits were paid for a total of about 1,037,300 children, including about 2,030 children in various institutions. Expenditures for 1978 were Nkr 1,585 million.

- Child insurance for all children under the age of 16, exempt from taxation, paid monthly to (normally) the mother. Introduced in 1946, with progressive rates as from 1963. Today the rates are:

Nkr	67	monthly	for	families	with	1	child
"	236	"	"	"	"	2	children
"	490	"	"	"	"	3	children
"	767	"	"	"	"	4	children
"	1,068	"	"	"	"	5	children

Sole supporters (unmarried, widows, widowers, separated or divorced) are entitled to an incremental allowance, corresponding to the sum payable for a child below the age of 16.

- Tax deductions. A tax deduction is made for all children under the age of 17. In 1979 it is Nkr 900 (per year) per child. In addition, there are a number of other deduction possibilities, including for working wives and sole supporters and of interest payments on housing and other loans.

- A great number of families are today entitled to a housing subsidy based on the relationship between family income and housing expenses and/or to an investment subsidy based on the size of the dwelling, as well as qualifying for a low-interest housing loan, provided that the new dwelling is within specifications with regard to size, quality and total cost (construction and site).

- Each municipality has a social aid system, intended to "catch" those who are unable or do not have sufficient means to provide for themselves. It may offer additional pension, grants, loans, guarantees, paid work, and various services, including home aid.

At the turn of the year (1978/79) there were places in approved kindergartens for approximately 13 per cent of all children between 0-7 years of age.

- Measures to enable both parents to spend more time together with their children

Firstly, particular emphasis has been placed on providing more time to care for the children in connexion with birth, during the child's first years, and in sickness.

From 1 January 1977, the period during which an actively employed woman is permitted leave in connexion with pregnancy is extended from 12 to 18 weeks with full pay. A new feature in this legislation 1/ is the right of the father to take

1/ Working Environment Act.

out up to 12 of these weeks, with full pay. At the same time a new arrangement was introduced whereby a woman who has no paid work outside home is paid a cash-payment on the birth of a child. From 1978, employees, both mothers and fathers, each have the right to up to 10 days' absence from work per year with full pay in the event of children's illness.

Secondly, the Government desires to extend the time that parents are able to spend together with their children. Plans are being made to introduce provisional arrangements for reduced working hours for parents with small children, and efforts are also being made to improve possibilities of part-time work and flexible working arrangements for both women and men.

- Medical care is for the most part "free of charge" in Norway, i.e. paid for by public funds. This applies to all hospitals, as well as to the regular examination of infants and young children. In each individual case, the patient pays a minor part of the bill at the visits to a general practitioner or specialist.

- Child-care institutions

The Kindergarten Act 1/ concerning educational and other measures for the care of children under school age. The Act states that the kindergarten shall support and stimulate all aspects of the child's development.

The kindergarten is regarded as an important measure in the development of safe and socially stimulating environments for children of pre-school age. In practice, the kindergarten is also a means of relieving the family - especially the mother - of some of the child-care tasks. This gives the parent the opportunity to take a job outside the home or take part in community life: this function is obviously important for some families - e.g. one-parent families or families with a poor economy.

The Government tries to stimulate the building of kindergartens by providing economic support. The State covers an average of 30 per cent of the running costs of approved kindergartens. Similarly, the Norwegian State Housing Bank provides a loan to cover up to 85 per cent of building and construction costs.

B. Maternity protection

(1) The principal laws are:

- The National Insurance Act of 1 January 1967. The objective of the National Insurance Scheme is to provide benefits in the case of sickness, physical defect, pregnancy and birth, unemployment, old age, disablement, death and loss of supporter. The insurance scheme also provides support for unmarried mothers. (Cf. also art. 11, sect. A).

1/ Act dated 6 June 1975, No. 30 concerning kindergartens etc.

- Act of 4 October 1977 relating to Worker Protection and the Working Environment. The objective of the act is inter alia to achieve a working environment which assures the employees full safety against harmful physical and mental influences and which has safety, occupational health and welfare standards that correspond to the level of technology and social development of the society at large at any time. A copy of the Act is attached to this report (annex 3).

(2) In the case of pregnancy and delivery, the National Insurance Scheme provides medical benefits etc.

Medical benefits are granted in the form of repayment of costs of:

1. Physician's assistance.
2. Medical treatment and care in approved health institutions.
3. Midwife assistance.
4. Family planning by a physician and regular examination during pregnancy.
5. Running of health centres for children.

- Maternity allowance is paid as a lump sum benefit amounting to Nkr 3,040 (per 1 January 1979) to women who are not occupationally active.

(3) The National Insurance pays maternity allowance to occupationally active women for 108 days, of which not less than 36 should be after delivery. The maternity allowance is equal to the daily sickness allowance. In order to be entitled to the maternity allowance the woman must as a general rule have been working for not less than six out of the last ten months before delivery. When a woman resumes her work after delivery, but before having used up her right to maternity allowance, the father of the child may get the allowance for the remainder of the period, but for not more than 72 days, if he has to be absent from work on account of attending the child. To be entitled to a benefit corresponding to the maternity allowance, the father must fulfil the same requirements as the mother.

The Act of 4 October 1977 relating to Worker Protection and the Working Environment also contains provisions concerning protection for working mothers. There are provisions in regard to the right to leave of absence during pregnancy and confinement and following the birth of a child, the right to time off for breastfeeding and special provisions regarding protection against notice to leave during pregnancy and after confinement. There is also a provision regarding the right to leave of absence to attend sick children - a right applicable to both mothers and fathers. Moreover, it is a principle of the Act that women and men shall be placed on the same footing, which explains why there are no other special provisions in respect of working mothers.

/...

Other provisions in the Act which may be mentioned are that in cases of adoption the adoptive parents are entitled to leave of absence to care for the child for up to 46 weeks during the first year of the child's life, and otherwise up to three months when the child is under the age of 15; that a woman who is breastfeeding her child may demand the necessary time off; that an employee who is responsible for the care of a child under 10 years of age is entitled to leave of absence for essential attendance when the child is ill. The right to leave of absence is limited to 10 days per calendar year up to and including the year of the child's tenth birthday.

The Working Environment Act also contains special provisions for protection against notice to leave during pregnancy and after confinement.

As already mentioned the Working Environment Act applies to most categories of employee. The sectors of shipping, hunting and fishing, civil aviation and agriculture - all partly covered by special legislation - are exceptions.

One aim here, however, is to ensure that all women employees are ensured the same rights in connexion with childbirth. In several of the areas not covered by the Working Environment Act, legislation is now being brought into line with this, either by making the provisions of the Working Environment Act applicable to new categories or by incorporating corresponding provisions in the legislation applicable to the particular branches. Thus the Agricultural Workers' Act is at present being revised with the aim of ensuring employees in agriculture coverage under the Working Environment Act. The task of revising the Home Help Act and the Act on Home Industries Work has also been begun. It is probably too a result of the Working Environment Act that corresponding arrangements in regard to leave of absence are now often followed in practice also in the case of categories without any particular protection under the law.

(4) With effect from 15 March 1979, new regulations have been laid down for the reimbursement of the cost of hired help during sickness for farmers. The scheme is restricted to livestock production and applies to the farmer and the farmer's wife/husband.

An important change as compared with previous regulations in this area is that the reimbursement scheme has now been expanded so that, in connexion with pregnancy and confinement, reimbursement may be granted for a period of up to two months without a medical certificate. Although this is a shorter period than the pregnancy leave laid down in the Working Environment Act, this is at any rate a scheme established in line with the rights an employee has under the Working Environment Act.

Women who are self-employed are entitled to a maternity allowance for 18 weeks. This corresponds to the sickness benefit which today - without extra insurance - amounts to 65 per cent of the estimated income. This scheme also covers farmer's wives who do farm work when the income from the farm is shared between the spouses.

(5) A surviving spouse (widow or widower) under 67 is entitled to benefits under the National Insurance Scheme (cf. under art. 11A) when certain stipulations regarding insurance period and place of residence in this country have been met.

/...

