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**GAZETTEER OF INDIA
RAJASTHAN
JAISALMER**

**RAJASTHAN DISTRICT
GAZETTEERS**



JAISALMER

By
K K. SEHGAL

**DIRECTORATE, DISTRICT GAZETTEERS,
GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN,
JAIPUR.**

1973

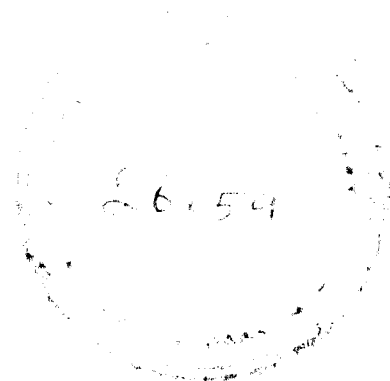
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P R E F A C E

The gazetteer of Jaisalmer district is the thirteenth in the series of District Gazetteers being brought out by the Government of Rajasthan in collaboration with the Central Gazetteers Unit of the Government of India.

The present district is largely composed of the former Jaisalmer State. The erstwhile Jaisalmer State was among the last Rajputana States to go under British protection. Authentic information about ancient history of the State is not available. It is likely that after the great war of Mahabharata or a later date, when the exodus of Yadavas began from Mathura, some of them migrated to this region.

The region has had a chequered history of victories and defeats, glories and subjugation. The first important Bhati Chief of the region is said to be Salivahan who founded the city of Salivahanpur, generally identified with Sialkot. Salivahan's grandson Bhati was a great warrior and gave his name to the ruling clan. He is credited with having started an era, the *Bhattik Samvat*, the initial year of which coincided with 623 A. D. Jaisalmer reached the height of glory during the time of Sabal Singh who came to throne in 1653 A. D. and was contemporary of Mughal Emperor Shahjahan.

Political awareness in the State started in early twentieth century. The nationalist literature reached the masses in 1918 and then onwards the people participated in political movements connected with the freedom struggle. The Jain temples of the fort of Jaisalmer present some of the finest specimens of sculpture to be found anywhere in Rajasthan. Built of the local yellow stone, they are a virtual symphony in stone. The temples also contain the richest collection of old manuscripts, some of them on palmleaf, in the State. Economically, though the district is barren and inhospitable, it holds out the prospect of transforming the economy of the country. Recent prospecting has indicated the presence of natural gas and residual oil in the district.

The gazetteers are now being revised/written in accordance with the general pattern laid down by the Government of India. In case of the districts in Rajasthan the task is more of writing the gazetteers afresh than of revising them, because in most cases, no gazetteers at all, had been written while in a few others, those written, are very sketchy and cover very little ground, besides the fact that much of what has been written,

has become obsolete. The current series of gazetteers in Rajasthan, where feudalism was the rule of the day for centuries, will give an eloquent commentary on how political, social and economic reforms were introduced after Independence and to what effect. As such these gazetteers are not only geographical lexicons, or statistical tables, but reflect changes almost amounting to a metamorphosis in certain fields of the district life.

The material available in old gazetteers had been used freely particularly in chapters dealing with subjects like topography, rivers, geology etc. The bulk of the information had, however, to be collected from a number of publications, both official and non-official, and from other sources. The data included in the volume, unless specifically mentioned in the text otherwise, pertain to the period ending 1967-68. The climatological summary given in this gazetteer has been prepared by the Meteorological Department, Government of India.

I am greatly indebted to the various departments of the State and Central Governments, Semi-Government institutions and individuals who have helped by extending their co-operation and making necessary material available. The draft of this volume was scrutinised by the Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. Most valuable suggestions were received from them for the improvement of the draft. I am particularly obliged to Dr. P. N. Chopra for his personal interest in the work. It would not be out of place to mention here that the expenditure incurred in the compilation and printing of the District Gazetteers is being met by the Government of India.

I also take the opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to Shri S. L. Khurana, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Rajasthan, and Mrs. Otima Bordia, Special Secretary (Planning) who amidst their numerous pre-occupations, found time to give their valuable advice to improve the quality of the publication. I am extremely grateful to Shri Chandanmal Baid, the Planning Minister, and Shri Jujhar Singh, Minister of State for Planning, who evinced a keen interest in the work throughout.

The officers and the staff of this department have considerably helped me in compilation and preparing this volume. To them I owe much and without their team work the publication would not have come out in time.

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DIRECTOR, DISTRICT GAZETTEERS,
RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR.

GAZETTEER OF JAISALMER DISTRICT

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CONVERSION TABLE

Length

- 1 inch=2.54 centimetres
- 1 foot=30.48 centimetres
- 1 yard=91.44 centimetres
- 1 mile=1.61 kilometres

Area

- 1 square foot=0.093 square metre
- 1 square yard=0.836 square metre
- 1 square mile=2.59 square kilometres
- 1 acre=0.405 hectare

Volume

- 1 cubic foot=0.028 cubic metre

Capacity

- 1 gallon (Imperial)=4.55 litres
- 1 seer (80 tola)=0.937 litre

Weight

- 1 tola=11.66 grams
- 1 chhatank=58.32 grams
- 1 seer=933.10 grams
- 1 maund=37.32 kilograms
- 1 seer (24 tolas)=279.93 grams
- 1 ounce=28.35 grams
- 1 pound=453.59 grams
- 1 ton=1,016.05 kilograms

Temperature

- $t^{\circ}\text{ Fahrenheit} = \frac{9}{5} (T^{\circ}\text{ centigrade}) + 32$

Metric Weights & Measures

Length

- 10 millimetres=1 centimetre
- 100 centimetres=1 metre
- 1,000 metres=1 kilometre

Area

- 100 square millimetres=1 square centimetre
- 10,000 square centimetres=1 square metre or centiare
- 100 square metres= 1 are
- 100 ares=1 hectare
- 100 hectares or 10,00,000 square metres=1 sq. kilometre

Volume

- 10,00,000 cubic centimetres=1 cubic metre

Capacity

- 1,000 millilitres=1 litre
- 1,000 litres=1 kilolitre

Weight

- 1,000 milligrams=1 gram
- 1,000 grams=1 kilogram
- 100 kilograms=1 quintal
- 1,000 kilograms=1 tonne
- 200 milligrams=1 carat

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

INTRODUCTORY

Origin of Name

Jaisalmer was founded by King Jaisa¹ or Jaisal. The word, Jaisalmer is derived from a combination of two words, Jaisal and *Meru*—Jaisal's fort. Rao Jaisal the ruler of the State seems to have found the then capital of the State, Lodorva, ill-adapted for defence and so shifted his capital to a new town. Lodorva lies in ruins 16 km. north-west of Jaisalmer which is now the headquarters of the district bearing the same name. The area comprising the district was widely known as *Mad Dhara* or *Vallamandal* from ancient times.

In 1949 after the formation of Rajasthan the area under the former Jaisalmer State along with some parts of the Jodhpur State was formed into the single district of Jaisalmer.

Location

The district is situated in the extreme west of Rajasthan and forms the major part of the great Indian desert. It is located between 26°-01' to 28°-02' north latitudes and 69°-29' to 72°-20' east longitudes.²

General Boundaries

The district is bounded on the west, north and north-west by Pakistan and on the north-east by Bikaner district. On the south lies the district of Barmer and on the east the district of Jodhpur.

1. Sharma, G. N., *Social Life in Medieval Rajasthan*, Agra, 1968, p. 49.

2. Source : The office of the Survey of India, Western Circle Office, Jaipur, Rajasthan,

Area and population

Jaisalmer is the largest district¹ in Rajasthan but is the least populated with a population of 1,40,338 (77,871 males and 62,467 females) according to the 1961 Census. The ratio is 802 females to one thousand males. The density of population, nine per square mile, is the lowest in the State whose average is 60 per square mile. The density of population in rural and urban areas is 9 and 98 per square mile respectively. This district though sparsely populated had a higher growth rate during 1951-1961 at 28.62 per cent against the State average of 26.20.

Administrative history of the district

History reveals that the former Jaisalmer State was one of the last to be taken under British protection. The treaty between Maharawal Mulraj II (1762-1819 A.D.) and the British Government, dated the 12th December, 1818 guaranteed to Mulraj and his posterity the principality of the State of Jaisalmer, and its ruler was to act in subordinate co-operation with the British Government. No tribute was stipulated as the State had not paid any, either to the Marathas or the Pindaris.

During the first Afghan War of 1838-39, the British had to despatch their troops to join the main army by the way of the river Indus and the then ruler Gaj Singh's (1820-46 A.D.) arrangements for transport elicited the special thanks of the British Government. In 1844, after the British annexed Sind, the forts of Shahagarh and Ghotaru, which formerly belonged to Jaisalmer, were restored to the State.

From 1844 to 1949, there was no important change in the area or the extent of the State. The State was divided into a number of administrative units which changed from time to time and were known as *Hakumats*. Each *Hakumat* was headed by an officer called the *Hakim*. In 1941-42, there were 18 *Hakumats*.² The total area covered by them was 41,591.3 sq.km. (16,062 sq. miles). Its population then, according to the 1941 census, was 93,2463.

1. The area of the district as supplied by the Central Statistical Organisation, Department of Statistics, Government of India was 38,401 sq. kms. as on 1.7.71 (data being provisional).

2. *Report on the Administration of Jaisalmer State, 1941-42*, p. 35, Appendix XVIII.

3. *Report on the Administration of Jaisalmer State, 1941-42*, p. 1.

Jaisalmer was merged into the State of Rajasthan on April 7, 1949. On October 6th, 1949, the area of the State was made a district of Jodhpur division and was placed under the charge of a Deputy Administrator. Later his designation was changed to that of a Deputy Commissioner. It changed once again; the district authority was finally designated as Collector and District Magistrate. The district was divided into two sub-divisions, Jaisalmer and Bap comprising five tahsils, Jaisalmer, Ramgarh, Sam, Fatehgarh and Bap. The number of sub-divisions was subsequently reduced to one and that of tahsils to two. The tahsils of Ramgarh, Sam and Fatehgarh were amalgamated with the Jaisalmer tahsil.

In February, 1953, as a measure of economy and administrative convenience, Jaisalmer was reduced from a district to a sub-division and made part of Jodhpur district. The district status was restored on 1.6.1954 with two sub-divisions, Jaisalmer and Pokaran and six tahsils—Jaisalmer, Pokaran, Ramgarh, Sam, Nachna and Fatehgarh. In this process 76 villages of Jaisalmer were transferred to Bikaner and Jodhpur districts and 64 villages and Pokaran town were added to Jaisalmer district from the Jodhpur district. On 13.9.1962 Fatehgarh tahsil was abolished. The tahsils of Ramgarh, Sam and Nachna were reduced to the status of sub-tahsils in 1963.

At present the district is divided into two sub-divisions—Jaisalmer and Pokaran. Each sub-division is under the administrative charge of a resident Sub-Divisional Magistrate/Officer and he functions under the overall control of the District Collector. The sub-divisions are also the tahsils and these are further divided into three sub-tahsils, Ramgarh and Sam under Jaisalmer tahsil and Nachna under tahsil Pokaran. The headquarters of Nachna are located at Nokh.

The following table gives the names, number of villages and the population of each sub-division according to the 1961 Census :

Sub-Division	Number of cities and towns	Villages ¹	Population	
			Males	Females
1. Jaisalmer	1	388	41,783	32,591
2. Pokaran	1	124	36,088	29,876
Total	2	512	77,871	62,467

1. Number of villages includes un-inhabited villages also.

Towns

Only two towns, Jaisalmer and Pokaran, were listed in the 1961 Census. Their location and population are as follows¹ :

Name	Latitude	Longitude	Population
Jaisalmer	26°-55'	70°-55'	8,362
Pokaran	26°-55'	71°-55'	5,284

A detailed description of these towns is given in the last chapter.

TOPOGRAPHY

The general shape of the district is of an irregular polygon of seven sides, the longest axis being 337.96 km. or 210 miles in length.

Plateaus & Plains

There are no plateaus in the district because the land is a desert. The area is a sandy plain with a few rocky patches and many sand dunes.

Desert

The district lies in the west of Rajasthan. It is sandy, dry and ill-watered, unkind to all forms of life, animal and plant. It is in the Great Indian Desert of Thar. The entire area is barren and dreary, the only variations on the landscape being a few hills and many sand-dunes. The land covered by the district slopes towards the Indus Valley and the Rann of Kutch. The topography is undulating, covered with sand-dunes. The ridges usually are parallel to the prevailing direction of the wind. No other part of Rajasthan is as lifeless and forbidding in appearance. The blown sand forms into shifting sand-dunes. The few stationary sand-hills in the west are covered with the *Phog* (*Calligonum ploygonoides*) bushes and those in the east with tufts of long grass. There is hardly any vegetation owing to lack of water. There are no permanent water sources and the inhabitants consequently lead a nomadic life grazing sheep and cattle, shifting from one green patch to another. There is an endless struggle for survival which is reflected in all aspects of life of the inhabitants.

In the neighbourhood of Jaisalmer town, within a radius of about 64 km. or 40 miles, the soil is stony containing numerous rocky

1. Source : The Survey of India, Office of the Western Circle, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

ridges and hard undulating plains. This is an exception to the general nature of land in the district which, as has already been mentioned, looks like a limitless sea of sand-dunes of all shapes and sizes. The biggest are found in Ramgarh and Sam sub-tahsils; particularly near Shahgarh village many are stabilised as sand-hills and a few shrubs grow on some. It is amazing what a few showers could do to this waste area which when it receives the rain turns into one carpet of green and becomes good pasture land.

In the area near Deda in Sam sub-tahsil and half the area of Pokaran tahsil, the land is gravel stone and is locally known as *Magra*. There are also a few low lying hills in Pokaran tahsil. In the villages lying to the west of Shergarh in the Pokaran tahsil, the sand-dunes are continually changing their shape, the sand in one place being scooped out into funnel shaped hollows, and in another thrown up to form beautifully rounded hills. The local belief is that these are slowly moving northwards. The sand-dunes of transverse type are locally known as *Dhrians*. Villages are few and far between in this area. Where they do exist, they consist of a few small huts built of brush wood round a well of brackish water. A little land is cultivated if rains are favourable. There are many fields near the large villages of Nokh, Bikampur and Balrampur in the east, in the valleys formed by the sand hills. When the season is kind, the farmers there grow *Jowar* and *Bajra*.

The land is a dry one as one goes towards the west. There the shifting sand-dunes or *Dhrians* pile desolation on desolation and towards the village of Tanot miles of land stretches in a monotonous brown throughout the year. Even the little vegetation that chances longer as a result of a freakish rain is destroyed by indiscriminate grazing of cattle. The goats do the most destruction as elsewhere. The sand is gradually becoming looser and invading other regions, turning them all into more desert. The Arid Zone Research Agencies of the Government of India have been studying the problem of the spread of the desert for a long time and some measures have been taken to contain the insatiable hunger of the desert.

Hills

There are no hills worth the name in the Jaisalmer district, but there are a few rocky elevated ridges, with alluvial and sand valleys in between. The country around Jaisalmer within a circuit of about 64 km. or 40 miles is much stony, being in continuation of hills of district

Barmer. They extend about 64 km. or 40 miles to the north of the city and stretch to a width of about 16 to 20 km. or 10 to 12 miles. To the east of the town, the ground is rocky with hillocks rising here and there stretching as far as Pokaran and Phalodi. The valleys formed by these rocky plateaus and ridges become cultivable in years of good rain. Other areas which have a few small hills are in Fatehgarh and to the north of Pokaran. The height of these varies between 61 metres to 107 metres above sea level and they are usually covered with *Bordi* and *Khejra* trees. The hills are locally known as *Magra* or *Doongar*. The local inhabitants of these areas have a strong belief that they are rich in minerals, whether it is a fact can be proved only by an intensive geological survey.

The height of the district is between 96 and 368 metres above the mean sea level and the general direction of drainage from south to north-west.

RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

There is not a single perennial river in the district. A few streams flow around Jaisalmer town, during the rainy season. The streams are shallow and water seeps through the porous sand very quickly. One such, locally known as Kakni rises near the village Kotri about 22 km. or 17 miles south of Jaisalmer, flows first towards the north and then turns west. Near Rupsi village it forms into a lake called the Bhuj Jhil or Mitha Rann. During years of heavy rainfall, it deviates from its normal course and instead of turning west continues to flow north for about 20 km. or 12 miles where the water is harnessed by the Daiya dam. The stream inundates the area near Dheda village and forms a shallow stretch of water known as Masori Khadeen. When the water dries up, wheat and gram are grown in the area. Most of the seasonal streams are only nullahs with limited catchment areas. The waters are locked by the inhabitants to form *Khadeens* used for cultivation.

Lakes and Tanks

There are no natural lakes in the district. During the rainy season water accumulates in several low lying areas called *Khadeens*. After the water dries up *Jowar*, wheat and gram are grown on the beds. A fuller description of the *Khadeens* is given in the chapter on Agriculture. A few small tanks conserving rain water have been built near Jaisalmer and Pokaran. In years of good rainfall, the water from these is used to irrigate a few thousand acres of land for cultivation.

Kunds are constructed inside the houses to store rain water for use throughout the year for drinking and other domestic purposes. However, this practice is gradually on the wane with the availability of sufficient water round the year through the recently commissioned tube-wells and water reservoirs.

Wells

There are hardly any good wells which can be sources of irrigation.

Erskine writing in 1909 observed that the water in the wells in the district was brackish, and it is so today. The average depth of the wells was 76 metres or 250 feet and one measured by an officer of the Trigonometrical Survey of India had a depth of 149 metres or 490 feet.¹

The water table in the district lies deep under the surface, the depth varying from 38 to 46 metres (125 to 150 feet). Sometimes sweet water can be struck, but it is rare. Besides the wells, *Johads* (ponds) are another source of water supply during the rainy season. The accumulated water is used by all the inhabitants, animal and human. When there are good rains the ponds fill up and the water lasts till the end of winter, but in deficient years, which are more common, the water dries up within a short time. Then there is not even enough drinking water. If a village is not lucky to have a sweet water well or two, the drinking water has to be brought over long distances. Obtaining sufficient quantities of drinking water has been an acute problem for years. The Government of Rajasthan has started attending to this problem through the drilling of tube wells at suitable places. The terrible famine of 1968 has intensified the drilling operations in the area.

The report of the Geological Survey of India on the underground water survey it had conducted recently is yet to be published. It is presumed, however, that Lathi formations of the district have vast potentialities of underground water. A number of tube-wells have already been drilled in the Lathi formations and these give discharge of 75,000 to 1,12,000 litres or 15,000 to 25,000 gallons of water per hour at a draw-down of about 3.04 metres or 10 feet. The sand and clay beds

1. Erskine, K.D., *The Western Rajputana States Residency and the Bikaner Agency Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 5.

found as alternate strata are saturated with water forming aquifers varying from 182 to 244 metres in thickness.

Hydrological tests have proved that deep tube-wells can be potential source of under-ground water which is good enough for agricultural irrigation. The tube wells drilled near Jetha and Chandhan have been useful sources of water supply for irrigation. Another drilled at Dabla near Jaisalmer has been giving enough quantities of drinking water to meet the needs of the inhabitants, which in the past had to be brought from wells and tanks at a distance from the town. The success of the drilling operations indicates that the scarcity of drinking water now prevailing in the district could be relieved by planned and sustained efforts to utilise the underground water sources.

The ground water, throughout the area, is impregnated with salts. Both chlorides and sulphates are present in well water which generally contains total dissolved solids exceeding 1,000 parts per million. The salinity of ground water throughout the region is an accepted fact and a condition of life in the region.

GEOLOGY

Geological Antiquity

The land which is now district Jaisalmer, was submerged under a sea during Jurassic, Cretaceous and Eocene Ages. In due course of time the coastal regions of the Indian shield appear to have witnessed a marine transgression covering large portions of Kutch, Kathiawar and Rajasthan, extending over as far as the salt-range in the Punjab. It is not competently ascertained when this area was uplifted into dry land. It may have occurred a few million years ago, probably some time in the Upper Tertiary. Even then, some large lakes and lagoons might have been left over which gradually dried up. It is asserted that it was only after Pleistocene and the last Glacial Period that this district began to get gradually dry. Small out crops of Jurassic rocks comprising limestone, sandstone and shales amidst the desert sands and alluvium in the district can still be found. These outcrops form the first mark on the geological history of this area. Contemporaneous with this, the earth witnessed the evolution of flowering plants, sea urchins and birds of the first kind. This was followed by a short spell of marine regression in the succeeding Cretaceous Period, but the marine deposition resumed again in the Eocene period. After this the marine deposition came to an

end and the desert sands and alluvium of the recent age now hide the lower congruity.

The geological succession in the Jaisalmer district as surveyed by the Geological Survey of India is given below:¹

1. Eocene Beds :

“Dense siliceous limestone with fuller’s earth and some clay bands. Typical fossils are nummulites, echinoids, pelecypode and gastropods. The thickness is not known. Age, Laki”.

2. Abur Beds (About 300 feet or 91 metres) :

“Limestone with some grits and shales containing Aptian ammonites Pseudohaploceras, Age Lower Aptian”.

3. Parihar Sandstone (2000-2750 ft. or 609-821 metres) :

“Unfossiliferous felspathic and ferruginous sandstone and quartzite. Overlapped by Eocene beds in places. Age Lower Cretaceous”.

4. Badsar Beds (360-1200 ft. or 109-370 metres) :

“Ferruginous grits and sandstone with Katrol Ammonoites. Age Tithonian.”

5. Baisakhi Beds (2000 ft. or 609 metres) :

“Arenaceous and argillaceous beds, the latter in places gypseous, indicating lagoonal deposition ammonites in the lower beds. Age Oxfordian.”

6. Jaisalmer limestone :

“Buff and yellow colitic and shell limestone and calcareous sandstone, upper beds with Argillaceous intercalations grade into the Bhisakhi beds. Terabratulids and Rhynchonellids common, but ammonites only in the upper beds. Age Middle Callovain-Oxfordian”.

7. Lathi Beds :

1. Source : Office of the Director, Mines & Geology Department, Rajasthan, Udaipur.

“Mainly sandstones and some limestones in the upper part, with some mollusca and gymnospermous fossil wood sporadically distributed. Age Lower Jurassic”.

Mineral Wealth

The important minerals found so far in the area are Fuller's earth, Gypsum, Clay, Limestone, Yellow ochre and Red ochre. Fuller's earth is worked on a small scale near Mandhau, Mandha, Nehdai and Ramgarh. Although, fairly large deposits are available, absence of developed and regular means of transportation has checked large scale exploitation. The Geological Survey of India has estimated a large deposit of Gypsum at Hamirwali and Nehdai. The absence of proper line of communication has prevented sufficient exploitation of Mohan-garh deposits started in November 1967. Clays are generally found associated as inter-calations with the sandstone of the Lathi group. Devikot and Keeta are important locations where clay is found. Two types of limestone viz., compact fine grained orange or yellow brown and brown or yellow shell limestone are quarried in this district, chiefly at Manda, Sannu, Haboor, Siambar and Kuchhri. Both these varieties of limestone after good polishing, are used as ornamental stones. Chips of these stones are used in mosaic tiles and cement flooring. Ochres, yellow and red are found south and west of Devikot. The Ochres are gritty and have poor covering power.

Recently occurrences of Phosphatic nodules have been reported at Verbania, Barsingha and a few other places. Occurrence of this important mineral may prove to be of great value to the country which has to depend on imported phosphates for the manufacture of super-phosphate fertilisers. Recent prospecting has indicated the presence of natural gas and residual oil in the district.¹

Earthquakes

Rajasthan as a whole is in a geologically stable belt and earthquakes are not frequent in the State. According to the Indian Standards Institution's Building Code, “*Recommendations for Earthquake Resistant Design of Structures IS : 1893-1962*”, Jaisalmer district lies in Zone II i.e., a Seismic Zone where earthquakes can cause a slight damage to engineering structures.

2. Jaisalmer Project Office of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

According to the seismological literature available with the Director General of Observatories an earthquake was felt at Jaisalmer on June 16, 1819 causing considerable damage to Jaisalmer¹.

On April 4, 1905², another great shock was felt over a wide area around Jaisalmer but no great damage was reported.

The last earthquake felt at Jaisalmer occurred on 15th January, 1934³. Its epicentre was at Bihar-Nepal border. It was a mild shock extensively felt at Jaisalmer. No damage was caused by this occurrence.

FLORA

Since the whole of the area is covered with blown sand, only a scattered vegetation is possible. Consequently, no particular botanical divisions can be drawn of this area. The vegetation of this area can be included in Tropical Thorn Forest area. Most of the flowering plants found in the area are shrubs and wild grasses which, however, do not survive for more than a few months after the rains. The main varieties of trees are :

S. No.	Botanical Name	Local Name
1.	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Babul
2.	<i>Acacia senegal</i>	Kumta
3.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Nim
4.	<i>Capparis aphylla</i> or <i>Capparis decidua</i> (Forsk) Pax (Syn. <i>c. aphylla</i> Roth)	Jal or Karer or Karira
5.	<i>Commiphora mukul</i>	Guggul
6.	<i>Prosopis spicigera</i>	Kabuli Kikar
7.	<i>Salvadora Oleoides</i>	Mitha Jhal or Barapilu
8.	<i>Salvadora persica</i>	Khari Jhal or Chhotapilu

1. *Asiatic Journal*, Vol. IX, p. 309, Remarks by R.D. Oldham F.R.S. on the above account in *Memoirs, Geological Survey of India*, Vol. 66 (2), p. 42, 1926 read thus “The shock was severe at Jaisalmer”.
2. *Memoirs, Geological Survey of India*, Vol. 38, 1910.
3. *ibid.*, Vol. 73, 1939.

9.	<i>Tecomella undulata</i>	Rohira or Rugtrora
10.	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>	Ber

Prominent trees found in the area are *Nim* (*Azadirachta indica*), *Babul* (*Acacia nilotica*) and *Khejri* (*Prosopis spicigera*).

Shrubs

The shrubs include the *Aernatomentosa* (Bui), *Calotropis procera* (*Safed ak* or *Akra*), *Calligonum Polygonoides* (*Phog*), *Euphorbia tirucalli* (*Thohar*) or (*Konpal*), *Gynadropis pentaphylla* (*Bagra*), *Haloxylon salicornicum* *Bungeese Boirs* (*Jahrbuti*) or (*Lana*), *Mimosa rubicaulis* (*Hajern*) and *Trianthemmonogyna* (*Santhi*).

Grasses

Immediately after good showers the area turns into a beautiful green pasture where wild grasses grow in abundance. The names of the more important species are :

S. No.	Local Name	Botanical Name
1.	Lamp	<i>Aristida depressa</i>
2.	Dhaman	<i>Pennisetum cenchroides</i>
3.	Doob	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>
4.	Motha	<i>Cyperus longus</i>
5.	Gharaniagas	<i>Chloris Virgata</i>
6.	Morant	<i>Chloris roxburglina</i>
7.	Bharut	<i>Cenchrus catharticus</i>
8.	Ganthil	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>
9.	Phalis	<i>Panicum crusgalli</i>
10.	Siwan	<i>Panicum frumentaceum</i>

Forests

There are no forests worth the name in Jaisalmer district because of the climatic conditions. The utter scarcity of water, the shifting soil and desiccating winds in summer, very poor rainfall and extremes of temperature inhibit all plant growth. Further, it seems no fruitful efforts have yet been made to preserve the existing tree-growth wherever found, and to encourage the planting of trees either by private persons or by

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the Government authorities. Rather, indiscreet and unrestricted grazing of grass by cattle, particularly by goats, has destroyed vegetation in the area. Gradually the sand has become more and more loose and unsuitable for tree growth. Recently the Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur has undertaken a few projects to check the spreading arid conditions of the district.

The percentage of forest land in the district is only 0.23. It has no significant place in the economic life of the district. A very small forest belt of 48 sq. km. (30 sq. miles) is located at a distance of 18 km. (11 miles) from Jaisalmer to the north-east. The forest classification of this area is rather misleading, as the forest belt is essentially a grass land called *Karah Jar*. The Forest Department of the State Government have made efforts for the preservation, improvement and management of this small grass land. If their efforts of developing of *Karah Jar* are successful, it will act as a barrier to the spread of the desert.

At Nachna a nursery has been established to supply saplings for planting on the road side and to help the grow-more-food campaign.

The prospect of forest development in the area in the near future is bleak unless a regular supply of water is assured.

FAUNA

Birds

The birds of this district, a desert region, are not as numerous as in other more favoured parts of the State. Among birds most commonly found are the house crow, jungle crow, pigeon, sparrow, peacock, parrot, myna, blue jay, hoopoe, bulbul and robin. In addition to these, cocks and hens are found as domesticated birds. An outstanding characteristic of the birds of this area is that they are paler in colour than others of their own class in the eastern districts of the State.

A list of birds identified in the district is given below :

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
1.	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>
2.	Common Mynah	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
3.	Bank Mynah	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>

1	2	3
4.	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene br. ma</i>
5.	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
6.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
7.	Raven	<i>Corvus Corax</i>
8.	Common house crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
9.	Yellow-Eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinensis</i>
10.	Brown Rock-Chat	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>
11.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
12.	Blue-Jay	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
13.	Blue Rock-Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
14.	Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius Coromandelicus</i>
15.	Ashy-Crowned Finch-Lark	<i>Eremopteryx grisea</i>
16.	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
17.	Lugger Falcon	<i>Falco Jugger</i>
18.	Black-Winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
19.	Brahmini Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
20.	Red-Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
21.	Grey-Partridge	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
22.	Bay-Backed Shrike	<i>Lanius Vittatus</i>
23.	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
24.	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Molpastes cafer</i>
25.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
26.	Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
27.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla Cinerea</i>
28.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
29.	Small Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
30.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
31.	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
32.	Pariah Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
33.	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe picata</i>
34.	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>

8	2	3
35.	Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
36.	Common Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>
37.	Imperial Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
38.	Common Peafowl	<i>Pavo Cristatus</i>
39.	White Backed Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>
40.	Green Parrakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
41.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
42.	Rosy Paster	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
43.	Pied Bush chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
44.	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
45.	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
46.	King vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>
47.	Indian Ring-Dove	<i>Streptopelia risoria</i>
48.	Little Brown Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
49.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucus</i>
50.	Jungle Babler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>
51.	White Throated Munia	<i>Uroloncha malabarica</i>
52.	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>

The game birds are the Imperial Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*), the Common Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*), the Great Indian Bustard (*Choriotis nigriceps*) the Indian Courser (*Cursorius Coromandelicus*), the Kashmir Common Roller (*Coracias garrul*) and Grey Partridge (*Francolinus Pondicerianus*). The Imperial sandgrouse is a winter visitor to this area, arriving here about the third week of October and leaving by the end of February. This bird is much prized for sport. The Indian Courser (*Cursorius coromandelicus*) is seen in very large numbers even on the outskirts of Jaisalmer town.

The Kashmir common Roller (*Coracias garrul*) passes through the district on its flight from Kashmir to Africa in the months of September to October.

Another bird of interest which visits the district in winter is the Rosy Pastor (*Pastor roseus*). This bird is one of the greatest natural

agents for destroying locusts which are a frequent menace to this area. These birds along with Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and the Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*) prey on locusts and prevent their damaging vegetation.

Animals

The fauna in the district is not plentiful. There are no lions, tigers or panthers in the district. There are no hills, or forests to give them shelter. Hyaenas (*Hyaena hyaena*) are found in fairly large numbers. Desert fox (*Vulpes pusilla*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*) and Chinkara (*Gazella gazella pallas*) are numerous. Wolves (*Canis lupus*) were at one time very common and were much dreaded by the people, but the number of packs appears to have dwindled. Other species of wild animals found in the district are the wild boar (*Sus scrofa cristatus*), the Chamcher (*Pipistrello Vesperugo*), the Shela (*Hiechinus auritus*), the Cat (*Felis libyca*), the Newla (*Herpestes edwardsi Geoffroy*) and the Five striped Palm Squirrels (*Funambulus pennanti*). The Indian hare (*Lepus nigricollis dayanus*) can be found in a few places. Two varieties of rats and mice viz., the Indian Desert Garbilla (*Meriones hurrianal*) and the House mouse (*Mus musculus Linnaeus*) exist in plenty.

