

U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
APO 234, c/o POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
MANPOWER, FOOD & CIVILIAN SUPPLIES

31 October 1945

TO : Bureau of Living (SEI-KATSU KYOKO), Ministry
of Welfare (KOSEISHYO).

FROM : Lt C. H. SCHMIDT, Civilian Supplies Section, U.S.
Strategic Bombing Survey, Room 351, Meiji
Building, Tokyo Japan.

SUBJECT : Request for Answer to the following questions.

I. You are requested to furnish answers to the
following questions by 8 November 1945 to Lt. C. H. SCHMIDT.

1. What happened to the standard of living of the lower
and middle income groups in Japan Proper during the period
1935-45?

- (a) How would you characterize the standard of
living in 1935-37?
- (b) Was the standard of living higher or lower
during the years 1937-41 than it was in
1935-37? How about 1941-43 compared with
1935-37? 1945 compared with 1935-37? (In
answering these questions, be sure to state
the basis of your comparisons.)
- (c) How did the standard of living vary in each of
the above mentioned periods as between rural
and urban areas? As between the different
economic regions of Japan Proper?

2. At what time during the war did shortages of basic
necessities first begin to be felt?

- (a) In the order of their importance, what basic
necessities were hardest to obtain (do not
include luxury and non-essential items in your
list)?
- (b) As between rural and urban areas and economic
regions, which of the above mentioned basic
necessities were hardest to obtain?

- (c) What steps were taken to alleviate shortages of the above mentioned basic necessities?
- (d) What was the effect of the air attacks against urban areas on the supply of basic necessities?
- (e) What effect did the shortages of basic necessities have on the people?

3. How successful was the government policy of evacuating such urban areas as Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe and Yokohama prior to air attacks?

- (a) Was much personal property saved from destruction by evacuation?
- (b) Did the people cooperate with the government's evacuation plans? If not, why not?
- (c) Give figures on the number of people evacuated from the principal cities prior to air attacks (do not include people whose houses were destroyed by air attack and who were therefore obliged to leave).
- (d) Did the average person evacuated from an urban area take with him enough clothing and household furnishings to satisfy his needs for some period of time?
- (e) What was done with household furnishings that could not be evacuated with their owners?

4. What is possible to meet the minimum basic needs of the civilian population from the level of production in the civilian goods industries prevailing in the latter half of 1944?

5. Given the level of production in the civilian goods industries prevailing in July-August 1945, could the minimum basic needs of the civilian population have been met for the ensuing year without some diversion of labor and materials from war production to civilian goods production?

6. If your answer to (5) above, is no, and no material and labor had been diverted from war production, what do you think would have happened to:

(a) The productive efficiency of the worker.

(b) The health of:

(1) The worker.

(2) The general populace.

(c) The morale of the general populace.

7. To what extent were the needs of an average family satisfied by purchases on the black market in 1941? 1942? 1943? 1944? 1945?