A surviving spouse who is temporarily unable to work and thus to maintain himself or herself due to the care of children is granted a transitional benefit. The same applies if the spouse needs a period of readjustment or is undergoing training in order to obtain suitable work, and while the claim for a pension is being dealt with. The transitional benefit is fixed according to the same rules as for a pension.

Educational Training Allowances. If the surviving spouse needs education or training in order to be able to maintain himself or herself, totally or partly, the National Insurance covers according to special regulations necessary expenses for course and school fees and equipment, and examination fees. Reimbursement of the cost of travel and subsistence money may be granted to persons who must live away from home during the period of education or training. Grants or loans may also be given to cover expenses in connexion with travelling and moving in order to obtain paid employment, with the establishment of own enterprise, or in connexion with other objectives that are of vital importance for the surviving person's opportunities for work.

An assistance benefit is granted a surviving spouse who must leave the care of his/her children to someone else because of vocational training or work away from home. The benefit amounts to 20 per cent of the basic amount.

Where a widow gives birth to a child whose father is her deceased husband, she is entitled following delivery to a maternity allowance amounting to 37 per cent of the basic amount. In particular cases the allowance may be paid out, wholly or in part, before the birth.

Pension. A widow or widower is entitled to a pension if the marriage has lasted for at least five years, but irrespective of the period of marriage if there were children of the marriage or if the widow or widower is in charge of the deceased person's children.

Full basic pension is granted if the insurance period of the deceased reckoned up to his 67th year is 40 years or more. A shorter period of insurance involves a proportional reduction of the basic pension. The insurance period of the surviving spouse, reckoned up to the 67th year, forms the basis of the size of the pension if this period is longer than that of the deceased.

Children under 18 who have lost their father or mother, or both, are entitled to a pension.

If one parent is dead the first child will get an annual pension corresponding to 40 per cent of the basic amount. Each of the other children will get 25 per cent of the basic amount. If the mother is dead and paternity has not been decided, pension is granted as if both parents were dead.

Where both parents are dead, the first child will receive a pension equal to a survivor's pension - basic pension plus supplementary pension - for that parent who would have been entitled to the higher pension. The second child will receive 40 per cent and the remaining children 25 per cent each of the basic amount.

/...

The total pension amount shall be divided equally among the children.

C. Protection of children and young persons

(1) The following general provisions should be mentioned:

- The Act relating to Mother and Child Health Centres which provides statutory authority for regular health checks of children and pregnant women, as well as preventive health work to ensure children's physical and mental health.
- The Equal Status Act and Section 135a in the General Civil Penal Code which protect children against discriminatory treatment on account of sex, religion, race or ethnic origins.
- The Basic School Act which gives all children between 7 and 16 years of age, including children with physical or mental handicaps, the "right to an education in accordance with their abilities and qualifications".
- The Kindergarten Act which aims to ensure good opportunities for the development and activities of children in close understanding and co-operation with the home.
- The Working Environment Act which contains a general prohibition against child labour, as well as provisions limiting and regulating the employment of children over 13 years of age.
- The Child Welfare Act which charges the Municipal Juvenile Welfare Boards to keep themselves fully informed of the conditions under which children and young persons live and to promote measures for the improvement of child welfare in the municipality.

The Government has also in a White Paper from 1977 emphasized the following goals with relation to public measures to ensure children's welfare:

- A fundamental aim with regard to children's upbringing is security - economic security, the security of good health, traffic-free areas for play and recreation.
- It is important that children grow up in surroundings which stimulate their imagination and which provide contact with both adults and children in the environment closest to them.
- It is also important to provide a basis upon which children can grow up regarding each other as equals, thus levelling out the social and economic divisions between children from different parts of society and from other parts of the country.
- The measures implemented by public authorities to ensure children's welfare must be based upon the concepts of solidarity and equality.

/...

Children's upbringing must also reflect equality between the sexes, and international solidarity must be stressed. This requires that children are schooled in the concept of democracy and that they learn to act within it. Thus it is important that they be allowed to decide on issues which directly affect their lives, and that they assume an increasing burden of responsibility as they grow up.

(2) According to Section 46 of the Penal Code, no one may be punished for an act committed before he has completed his 14th year. Minors under this age may only be subject to treatment measures in accordance with the Child Welfare Act of 17 July 1953 No. 14. If the offender has completed his 14th, but not his 18th year, the public prosecutor may transfer the case to the Juvenile Welfare Board instead of charging him or deciding to waive prosecution.

(3) Children and young persons are protected by the general provisions in the Penal Code concerning felonies against another's person, life and health (Chap. 22 -- enclosed) and felonies against personal liberty (Chap. 21 - enclosed). Also Sections 215-218 are of interest, aiming particularly at protecting young persons.

Further, a child welfare system has been established in Norway in pursuance of the Child Welfare Act of 17 July 1953. The child welfare system has a municipally elected Municipal Juvenile Welfare Board at local level with the County Governor and Ministry of Health and Social Affairs as superior agencies.

According to the Child Welfare Act the Municipal Juvenile Welfare Boards shall follow closely the conditions in which children and young people live and also work for measures to improve child welfare facilities in the municipality. The committee is to co-operate to the greatest possible extent with the authorities, institutions and associations and with others whose functions have a bearing on child welfare.

In pursuance of Section 16 of the Child Welfare Act the Municipal Juvenile Welfare Board may implement protective measures in respect of children under the age of 18 who:

(a) are so treated or live under such conditions that their health (physical and mental) or development is liable to be impaired or is seriously endangered,

(b) through breaking the law or other conduct exhibit such lack of adjustment to their environment or to society that special measures seem to be necessary,

(c) have no one to support them, or whose parents are unable to support them properly, and who are not otherwise properly cared for,

(d) are sick or physically, mentally or otherwise handicapped, and steps have not been taken to give them the care or treatment which they need and which in the circumstances can be given.

The Municipal Juvenile Welfare Board may implement preventive measures. According to Section 18 of the Act these measures may be the following:

/...

(a) place the home under supervision by appointing a supervisor for the child as provided in chapter VI;

(b) furnish economic assistance to the home, in the form of money, goods or services, out of funds appropriated by the local authority for preventive measures, cf. section 61. Before such assistance is furnished, the Committee shall consult with the Social Welfare Board;

(c) ensure that the child is placed in a kindergarten, day nursery, recreation centre or similar institution;

(d) ensure that a child over school age is put in school for further education or is apprenticed or otherwise given employment without being removed from home. Before such a measure is taken, the committee shall confer with a vocational consultant or other expert;

(e) ensure that a child referred to in section 16 (d), is given care or treatment and is reported to the appropriate authority if he comes under the provisions of a special Act.

Measures set forth in subparagraphs (c) to (e) may, if necessary, be given effect through an order to the parents.

If preventive measures are considered to be useless or have proved unavailing, the Board may in pursuance of Section 19 assume custody and place the child elsewhere outside the home. If the parents do not consent to assumption of custody by the Board, the court may take over the Board's responsibility for dealing with the case.

(4) The Working Environment Act contains in Section 34 a principal rule to the effect that persons under the age of 15 shall not be employed for work covered by the Act. By way of exemption persons aged 13 or more may be employed for light work from which their health, development and schooling will not suffer. Further, subject to the consent of the Labour Inspection, persons under the age of 16 may be employed in theatre performances etc., the condition being that such work does not damage their health, safety, development or schooling. Finally persons over the age of 14 may be employed for work as an element of their schooling or of practical vocational guidance when the work cannot be detrimental to their health or development. The training programme involving such work shall be approved by the education authorities (Sect. 35c).

The provision contained in Section 15 of Act No. 24 of 13 June 1969 concerning the Basic School also applies where the employment of young workers is concerned. It imposes on the employer the duty to see to it that school pupil's working hours outside the school are organized in such a way as to avoid any detrimental effect to their schoolwork.

Where special rules applying to working hours for young workers are concerned, Section 38 contains a provision to the effect that workers under the age of 18 must not be employed for overtime work. Further, it is laid down that working hours for

/...

children and young people shall be arranged so as not to prevent school attendance necessary for their education, or prevent them benefiting from the teaching.

According to Section 37 of the Act, nightwork is prohibited for young workers.