Besides animals of daily meet are the camels, the ship of the desert, the horse, cow, buffalo, goat, wild dog etc. A detailed description of the camel which occupies an important position in the economy and transportation system of this district has been given in the chapter on Agriculture.

Reptiles

All the three types of poisonous snakes viz., Vipers (*Vipera russellii*), Cobras (*Naia tripudians*) and Kraits (*Bungarus coeruleus*) are found in the district. In the desert, snakes live principally on the Indian Desert Garbilla. A poisonous reptile called *Pivana*, very much like a snake in appearance, is reported to have existed.¹ It does not bite, but is said to creep over the chest of a sleeping man and continue breathing into his nose and mouth. Since its breath is poisonous, a man poisoned by a *Pivana* seldom recovers. In the former Jaisalmer State, the *Darbar* used to reward people in form of some cash for destroying this type of reptile. The existence of *Pivana* was further substantiated by one R.H. Irvine in

1. Report on the Administration of Jaisalmer State, 1904-05 p. 13.

his book *Some Account of the General and Medi al Topography of Ajmer*. He described it as "very poisonous creature of yellow colour, thick and short". But he does not believe the story of the snake poison entering through breath. A Resident to the Western Rajputana States Agency reported that the animal sought the warmth of human breath to alleviate pain and that its own breath being venomous the victim of its attention was poisoned and died. A specimen of this peculiar snake was sent to Bombay for identification and it turned out to be a Sind Krait (*Bungarus sindanus*).

Other important reptiles found in the district are, the common house lizard (*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*), Fat tailed lizard (*Uromastix hardwicki*), desert monitor (*Varanus griseus*), common blind snake (*Typhlops braminus*), sand boas (*Eryx conicus* and *Eryx Johnii*).

Insects

The most important of the desert insects is, of course, the locust. Swarms arrive in the district every year, in greater or lesser numbers from their West Asian breeding grounds and cross into India via the Sindh desert. Locust control has been taken up on an international plane and in India preventive measures are directed by a unit stationed at the district headquarters. The administrative set-up of the locust control organisation is detailed in the chapter on Agriculture and Irrigation. While the destruction of the local crop by locusts is a regional problem, their establishing breeding grounds from where the swarms can take off to eat up the greenery in other parts of the country is a national menace. This is now being tackled on an appropriate scale. The other insects which damage crops are the grass hoppers.

CLIMATE

The district has a desert climate characterised by extreme dryness of air, large extremes of temperature and fitful and erratic rainfall. The winter season from November to about the middle of March is followed by the hot season which extends up to the end of June. The south-west monsoon season is from July to the middle of September. The latter half of September and October constitute the post monsoon season.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the district are available for 16 stations for periods ranging from 36 to 83 years. Tables 1 and 2 give the details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole. The average annual rainfall in the district is only 141.7 mm. The rainfall

decreases from the south-east to the north-west in the district. The north-western regions of the district constitute one among those which have the scantiest rainfall in India. Buili, near the western border of the district, gets on an average only 87.1 mm of rain in a year. The rainfall is largely confined to the south-west monsoon season, when 86 per cent of the annual rainfall is received. August is generally the month of maximum rains. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is very wide. In the fifty-year period from 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall was in 1917 when it amounted to 357 per cent of the normal. The very next year, 1918, was one with the lowest amount of rainfall in the fifty-year period when the annual total came only to 4 per cent of the normal. Considering the district as a whole there were as many as 18 years in the fifty-year period when the rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal. Two or three consecutive years of such low rainfall have been recorded on three occasions. But at individual stations, even four, five, or six consecutive years with rainfall of less than 80 per cent of the normal have been recorded. It will be seen from table 2 that while in 24 years out of fifty the rainfall was between 101 and 200 mm., it was less than 100 mm. in 16 years.

On an average there are six rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. in a year. This number is as low as 3 at Buili, Tanot and Kishangarh.

The highest rainfall recorded in 24 hours at any station in the district was 266.7 mm. at Bap on August 1, 1933.

Temperature

There is only one meteorological observatory in the district located at Jaisalmer. The records of this station may be taken as representative of the climatological conditions in the district as a whole. From about the middle of March, temperatures begin to rise rapidly and rise to the maximum in May or June. Day temperatures sometimes go up to about 47°C. Throughout the summer the heat is intense and scorching winds lash the land. With the advance of the south-west monsoon over the district in July, the temperature falls considerably. By about the middle of September when the monsoon withdraws from the district, the day temperatures increase slightly. After September the day temperatures decrease gradually. The drop in night temperature is more steep. January is the coldest month when the mean daily maximum temperature is 23.6°C and the mean daily minimum 7.09°C. The western disturbances passing across north India in the cold season affect the district and then

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it experiences cold waves when the minimum temperatures often go down 3 to 4 degrees below the freezing point, and frost occurs damaging vegetation. The diurnal variation of temperature is large in all the months. The mean diurnal range of temperature except during the monsoon season is of the order of 15 to 17°C. The drop in temperature after dusk, especially in winter, is very rapid.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Jaisalmer was 47.8°C on May 29, 1956 and the lowest minimum temperature was -4.4°C on January 4, 1949.

Humidity

The air is generally very dry. Even during the brief monsoon season the air is dry in between the fitful rains.

Cloudiness

Skies are generally clear or lightly clouded except in the south-west monsoon season, when the cloudiness is moderate. Heavily clouded or overcast skies may be seen only on a few days.

Winds

Winds are generally light in the post-monsoon and winter months. For the rest of the year, winds are moderate getting slightly stronger in the south-west monsoon period. In the period May to September, winds are mainly from directions between south and south-west. In October, winds are light and variable in direction. During the rest of the year winds are from directions between south-west and north-west.

Special weather phenomena

A few of the depressions in July and August which originate in the Bay of Bengal and move in a westerly direction, reach the district and its neighbourhood during their last stages causing gusty winds and heavy rain. Duststorms and thunderstorms accompanied by squalls occur in the summer and even in the early monsoon period. In the cold season western disturbances affect the district causing cloudy skies.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and frequency of special weather phenomena respectively for Jaisalmer.

TABLE I
Normals and extremes of Rainfall

Station	No. of years of data	Month												Annual		Highest annual rainfall as % of normal	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours*
														Annual				
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual	Annual			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Jaisalmer	50 a	3.1	5.6	3.3	2.5	7.9	10.7	53.3	66.5	21.8	1.3	1.0	1.5	178.5	324	0	129.5	1914 July 23
	b	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.1	3.4	3.7	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	12.5	(1944)	(1918)	1961 June 25	
Fatehgarh	22 a	3.6	4.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	13.2	68.6	74.9	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	182.6	245	27	189.2	1961 June 26
	b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	3.0	3.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	8.4	(1931)	(1938)		
Lathi (Nachna)	21 a	2.3	4.6	0.8	0.8	0.0	4.8	57.9	57.6	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	144.9	205	14	77.5	1940 Aug. 19
	b	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.0	2.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	(1944)	(1939)		
Bap	50 a	1.8	3.6	1.8	1.5	5.8	14.0	50.3	79.0	22.3	2.5	0.3	1.3	184.2	295	7	266.7	1933 Aug. 8
	b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.9	2.8	3.1	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	9.4	(1917)	(1918)		
Devikot	50 a	0.5	2.8	1.0	1.3	2.5	8.9	51.1	61.5	17.8	3.3	0.3	0.8	151.8	352	0	170.2	1928 Aug. 26
	b	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	2.4	2.6	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	7.1	(1916)	(1918)		
Miallar	23 a	0.5	1.5	0.0	1.3	1.8	7.6	61.7	72.4	6.6	2.8	1.5	1.0	158.7	441	0	242.6	1931 Aug. 30
	b	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.7	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.7	(1931)	1947)		
Shahgarh	23 a	1.3	3.8	0.0	2.5	1.0	3.1	38.6	48.0	13.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	112.0	336	0	190.5	1949 Sep. 20
	b	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.8	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	(1944)	(1945)		

RAJASTHAN DISTRICT GAZETTEERS—JAISALMER

GENERAL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Khuiala	23 a b	1.3 0.1	1.3 0.1	0.0 0.0	0.8 0.0	3.3 0.1	5.6 0.3	45.2 1.5	48.5 1.7	3.6 0.2	0.0 0.0	1.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	110.6 4.0	248 (1944)	14	130.8 (1947)	1933 Aug. 8
Tanot	23 a b	0.0 0.0	6.9 0.1	1.3 0.1	1.3 0.1	0.0 0.0	1.5 0.0	30.5 1.0	55.6 1.2	3.1 0.2	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	100.2 2.7	508 (1944)	0	88.9 (1934)	1944 Aug. 20
Kishangarh	23 a b	1.8 0.1	6.1 0.2	0.8 0.0	1.0 0.0	0.8 0.0	3.3 0.2	46.0 1.4	56.6 1.3	3.3 0.1	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	119.7 3.3	312 (1937)	0	190.5 (1934)	1933 Aug. 8
Buili	23 a b	0.0 0.0	1.3 0.0	1.3 0.0	0.0 0.0	2.3 0.0	15.2 0.4	27.9 1.0	32.8 1.3	6.3 0.4	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	87.1 3.1	207 (1942)	19	114.3 (1931)	1930 June 29
Mohangarh	23 a b	2.3 0.1	5.8 0.4	1.0 0.1	0.8 0.0	1.8 0.4	8.1 0.6	48.5 2.3	57.1 2.6	4.8 0.4	0.5 0.0	1.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	131.7 6.9	245 (1944)	0	139.7 (1949)	1942 July 9
Lakhan	23 a b	0.3 0.0	3.1 0.1	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	1.0 0.0	7.9 0.4	86.4 1.9	80.3 1.6	9.4 0.2	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	188.4 4.2	410 (1931)	0	205.0 (1947)	1931 Aug. 30
Dewa	50 a b	2.3 0.2	3.1 0.2	1.8 0.2	1.0 0.1	4.6 0.3	5.8 0.4	37.9 1.8	43.4 2.1	19.8 0.6	0.3 0.0	0.8 0.1	0.5 0.0	121.3 6.0	374 (1908)	0	162.6 (1918)	1946 Sep. 4
Ramgarh	50 a b	1.3 0.1	2.5 0.1	2.5 0.2	0.5 0.0	4.6 0.2	8.1 0.3	39.9 1.9	61.2 1.8	15.0 0.5	0.3 0.0	0.5 0.0	0.0 0.0	136.4 5.1	427 (1917)	4	177.8 (1946)	1944 Aug. 12
Khabha	50 a b	2.0 0.2	2.3 0.1	1.8 0.2	1.3 0.0	3.3 0.3	11.7 0.5	55.9 2.4	58.4 2.0	19.3 0.8	0.0 0.0	8.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	156.8 6.5	353 (1917)	0	165.1 (1918)	1902 June 19
Jaisalmer (District)	a b	1.5 0.1	3.7 0.2	1.2 0.1	1.2 0.1	2.7 0.2	8.1 0.4	50.0 2.0	60.2 2.1	11.5 0.5	0.7 0.0	0.5 0.0	0.4 0.0	141.7 5.7	357 (1917)	4		

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (day with rain of 2.5 mm. or more).
*Based on all available data upto 1965. **Years given in brackets.

TABLE II
Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District
(Data 1901-1950)

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
1—100	16	301—400	2
101—200	24	401—500	0
201—300	7	501—600	1

TABLE III
Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity

Month	Mean Daily maximum temperature °C	Mean Daily minimum temperature °C	Highest maximum ever recorded °C	Data	Lowest Minimum ever recorded °C	Date	Relative humidity 0130	1730*
January	23.6	7.9	32.5	1965 Jan. 16	-4.4	1949 Jan. 4	64	41
February	28.2	10.6	37.8	1953 Feb. 27	-2.2	1951 Feb. 2	56	39
March	32.6	16.9	41.6	1958 Mar. 24	6.0	1960 Mar. 23	56	37
April	37.8	21.4	44.0	1964 Apr. 25	10.6	1953 Apr. 1	56	39
May	41.6	25.8	47.8	1956 May, 29	17.0	1960 May 7	55	29
June	41.4	27.3	47.0	1963 June 29	20.5	1957 June 10	67	32
July	37.7	26.5	45.0	1962 July 7	21.7	1955 July 31	76	51
August	35.9	25.5	43.3	1958 Aug. 20	19.1	1965 Aug. 31	79	95
September	36.3	24.5	43.3	1949 Sep. 10	19.3	1962 Sep. 28	75	49
October	36.1	20.1	42.2	1951 Oct. 4	8.3	1949 Oct. 31	58	38
November	31.1	13.0	37.0	1963 Nov. 5	3.6	1960 Nov. 30	52	39
December	26.0	8.9	33.6	1963 Dec 11	-0.6	1950 Dec. 27	56	41
Annual	34.0	19.0					63	41

*Hours I.S.T.

TABLE IV
Mean Wind Speed in Km/hr.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
8.6	8.2	10.9	12.7	18.3	27.2	24.8	21.7	16.1	8.5	5.5	6.5	14.1

TABLE V
Special Weather Phenomena

Mean No. of days with*	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Thunder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dust-storm	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.7
Squall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fog	0.2	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.9

*No of days 2 and above are given in whole numbers.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

PRE-HISTORY

Geologically, the region possesses the evidence of the traces of the Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic periods. The dark sandstones with conglomerates at the base occurring at Bap in the district are supposed to belong to the Talchir (lower-most Gondwana) age. These sandstones are overlain by boulder beds which show the evidence of glaciation. Some of the boulders and pebbles at Bap are known to have been derived from Vindhyan limestones. The boulder beds are succeeded by shales. In the area west of these exposures, there are several poorly exposed sandstones which might have extended towards Jaisalmer town and which are supposed to be of Damuda age.

The Jurassic rocks occurring in Bikaner and Jaisalmer regions consist of limestones (also fossiliferous), shales, feldspathic sandstones (unfossiliferous) and ferruginous sandstones. The extent of Jurassic sea is not precisely known but the similarity of the Jurassic formations in Kutch and Jaisalmer region, may give a clue to and possibility of its extension up to Jodhpur and Bikaner areas. Likewise, the rocks of Eocene period discovered in Kutch, Jaisalmer and Bikaner regions, retaining earlier formations, afford evidence of the extent of sea during this period¹. Subsequent to many other changes in the rainfall, climate and dry land, the migration of people started to this region. The desert part of Jaisalmer, known as Thar, is covered with sand, several feet deep, which blown by winds, constantly shifts.

ANCIENT PERIOD

The region of Jaisalmer had historical and traditional affinity with the neighbouring States. Its name, boundaries and divisions varied from

1. *Proceedings of the Symposium on the Rajputana Desert*, September 1952, published by National Institute of Sciences of India, New Delhi, pp. 22-23.

time to time. Sauvira¹, Mada², Marmad³, Stravani⁴, Deogarh, Lodorva and Valla⁵, were the names of the different places in this area at different periods of history.

The erstwhile ruling Chiefs of Jaisalmer claimed their descent from Lord Krishna, the Yadava prince, and it is likely that after the battle of Mahabharata or sometime at a later date when the exodus of Yadavas began from Mathura, some of them might have migrated to this region. After the sixth century B.C. the region of Jaisalmer appears to have formed a part of Sauvira Mahajanpad, which consisted of several clans and petty chiefs. According to the bardic legends, the petty Yadu Chiefs (the ancestors of the Bhatīs) who were driven away at a very early period from India across the Indus returned afterwards and settled in the Punjab. The Bhati kingdom extended from the Salt Range to Kashmir, their capital being at Gaznipur near Rawalpindi⁶. About the second century B.C. these petty chiefs were driven across the river Jhelum by Indo-Scythian invaders who pushed them south of the river Sutlej⁷.