As regards penalties, the Act contains in Section 85 a provision regarding fine or imprisonment for any employer who wilfully or through negligence commits a breach of the provisions or orders contained in or issued by virtue of the Act. According to Section 88 any parent or guardian who allows a child or young person under the age of 18 to perform work contrary to the provisions of this Act shall be liable to a fine.

As mentioned under Part C concerning protection of mothers, the Working Environment Act does not apply to all groups of workers. Nevertheless children and young persons are specially protected in most fields by age-limit provisions and provisions applying to the kind of work operation for which children may be employed. In this field too work is in progress on harmonization. The aim is that all children shall be provided with the protection afforded by the Working Environment Act.

(5) Where dangerous work is concerned the Working Environment Act contains no special provisions applying to children and young people. However, the objective of the Act is that all workers shall be ensured a working environment providing full security against harmful physical and mental effects. With special reference to children attention is drawn to the provisions referred to in item 4 which lay down that the work must not be to the detriment of their health, development or schooling.

Section 36 of the Act contains provisions regarding medical examinations for the protection of young employees. The principal rule is that before any person under the age of 18 is engaged for work covered by this Act, it must be ascertained by medical examination that there is no medical reason to prevent his taking such work. A provision in Section 40 regarding the employer's duty to keep a list of the children and young people in his employ shall also ensure that children and young people work under especially safe conditions.

Special mention may be made of the age limit of 18 that has been fixed for work on the installations for extracting petroleum in the North Sea.

As regards penalties reference is made to item 4 above. For groups of workers not covered by the Working Environment Act reference is also made above.

Article 11: Right to an adequate standard of living.

A. General and specific measures

The National Insurance Act entered into force on 1 January 1967, and replaced the previous schemes relating to old age pensions (1936), disability benefits (1961), widows' and mothers' pensions (1965), survivor benefits for children (1957) and rehabilitation assistance (1961). As from 1 January, health insurance (1911),

/...

unemployment insurance (1939) and occupational injury insurance (1895-1960) have also been incorporated in the National Insurance Scheme.

The object of the National Insurance is to provide benefits in the case of sickness, physical defect, pregnancy and birth, unemployment, old age, disablement, death and loss of supporter. The insurance scheme also provided support for unmarried mothers.

The National Insurance Scheme covers - with a few exceptions - all persons domiciled in Norway, irrespective of their citizenship. Persons who are not domiciled in Norway but are paid employees in this country are also included.

When National Insurance was introduced in 1967, a supplementary pension which was graded in accordance with income was part of the system, and pensions and periodical benefits were at the same time related on a permanent basis to the cost of living and the general income level at any time.

Through the introduction of National Insurance the concept of insurance policy was greatly extended. Henceforth citizens were not only to be guaranteed minimum benefits: the aim was now to help them and their families to maintain their previous standard of living to which they had become accustomed at the time when their income from work discontinued. As a parallel to these various benefits, an effort is being made to increase the rehabilitation measures for handicapped persons in such a way that the insured person may have possibilities of resuming his former occupational activities.

Early in 1977 the Storting adopted new statutes concerning daily sickness allowance. These provisions entered into force on 1 July 1978 and affect all employees, employers, and self-employed persons.

Daily sickness allowance to employees corresponds to 100 per cent of the income from the employment as from and including the first day of absence. The employer is required to pay out the daily sickness allowance during the first two weeks of the employee's absence from work. This period of time is called the "employer period".

To be entitled to most National Insurance cash benefits a minimum pension earning period is required, in most cases three years. The pension earning period serves as a basis for the calculation of the basic pension (see below).

The period of time during which one has been insured according to the National Insurance Act after one's 16th birthday is considered as the pension earning period. If the insured person is domiciled in Norway when claiming benefits, periods of residence in Norway before 1 January 1967 are also considered as pension earning periods. If a case involving support occurs before the insured person has reached the age of 67, the time until the person in question reaches the age of 67 shall also be counted as pension earning period.

A most important aim of the National Insurance Scheme is to ensure that the rates of benefit are adjusted to the changes in the general level of prices, in order to give the recipients their share of the general increase in prosperity.

/...

Therefore, the scheme has been built up around an adjustable basic amount. Most cash benefits are fixed in relation to this basic amount. As from 1 January 1979 the basic amount was fixed at Nkr 15,200.

The basic amount of the National Insurance Scheme is to be adjusted each year in accordance with the changes in the general income level and the cost of living. Consequently, the various cash benefits are adjusted automatically in proportion to the basic amount.

Developments during recent years have had an immense impact on the insurance expenditure of the national budget. During 1979 the estimated expenditure of the National Insurance will amount to Nkr 32,732 million and will thus be equal to approximately two thirds of the total direct taxation accruing to the State and the municipalities.

Some of the larger approximate figures of the budget for 1979 are the following, in Nkr million:

Sickness insurance	8,420
Daily sickness allowance	4,200
Unemployment insurance	570
Rehabilitation	690
Old-age pensions	10,910
Disability pensions etc.	4,520
Survivor's pensions	1,050
Children's pensions	140
Benefits to unmarried mothers	280
Death grants	150
Miscellaneous expenses (incl. reserves)	10
Administration	790
Benefits related to former occupational injury insurance	100
Benefits related to war pensions to home guard forces and civilians	380
Refunds related to benefits to divorced and separated providers	110
Government securities for bankruptcy	15
Grants for telephones to the elderly and disabled	27
Extended holidays for employees over 60	185
Advance payment of maintenance allowances for children	<u>185</u>
Total	<u>32,732</u>

/...

Special provisions apply for old people and pensioners. The most important are:

- old-age pension from the National Insurance Scheme, consisting of a minimum pension and a supplementary pension,
- municipal supplementary pensions, varying somewhat in amount between different municipalities. These pensions are subject to financial means testing which relates both to the size of the pensions and other incomes/assets,
- certain tax reliefs pursuant to the Taxation Act, for example special allowances based on age, and reliefs consequent on major outlays in the event of illness or owing to diminished taxable capacity.

The Social Welfare Act of 5 June 1964 further requires the individual municipality to provide financial assistance to any person living in the municipality who is not in a position to support themselves or to provide for their own needs. The intention of this Act is to "provide a safety net" for those whose needs are met neither by the national insurance system nor by other social welfare legislation.

Under this item it should also be mentioned that Norway has a support scheme for divorced and separated family providers (both men and women) who are alone in caring for children (Act of 17 December 1971). According to the scheme, benefits may be awarded for necessary living expenses, subject to more detailed conditions. This benefit is intended to go towards the provider's own daily expenses - not to the child's. The benefit is also paid by the month and currently amounts to about Nkr 1,770 per month. If the provider for work or educational reasons has to leave necessary supervision of children to others, an allowance may be granted for child supervision. This allowance is also paid by the month and currently amounts to about Nkr 250 per month. In special cases the allowance may be increased.

If the provider needs education or training in order to support himself, an educational benefit may be awarded. In such cases the benefit covers actual educational expenses.

B. Right to adequate food

(1) The most relevant document is the Parliamentary Report on nutrition and food policy which the Ministry of Agriculture submitted in 1976. The report envisaged the co-ordination of several important objectives and considerations as regards nutrition and food policy:

- Healthy dietary habits should be encouraged.
- A nutrition and food policy should be formulated in accordance with the recommendations of the WFC.

/...

- For reasons connected with the question of supply, the policy should aim at increased production and consumption of domestic food and at strengthening the ability to rapidly increase the level of self-sufficiency in the food supply.

(2) (a) Agricultural production

It is the aim of the Norwegian Government to promote a rational farm structure through land reclamation, investment in soil improvement and buildings and amalgamation of small holdings to form larger and more viable farms. This aim is pursued by a number of regulations and policy measures some of which have been amended in recent years. The new Allodial Act of 28 June 1974 gives priority right to the eldest child to take over the farm. Before 1974 the first priority was given exclusively to the boy-child at the cost of the girl-child regardless of her age. The Act gives the person who holds first priority the right to take over the farm intact. As about 90 per cent of all transfers take place between close relatives, the latter regulation has limited the fragmentation of farms.

The Land Act of 18 March 1955 with amendments in 1974 aims at promoting an expedient use of land with regard to the interests of society and those who are occupied in agriculture. The Act provides the legal basis for protection of farmland in regard to agriculture and it requires arable land to be used in agricultural production in accordance with normal farm management practice. In the event of mismanagement, the farmer may be compelled to lease his land to others; in exceptional cases the State can expropriate the property.