1. Sircar, D. C., *Studies in the Geography of Ancient and Medieval India*, Delhi (1960). The following verse is cited at page 79:

शूरसेनात् पूर्व भागे कण्ठकात् पश्चिमे वरे ।

सोवीर देशो देवेशि सर्वदेशधमाधमः ॥

Sauvira coincides with the Rohri-Khairpur region of Sindh which was once ruled by the Bhati Chiefs of Jaisalmer. Also see Raychaudhri, H. C.: *Political History of India*, p. 95. N. K. Sastri mentions that there existed a road to Sindh, the home of horses and asses and Sauvira with its capital at Rorua or Roruka, vide *Comprehensive History of India*, Vol II, Calcutta (1956), p. 71.

2. Mada was the name of the present site of Jaisalmer, where according to G. H. Ojha (*The History of Rajputana*, Vol. I, Ajmer, 1937, p. 31), the ladies still sing the *raga mada*. The location of this district in the close proximity of Arab frontiers is also noticed in the account of Biladuri who mentions that Junaid sent his officers to Marmad Mandal, Barus and other places, and conquered Bailaman and Jurz (*The History of India as told by its own Historians*, Vol. I, H.M. Elliot & J. Dowson, Kitab Mahal, Lucknow, p. 126).
3. Marmad evidently stands for Maru-Mada corresponding to a part of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer.
4. Stravani (Tanot) has been identified with Talan in the Jaisalmer State (Puri, Dr. Baij Nath, *The History of the Gurjara Pratihars*, Lucknow, p. 21).
5. The Ghatiyala inscription of V. S. 910 (noticed in Jaina Inscriptions I, pp. 259-60) and of V. S. 918 (Journal of Royal Asiatic Society 1895, pp. 517-518) preserve the name of Mad and Valla for Jaisalmer. Also see Sharma, Dr. G. N., *Social Life in Mediaeval Rajasthan*, Agra (1968), p. 2.
6. Bingley, A.H., *Caste Handbooks for Indian Army: Rajputs*, Simla (1899), pp. 52-53.
7. *ibid.*

In the absence of any authentic information, it is difficult to form a correct chronology of the kings who ruled over this region during the ancient period and as such the dates mentioned hereunder are imperfect and only tentative.

The first important Bhati Chief of the region after the legendary rulers Raj and Gaj is said to be Salivahan. He ruled about v.s. 640 (583 A.D.) and founded the city of Salivahanpur and conquered the whole of the Punjab¹. Salivahanpur is generally identified with Sialkot. He regained Gazni² which had been lost by his father. He had fifteen sons, all of whom by the strength of their own arms established themselves in independence. But in the time of his successor Baland the incursions of Turks began rapidly to increase and the lands around Gazni or Gaznipur were seized by them³. Baland's son Bhati⁴ was a great warrior who subdued the neighbouring princes, and gave his name to his clan. He is also said to have started an era, *Bhattik Samvat*, the initial year of which coincided with v. s. 680 or 623 A. D.

Bhati was succeeded by his son, Mangal Rao⁵, whose fortune was not equal to that of his father's and who, on being attacked by Dhundi, the king of Gazni, abandoned his kingdom and subjugated a new territory which has since been the home of his descendants. Here they came into contact with various Rajput clans whom they subdued and established themselves successively at Tanot, Deorawal⁶ and Jaisalmer.

Mangal Rao was succeeded by his son Manjam Rao and the latter by Kehar. Kehar was the first of the Bhati tribe to occupy the

1. Foreign Department, General-B, May, 1877, Nos. 273-280, National Archives of India, New Delhi.
2. The present day location of this place is a matter of controversy and is said to be different from the well known Ghazni.
3. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A. *The Western Rajputana States Residency and the Bikaner Agency* (1909), p. 9.
4. However, a rare document in Hindi named *Varta Sangraha* (वार्ता संग्रह) gives the name of Bhati's father as Ras Pal Jadav.
5. Nainsi Muhnot in his *Khyat*, Vol. II ed. by Ram Narayan Dugar, gives different names of Bhati's successors.
6. Deorawal now called Derawar Fort in Bhawalpur territory was also known as Deogarh. The fort was built by Rawal Deoraj about 853 A.D. or *Vikram Samvat* 909. *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, Vol. II by James Tod, (Reprint 1920), O.U.P., p. 1195.

territory near Jaisalmer. He founded a fortress called Tanot¹ in honour of the goddess Tannu² and drove out Jasrath the Chief of Barahas. Gahlot³ is of the opinion that it was named after his son Tannu who succeeded him. Nainsi⁴, however, believes that Tanot was built by Tannu and not by Kehar. Kehar, having established himself, made peace with the Barahas.

Kehar was succeeded by his son Tannu in 806 A.D. He successfully repulsed the attack of the Multanis and the Langhas from the Punjab⁵. He ruled for eighty years and gave up his throne due to his old age. His son Bijai Raj I succeeded him⁶. Bijai Raj I had a feud with the Barahas. The latter finding that they could not succeed by open warfare⁷ had recourse to treachery. Under pretence of putting an end to the feud, they invited Bijai Raj's son and heir, Deoraj, to marry the daughter of their chief and, when the Bhatias had assembled, they attacked and massacred eight hundred of them. They subsequently sacked Tanot and put the inhabitants to the sword, and the Bhati tribe in Tanot became nearly extinct for a time.

Deoraj, however, fled to his maternal abode through the help of a Brahman. There he found his mother, who had also contrived to make good her escape from the sack of Tanot. The Buta chief of this country gave him some land where he erected a fort called Deogarh or Derawal after himself. Gradually he acquired strength and proceeded to wreck vengeance on the Barahas and subdue the Langhas. He seized the city of Lodorva and defeated the Lodra Rajput chief, Nripbhanu, and made that place his capital. Deoraj, a great warrior, established the power of the Bhati family in the desert tract. The Bhatias gradually extended their

1. Tanot was founded in 731 A.D., Tod, *op. cit.*, p. 1190.

2. Rajputana Agency, General Branch, File No. 75 of 1860, Vol. II. Brief sketch of the history of the family of Jaisalmer, National Archives of India, New Delhi.

3. Gahlot, J. S. *Rajputana-ka-Itihas*, Vol. I, p. 653.

4. Nainsi, Muhnot, *Khyat* Vol. II, edited by Ram Narayan Dugar V.S. 1991, p. 262.

5. Rajputana Agency, General Branch, File No. 75 of 1860 Vol. II. Brief sketch of the history of the family of Jaisalmer, National Archives of India, New Delhi.

6. However, in the Nainsi *Khyat* quoted in the *Rajasthan Through the Ages* (Vol. I, p. 548), the successors of Bhati are enumerated as Vachharava and Vijayarava I respectively and the successor of Tannu is shown as Vijairava II. The date of his accession is given as 814 A. D. by Tod. (Tod, *op. cit.*, p. 1193).

7. According to a legend given in the *Varta. Sangrah* (वार्ता संग्रह) Bijai Raj went to a temple of Devi and prayed for blessings. She blessed that he would be victorious against his enemies.

possession southwards. Deoraj was, however, defeated in a battle against Siluka Pratihara and lost his ensign, the Umbrella. Siluka Pratihara is said to have fixed the boundaries of Valla and Stravani. Deoraj ruled with great dignity and courage. At the age of sixty, he was killed by Channa Rajputs, who laid an ambush while he was on a hunting expedition.

Rawal Deoraj had two sons—Mundha and Chedu. His successor Rawal Mundha suitably avenged his father's death. He ruled only for a short time. It was during the days of Rawal Bachha Raj, the son and successor of Mundha that Mahamud Ghazni in the course of his expedition against Somnatha temple, reached Lodorva. The strong citadel was defended by a body of brave soldiers¹ but the Sultan captured it and marching through Mallani, reached the Chikudar hill which is identified with Chiklodarmata hill, north of Palanpur in Gujarat. There is not much to be said regarding Dusaj and Bijai Raj II², the successors of Bachha Raj. Bijai Raj II had a very short and inglorious reign as will be shown later and was deposed by the Bhatias. James Tod describes his usurpation of Salivahana's position and death at his own hands not long after his deposition³.

However, there is a controversy over the exact date and identification of Bijai Raj II. Inscriptions⁴ of this period speak of the high sounding title of *Paramabhattacharak-Maharajadhiraj Parmeshwar*. This title could be used only by another Bijai Raj, who was also known as Lanjha Vijai Raj. He was son of Rawal Dusaj by a Mewari Princess and remarkable personality⁵. He married the daughter of Siddhraj Jai Singh of Patan. On the occasion of his marriage, the people of Patan talked about camphor-scented water. Lanjha Vijai Raj purchased all the camphor available in the market and put it into the waters of Sahasralinga lake, thus giving even the poorest resident of Patan an opportunity to drink it. This extravagant, but ingenious

1. *The History & Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. V, Bharatiya Vidhya Bhawan, Bombay, p. 19.

2. In the Jaisalmer House genealogy there are more than one Bijai Raj. Much care, therefore, is needed to determine the dates of their respective reigning periods. In fact, the years assigned to the Chiefs of Jaisalmer must be taken as tentative and the chronology is subject to correction.

3. Tod, *op. cit.*, p. 282. There is slightly different version about it in the unpublished Thesis *Ancient Cities of Rajasthan* of Dr. K. C. Jain (Rajasthan University, Jaipur).

4. *Rajasthan Through the Ages*, Vol. I, Rajasthan State Archives, 1966, p. 283.

5. *Journal of Rajasthan Institute of Historical Research*, Vol. III No. I of 1966, p. 53. Lanjha Vijai Raj was married to a Solanki Princess.

action earned him the title of Lanjha or 'The Great Dandy'. According to James Tod, this marriage brought him the title of 'the portal of the north', that is, a barrier between the Chalukyas and the king who was becoming strong². It has also been considered that the valour which the Bhati princes displayed in repelling the successive wars of Mohammadan invasions earned for them and their descendants the title of *Uttar Bhir Kiwar Bhati* (उत्तर भइ किवाड़ भाटी) i.e. 'Bhatias, the mighty portal of the North India'³. Nainsi also speaks of the title of *Uttara disha-bhada-Kiwad* or the brave warrior acting as the portal of the North given to this ruler⁴.

After the death of Lanjha Vijai Raj, his son Bhoj Dev inherited the *Gaddi*. In his time Muhammad Ghori led an expedition (c. 1178 A.D.) against the Chalukyas of Gujarat and was defeated decisively near Abu. Muhammad Ghori had advanced through Lodorva and desired to place it in the hands of some puppet and friendly chief, so that his rear and supply might remain safe. Such a Chief he found in Jaisal, the uncle of Bhoj Dev. Jaisal conspired against Bhoj Dev, but the latter being always surrounded by a guard of 500 Solankis, his person was unassailable. Jaisal, therefore, is said to have paid a visit to the King of Ghor, and, swearing allegiance to him obtained a force to dispossess his nephew. Jaisal was successful in his ambition. Bhoj Dev was dethroned and slain⁵. Lodorva was taken and sacked. It lost all its pride and glory as the capital with the loss of its last ruler, Bhoj Dev. Soon after seizing the power, Jaisal transferred his capital to the present site of Jaisalmer.

The Jaisalmer fort, which now houses Vaishnava and Jain temples and is decorated with sculptures of gods and goddesses, dancing figures and

1. *Rajasthan Through the Ages*, op. cit., pp. 282-283.
2. James Tod identified this foreign Sultan as Muhammad Bahlim from Nagaur, who often raided the Hindu principalities. See Tod, op. cit., pp. 202-203. This identification is not tenable. See *Rajasthan Through the Ages*, op. cit., p. 284.
3. Foreign Department, Secretary, Internal, January, 1912 No. 2-9. National Archives of India, New Delhi.
4. Nainsi speaks of a marriage with a Parmar princess of Abu and mentions the ruler of Ghazni as an enemy of Raiputs, *Khyat* Vol. II, op. cit., p. 277.
5. In the *Rajasthan Through the Ages* op. cit., pp. 285-287 it is mentioned that Bhoj Dev died in a battle with the ruler of Ghazni,

mythological scenes and contains invaluable collection of old manuscripts, was founded by Jaisal¹.

Jaisal built the city of Jaisalmer on a low range of nummulitic limestone hills and made it his capital². The place was more secure than Lodorva which was in the open plain. Jaisal began building the fort which was named Jaisal-Meru after him. Only its gateway and a part of the fort had been completed when he expired³. The successive princes were constantly engaged in battles and raids and whose taste for freebooting proved disastrous.

About 1194 A.D. a few Rathor immigrants from Kanauj treacherously seized a portion of the Bhati territory⁴.

A few descendants of Rawal Jaisal also migrated to the Punjab and founded the following modern States⁵: Patiala, Jind, Nabha, Sirmur (Nahan), Bassehir, Faridkot, Jubal, Kumbarsain, Balsan, Tiroj and others.

The fort of Jaisalmer was completed⁶ by Rawal Salivahan II, the son and successor of Jaisal. Salivahan II defeated Jagbhan, the chief of Kathi tribe who dwelt between Jalor and Aravalli. The Rawal seized his studs and camels. This exploit exalted his fame in Jaisalmer. His son Baijal usurped the throne when Salivahan II was away from the capital. Salivahan II, therefore, migrated to Derawal where he was killed subsequently in a fight against the Baloachs.

1. The name given to Jaisalmer is a compound of two words 'Jaisal', the founder's name and Meru. The former capitals of the region were: Tanot, Deorawar and Lodorva. Dr. G. N. Sharma in his *Social Life in Mediaeval Rajasthan*, p. 49, mentions, 'Jaisa in 1156 A. D. founded Jaisalmeru (Jaisalmer) near the Som hill, surrounded by a dense forest and abounding in supply of water.' But Jaisalmer could not have been founded before V. S. 1234. Different views based on inscriptional evidence regarding the acceptance or rejection of this traditional date of founding of Jaisalmer are given in the *Rajasthan Through the Ages*, op. cit., pp. 280-287.
2. *Nainsi-ki-Khyat*, Vol. II, p. 279.
3. *ibid.*
4. Bingley, A. H.: *Caste Handbook for the Indian Army, Rajputs* (Simla, 1898), pp. 52-53.
5. One of the descendants of Rawal Jaisal was Phul. He founded the Phulkiyan State in the Punjab. An account of the Phul dynasty is given in *Kaifiyat-i-Phulkian*: The Punjab State Archives, Patiala, File No. N/802.
6. The structure was most probably completed before V. S. 1244. See *Rajasthan Through The Ages*, op. cit., p. 287.

This Baijal is sometimes confused with Vijay Raj Lanjha mentioned above. Baijal could reign only for two months when, in a fit of passion, he struck his Dewan who returned the blow¹. The indignity impelled him instantly to commit suicide. Baijal left no son to succeed him. Rawal Kelan, brother of Salivahan II, therefore, succeeded to the *gaddi*. During his time, Khizr Khan Baloch who had killed Salivahan II, now attacked Jaisalmer with 5,000 soldiers. Kelan defeated and killed the Baloch. He had numerous progeny and was succeeded by his son Chachigdev I (1219 A.D.)². He fought against the Channa Rajputs, defeated them and captured thousands of cows as war trophies. Thereafter, he defeated the Sodha Rajputs and married a daughter of the Sodha Chief. After sometime Chachigdev attacked³ the Rathor chief of Khera (neighbouring estate) but returned home after marrying his daughter. Chachigdev was a strong ruler. He was succeeded by his grandson Rawal Karna or Karan Singh I who enjoyed a long reign.

The next ruler was Lakhanasena who had a short reign of nearly four years, and was then succeeded by Panyapat. The latter was deposed after about two years and five months and Jaitsimha a grandson of Chachigdev I succeeded him who, it is said, had left his State on being superseded by his younger brother Karan Singh I, and sought service with the Muslims of Gujarat⁴. He was the most powerful ruler of the Bhati dynasty of Jaisalmer.

MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

Jaitsimha had two hot-headed but brave sons—Mularaj and Ratan-simha. These young BhatIs picked up a quarrel with the Sultan of Delhi by robbing a Pirzada, proceeding from Rum to Delhi by way of Jaisalmer⁵,

1. It is said that he struck his foster brother at whose instigation he had originally usurped power, see Erskine, K. D., *op. cit.*, p. 11.
2. The period of his reign is said to be V. S. 1275-1307 (c. 1219-1250 A. D.) Gahlot, *op. cit.*, p. 261. However, Nainsi and others have calculated this period differently, see *Khyat, op. cit.*, p. 283.
3. Gahlot, *op. cit.*, p. 661.
4. Erskine, K. D., *op. cit.*, p. 12.
5. *Rajasthan Through the Ages*, Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner (1966), p. 685. In *The Journal of the Rajasthan Institute of Historical Research*, Vol. III, No. 1 of 1966, it is mentioned that the sons of Jaitsimha, in the disguise of grain merchants and with the help of 7000 soldiers looted the wealth which was being carried away by an army of Muhammad Ghori. Elsewhere it is written that the two Bhati princes way-laid the tribute treasure which was being conveyed from Thatta and Multan to Delhi.

has been carried out by the institute in the Jaisalmer-Chandhan tract of the district. It has been observed that the pest flourishes on sandy lands of the region and continues to multiply throughout the year on *Citrullus Colocynthis*, the special type of vegetation growing there. This plant, which the desert Garbil most relishes, provides water and food for the pests and possesses the characteristic of surviving without water for several months by drawing water from the roots, leaves, pods and seeds of various other plants, which grow with it. The density of the pest on sandy tracts ranges from 100 to 250 animals per hectare. Complete desertisation of land results when the pests reach a density of 300 animals per hectare and completely devour all vegetation. The desert Garbil has been found to be controllable at a cost of Rs. 36 per hectare, by pre-baiting for three days with *Bajra* mixed with 5 per cent of *Til* oil and subsequent poison baiting with 1.5 per cent of Zinc Phosphide. This could result in quick improvement of the grazing areas.

No prominent crop disease has been reported from the district. However, *Bajra*, the principal crop, is affected by green-ear disease and smut, though the percentage of infestation is very low. When infected with green-ear disease, the ears of the plants are transformed, wholly or partially, into loose heads of small, twisted, green leaf like structures and the affected leaves become white and later brown. Smut disease appears on ears from the time of grain formation. The affected ovaries do not produce grain but turn into bright green, pear-shaped bodies, projecting prominently beyond glumes, which later become chocolate brown and when old, dirty black. These contain black colour spore-mass and readily break when pressed, exposing the black mass of spores. The common remedy suggested is removal of affected parts and growing resistant varieties.

Departmental Activities

With little scope for agricultural development under the present conditions of the district, the need for maintaining a separate departmental organisation for the district has not been found to be necessary and the agricultural development programmes, however meagre, in the district, are carried out under the concurrent supervision of District Agriculture Officer, Jodhpur. However, one Agriculture Extension Officer has been posted in Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer, since 1964-65, and another in Sam Panchayat Samiti, since 1965-66.

The main activity of the Agriculture Department in the district is confined round the Government Seed Multiplication Farm, established in

1963-64 at Jetha, 64.3 km. (40 miles) from Pokaran and 9.6 km. (6 miles) from Chandhan road. Earlier, in 1957 a similar farm was established at Chandhan, but it remained neglected even after its transfer to the care of Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer, in 1961. It was ultimately handed over to the Animal Husbandry Department in 1963, for conversion into a cattle breeding farm.

At present the Jetha Farm extends over an area of 404.6 hectares (1,000 acres). The total area cultivated in the year 1967-68 was 79.5 hectares (196.5 acres). The whole of it was double-cropped and irrigated, 30.5 hectares (75.5 acres) under *Kharif* cultivation and 49 hectares (121 acres) under the *Rabi*. Two tube-wells, commissioned in the vicinity of the Farm, provide irrigation through a water-lifting device, with the help of three pumping sets, one diesel-driven and two electric-powered. The engines have a capacity of delivering about 11,365 litres (2,500 gallons) of water in an hour. There are two tractors purchased in 1960-61 and 1965-66, and four pairs of bullocks at the Farm for agricultural operations. Other implements for use include 3 lift-system trailers, one M.B. plough, three *Desi* ploughs, two *Desi* harrows, four cultivators, three seed-attachments, two S.Gapers and one bund-farmer.

The cropping-pattern and production at the Farm, during the last four years, is given in Appendix III.

The land-survey of the area covered by the Farm has been done while the layout has been only partially completed. The income of the Farm for the year 1967-68 was of the order of Rs. 1,08,463, while the actual expenditure came to Rs. 1,31,806. The main hurdles, which have come in the way of increasing the yield of crops sown at the Farm, include the sand deposition on crops due to hot and heavy winds of high velocity, short supply and, sometimes, complete closure of water supply from the tube-wells.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Fodder

In the arid conditions of the country, the grasslands, occupying a considerable area, serve the sheep, goats and camels, which form the major part of the livestock in the district. Rains, when plentiful, help the growth of a variety of pasture grasses and plants. The *Pali* jungles in the north and *Birs* in other parts, produce excellent grasses. Tufts of

grass grow in the eastern region. In the ordinary desert, the sandhills are clothed, to certain extent, with shrubs and coarse grass and around the villages these afford pastures to the flocks and herds. The areas within the daily walking distance of the villages and along migratory routes are obviously most overcrowded. The scarcity of water, a common feature of most years, combined with the shifting nature of sand-dunes, swallowing up even the wretched pasture grounds, present unsurmountable difficulties for fodder and the only way open to the cattle-breeders is to leave the area with their cattle in search of food and fodder, whenever conditions of scarcity are foreshadowed.

During the princely administration, the State kept reserved tracts¹ of grass to meet milder type of scarcities. Such tracts were maintained in Jaisalmer *Pargana*, Dewa Khabha and Devikot and arrangements were also made to store enough hay and fodder. Private hoardings in hay-stacks were also encouraged.

Since the establishment of the Animal Husbandry office in the district, encouragement in the form of free distribution of roots is being given to individual cultivators to sow fodder crops like hybrid Napier grass etc. The co-operative farming societies, recently formed in the tube-wells commanded areas, are also induced to do so. But the response of the cultivators has been poor and the scarcity of water generally has come in the way of any extensive fodder crop cultivation.

The area under fodder crops in Jaisalmer district, during the last five years, is given in the following table. The major animal fodder grown includes *Guar*, *Rizka*, *Chari Jowar*, and *Chari Bajra*. The fodder crop area in Pokaran tahsil is almost three-and-a-half time more than in Jaisalmer tahsil.

(Hectares)	
Year	Area
1963-64	20,136
1964-65	24,414
1965-66	21,070
1966-67	20,081
1967-68	22,573

1. *Administration Report of Jaisalmer State, 1902-03*, p. 7.

With 12,816.7 hectares (31,671 acres) of land under fodder crops in 1960-61, the average of fodder crop area per head of bovine and livestock populations¹ was calculated to be 0.04 hectares (0.11 acres) and 0.01 hectares (0.03 acres) respectively. The availability of grazing land², on the same accounts, was 5.85 hectares (14.48 acres) and 1.73 hectares (4.32 acres) respectively.

IMPROVEMENT OF GRAZING LANDS³—The population of some parts of the district is largely pastoral and large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle are to be found browsing on the extensive rangelands found in Pokaran and Jaisalmer tahsils, particularly the sub-tahsils of Mohangarh and Ramgarh. These areas are threatened with complete extinction of rangelands by an indiscriminate over-grazing. To meet this situation and nurture the grasslands, research work on the improvement of rangelands has been started by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute in Jaisalmer, Chandhan, Khetolai, Lawa and Mawa areas in the district. For this purpose, blocks of 80.93 hectares (200 acres) have been enclosed at five places to study the effects of concentrated efforts at improvement of rangelands and thereby increasing the animal production. The two major types of experiments being conducted are (i) different intensities of grazing stress on rangelands, with cattle as experimental animals and (ii) deferred-cum-rotational grazing trails, with cattle or sheep as grazing animals of the experiments. The former are being conducted at Chandhan and Lawa paddocks and the latter at Jaisalmer and Khetolai on cattle; and Mawa and Lawa on sheep as experimental animals.

The objectives of range management studies are to increase the carrying capacity of various categories of rangelands and also to study the effects of rotational grazing and its deferment for different periods on rangeland production and animal yields. The previous studies had shown that the greater the stress of grazing on the rangelands, the lesser is the production from animals. In order to study these aspects, young livestock have been taken up for field studies in the five areas mentioned above.

Water conservation measures are taken inside the paddocks and the available water is put to utmost use for regeneration of rangelands.

1. *Report on the Livestock Census of Rajasthan 1961*, Board of Revenue (Land Records), Ajmer, p. 89.
2. *ibid.*, p. 90.
3. Based on the findings of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur.

The effectiveness of the various measures taken for increased production from rangelands is being studied in Jaisalmer paddock. Tanks have been constructed in Jaisalmer, Khetolai, Lawa and Mawa paddocks. Experiments are in progress to determine the requirement of water by the livestock in different months of the year.

In all these five areas, the effect of reseeding the deteriorated rangeland with highly productive forage grasses and the response to application of fertilisers to seeded and non-seeded strips are being studied. These research programmes were initiated in 1965 and animal studies have been taken up from the beginning of the monsoon season of 1965. The results of most of these studies would be available after a period of about 10 years.

In these rangelands areas, studies on the effect of deferred grazing for various periods had earlier been carried out for a period of five years. These studies had shown that grazing of the rangelands on carrying capacity basis gives high animal yields. Based upon these investigations the carrying capacity fixed for different range grasslands have been worked out as follows :

- (1) Good Rangelands—5 hectares per adult cattle unit.
- (2) Fair Rangelands—8 hectares per adult cattle unit.
- (3) Poor Rangelands—12 hectares per adult cattle unit.

One adult animal is taken as equal to six sheep or 1½ young cattle of the age of 1-2 years. The animal yield was found to be the best when animals grazed throughout the year on carrying capacity basis. With the deferment of 16 weeks during the monsoon season, the animal yield was reduced to less than 25 per cent. The heifers weighing 92 kg. gained 70 kg. in body weight. In the hot season from March to June, animals usually exhibited losses in body weight. By giving supplementary feeds to animals from January to June, when the forage is weathered, the gains in body weight of animals were high, i.e. 123 kg. per heifer per year, as against 70 kg. per heifer per year, maintained on carrying capacity basis. The maturity age of such heifers maintained on supplementary feed on the range is 2½ to 3 years, as against 4 years for heifers managed under local conditions. Without supplementary feed, an adult milch cow, grazing on the basis of carrying capacity of the grassland, could yield 3 litres of milk per day during July-October. The sheep maintained on the carrying-capacity of the pasture yielded 1.75 kg. of wool at the age of 1 to 1½ years,

as compared to 1.2 to 1.5 kg. in the case of those maintained under local practices of grazing on the rangeland. Thus, wool and mutton production can be substantially increased by adopting the practice of grazing on carrying capacity of the range.

Livestock

In the absence of suitable conditions for agricultural operations, cattle-breeding provides the single most important alternative source of livelihood for a majority of the rural population of the district even under normal conditions, besides serving as a subsidiary source of subsistence in the too frequent years of scarcity and crop-failures. The herds of cattle, camels, sheep and goats serve as the sole wealth of these people who are traditional livestock breeders. These animals possess such traits that they can thrive in spite of the arid nature of the region. In other words, the district has predominance, generally, of draught animals and of sheep and goats; the latter account for two-thirds of the total district livestock population. Buffaloes constitute less than 0.07 per cent of the livestock. The livestock population exceeds the human population of the district. On an average the number of cattle, sheep, goats, camels and other livestock maintained per household comes to 28.6, 53.3, 12.2, 6.9 and 0.8 respectively¹. About 20 adult animals are maintained per 100 hectares of land.

CATTLE—Cattle are extensively bred throughout Jaisalmer and a large proportion of the population depends mainly on their herds for subsistence. The cow serves as a source of milk, and its products like *Dahi* or curd and *Ghee*. Curd as an important article of diet, is much in use among the people of the country while *Ghee* is exported outside the district in comfortable years in exchange for grain. Bullocks are used for ploughing the harder type of land, treading out the corn and drawing pleasure carriages and dray carts.

The important breed of cattle found in the district is Thar. It is also known as Tharparkar breed and is predominant in the Thar desert. It is a dual purposes breed, bullocks being good draught animals and cows having a high milk-yielding capacity. It is most predominantly bred in the eastern parts of the district. The typical animals of the Thar

1. Source: Findings of the Socio-Economic Survey conducted by Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Jodhpur.

breed are medium sized with a deep frame, strong, straight and clear limbs, fine bones, strong ankles and hard feet. Their body, though not compact, is muscular and stockily built. The young animals usually have a white or light grey line over the spine, according to the colour of the animal. The head is broad with straight bulging forehead and a long face. Their ears are medium to large sized, horns short and upright but not coarse. Their legs are short, strong and well built. The tail is long and almost reaches the ground. The average height of a male is 132 to 137 cms. (52 to 54 inches) and that of a female 127 to 132 cms. (50 to 52 inches). The colour of the breed is white and light grey. The average daily yield of milk of a cow of this breed is 2.3 to 3.2 kg. (5 to 7 lbs.), which increases upto 4.5 kg. (10 lbs.) in the rainy season. By stall feeding, these cows can yield up to 11.2 kg. (12 seers) of milk per day. In stall-fed animals the milk yield per lactation is 1,361 kg. (3,000 lbs.) and, in some cases, reaches 2,268 kg. (5,000 lbs.). The average lactation period is 6 to 8 months with a dry period of 4 to 6 months, depending on the availability of pasture.

The other breed of cattle is Rathi and is mostly found in the north-eastern parts of Jaisalmer. It is purely a milch breed. Cows are good dairy animals but bullocks are low and relatively poor in draught power. The animals of this breed are of medium size, with a heavy head and moderate-sized, coarse, small, thick horns. They have a comparatively broad face with an intelligent placid expression of a typical milch animal and possess a heavy hump and dewlap and a pendulous sheath. They have drooping ears with a deep compact frame of rounded quarters. The legs are short, massive and wide and the udder capacious. The animals are wedge shaped with an average height of 125 to 132 cms. (49 to 52 inches) in case of males and 109 to 127 cms. (40 to 50 inches) in case of females. The colour most common to this breed varies from red to dark red, sometimes with a white spot on dewlap and udder and even on the body. A mixture of red and white, or black and white is also found. The average milk production of a Rathi cow is 6.5 to 8 kg. per day. Under wild conditions, there are cows which yield 9 to 11 kg. (20 to 24 lbs.) of milk in a day. The daily yield for a stall-fed cow may be upto 13.6 kg. (30 lbs.) with an average production of 1,588 to 1,814 kg. (3,500 to 4,000 lbs.) of milk in a lactation period, lasting 10 months or so, and a dry period going upto 4 months, under normal availability of feed and fodder.

CAMELS—The camel is among the most useful domestic animals in the district. It is a boon to the desert dwellers and saves them much

hardship, nay, even privation. The Jaisalmer camels, forming a specific breed, are famous for their speed, hardiness, endurance and easy paces. They can go long distances without food or water, subsisting for days on a little unrefined sugar and sulphate of alum, which are carried in the saddle bags. The best of the breed are smaller and finer in head and neck than the ordinary camel of western Rajasthan, and cover 129 to 161 km. (80 to 100 miles) in a night when emergency demands speed.

A camel in Jaisalmer is looked on by its master more as a member of the family than a dumb animal and is used both for pleasure rides and drives, as for useful purposes like ploughing and harrowing the land, bringing home the harvest and carrying wood and water. Camel racing is a common pastime of the people of the country. Their milk is used both as an article of diet and medicine and their skin, after death, is used for making jars to hold *Ghee* and oil. The price of a Jaisalmer breed camel ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,000.

BUFFALOES—Buffaloes are more domesticated than the large herds of cattle and are kept principally for milk and butter. But some of them are used for carriage and draught. They generally graze about the village tanks and are housed or kept in enclosures at night. Buffaloes found in the district are mostly of the *Desi* type.

SHEEP—Sheep rearing is the most important occupation of the maximum number of inhabitants of the district. Sheep are reared chiefly for their wool. Apart from providing raw material for the fast growing wool-textile industry run mostly as a cottage and small scale industry, it serves as the main base of the export trade of the district. Sheep are also largely exported. The Jaisalmeri sheep, though small, fatten well and when carefully fed, yield excellent mutton. Jaisalmeri sheep is a heavily built animal, with a black face characteristically long ears, and a Roman nose. The average body weight of ewes is 29 kg. to 30 kg. (65 to 80 lbs.) and that of rams 32 kg. to 54 kg. (70 to 120 lbs.), producing wool to the extent 2.12 kg. (4.7 lbs.) per annum. The body carries fleece of a uniform white colour. A good average type of animal has a fairly good hump and generally medium grade of wool, though some flocks produce fine grade as well.

GOATS—Goats are extensively bred in the district for milk and meat. They make the bulk of animal food consumed in the country. The two mutton-breeds of goats viz. Marwari and Lohi, are found in most parts of the district.

POULTRY—Poultry are scarcely bred in this district although a few fowls, ducks and sometimes geese, all of *Desi* breeds, may be seen in towns and larger villages. There has, however, been a recent trend towards the development of poultry particularly due to the encouragement given to private breeders to take to poultry farming.

Appendix IV gives the numbers of these animals in Jaisalmer district, at the time of the last three quinquennial Livestock Censuses of 1956, 1961 and 1966. The recurrence of famines in recent years and the acute scarcity of fodder and drinking water, have accounted for the decline in the number of milch cattle, sheep and goats and horses and ponies. The increase in the number of pigs and poultry and buffaloes is indicative of the expansion of piggery, poultry and dairy farming activities in the district.

Animal Diseases

Animals in the district suffer from a few general diseases, which are :

FOOT AND MOUTH—These diseases are quite widespread, occurring in all seasons and in all parts of Rajasthan. These are mild diseases causing no mortality, but are responsible for great economic loss because they disable the work cattle for a long time and reduce the milk yield in cows and buffaloes. Under proper treatment and nursing, the animals recover quickly with no permanent disablement, but negligence causes permanent disablement.

DEFICIENCY DISEASES—The chief deficiency disease affecting the cattle in this district is Avitaminosis, which is caused by the non-availability of grazing or green-fodder in the region. The effects of the disease on the cattle is low vitality, poor breeding capacity, lymphadenitis, total, partial or night blindness, poor milk-yield and low butter content in the milk, and calf mortality. This disease claims more victims during famine years and could be overcome only by suitable vitamin supplements.

MASTITIS—This disease appears in the form of inflammation of the udder in milch cattle, rendering them useless. In neglected cases, the whole udder is destroyed and there is a complete loss of milk. Mastitis is caused by a variety of organisms, some of them being so dangerous that the animals rarely recover, and that too after long treatment. Mastitis cases are not very frequent in this district, the disease being kept away by

the heat and dryness of the climate. Teramycin animal formula for Mistitis and Penicillin and other antibiotic drugs are particularly useful as cures.

Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries

Concerted activities of the State Animal Husbandry Department in the district started in the beginning of the year 1958-59, with the opening of a separate office of the District Animal Husbandry Officer, at Jaisalmer, to look after the veterinary activities in the district. Prior to this, one veterinary hospital at Jaisalmer, two dispensaries at Pokaran and Ramgarh and one mobile veterinary dispensary, with headquarters at Jaisalmer, were working in the field. These institutions and the veterinary extension work in Sankara, the only Development-Block in the district, were concurrently supervised by the District Veterinary Officer, Jodhpur. Simultaneously with the opening of the office of the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Jaisalmer, Pokaran dispensary was upgraded to a full-fledged veterinary hospital.

With the establishment of Panchayat Samitis at Jaisalmer and Sam and also the merger of the Sankara Block into the new set-up under the democratic decentralisation scheme, each of these three Panchayat Samitis were provided with the services of one Animal Husbandry Extension Officer. One minor veterinary dispensary was opened at Nachna in Jaisalmer Panchayat Samiti and the minor dispensary of Ramgarh was put under the charge of Panchayat Samiti, Sam. An additional Animal Husbandry Extension Officer was posted in Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer, during 1963. Next year i.e. in 1964, one veterinary dispensary was opened at Rajasthan Armed Constabulary (now Border Security Force) headquarters, for the exclusive treatment of Rajasthan Armed Constabulary Camels of Jaisalmer and Barmer districts. In 1965, the minor veterinary dispensary of Ramgarh was converted into a veterinary hospital, and an up-graded veterinary dispensary started working at Bhaniyana in Sankara Panchayat Samiti.

At present (1967-68), there are three veterinary hospitals at Jaisalmer, Pokaran and Ramgarh, one up-graded veterinary dispensary at Bhaniyana, one mobile veterinary dispensary with headquarters at Jaisalmer, one veterinary dispensary for Border Security Force camels, one dispensary at Nachna in the district, for control and treatment of animal diseases. Besides, animal husbandry staff and Animal Husbandry Extension Officers are attached to each of the three Panchayat Samitis.

During the year 1967-68, 17,842 sick animals were treated at the headquarters, and another 8,318 animals were supplied with medicine by the veterinary institutions. 1,104 castrations and 15,147 inoculations were also performed during the year.

Sheep and Wool

Jaisalmer district produces substantial quantities of wool. It accounts for over 5.91 lakhs of sheep (1966 Livestock Census), producing 13.4 lakh kg. of wool. Jaisalmeri wool is long staple and of good quality and is in demand for making of carpets as well as apparel.

At the time of the organisation of District Animal Husbandry Office at Jaisalmer in 1958-59, a Sheep and Wool Extension Scheme had been under operation in the district. This scheme was being implemented through a Sheep and Wool Extension Officer at Jaisalmer and Sheep and Wool Extension Centres at Amarsagar (Jaisalmer), Mohangarh, Nachna Pokaran, Lathi, Devikot, Ramgarh and Sam. The control of these was kept under the charge of the Animal Husbandry Officer, till a separate Superintendent of Sheep and Wool Department for the district took them over in 1964. At present (1967-68), the staff of the District Sheep and Wool Officer (redesignated) includes one Assistant District Sheep and Wool Officer, five Sheep and Wool Extension Officers, eight Supervisors, 27 Stock Assistants, 8 Master Shearers, 9 Camel Sawars and 26 Shepherds, besides the ministerial staff. The number of Extension Centres has now been raised to thirteen by the opening of Bhaniyana, Khuhri, Deva, Sangad and Phalsoond centres.

The object of the Sheep and Wool Department is to improve the stock and thereby increase production from sheep. In order to ensure reasonable price of wool to the breeders, the Department purchases wool from them at market rates and after grading it at various centres, established for the purpose, sells it out by public auction. The following quantities of wool were purchased from the breeders in the district¹ :

S.No. 1	Clip 2	Wool purchased (kg.) 3	Amount paid (Rs.) 4
1.	September 1965	25,125.985	1,30,101.91
2.	March 1966	38,674.650	2,50,822.55
3.	September 1966	73,414.269	4,15,204.27

1. Source : District Sheep and Wool Office, Jaisalmer.

1	2	3	4
4.	March 1967	20,689.790	1,29,843.79
5.	September 1967	48,80.225	2,47,396.95
6.	March 1968	35,970.826	2,25,096.65
7.	September 1968	4,483.050	23,538.09

Besides this, the activities of the Sheep & Wool Department in the district include controlled breeding programme, castration, epidemic control through vaccination, distribution of rams for breeding, technical and financial encouragement to sheep breeders, woolgrading etc. As a part of extension activities, 483 ram lambs were distributed during 1965-67 under the Ram Lamb Raising Scheme.

Stock-Improvement

A number of schemes to improve the livestock breeds and their output are under operation in the district, initiated by the Animal Husbandry Department. Each of the three Panchayat Samitis advances loans and provides subsidies to progressive cattle-breeders for the stock improvement or for the establishment of private cattle-breeding farms, according to departmental specifications. Rs. 2,500 were given as subsidy to five persons by Panchayat Samiti, Sankara in 1967-68 for stock improvement. Another Rs. 16,700 in 1964-65 and Rs. 5,000 in 1965-66 were advanced as loans by it. Pure breed cow-bulls are also stationed at Bull Stations in veterinary hospitals at Jaisalmer and Pokaran and a few of them are supplied to panchayats and private breeders for servicing. Scrub and unwanted bulls are castrated. A scheme of providing subsidies and maintenance-premiums to the owners of the selected local stock of calves and bulls has been working in the district. These are purchased by the Department on maturity and distributed for improvement and upgrading of breeds.

The activities in the field of breed improvement took their logical shape in the establishment of a Cattle Breeding Farm at Chandhan, on a plot of 251 hectare (620 acres) of land, in 1964-65. Ten bulls in 1966-67 and 18 bulls in 1967-68 were distributed through the farm. 38,559 kg. (85,008 lbs.) of milk in 1965-66, 76,465 kg. (1,68,494 lbs.) in 1966-67 and 94,465 kg. (2,08,261 lbs.) in 1967-68 were produced by the Tharparker cows kept at the farm. The expenditure and income of the farm during these years was as follows¹:

1. Source: Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Rajasthan.

(Rupees)		
Year	Expenditure	Income
1965-66	1,41,309	5,161
1966-67	1,59,159	19,948
1967-68	2,24,313	47,775

Dairy-Farming

The district being a desert area with scarcity of water and fodder for the cattle, and very poor communication facilities, there is no scope for the development of established dairy farms. However, when there are enough rains and animals get green grass and fodder, there is an increase in milk production and the cattle-breeders prepare *Ghee*, which after satisfying local needs, is exported outside the district.

Poultry Farming

The extremes of climate in the district do not permit rearing of poultry on a large scale. The Animal Husbandry Department, however, has been trying its best to encourage the poultry industry in the district by supplying fine breed birds at subsidised rates to the willing breeders.

Cattle Fairs

No cattle fair of State or district importance is held anywhere in the district. A couple of local cattle fairs are arranged by the Panchayat Samitis. One such fair is held at Nokh in sub-tahsil of the same name from *Baisakh Sudi* to 11 (April-May). About 5 thousand animals, mostly camels, bullocks and cows assemble. Revenue of Rs. 3,340 in 1965-66, Rs. 4,35 in 1966-67 and Rs. 7,311 in 1967-68 accrued from this fair to Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer.

Another fair is held at Ramdeora in Pokaran tahsil. This is essentially a religious fair and the transactions (of 2,569 animals in 1967-68) in animals are a by-product of the assembly.

FAMINES

Scarcity and famine are common conditions in Jaisalmer and sufficiency in food, fodder and water an exceptional situation. With extensive sandy tracts and far flung from the paths of monsoon currents, the district is liable to a shortfall or complete absence of rains. This

situation, coupled with the damage done by agricultural pests, constantly creates havoc through the failure of crops in the whole or some part of the district. The results are no surprise for the people, who seem to suffer less than one would expect, since they are by nature and of necessity, self-reliant and are ever ready to face such eventualities by limiting their needs to the minimum. Many of the people who can afford keep hoards of grains laid up against ever-recurring bad seasons. The poor, during the years of scarcity just manage to subsist somehow. *Kharif* is practically the only harvest dependent on seasonal rains, the failure or scantiness of which means not only no crops or indifferent ones, but also deficiency of water for men and beasts and vegetation. The undeveloped means of communication had been adding to the difficulties of the scarcity-stricken people of the region and coming in the way of relief measures the rulers of the former princely State tried to provide from out of its small revenue. Emigration had been a general and the main form of relief for the suffering population.

No detailed accounts of the famines or scarcities which visited the area prior to 1891-92 are available¹. 1812 and 1813 are said to have been years of great suffering and, to a lesser extent, the years 1868-69 and 1877-78. Deficient rainfall in the State in 1891 caused again a more or less general failure of crops. The prices of wheat, *Bajra* and *Jowar* rose considerably. Grain was largely imported from Sind by railway. Nevertheless 11,725 people, about three times the usual yearly average, emigrated with their herds. Relief works were started but they utterly failed to attract labour, since the people were disinclined and not accustomed to steady work. The works had to be completed by contract. People had been indifferent, if not averse, to assistance from the State coffers, many of them considering it derogatory to be seen earning wages of relief works in their own country. They preferred emigration. More than 13,000 heads of cattle are said to have died. The direct expenditure on relief was small (about Rs. 4,000), but including remission of land revenue and losses from sources other than land, this visitation cost the State about Rs. 68,000.

The years 1895 and 1896 went with scanty rainfall, the average being only 7.8 to 8.9 cms. (3.16 and 3.46 inches) respectively. This resulted in the crops dying before reaching maturity and consequent scarcity in about two-third of the territory of the State, though there was no real famine. The conditions in the northern and western parts was the worst.

In 1895-96, there was deficiency more of water and fodder than of grain, while in 1896-97, the reverse was the case. Relief works and poor houses were started in December 1895 and not closed till July 1897, but the largest number of relief of either kind never reached 2,000 on any day. The expenditure on relief works came to Rs. 86,000 and about Rs. 11,000 were distributed as gratuitous relief to those who were unable to work. Medical relief was also provided. The prices of *Bajra* ranged between 7.7 kg. and 9.8 kg. (8½ and 10½ seers) per rupee and of barley between 5.8 kg. and 9.3 kg. (6½ and 10 seers) for a rupee. Nearly one-fourth of the population (25,143 persons to be exact), with more than 1,07,000 head of cattle, emigrated. The land revenue was largely remitted and losses from other sources were considerable. The Committee of the Charitable Relief Fund at Calcutta allotted Rs. 19,000 for distribution in Jaisalmer, but only Rs. 7,500 were spent out of this, almost entirely on purchasing cattle. In 1898 too, only 8.9 cms. (3½ inches) of rain was recorded. Nevertheless, it fell so opportunely that there was a fair crop of grass, but it proved insufficient to bring much of *Bajra* into ear. Large quantities of grain had to be imported and, consequently, the prices of foodstuffs were kept low throughout the year. Many of the cattle, however, had to be driven away to Sind and Malwa in search of pasture.

The famine of 1899-1900 was the worst in recorded history. There was a complete dry spell in all but a few districts of the then State of Jaisalmer, the average rainfall for the State being just less than 2.5 cms. (one inch). It was christened a *Trikal* or a triple famine in which grain, water and fodder were alike scarce. There was heavy emigration of about 40 to 50 thousand persons, and the livestock loss was estimated at about 1,48,000 of horned cattle and more than 7,400 camels. Relief works and poor houses were opened for twelve months, during which period 41,122 persons were provided with relief. The largest number on relief on a single day was recorded at 1,764 towards the end of May, 1900. Practically no land revenue was collected and the Government of India came to the assistance of the State Government with a loan of half a lakh of rupees, the amount of money which approximated to the direct cost of the relief operations. This famine is remarkable for the appearance of Cholera for the first time in the history of Jaisalmer, claiming three to four thousand lives between December 1899 and September 1900.

The scarcity of 1901-02, though not intense, was general. The rains, on the whole insufficient, were helpful in giving a little relief in their timely start but soon proved damaging to the crops by a sudden

1. Erskine, Major K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, 1908, p. 28.

break in July. The monsoon, inspite of its subsequent re-establishment, could not remove the ravaging scarcity conditions in most parts of the district. The relief measures cost the State Rs. 22,385¹, which was met through a further loan from the Government of India. Relief works were opened on 1st of January 1902 and closed down on 5th September of that year.

Scarcity conditions ravaged the district for the next fifteen years from 1902, but the details of these famines remain unrecorded. Rains failed in 1903 and 1904 *Kharif* seasons, and locust invasions in 1902-03 aggravated the situation. There was almost a total failure of rains again in 1904, and rains were very late in 1905, when a few light showers in July were sucked up by the parched land. Hot winds and blinding sand storms followed, bringing conditions to a dismal end. People had to emigrate in large numbers with their herds of cattle. Good rains in February and March, and then in July and August 1907, benefitted *Rabi* and *Kharif* crops, though the rains failed again in September and October. The pasturage was excellent. There was no scarcity of water in that year and with the improvement in the condition of agricultural stock, people returned. There was severe famine again in 1939-40, during which a gravel road between Pokaran and Jaisalmer was constructed as a relief work.