Purchase of real estate is subject to special permission according to the Concession Act of 31 May 1974, latest amended on 28 June 1974, which provides the legal basis for control and regulation of transfer of real estate. The Act aims at protecting farming areas with regard to the different interests of agriculture, horticulture and forestry, the needs for urban development and the general interest of society with respect to outdoor life and protection of nature. In order to be allowed to buy a farm, the buyer must have the necessary professional qualifications for operating a farm. Furthermore, he/she must take up residence on the farm and operate it for at least five years. It is also a condition that the farm should be capable of providing a sufficient income for the operator and his family, either as the sole source of income or in combination with other occupations, and that the area belonging to the farm should be properly situated in relation to the farm buildings. The latter regulation aims at promoting a rational farm structure. The Act also gives consideration to an acceptable development in real estate prices. To achieve the general objectives of the Act, the State is given a pre-emption right to real estate for which the concession regulation applies. This applies also to farms and farmland to be used for structural rationalization in agriculture.

The Reindeer Husbandry Act of 9 June 1978 should also be mentioned. Its purpose is to arrange conditions so as to facilitate an exploitation of reindeer grazing resources that is beneficial to society and that is effected in such a way as to provide secure economic and social conditions and to guarantee the rights of those whose profession is reindeer husbandry and to preserve reindeer

/...

husbandry as an important factor in the Sami (Lapp) culture. The societal interests involved include due consideration for settlement, industry and economic, social and cultural development in general in the areas in question which to a large extent are peripheral areas. Also including due consideration for the Sami (Lapp) population's distinctive features, traditions and culture, rooted as they are in a way of life that is strongly linked to reindeer husbandry.

In 1971 the Agricultural Development Fund was established to co-ordinate support for investments in agriculture and to promote the best possible use of available means in accordance with the objectives of the Land Act. The Fund provides grants for drainage, irrigation projects, purchase of additional land, construction and major repairs of farm buildings, silos, levelling of farmland etc.

Agricultural policy aims at increasing the farmland from 8 to 9 mill. decares by 1990. It is assumed that three quarters of the increase in production will take place in the remote or less favourable economic regions.

(b) Fish production

Development and utilization of the living resources of the sea plays an important role in the Norwegian food policy. Of a total world catch of approximately 70 million tonnes, Norway has in recent years contributed approximately 3 million tonnes, thus placing her among the top fishing nations. Although it is a stated objective to work towards a significant increase in global catches one might not realistically expect any significant expansion in total Norwegian catches. On the contrary the catch trends are now for far lower catches in Norwegian waters in the short- and medium-term.

Indeed, increasingly with the development of modern fishing technology and the resulting vast increase in harvesting capacity it has become imperative to promote first and foremost an effective conservation policy in relation to the fish stocks located adjacent to the Norwegian coast.

Practically all of these resources have been subject to overfishing in recent years, thus offering ample evidence of the inadequacy of the international bodies for fisheries management, such as the Commission for the North East Atlantic Fisheries, as instruments designed to promote effective management and conservation measures.

Significant steps have, however, been taken to reverse this trend. Thus, acting in accordance with the principles conceived at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Norway established an exclusive economic zone of 200 nautical miles from 1 January 1977 to cover the most important fishing grounds in the waters adjacent to her coast. With the establishment of the economic zone, Norway has assumed exclusive rights to the management and exploitation of the fishing resources under her jurisdiction, but is at the same time under an obligation, under international law, to promote an optimal utilization of such resources.

This fundamental transformation of the structure of "ownership" over the very substantial fish stocks in the North Atlantic area has left Norway with a great responsibility, and with equally great opportunities for our fishing industry.

/...

National measures have already been implemented to reverse the trend of excessive exploitation and subsequent depletion of the fish stocks. In particular, total catch quotas have been fixed in accordance with the recommendations of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), a scientific body charged with the task of servicing the North Atlantic region with advice and guidelines in relation to stock developments and appropriate rates of exploitation. A new sense of urgency in relation to conservation requirements already seems manifest, and now given the national, as opposed to the former international context of fisheries management, it has become politically more feasible to subordinate short-term economic considerations to the need for long-term planning, i.e. to sustain significant short-term catch reductions when long-term conservation requirements so dictate. It is thus characteristic that the catches accounted for by Norwegian fishermen in 1978 amounted to 2.4 million tonnes, a reduction of 20 per cent in relation to the previous year.

Given the unavoidable uncertainty connected with the development of the fish stocks, it is invariably difficult to produce reliable long-term assessments of future prospects for the fishing industry. It is thus to be considered a major event when the Ministry of Fisheries, in Report to the Storting No 18 (1977-1978), presented a first and comprehensive plan for the development of the Norwegian fishing industry. In particular estimates were presented regarding future sustainable catch rates and provision outlined to reduce the catch capacity of our fishing fleet to make it accord better with the resource base available to it.

The national execution of a modern fishery cannot be envisaged without a comprehensive and often detailed set of regulatory provisions, and no over-all policy objective relating to the development and utilization of the fish stocks can be achieved without a capacity for detailed planning down to the lowest level. In this connexion, Norway has benefited and continues to benefit from a well developed and professional national administrative machinery in the fishery sector. It is a machinery of long standing and with close contact and ties with the fishing community. In total, close on 1,000 people are employed in administrative and research institutions responsible for fisheries.

(3) (a) Agricultural production and research

In spite of a continuous decrease in the number of people employed in agriculture during the last 20-30 years, output has increased rather significantly. The production of grain, potatoes and fodder crops increased from an average of 1,575 million feed units in 1916-1920 to 2,300 million feed units in 1971-1975. The average yield of wheat in 1925 was 150 kilograms per decare and in 1975 307 kilograms per decare. The milk production increased from 1,500 kilograms per cow in 1945 to 4,600 kilograms per cow in 1974. Similar developments could be shown for several other agricultural products. They are due to the utilization of new types of plant breeding, extended use of fertilizer, improved soil management, and more efficient techniques in farm production. In addition to an extended animal breeding the improvement of quantity and quality of fodder crops has been an important goal for research work.

In addition to increase of yield per unit, the improvement of the quality of the agricultural production has been subject to comprehensive research work, e.g. to lower the fat content of milk and to produce leaner pigs. Significant results have been achieved in this field during the last 30 years. Research results are fortunately often applied in practice without delay by interested farmers, and the knowledge is further disseminated through the "Agricultural Information Service" to a large number of farmers. Furthermore, Norway is free of the majority of livestock diseases, including rabies. In order to prevent domestic livestock from being exposed to health hazards, Norway maintains a complete ban on imports of live animals, animal products and other products that may carry diseases.

(b) Fish production

As referred to above, the over-all quantity of total catches will to a large degree depend on factors beyond immediate human control. However, it is assumed that given adequate biological knowledge and data on the state of the fish stocks, calculated decisions can be made to achieve an estimated long term yield at a maximum possible level. It must be accepted, however, that in relation to the living resources an independent model of output maximization will fail to take into account the essentially finite nature of the ocean's living resources.

In the field of aquaculture the position is wholly different. In this sector, target levels are indeed amenable to arbitrary human planning. On a global basis aquacultural production is making an increasingly important contribution to the total output of fish and fish products (approx. 10 mill. tonnes in 1976).

In Norway, aquaculture has traditionally made a modest contribution to the total national output of fish and fish products. In 1971 total output was a mere 500 tonnes.

However, the last decade has seen the gradual development of a viable aquacultural industry in Norway, with salmon and trout as the most important and valuable species under cultivation. In 1973 an Act was passed making the establishment of aquacultural production facilities dependent on a public license, a provision chiefly designed to secure a rational and controlled further development of the industry. State sponsored and financed research institutions are playing an important role in the development of new production techniques.

Current research is also concerned with identifying possibilities for widening the scope of aquacultural production in Norway. In this connexion experiments relating to the development of the coastal cod stock in southern Norway are of great significance.

(c) Fisheries research

Norway is well endowed with specialized institutions concerned with fisheries research. In recent years, financial provisions made available to this sector have been in the region of Nkr 60-70 million.