Since the merger of the State with Rajasthan, the Government have been working on a famine relief policy to provide effective distress relief to the famine stricken people of the district, by starting labour camps for them where employment could be provided and by planning the economy in such a way so as to remove the malady for ever. Bringing the district under the command of the Rajasthan Canal Project, now under progress, is a step which will lead to a revolutionary transformation from scarcity to plenty. Direct administration of the short time relief measures is being effected through the agency of Famine Relief Operations. During 1948-49 famine, about a lakh of rupees were spent in the excavation of tanks and reconditioning of Pokaran-Jaisalmer road. The very next year, i.e. in 1949-50, the district was visited by another and more severe famine, when a sum of Rs. 70,000 was spent in the excavation of tanks and improvements of channels, in addition to another Rs. 30,000 given as *Taccavi* loans and Rs. 25,000 as gratuitous relief to the poor and

1. *Administration Report of Jaisalmer State*, for 1902 and later years.

which drew down on them the vengeance of the Sultan, who sent his general Kamaluddin with a force of 7,000 to capture Jaisalmer and who besieged the fort but achieved no success. After two or three years he was joined by Malik Kafur. They attacked the fort but the attempt failed, the losses sustained by the besiegers were very heavy. Kamaluddin came again with a force of 80,000. The fort was invested closely and, as luck would have it, internal dissensions broke out leading to the desertion of the ruler by many of his kinsmen. Among them was one Duda, who later on became Rawal of Jaisalmer¹. Jaitsimha II died soon after the investment of the fort had begun². Mularaj, the son and heir-apparent of Jaitsimha was killed in the final sortie. Jaisalmer was occupied by a Muslim garrison which, after holding the place for two years dismantled it and retired. While some historians put this invasion in 1286 A.D. during Balban's reign, the historical personalities involved in this indicate that the event took place during Alauddin Khalji's reign. Dr. K. S. Lal treats this as the second invasion and gives this date¹ as 1299 A.D. while by others⁴ it is put around 1308 A.D.

About this time, Jagmal, a Rathor Chief of Marwar with several followers attempted to establish a settlement amidst the ruins of Jaisalmer, but the Bhati chief Duda and his brother Tilak Singh drove him out. For this brave act Duda was elected Rawal by the Sirdars of Jaisalmer. Rawal Duda was the great-grandson of Rao Kelan. He had deserted Mularaj and Ratansimha while the siege was on, as mentioned above. During Duda's reign a Muslim invasion again took place. K. S. Lal believes that the second Turkish invasion came off some time in 1299 A.D. when the army of Alauddin Khalji under the command of Ulugh Khan arrived in Jaisalmer, captured that fort and killed a large number of people⁵ including Rawal Duda and Tilak Singh. This attack is attributed to the predatory exploits of Tilak Singh who had extended his raids to Ajmer, and once carried off a stud belonging to the prince. This act of insolence caused the Muslim forces once more to march against Jaisalmer. However, there is no unanimity about the date of this invasion also. According to a view, it must have taken place either at the close of Alauddin Khalji's

1. *Rajasthan Through the Ages*, op. cit., p. 685.

2. *Nainsi-ki-Khyat* op. cit., p. 295.

3. Lal, Kishori Saran, *History of the Khaljis (1290-1320 A. D.)*, Asian Publishing House (1967), p. 81.

4. *Rajasthan Through the Ages*, op. cit., p. 685.

5. Lal, Kishori Saran, op. cit., pp. 82-85.

reign or during the reign of Ghiyasuddin Tughluq or his son Muhammad-bin-Tughluq¹.

Rawal Duda was succeeded by Gharsimha² a nephew of Mulraj I, who had been captured at the first siege and taken to Delhi where, by his courage and gallant bearing he gained the Sultan's favour and a grant of his hereditary dominions with permission to re-establish Jaisalmer. Gharsimha regained the town and fort of Jaisalmer which the Muslims had captured during the days of his predecessor, Rawal Duda. He was a great warrior and married a Rathor princess Vimaldevi³. After a reign of about thirty years, he died in 1361 A. D. and was succeeded⁴ by his brother Kehar II, whom his wife adopted. He was a great lover of architecture and built a Jain temple in the fort.

Kehar II was succeeded by his son Laxman and the latter by Bairisingh in 1436 A. D. who is said to have ruled for 12 years. Bairisingh captured Bikampur from Ranmal of Mandor and built its gates and palaces. Bairisingh was succeeded by his eldest son Chachigdev II.

Chachigdev II was an adventurous and enterprising ruler. He extended his conquests and was known for having seized a great number of wealthy bankers of other regions and compelled them to live and settle in Jaisalmer. He defeated the Muslim Chief of Multan and also a Rajput Chief named Mahipal. He constructed a fort and several military posts across the river Beha to check the movements of the Multanis towards Jaisalmer. The Sodhas of Amarkot conspired against Chachigdev and killed him. He was succeeded by his son Devi Das in 1467. He gave his daughter in marriage to prince Satal of Jodhpur and in dowry he gave the area of Kundan on the western border of Jaisalmer⁵. To avenge his father's murder, Devi Das fought with the Sodhas. During his time

1. *Rajasthan Through the Ages, op. cit.*, p. 687.

2. Gharsimha and his brother Kanor are said to have been brought up by a Muslim General Mahboob Khan. *Journal of Rajasthan Institute of Historical Research*, Vol. III, No. 1 of 1966, pp. 55-56.

3. *ibid.*, p. 56.

4. Gahlot mentions that Duda succeeded Gharsi in 1418 V. S. and ruled for ten years. Thereafter the throne was occupied by Kehar, son of Duda. However, Erskine and Nainsi are of the opinion that Duda was predecessor of Gharsi (Gharsimha) and Kehar, the brother of Gharsi, succeeded Gharsi in 1391 V. S. i. e. 1335 A. D., Gahlot J. S., *Rajputana-ka-Itihas*, p. 686, Nainsi, *Khyat*, p. 322.

5. Sharma, Dr. G. N., *Social Life in Mediaeval Rajasthan*, Agra (1968), p. 27.

Rao Bikaji of Bikaner constructed a fort in Pugal district. Devi Das opposed it¹ but was betrayed by his own fiefholder. He died in 1496 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Jait Simha III. His son Lunkaran was greatly dissatisfied with the administrative arrangements and therefore left for Kandhar.

On the death of Jait Simha III, his son Karan Singh II usurped the *gaddi*. He was in power for about fifteen days when Lunkaran returned from Kandhar and gained his ancestral patrimony in 1528 A. D. He imported some people from Kandhar and settled them in Jaisalmer.

In August 1542, the Mughal Emperor Humayun arrived in Jaisalmer with his Mughal followers and is said to have indulged in cow-slaughter which was forbidden in the State. Rawal Lunkaran took serious exception to it and sent his Rajput envoy to Humayun demanding an explanation for the misdemeanour of his men. Humayun imprisoned the envoy, on which act Lunkaran took sterner steps and ordered his men to guard the route and water reservoirs and to prevent the convoys of grain from reaching the Mughal camp. At the same time prince Maldeo of Jaisalmer attacked the Mughal camp and rescued the envoy and after that allowed the Mughals to go unmolested². Lunkaran met his death in 1550 A. D. while fighting against Amir Ali Khan, a chief and former friend from Kandhar, who turned a traitor on the instigation of Humayun. During his reign, the Jait Bandh initiated by his father, was completed.

Maldeo, the eldest son of Lunkaran succeeded to the *gaddi* in 1550 A. D. By this time Jaisalmer's defence had become weak. It had not yet recovered from the onslaughts of the Mughals and the Kandharis. Maldeo, the Rathor chief of Jodhpur attacked it twice. He wanted to usurp some territory of Jaisalmer, but could not, because of the strong resistance from Rawal Maldeo Bhati. In his second attempt in 1552 the Rathor chief had sent Pancholi Netsi Prithviraj and Kumpa with a large

1. Gahlot, J. S., *Rajputana-ka-Itihas*, p. 668. However, Ojha in his *The History of Rajputana*, Vol. V, part I (1939), p. 115, mentions that it was Rawal Jait Simha in whose reign the episode took place and the name of the ruler of Bikaner is given as Lunkaran. In the absence of more authentic information, it is difficult to reconcile these events and the chronology.

2. Avasthi, R. S. : *The Mughal Emperor Humayun*, Allahabad (1967), pp. 413-414. K.D. Erskine (*op. cit.*, p. 13), mentions that Lunkaran opposed Humayun in 1541 when the latter was on his way to Ajmer via Jaisalmer and Nagaur. Jagdish Singh Gahlot in his *Rajputana-ka-Itihas* (*op. cit.*, p. 669), mentions that since Maharaja Maldeo of Jodhpur refused asylum to Humayun the latter took his way to Amarkot via Jaisalmer. Rawal Lunkaran also refused asylum to Humayun and charged him with killing a number of cows,

army to attack Jaisalmer¹. He besieged Jaisalmer, which was later restored to the Bhatīs after receiving a large sum of money².

It was during the reign of Maldeo that the renowned romantic story of Dhola-Maru composed in Marwari prose in v. s. 1603 by Kavi Kallol was rendered in verse in v. s. 1607 by Jain Yati Kushal Chandra.

Rawal Maldeo was succeeded in A. D. 1561 by his son Har Raj who was a lover of music and art and built a palace now called *Harraj-ka-Maliya*. He effected all round progress in his State. During his time, emperor Akbar showed signs of entering into a friendly alliance with Jaisalmer. Har Raj submitted to Akbar and gave his daughter in marriage to the great Mughal³. He also sent his youngest son Sultan Singh to serve in the Mughal Court.

In 1575, the Rawal attacked Pokaran and after a siege of four months dispossessed Pancholi Anand, the Commander of Rao Chander-sen's garrison of the fortress of Pokaran⁴. Whether the fort was acquired by force of arms or was purchased or was occupied otherwise, is a subject of controversy.

During the sixteenth century, the Turkoman Governor of Umarkot under the Arghun dynasty, married the daughter of a chief of Jaisalmer and the off-spring of this marriage was a son, Khan-i-Zaman by name who was a distinguished general of his time in Sindh, which was then on friendly political terms with Jaisalmer. The *Beg-lar-namah* mentions the deputation of Khan-i-Zaman on friendly mission of Rawal Har Raj with a robe of honour from Mirza Jan Beg of Sindh⁵.

Rawal Har Raj died in 1634 v. s. (1577 A. D.) and was succeeded by his son Bhīm. The name of Rawal Bhīm appears in the *Ain-i-Akbari* in the list of the *mansabdars* of five hundred and Jahangir described him as 'a man of rank and influence'. When he died, he left a son two months old who did not live long. Bhīm's daughter was married to Jahangir when he was a prince, and he gave her the title of *Malika-i-Jahan*. Jahangir says 'this alliance was made because her family had always been faithful

to our house¹. Rawal Bhīm had married the niece of Raja Sur Singh of Bikaner. Shortly after his death, the Bhatīs killed his infant son Nathu Singh. This enraged Raja Sur Singh who swore that no Bikaner princes would again go to Jaisalmer².

Rawal Bhīm was succeeded³ on the *gaddi* by his brother Kalyan Das, in v. s. 1670 (c. 1613 A. D.). He was earlier appointed the governor of Orissa in A. D. 1610 by the emperor and was also made a commander of two thousand *Jat* and one thousand horse, about six years later. Rawal Kalyan Das established good relations with Udaipur. He gave his daughter in marriage to Kunwar Jagat Singh of Udaipur⁴ in 1619 A. D.

Kalyan Das was succeeded by his son Rawal Manohar Das⁵ and the latter having died in 1650 A. D. without heir, Rawal Ram Chandra, son of Bhawanidas and grandson of Rawal Maldeo, was enthroned. But he was not a capable ruler and was dethroned by the *Sirdars* within a few days of his succession, giving chance to Sabal Singh to succeed who, too, was a great-grandson of Rawal Maldeo.

Rawal Sabal Singh was a contemporary of Shah Jahan. He did not belong to the direct and regular line of succession to the *gaddi*. According to Gahlot⁶, he was a nephew of Mirza Raja Jai Singh Kachhawa of Amer. He had served the Mughal army with distinction at Peshawar, where on one occasion he saved the royal treasure from being captured by the Afghan mountaineers. As a reward for this action, Shah Jahan ordered that he should be installed as ruler of Jaisalmer although he was not the legitimate heir to the *gaddi*.

According to Tod, Sabal Singh was the first prince of Jaisalmer who held his dominions as a fief from the Mughal emperor⁷. The Mughal emperor Shahjahan also recognised the importance of the Bhati House, which is evident by his grant, of the *Mansab of Shash Hazari* and the

1. Ojha, G. H., *The History of Rajputana*, Vol. IV, Part I, pp. 312-313.
 2. Gahlot, J. S., *op. cit.*, p. 670.
 3. Srivastava, A. L., *Akbar the Great*, Vol. I, Agra (1962), p. 127.
 4. Ojha, G. H., *The History of Rajputana*, Vol. IV, Part I, pp. 346-347.
 5. Erskine, K. D., *op. cit.*, p. 13.

1. Erskine, K. D., *op. cit.*, p. 13.
 2. *ibid.*, p. 13.
 3. Gahlot, J. S., *Rajputana-ka-Itihas*, Vol. I, p. 674; K. D. Erskine (*op. cit.*, p. 13), quoting *Tuzak-i-Jahangiri* mentions that Jahangir invested Kalyan Das with *tika* in 1626 A. D. and made him Rawal.
 4. Sharma, Dr. G. N., *Social Life in Mediaeval Rajasthan*, Agra (1968), p. 113.
 5. Gahlot J. S. puts the period of his reign as 1627-1650 A. D., *op. cit.*, p. 674.
 6. Gahlot, J. S., *op. cit.*, p. 675.
 7. Tod, *op. cit.*, p. 1225. This, however, does not accord with what Jahangir has written. See Erskine, K. D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, *The W.R.S. Residency, and Bikaner Agency* (1909), p. 13.

title of the Mahi Maratab¹, Jaisalmer then became tributary to the Mughal empire. In 1660, a year before his death, Sabal Singh struck *Dodia* copper coins in Jaisalmer and circulated them. In his time, Jaisalmer was at the height of its expansion as it comprised the whole of present Bhawalpur and certain districts of Marwar and Bikaner².

Rawal Sabal Singh was succeeded by his son, Amar Singh, a wise, farsighted and valiant chief who did not allow any robbery to be committed in his territory. During his reign, Maharaja Anup Singh of Bikaner invaded Jaisalmer, but was defeated and routed after a fierce battle. The Rathors did not make another attempt until the death of Rawal Amar Singh. He also repulsed the attack of Balochis³. He died in 1702 A. D. and was succeeded by Rawal Jaswant Singh⁴.

The period between 1702-1722 A. D. is a gloomy period in the history of Jaisalmer. Internal feuds and maladministration resulted in heavy losses to the State. Jaswant Singh lost the regions of Pugal, Barmer and Phalodi to the Rathor rulers of Bikaner and Jodhpur. The border area of the river Suttlej was usurped by Daud Khan, an Afghan adventurer and Chieftain in the Court of Shikarpur in Sindh. Jaswant Singh died in 1707 A. D. and was succeeded by Rawal Budh Singh, son of Jagat Singh who had committed suicide⁵. But Budh Singh was poisoned by his uncle Tej Singh in 1721, who usurped the *gaddi* for himself. Next year, Tej Singh was attacked and killed by his uncle Hari Singh. The nobles detested the action of Hari Singh and put Sawai Singh, the infant son of Tej Singh, on the *gaddi*. But Akhai Singh the rightful claimant soon stormed the fort of Jaisalmer and killed Sawai Singh and occupied

1. Memorandum from Maharawal Salivahan of Jaisalmer dated 8th August 1911. Foreign Deptt. Secret Internal, Proceedings January, 1912, No. 3. In *Vir Vinod*, part II, p. 371, it is mentioned that he was a Mansabdar of 'Ek Hazari Jaat, Sat Sau Sawar'.
2. Hendley, Thomas Holbein, *The Rulers of India and the Chiefs of Rajputana*, p. 31.
3. Foreign Deptt., General-B, May 1877, Nos. 273-280 *The Marwar, Mallani and Jaisalmer Gazetteers*.
4. Gahlot, J. S. (*op. cit.*, p. 678) gives the date of the accession of Jaswant Singh as 1701 A. D.
5. In a rare, Hindi manuscript "Sawai Jai Singhji Jodhpur Upar Chadha", written shortly after 1740 A. D. and which is presently available in the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur, it is mentioned that Akhai Singh succeeded Jaswant Singh but he was overthrown and the throne was usurped by Tej Singh, another son of Jagat Singh. Akhai Singh was son of Jagat Singh, son of Rawal Jaswant Singh, who had committed suicide.

the throne. Akhai Singh ruled for about forty years (1722-1761 A. D.). He was a progressive ruler. His rule was notable, particularly for the introduction of Akhai Shahi coins in his country and in the regions around it.