A co-ordinating body (the Norwegian Council for Fisheries Research) responsible

/...

for over-all planning in this sector was set up in 1971, with responsibility for the activities of a number of more specialized research institutions, covering areas such as vessel and marine engineering, development of new processing techniques, and the development of new fishing gear and catch techniques. In the field of processing techniques, valuable research is currently being carried out designed to enhance the utilization of certain species of fish for human consumption and thus increase the total international benefits derived from available fish resources. Much effort has also been expended on developing a high quality fish protein concentrate in the form of fishmeal (the so-called FPC type B), designed for human consumption. Towards this end Norway had the pleasure of hosting and financing an international seminar in 1975 (at Svanøy) where discussion was devoted to a better utilization of this fish meal product in the diets of needy groups.

The main Norwegian research institution, the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, is chiefly concerned with the monitoring and assessment of the fish stocks of the sea. The assessments made, and the subsequent advice rendered, constitute an integral and essential part of the process of planning a policy of rational development and utilization of the living resources. The Institute has at its disposal three modern research vessels which are extensively operated both in Norwegian waters and on an international co-operative basis.

(4) A number of scientific institutions in agriculture are working continuously on improvements in crop harvesting systems and conservation. Losses during harvesting have been reduced by partly improved and/or redesigned agricultural equipment and partly by improved harvesting routines. In similar ways improvements have been made in methods and equipment for hay-making, grain harvesting and storage, the utilization of straw, milking and milk-handling, harvesting and storage of fruit and vegetables etc. To achieve sufficient crop size and quality, plant-protection chemicals (herbicide, fungicide and insecticide) are in regular use in Norway in both horticulture and agriculture. Crops like fruits, vegetables, potatoes, cereals and others are sprayed every year. Approximately 90 per cent of the plant protection chemicals are sprayed by crop sprayers with spraybooms.

The knowledge gained on improvements is disseminated through publications, seminars, demonstrations etc. to farmers, the extension service and to the producers of equipment.

Furthermore, agricultural production, the consumer industry and food consumption produce large quantities of waste. Some of this waste, such as butchery waste, whey and manure, is now utilized for fodder production, soil improvement or other use.

Substantial efforts are being made to increase the utilization of straw and food waste in fodder production. New methods of straw conditioning have already proved successful, and experiments using straw as a basic constituent in feed concentrate pellets are being developed. Such a utilization opens up the possibility of adding other waste products such as butchery waste, fish waste and food refuse. An experimental production unit employing this principle will be in operation from the autumn of 1979.

/...

A new and promising method presently being tested is the mixing of sterilized food waste into ordinary feed concentrate pellets, which is advantageous for handling and storing compared to that of traditional waste fodder, which is fluid. This new method is expected to be an important means for the increased utilization of food waste in the future. In addition to the recycling effect, the method will lead to a reduction of the environmental disadvantages caused by the great number of solid waste land fills.

(5) (a) Agricultural products

The formulation and implementation of the aims and means of Norwegian agricultural policy including the major state programmes for prices and price support and market regulation are based on a very close co-operation between the State and the farm organizations. The formal basis for the co-operation is the Agricultural Agreements Regime which is made up of the Basic Agreement for Agriculture and the short-term agricultural agreements.

There are guaranteed prices for grain and wool only; for other products the prices established in the agreement are target prices. The farmers' co-operatives are responsible for regulating the markets and consequently for securing the target prices for their products. The necessary funds for these market regulations are provided in accordance with the agreement. Through the system of markets regulation and a deliberate policy to regulate and distribute production mainly through fixed price regulations, Norway has succeeded in establishing a high degree of price stability in the markets.

Beside the price support scheme and market regulations there are programmes for supporting transportation of milk, carcasses, eggs, fruit, a provision regarding quality control of eggs, packaging support for fruit, vegetables and berries as well as operational support for warehousing of fruit.

(b) Fish products

Special importance is attached to the organization of marketing and sales bodies, with a strictly defined mandate relating either to a specific area or to a certain species of fish. So-called sales companies (Salgslag) were established by degrees in the years 1927-1947. These sales organizations have been granted a monopoly in selling the fishermen's catch. Furthermore, according to the Act of 14 December 1951 relating to the Sale and Marketing of Fish, the Rawfish Act (Råfiskloven), all fishermen are under a legal obligation to deliver their catches to the relevant sales company. The Act conversely places an obligation on the sales organization to receive the fishermen's catch. The structure of fish marketing in Norway has therefore a distinctly co-operative element, with a consequent avoidance of price competition amongst fishermen and a subsequent price stabilization effect in general. However, diverse market and price conditions for the different fish products have often created an undue inequality between the different sectors of the fishing community. It is therefore the declared intention of the Government as set out in Report to the Storting No 18, 1977-1978, to seek a further co-ordination of the activities of the different existing sales organizations with a view to achieving the maximum distribution of benefits to the fishing community as a whole.

/...

Through the Norwegian Fishermen's Bank, which was established in 1943, credit facilities and lending operations at favourable interest rates have been made available in connexion with the fishermen's purchase of new vessels or modernization of existing ones. In addition, favourable credits have been made available in connexion with the establishment and modernization of land-based production facilities. In 1979, lending operations through the Fishermen's Bank amounted to Nkr 300 mill. whilst the corresponding average for the 1970s has been in the region of Nkr 400 mill.

It has been a central objective to develop similar wage rates in the different sectors of the Norwegian economy, and thus produce a competitive wage rate for the primary industries, vis-à-vis the industrial manufacturing sector. In particular the development of a competitive wage for the fishing sector must be considered in close connexion with the overriding objective of stimulating recruitment of the profession, which is less able than before to rely on traditional bonds of loyalty generated by often long standing familial ties with the fishing profession. In pursuance of this objective, a general agreement was entered into in 1965 between the Norwegian Fishermen's Association (Norges Fiskarlag) and the government, giving the Association the right to demand negotiations concerning financial support to the fishing industry whenever the average wage rate in the fishing sector was considered to have reached a low level. Following this agreement, annual arrangements relating to the extent and nature of public financial assistance to the fishing sector have been agreed. In 1979, public financial transfers to the fishery sector amounted to Nkr 640 mill. of which price subsidies accounted for by far the greatest part. In recent years the level of public aid to this sector has been in the order of Nkr 400-500 mill.

For 1979, the aid arrangements are stipulated on the basis of a calculated average wage for Norwegian fishermen of approximately Nkr 70,000.

(c) Other measures

As a consequence of the higher cost of living in the northern part of Norway which in turn is due in part to higher transport costs, a special grant scheme has been established whose aim is to even out the discrepancies in the cost of living between north and south Norway. Further, through the agricultural agreements a comprehensive system of market regulation has been built up which also contains built-in arrangements for levelling out transport costs.

Marketing control in general is carried out by the "Consumer Ombudsman". The Consumer Ombudsman enforces the Act relating to Marketing Control from 1972 whose purpose is to prevent the utilization of irresponsible, unhealthy or unreasonable marketing methods. In the event of the Act being violated the Consumer Ombudsman shall endeavor to effect an alteration in the marketing practice concerned through voluntary agreement, and may otherwise submit cases to a special committee, the Market Council, which may on certain conditions issue a ban on the marketing practice in question. In certain special cases the Consumer Ombudsman himself may issue such a ban.

/...

(6) In the Parliamentary Report mentioned earlier it is specifically stated that the primary condition for a good standard of nutrition in the population is the availability of sufficient quantities of food so as to ensure that the requirements regarding a sufficient supply of energy and a sufficient supply of the necessary nutrients are met.

Developments have meant that the supply of food has become more plentiful and that the supply of energy and nutrients provides the basis for an improved diet. It has however, turned out that a plentiful supply of food is no guarantee of a healthwise entirely satisfactory diet. Several diseases associated with nutrition have markedly increased in frequency in those countries where there has been a plentiful supply of food and where prosperity has increased most.

The most serious factor is the increase in cardio-vascular diseases, but other developments also give cause for concern. The Government is accordingly preparing a policy which is to help to:

- preserve the advantageous aspects of our diet. Conditions are to be arranged so as to facilitate the improved adaptation of the diet to nutritional requirements at the same time as importance is attached to ordinary requirements regarding flavour, variation and comprehensiveness;
- in order to achieve improved adaptation of the diet to nutritional requirements it is especially important to reduce the proportion of fat in the energy supply;
- in order to compensate for the decline in the supply of fat the consumption of starchy foods - in the first instance grain and potatoes - should be increased;
- increase the proportion of poly-unsaturated fatty acids in the total intake of fat.

In 1979 the new National Nutrition Council was appointed. The task of the Council is to act as advisory agency to public authorities, management and labour and voluntary organizations in questions relating to nutrition and food supply. The Council shall also supply diet information, provide for the description, analysis and assessment of the diet and supply situation in Norway, assess the effect of the work performed on nutrition and make proposals for measures with a view to bringing positive influence to bear on undesirable situations.

Further, in 1975 special labelling regulations were introduced in Norway which lay down provisions regarding the labelling of nutritional content on prepacked foods that are supplied with vitamins, minerals, proteins etc. or which in advertisements or by other means are claimed to be healthy or especially nutritious. The provisions apply to foods for special dietary purposes and include in particular slimming agents, children's food and foods whose nutrition value the users especially need to know for other reasons.

(7) (a) Agricultural products

The Agricultural Products Act of 17 June 1932 empowers the Government to issue provisions for the quality of agricultural products. In this connexion regulations may be issued referring inter alia to handling, composition, quantity, size, packing and labelling. The most important measure for quality improvement is that products not satisfying the quality requirement can be debarred from the market.

Trade in grain and cereal products is monopolized according to the Grain Supply Act. The State is responsible for ensuring proper quality, although statutory quality provisions have not been established. The State monopoly, however, stipulates requirements regarding the quality and sets prices according to these requirements.

(b) Fish products

Public control of the quality of fish products is established in the Act of 28 May 1959, empowering the Ministry of Fisheries to issue regulations relating to general quality requirements of fish products and rules concerning their production and processing. Special regulations have been established for the fish canning industry and for fish meal production. Recent years have seen the development towards a wider nationally co-ordinated control system with food-stuffs and their quality and production.

In an international context Norway has taken an active part in the work carried out under the auspices of Codex Alimentarius, with inter alia Norwegian chairmanship of the Codex committee with special responsibility for fish and fish products.

(c) Other measures

In conformity with the Act of 24 May 1979 concerning the Labelling of Consumer Goods it has been resolved that prepacked food-stuffs shall be labelled so as to ensure consumers sufficient information on prepacked food-stuffs by means of compulsory data regarding the quantity as well as the composition of the article. In addition information must be provided on durability.

(8) In 1976 a special steering group was set up under the National Nutrition Council to promote nutrition and health. The group was assigned the task of planning, implementing and directing such measures as may be necessary to strengthen informational activity concerning nutrition and health. The group has worked on the following task, among others:

- allocated funds, appropriated by the Storting, to organizations, groups and individuals in support of their information regarding nutrition and diet;
- published information on Norwegian nutrition and food supply policy;
- arranged nutrition conferences;

/...

- specialist nutritional assessment of informational material.

(9) Norway's participation in international co-operation can be summarized as follows:

World Food Council

Norway has observer status.

FAO

Norway participates actively in the work of the FAO.

Financial support is given to

- The FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme
- The FAO/Norway fishery research vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen.
- The FAO Programme for the Development and Management of Fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones.
- The FAO/Norway Co-operative Programme (Multi-bi).

IFAD

Norway has played an active role in the establishment of IFAD. Norwegian contribution to IFAD during the first pledging period (1978-80) totals Nkr 130 million.

CGIAR

Norwegian contribution in 1979 was Nkr 10 million.

ACC sub-committee on nutrition

Norway is actively taking part in the work of ACC-SCN.

Norwegian Food Aid

(i) World Food Programme

Norway has supported the World Food Programme (WFP) since its inception in 1963. Norway is now among the most important donors and the contributions during the last years have been as follows:

- 1976: Nkr 81 million.
- 1977: Nkr 103 million.
- 1978: Nkr 145 million.
- 1979: (estimate) Nkr 110 million.

/...

the tenancy right is conditional upon the loan. The condition requiring the tenant to provide a loan in order to acquire the right to rent a dwelling is only permissible in connexion with the erection, alteration, furnishing or modernization of the dwelling or in connexion with the redemption of a mortgage encumbent on the dwelling or property to which the dwelling belongs.

The Act concerning Co-operative Building Associations and the Act concerning Housing Co-operatives were both passed on 4 February 1960 and were amended by law on 29 April 1977.

A co-operative building association is an enterprise with limited liability and variable capital whose purpose is - on behalf of the shareholders either individually or organized in housing co-operatives - to procure an apartment building and other buildings naturally belonging together with this building. A housing co-operative may be set up by the co-operative building association alone, which on behalf of the housing co-operative erects, and in the event acquires, an apartment building and subsequently transfers the shares to the share-holders in the co-operative building association. In this way a need is met for good, reasonable dwellings for people who for various reasons do not wish or are unable to acquire a dwelling by other means.

In addition it is the housing co-operative, independent of any co-operative housing association, that is set up in order to erect apartment buildings on a particular building site, acquire particular apartment buildings or procure dwellings for a particular number of persons in order thereafter to rent dwellings to the participants in the co-operative (independent housing co-operative).

The Housing Co-operative Act contains, moreover, provisions regarding inter alia housing co-operative deposits, renting of dwellings by the shareholders, and rules regarding the transfer of shares, including pre-emptive right of purchase, exchange of dwelling etc.

The Housing Allocation Act of 29 April 1977 has as its aim to ensure the best possible utilization of the broad mass of dwellings and to aid housing applicants who are in particularly straitened circumstances. Thus the municipal council may stipulate in respect of the various sizes of dwelling the minimum number of persons that a household must comprise in order for them to be entitled to move in (room standard). Further, the Act contains provisions regarding the obligation to let a new dwelling that becomes available and to notify the housing allocation committee of the new tenancy agreement. There are, moreover, provisions regarding the tenant's and landlord's duty to transfer to housing applicants in the municipality the right to rent a dwelling that has become available once the municipality has procured the previous tenant a new dwelling.

(2) In general terms the principal objective for housing policy in Norway is that every family and every single person shall have at their disposal a suitable dwelling incurring a level of expenditure that is compatible with the income concerned. The most important instruments for attaining this objective

/...

are various forms of subsidy for dwelling applicants, mainly directed towards dwellings of an "ordinary" standard. The purpose of these subsidies is to enable families and single persons on mid-range and low incomes to apply for dwellings that meet their needs.

Definitely the most important of the direct subsidies is the low interest rate and favourable instalment terms available in the state housing banks. Since World War II these banks have helped to finance about 75 per cent of all dwellings built in this period; thus the favourable financing terms have clearly benefited the "average consumer". Dwellings financed by the state banks are subject to strict control of standards and costs. This means dwellings of a more luxurious nature have to be financed by other means. Other direct dwelling subsidies include first and foremost a grant (site-area grant) which is provided for all new dwellings (including dwellings not financed by the state banks) and current rent support. Rent support is means-tested and is calculated on the basis of dwelling expenses, income and size of family.

In addition to the direct dwelling subsidies there are also indirect subsidies. These are first and foremost:

- exemption from property tax
- low taxability of dwellings
- interest allowance on loans for the dwelling.

A large portion of dwellings in Norway are exempt from property tax. This is also true of dwellings that are financed outside the state banks.

Partly because of the subsidizing of dwelling expenses, the demand for dwellings of a good general standard has outstripped supply throughout the post-war period. This applies in general to the whole country, but especially in major towns and built-up areas. The primary limiting factors in housing construction have been site preparation and planning in the municipalities and, in part, manpower supply.

Even though housing construction since World War II has in the first instance been determined by supply, and even though the total number of dwellings built might desirably have been somewhat higher, it must nevertheless be said - partly because of the system of subsidies and other aspects of the state banks' activity - that the demand for dwellings of a reasonable standard is relatively well catered for over large parts of the country. The supply of housing, measured as the number of dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants, is now about 380. By way of comparison the figure was about 300 in 1960. Two thirds of all dwellings in Norway have been built since 1945.

Exceptions to this rule apply above all in the larger towns, in particular Oslo. In these areas there are still a large number of small dwellings with a low sanitary standard. In recent years projects have been started, especially in Oslo and Bergen, with a view to improving the broad mass of such dwellings. In

/...

order to achieve this without causing the original inhabitants to move out because of the resultant high dwelling expenses, special loan schemes have been introduced by the state banks for improvement of older dwellings. The loan terms are equally as favourable as those applying for loans for new dwellings. Even though these loans will in the first instance benefit older dwellings in the towns, it will also be possible to restore outdated dwellings in thinly populated areas by this means.

(3) A special building research institute has been set up that is a member of the international building research organization, CIB. A special building standardization agency has been set up with an annual budget of about Nkr 6 million. The Norwegian building standardization agency works closely with the ISO, the international building standardization organization. Norway takes an active part in the ECE's Working Party on Building and supports the work on harmonization of European building regulations, both by making specialists available and by financial contributions to the Trust Fund, set up for this purpose by the ECE.

(4) Approximately 35 per cent of the Norwegian population live in scattered settlements in rural areas. This settlement structure has not previously been subject to any special planning policy. A new Planning Act has now been drafted and the problems of scattered settlements have thus been raised as a separate issue both in a professional and legislative context.

The draft Act will give rise to the formulation of a clearer policy towards the maintenance and development of scattered settlement areas. Simultaneously with the drafting of the Act, the Ministry of Environment is drawing up planning models for scattered settlements, for use in future implementation of the Act.

The problems of water supply to scattered settlements is subject to planning, mainly in the context of the National Plan for the Utilization of the Water Resources and the ordinary technical detailed planning of individual projects.

Further, in connexion with the establishing of new work places in outlying districts, it should be mentioned that loans and grants are provided to the municipalities for arranging and preparing for housing construction. This applies to road construction, water supplies and sewage removal. Special loan and grant schemes have been established for water supply installations in thinly populated areas and fishing stations as well as districts with a poorly developed industrial base.

(5) The Housing Rent Regulation Act. The Act of 7 July 1967 concerning Regulation of Rent for Lodging etc. contains provisions governing the administrative regulation of housing rents and also the statutory authority for the price regulation applying to flats for which a deposit is required. The Act only applies to dwellings in about 100 municipalities. The especially strict regulatory provisions in Chapter 2 concerning the highest legal rent etc. for dwellings erected prior to 8 April 1940 apply today in 10 of the largest municipalities.

/...

The Act applies to the letting, including subletting of dwellings or rooms etc. and only includes dwellings or rooms in houses erected before 8 April 1940. In houses owned by a limited company or co-operative society (including housing co-operatives) in which 80 per cent of the stocks or shares are distributed between the tenants, the provision in this chapter applies only to subletting. Chapter 3 contains general provisions concerning the control and regulation of housing rents etc. These cover inter alia the duty to notify the rent board of certain rent increases, the fixing of rent for rooms that are not covered by chapter 2, and price-fixing in the event of the transfer of stocks, shares and bonds with associated tenancy rights.

(6) Statistics on dwelling conditions and availability of housing are chiefly to be found in the studies of dwelling conditions and in the population and dwelling censuses. These publications are now somewhat outdated; the most recent population and dwelling census was undertaken in 1970 and the most recent study on dwelling conditions in 1973. Several special studies have been made of the dwelling conditions of particular groups, of dwelling conditions in particular kinds of dwelling (older, poor quality dwellings), of cost analyses of dwellings in different categories and in different residential areas and the like.

As regards dwellings for particular groups, it may be mentioned that special financing schemes and to some extent special organizations exist in respect of dwellings for the elderly and the handicapped, students, immigrants and refugees. Furthermore, special housing projects have been initiated in the Sami (Lapp) areas in North Norway. In these areas dwelling conditions have been extremely poor.

Article 12: Right to physical and mental health.

A. Principal Law etc.

- Act of 1 July 1977 relating to Worker Protection and the Working Environment (see annex 3)
- Neighbour's Act of 1961
- Water Pollution Act of 1970
- Act of 1977 concerning Product Control which enables the Government to order adequate evaluation of any potentially harmful products and prohibit production and/or sale of products which have been proven to have harmful environmental effects
- National Insurance Scheme (cf. comments offered under art. 11, sect. A).

A number of measures have been commenced in order to promote and protect the population's physical and mental health. The measures are to some extent pursuant to laws, the oldest being the Public Health Act (Sunnhetsloven) of 1860; also the Act of 26 July 1912 concerning Performance of Public Medical

/...

Duties; the Act of 29 April 1927 concerning Rights and Duties of Medical Doctors; the Act of 19 June 1936 concerning the Right of Persons who are not Norwegian Physicians or Dentists to undertake Treatment of Patients; the Act of 10 June 1977 concerning the Planning, Organization and Implementation of Health Services in Enterprises; the Hospitals Act of 19 June 1969; the Act of 28 April 1961 relating to Mental Health Care; the Act relating to the Handicapped etc. the Mentally Handicapped and Care of Epileptics; the Act of 16 June 1972 concerning MCH Clinics and Health Measures for Children.

These Acts help to regulate the public health services and guarantee each and every Norwegian national equal rights to medical and other relevant treatment irrespective of whether this involves hospitalization or treatment outside an institution.

B. Diverse information

(1) and (2) Childbirth-preparation courses are held for expectant mothers by doctors, physiotherapists and midwives with a view to providing pregnant women with the best possible preparation for childbirth and the period immediately after childbirth.

Regular pregnancy checks by a doctor including inter alia guidance on diet and nutrition. Genetic guidance has gradually acquired greater significance in the work on providing the pregnant person and her family with information and guidance.

All pregnant persons are now examined. Pregnant women over the age of 38 are offered examination of the amniotic fluid with a view to possible mongolism (provisionally in Oslo only).

Guidance in questions relating to intimate relations and contraception is now provided on a continuous basis. A Public Health nurse visits the home during the first 14 days following childbirth. All children are taken to the health clinic for mothers and children once a month. Children showing signs of mental deviation are offered the facilities of the appointed school psychologist. A special register is kept of children in need of special attention so that they may be followed up and not be lost to the health service since this would be detrimental, precisely for various kinds of vulnerable children. The children's protocol from the hospital is forwarded to the health clinic.

At school children are covered by the school health service with regular checks by a school's doctor, public health nurse and physiotherapist. Here the vaccination programme continues that was started at the health clinic for mothers and children.

One of the main tasks here is to examine each individual pupil and in addition to give pupils information and necessary guidance to enable them to take care of their own health to a larger degree than previously.

Taking care of the pupils' mental hygiene is considered today to be a task

/...

of overriding importance, and represents one of the principal tasks of the health team in schools. Examination by a school doctor takes place as a rule in the first, fourth, sixth and ninth grades.

(3) Worker protection and working environment

During recent years, increased attention has been given to improving the working environment, both in industry and other sectors of economic and commercial life.

The new Act relating to Worker Protection and the Working Environment provides a basis for enterprises to solve their working environment problems in co-operation with the organizations of management and under the supervision and guidance of the public authorities. The Act relates to the majority of Norwegian working places, not only those in industry.

The basic rule regarding the working environment in any enterprise is that it shall be "fully satisfactory". Consequently, the work is to be organized in such a way that the employees are safeguarded as far as practically possible against damage to life or health.

The demand for a satisfactory working environment involves first and foremost certain minimal requirements stipulated in the Act. Compliance with these minimum requirements is a prerequisite from which no departure may be made. If health-damaging effects can be proven to exist, or accident risks are identified, consideration for the well-being of the employee must take precedence over economic or other considerations. If it is not practically or economically feasible to comply with the minimal requirements, the machine in question or whole company concerned will have to cease operations.

The purpose of establishing certain minimum requirements is to protect the employees from injuries, excessive work hours and work-related illness. In this connexion it should be noted that in particular harmful effects of a physical and social nature are now given more attention than before.

The intentions of the Act do, however, extend beyond the avoidance of harmful physical effects. The Act requires each work place and working environment to be organized with due consideration for the well-being of the employees. Reasonable possibilities for professional and personal development should also be secured. The Act furthermore, requires both the employer and employee actively to seek to improve the working environment beyond the minimal requirements stipulated.

The Act further requires the employer to organize and execute the work in accordance with the provisions of the law. Through working environment committees and safety representatives the employees are secured participation in the decision-making process regarding how the working environment should be formed. Enterprises with at least 50 employees shall establish a working environment committee on which the employer, the employees and the safety and health personnel are represented. Smaller enterprises may also establish such committees if one of the parties so wishes.

/...

The Labour Inspection is responsible for ensuring that the provisions of the Act are complied with.

Research regarding questions related to the working environment in industry and other enterprises, is carried out by the Occupational Research Institute in Oslo. In order to facilitate a speedy implementation of the Working Environment Act, the Government can provide economic assistance to the enterprises in their efforts to improve the working environment.

- Protection of the Natural Environment and Pollution Control

National pollution control policy was laid down in a parliamentary report in 1975. The legal basis for this policy is to be found in the Neighbour's Act of 1961, and the Water Pollution Act of 1970. A more recent Act on Product Control entered into force in 1977, enabling authorities to order adequate evaluation of any potentially harmful products, and if necessary, to prohibit production and/or sale of products which have been proven to have harmful environmental effects.

The so-called "concession system" is an important tool in combating pollution problems. It is based on existing legislation such as the Water Pollution Act of 1970 which prohibits pollution of the water table, watercourses and certain sea areas, and the Neighbour's Act of 1961 requiring that concession or Government permission be obtained prior to the establishment of any business which may have polluting effects. A more comprehensive and up-to-date Pollution Control Act will shortly be submitted to Parliament, covering in addition problems concerning waste disposal and the environmental impact of noise. The new Act will also require environmental impact statements in the case of planned activities above a certain magnitude that may have polluting effects.

A large proportion of the pollution in Norway is due to discharges from industries to air, water and land. As one example, Norwegian industries discharge about 130,000 out of a national total of 170,000 tonnes of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere each year. All new industries are now subject to stringent requirements with regard to treatment of discharge to air and water, and emergency services for possible accidents causing pollution. For existing industries a comprehensive 10-year clean-up programme was launched in 1974, which will cost altogether an estimated Nkr 5,000 million (1977 prices). Most of these funds will be used to control pollution in priority areas such as the pulp and paper, ferro-alloy, and chemical industries.

Measures already implemented have led to significant reductions in the amount of pollutant discharges to the natural environment. The State Pollution Control Authority has estimated reductions of discharges to water and air for a number of the most important pollutants, during the last six or seven years, as follows:

To water:

Organic material	50 per cent
Nitrogen	40 "
Phosphorus	75 "
Copper	80 "
Zinc	70 "
Cadmium	90 "
Mercury	90 "
Lead	10 "
Oil	40 "

To the atmosphere:

Sulphur dioxide	14 per cent
Nitrogen oxides	55 "
Hydrocarbons	50 "
Fluorides	55 "
Ammoniac	50 "

The reductions should be seen in the light of a 30 per cent increase in industrial production since 1970.

The effects of sulphur pollution on the natural and man-made environment and on human health have been the subject of extensive national and international studies in recent years. Harmful and potentially harmful effects have been identified in four main areas: human health, vegetation, freshwater ecology and corrosion of metals and other materials. Studies have already established the serious economic aspects of material damage due to corrosion, and attempts have been made to quantify in economic terms the damage to human health, and to crops.

A comprehensive programme has been launched to clean up pollution from municipal sewage systems. It has been calculated that Nkr 20,000-30,000 million will be spent for this purpose before the year 2000. About Nkr 500 million will be used to control pollution from agricultural installations.

Similar programmes for dealing with waste (disposal, recycling etc.) have been prepared, and are gradually being implemented. The problem of noise has been the subject of a special Parliamentary Report, and extensive allocations have been approved to reduce environmental impacts of noise, in particular from traffic and from aircraft.

/...

Pollution of inland watercourses has also been a major problem in Norway. A number of Norway's largest lakes and fjords are threatened, and a comprehensive programme for reducing, in particular, the discharge of phosphorus (primarily from household detergents) to Lake Mjøsa and other threatened watercourses is in full operation. Significant improvements have already been noted, but a great deal remains to be done.

The oil pollution control emergency services and other measures against pollution from ships, and from activities on the continental shelf, have been strengthened considerably in recent years, in particular since the famous blow-out at the Bravo platform. The main goal has been to build up to an acceptable level the emergency services, including oil pollution control equipment, of the state, of the local communities, and of the oil companies operating on the shelf. This goal has now largely been reached.

A broadly-based research and development programme for combating oil pollution has now also been approved by Parliament. It will initially be in operation for a four-year period, and is partially financed by the oil companies operating on the continental shelf.

(4) The recommended vaccination programme is enclosed (Annex 6).

In addition to this the vaccination programme continues for the section of the male population undergoing military service, in that all are revaccinated against smallpox. Tetanus vaccine is given to those whom it is not certain have been fully vaccinated previously. All persons are tuberculin tested, and the negative are vaccinated.

Hospitalization in Norway is free for everybody. Medical assistance and other assistance within the public health service is very reasonable: no one is compelled to refrain from seeking such assistance for financial reasons.

In the case of sickness, physical defect, pregnancy and childbirth, the National Insurance Scheme (cf. art. II, A) affords medical benefits etc.

Medical benefits are granted in the form of repayment of costs of:

1. Physician's assistance.
2. Medical treatment and care in approved health institutions.
3. Midwife assistance.
4. Family planning by a physician and regular examination during pregnancy.
5. Physiotherapeutic treatment.
6. Certain medicaments of major importance.
7. Dental treatment of disease, including extraction of teeth.
8. Treatment by a speech therapist.
9. Treatment by a chiropractor, on condition that such treatment has been administered at the direction of a physician.

/...

10. Examination and treatment at central family guidance offices.
11. Examination and treatment at psychiatric polyclinics for children and juveniles.
12. Polyclinical examination and treatment in the socio-medical department of a hospital.
13. Examination and treatment by psychologists.
14. Hearing aids.
15. Home nursing, housewife's substitute, and domestic help for old persons.
16. Running of health centres for children.
17. Sera and vaccines in connexion with prophylactic measures.
18. Necessary and appropriate prosthesis or support bandages to counteract the effects of functional disturbances in the organs of support and motion.

The scheme moreover covers transportation and board in connexion with travelling for examination and/or treatment for which benefits are granted. In the event of occupational injury or occupational sickness, the scheme also covers the costs of sending the patient home.

Payment for medical assistance may by agreement be effected directly between the physician and local insurance office. In that case, the physician is not entitled to collect from the insured person such part of the medical fee as is covered by the insurance.

Free medical assistance is granted in the case of occupational injury or occupational sickness, or childbirth. In the case of childbirth, free midwife assistance is granted as well.

Persons who are insured under the special rules applying to seamen on Norwegian ships in foreign trade, to public officials etc. outside Norway or to military personnel, are entitled to completely free medical assistance, necessary medicines etc. if the treatment is provided outside Norway.

To municipalities that have undertaken to organize housewife's substitute, and domestic help for the elderly, the National Insurance provides an annual grant. Moreover payment is made by the National Insurance to cover expenditures on home nursing organized along lines drawn by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. Expenses incurred in the running of municipal health centres are also covered.

The expenditure for the health services covered by the National Insurance Scheme in 1978 was approximately Nkr 7,667 million.

As of 31 December 1977 there were 8,022 doctors in Norway. In other words one doctor per 505 inhabitants. Hospitals totalled 87 with 20,227 beds.

The death-rate among infants is now 9.2 per 1,000 live births.

/...

List of reference material annexed to the report *

1. Marriage Act, 1918, Article 35
2. General Civil Penal Code (Penal Code) of 22 May 1902, Section 221
3. Act relating to Worker Protection and Working Environment of 4 October 1977
4. Penal Code, chapter 22, "Felonies against Another's Person, Life and Health"
5. Penal Code, chapter 21, "Felonies against Personal Liberty".

* These documents are available for consultation in the files of the Secretariat in their original language as received from the Government of Norway.