It is significant that Jaisalmer was a flourishing town at this time. Big capitalists, surrounded by Banjaras, had their shops of stock and exchange in the central part of the town. Cloth-dealers, grocers and confectioners had their own compartments in separate markets. Similarly, craftsmen such as goldsmiths, dyers, thread-weavers, tailors, and arms manufacturers had their different places allotted in the market. There were also betel-sellers and garland-sellers. The perfume sellers used to move about in the streets and lanes to sell scents. Open bazars used to be held and hawkers would spread their articles for sale. The famous Maniek Chauk and the grain market were flooded daily with caravans of camels loaded with articles for sale¹.

MODERN PERIOD

The first decade of the nineteenth century was a transition period for the Jaisalmer State. Mul Raj II (1762-1819), the successor² of Akhai Singh, proved to be a weak ruler. During his rule a great part of the fertile land of the State and the fort of Gurtu were lost to the Rathors of Bikaner and Jodhpur and to the Amirs of Sindh. The Baluchis plundered the State and threatened the frontiers constantly and the State treasury was empty. Mulraj II, therefore, longed for peace and at the same time desired the restoration of his lost territory.

The era of Mul Raj II may be regarded as an era of internal bloodshed for which his Dewan Mehta Sarup Singh was largely responsible. The Dewan fomented Rai Singh, the heir-apparent, and some nobles to conspire and rise against and depose the Maharawal³. An affray took place during which the Dewan was killed. Anarchy prevailed thereafter. For a short time Raj Singh was successful and usurped the *gaddi*. But Mul Raj did not take too long to regain it, and Rai Singh

1. The above account of Jaisalmer is preserved in the *Jaisalmer Gazal* (1765 A. D.) referred to by Dr. Sharma in his *Social Life in Mediaeval Rajasthan*, Agra (1968), p. 49.
2. Gahlot, J. S., *op. cit.*, p. 681.
3. Rajputana Agency, General file No. 75 of 1860, Vol. II, National Archives of India (N. A. I.), New Delhi.

went into exile. Some frustrated nobles whose estates had been sequestered fled to Barmer (Jodhpur State) and from there they continued to loot and devastate the country for about twelve years. Rai Singh, after remaining in exile for about three years, returned to the Jaisalmer State but was confined in the fort of Deora¹.

Mul Raj II had developed political friendship with Bahawal Khan, Chief of Bahawalpur and purchased² the fort of Dingarh for Rs. 40,000/-. He had two Dewans during his reign Mehta Swarup Singh, an old shrewd Jain Mahajan and Salim Singh Mehta, the son and successor of Mehta Swarup Singh. Dewan Salim Singh, though shrewd and crafty, could not gain popularity owing to his inhuman atrocities. In the words of James Tod³, his character was a union of 'the subtlety of the serpent to the ferocity of the tiger'. He had put to death nearly all the relatives of the Maharawal Mul Raj II. With the commercial men and with the industrious agriculturists or the pastoral communities he had forfeited all claim to credit and his oath was not valued at a single grain of the sand of desert. And finally, he drove out the Paliwal Brahmins, who were the mainstay of Jaisalmer agriculture and who had constructed most of the *Kharins* or irrigation tanks in the State.

The State, owing to its isolated situation escaped the ravages of the Marathas but the internecine feuds among the nobles continued. On 28th May, 1808, Mul Raj II addressed a letter to the Government of India and expressed his desire for 'the bonds of amity and sincere attachment'. He also wished extension of the British power over north India, so that the British, being his friend, may help him in recovering his lost territory and adjusting his affairs in a happy manner'. The Government of India acknowledged receipt of the presents sent by Mul Raj II with his letter and assured him of their 'corresponding sentiments', but did not form any alliance with him since their policy limited the British ascendancy to the territories east of the river Yamuna⁴. But in 1813 Lord Hastings became Governor-General, who enunciated a policy which led to the establishment of British supremacy over Rajputana. He followed a general policy of concluding treaties with the States of Rajputana. The Treaty of 1817

1. Foreign Department, General B, May, 1877, No. 273-280, National Archives of India (N. A. I.).
2. *The History of Bahawalpur* by Shahamat Ali (London, 1848) p. 135.
3. Tod, *op. cit.*, p. 1251.
4. Foreign Department, Political Consultation, 17 October 1808, No. 64-65 N.A.I.
5. Aitchison C. U., *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, Vol. III (1909), p. 150.

with Daulat Rao Sindhia removed the restrictions which had been placed upon the formation of alliances between the British and the Rajput States and left the British Government free to enter into new relations with them. Sir Charles Metcalfe, Resident of Delhi, was directed to issue a circular letter to all the chiefs of the States in Rajputana inviting them to conclude treaties. On 12 December, 1818, Mul Raj II concluded a Treaty of protection with the British Government of India. According to the treaty, the British guaranteed the principality of Jaisalmer to the posterity of Mulraj; the Chief was to be protected from serious invasions and dangers to his State, provided the cause of the quarrel was not attributable to him; and the Chief was to act in subordinate co-operation with the British Government. There was no article in the Treaty which could oblige the Maharawal to pay tribute to the British Government. In fact, Jaisalmer was bound to nothing except subordinate co-operation.

Before the conclusion of the Treaty, Dewan Salim Singh Mehta had, in vain, endeavoured to obtain a guarantee, such as was given to Zalim Singh Zhala of the Kotah State, that the office of the Minister would be hereditary in his family¹. In 1819 A.D., Mulraj died. Salim Singh, however, continued as Dewan in the days of Mul Raj's successor Maharawal Gaj Singh, whom he reduced to a figure head who, therefore, was keen for a change by removing the Mehta².

In 1824, Salim Singh Mehta narrowly escaped assassination by a Rajput sepoy but he could not survive long after that and was poisoned by his own wife³.

Dewan Salim Singh Mehta was succeeded in his office by his son Bishan Singh Mehta. But, since Gaj Singh was very much against the hereditary Dewanship of the Mehta family he dismissed him and did not appoint his son to the post. He brought about considerable improvement in the administration of the State. The people, shroffs and merchants were all happy and prosperous⁴. He was a peace loving ruler and addressed several letters to the Government of India to use their good offices and exert pressure on the other rulers to restore to him the territories seized by them⁵. The Government of India showed displeasure and took no action, as it would have been inconsistent with the treaties with other States⁶.

1. Aitchison, C.U., *op. cit.*, pp. 149-150.
2. Foreign Department, Political Consultation, 14 February 1823, No. 30, N.A.I.
3. *ibid.*
4. Rajputana Agency, General File No. 75 of 1860, Vol. II N.A.I.
5. Foreign Department Political Consultation, 6 June, 1833, No. 66-67, N.A.I.
6. *ibid.*

In 1829 the Rathor Raja Ratan Singh of Bikaner in violation of his treaty engagements with the British Government invaded the British ally Jaisalmer to avenge some depredations committed by the people of Jaisalmer. Both the parties were ready to fight and applied to the neighbouring States for assistance when the British Government interfered. Finally through the arbitration of the Maharaja of Udaipur the dispute was settled¹. Squabbles between Bikaner and Jaisalmer, however, continued and had reached such a point in 1835, that a British Officer was deputed to effect a reconciliation. Happily his mission was attended with success².

In 1838-39, the first Afghan War necessitated the dispatch of British troops to join the main army by way of the river Indus. Jaisalmer supplied camels to the British Government for transport purposes. On account of this valuable service, the Government of India tendered their special thanks to the Jaisalmer ruler.

After the first Afghan War and the conquest of Sindh, the British Government adopted a favourable and benevolent attitude towards Jaisalmer. In 1843, the British Government came to the conclusion that the places in the desert were more safe in the hands of Rajputs than in the hands of the Baluchis³. The British Government therefore asked the Amirs of Sindh to give up the lands and forts of Gharsia, Shahgarh and Ghotaru to their original master, the Maharawal of Jaisalmer. Mir Rustom of Kherpur and Mir Ali Murad Khan of Hyderabad (Sindh) who had jointly held occupation of these places returned them to Jaisalmer⁴. Of course, no *Sanad* was granted to the Maharawal on this occasion⁵.

Gaj Singh had a son, Bijai Singh or Bijayaraj who died during his father's life time while still a minor. Gaj Singh, died in 1846. The Ranawatji, widow Rani of Gaj Singh, exercised power and adopted the

1. Erskine, K.D., *op. cit.*, p. 16.

2. *ibid.*, p. 16.

3. Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, 7 October, 1843, No. 361, N.A.I.

4. Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, 23 March, 1844, No. 96-99. Letter from Mir Rustom dated 29th December, 1843 and also Foreign Department, Secret Consultation, 28 November, 1846, Nos. 127-156, N.A.I.

5. Aitchison, C.U., *op. cit.*

Maharawal's nephew Ranjit Singh, a minor son of Kesri Singh of Nachna and installed him on the *gaddi*¹.

The affairs of the State were conducted by Kesri Singh during the minority of the ruler. He always looked for peace within the State which had only limited revenue. In the history of Jaisalmer, it was for the first time that the craftsmanship and industry of Jaisalmer received universal appreciation and recognition when in 1855, the Court of Jaisalmer received the award of medal by the Lords Commissioners for the attractive articles sent to the London Exhibition² of 1851.

On 26 June, 1857 a new postal route from Jodhpur to Sindh via Malani and Jaisalmer was opened. Postal posts were established at every sixth mile. At every post two camels to carry the dak were arranged.

Upheaval of 1857-58

During the great up-heaval of 1857-58, the then Mughal King of Delhi, Bahadur Shah, is said to have written the following letter to Maharawal Ranjit Singh.

"It is clear to our belief that throughout your dominions the name and trace of these ill-omened infidels, the English must have not remained. If, however, by any chance or possibility some have escaped till now by keeping hidden and concealed, first slay them, and after that, having made arrangements for the administration of your territory, present yourself at our court with your whole military following. Considerations and friendliness a thousand fold will be bestowed on you, and you will be distinguished by elevation to dignities and places which the compass of your qualifications will not have capacity to contain"³.

There were, however, no disturbances in the State. The Maharawal was loyal and helpful to the British authorities and gave effective aid to the British troops, which passed through it to join the Rajputana Field Force proceeding from Sindh to Kotah. The supply of provisions, especially water in the desert, was a great expense to the State.

1. Foreign Department, Political-A, August 1866, Nos. 38-40 and Foreign Department, General-B, 13 July 1855, No. 84 May, 1877, Nos. 277-280, N.A.I.

2. Foreign Department, Political Consultation, 13 July 1855, No. 84-85, N. A. I.

3. Kaye, J. W., and Malleon, G. B., *History of the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58*, Vol. V. Longmans, Green & Co., Bombay (1897), p. 334.

In 1859, the Jaisalmer and Marwar border at Pokaran was disturbed. Claims and counter claims were usually made for a few camels carried off by one or the other party from the grazing grounds¹. Similar disputes arose between Jaisalmer and Bikaner in 1862. The Government of India gave their verdict in favour of Jaisalmer, and Bikaner had to pay a large amount as compensation in 1863.

In 1860 the Maharawal inscribed² the name of Queen Victoria on the coins of Jaisalmer State. In 1862, the British Government by a *Sanad* granted to the Maharawal the right of adoption and succession to his possessions according to Hindu Law. The *Sanad* did not contain any stipulation regarding payment of *Nuzarana* on successions.

On 16th June, 1864, Maharawal Ranjit Singh expired without any issue and was succeeded by his younger brother, Bairi Sal, aged fifteen. In accordance with custom, he was adopted by the widow of the late Maharawal. Thakur Kesri Singh continued to conduct the public affairs. The young Maharawal at first refused to take his seat on the *gaddi* and expressed the wish that some one else might be selected³. He felt that he should never be happy as a ruler of Jaisalmer. In consideration of his youth, the Government of India allowed the question of installation to remain in abeyance. Within sixteen months Bairi Sal had outgrown his diffidence and was formally installed⁴ as Maharawal on 19 October, 1865. His father Thakur Kesri Singh continued as minister till his death four years later. His place was taken by his elder brother Chhattar Singh, who though respected by all classes, was not a man of determination and was not so much feared by the plundering Bhatīs⁵.

The succession of Bairi Sal was resented by Bhikhaji Rani, one of the widows of the late Maharawal Ranjit Singh. She thirsted for power and made a statement against the administrative measures adopted by Thakur Kesri Singh. She complained that the then Regent was corrupt and incapable, and that under his management affairs were falling into a state of manifest disorder. Her appeals were heard by the

1. Foreign Department, General B, May, 1873, No. 240-244 N. A. I.
2. Foreign Department Part B, May 1860, Nos. 140-42; and Rajputana Agency, 18 Gen., 1858-60, Vol. II, N. A. I.
3. Foreign Department, Political-A, January, 1865, No. 60-62 N.A.I.
4. Foreign Department, Political A, November 1865, No. 70-74.
5. Erskine, K. D., *op. cit.*, p. 16.

Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana but the British Government observed that it was unsupported by facts or evidence¹.

In the beginning Bairi Sal had to face an unhappy state of affairs. The revenue of the State had diminished and the debts of the State amounted to about one lakh of Imperial rupees. The salaries of the troops and establishments were considerably in arrears².

Till 1868, there was no native Agent of the British Government in the Jaisalmer State. The Resident at Jodhpur and Political Agent for the Western Rajputana States was looking after the affairs of Jaisalmer as British Agent. But the necessity for an Agent was greatly felt when the British Government saw that the States of Sirohi and Marwar were looking to Sindh for their supply of grain which was to be imported via Jaisalmer. The British Government feared that the trade might be interrupted by vexatious and unequal taxations, if not by actual prohibition of export. They, therefore, for the first time, selected one Abbas Ali Khan ex-Risaldar of the late Jodhpur Legion, to perform the duties of the native Agent temporarily³, for Jaisalmer.

On 10 May, 1870, the Maharawal concluded an extradition treaty with the Government of India which was supplemented⁴ by another agreement on 23 August, 1887.

Maharawal Bairi Sal who was invited to attend the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi in 1877 could not attend it owing to the small income of the State and his long illness⁵.

In 1879, a Salt Agreement was signed with the British Government by which the Maharawal undertook to limit the local manufacture of salt to 15,000 maunds a year solely for consumption and use within his territories, and to abolish all dues on British duty paid salt⁶.

1. Foreign Department, Political, A, August 1865, Nos. 38-40, Political letter from Secretary of State, 24 January 1866, No. 3., N. A. I.
2. Foreign Department, Political, A, November 1865, Nos. 70-74 N. A. I.
3. Foreign Department, Political-A, December, 1868, Nos. 296-300 N. A. I.
4. Aitchison, C. U., *op. cit.*, pp. 206-208.
5. Foreign Deptt., Political B, December, 1877, Nos. 194-96 N. A. I. However, in honour of this event the Maharawal was granted an Imperial Flag. Foreign Department, Secret-1, January 1912, No. 2-9 N.A.I.
6. Erskine, K. D., *op. cit.*, pp. 16-17.

In 1886, the chiefs of Marwar and Jaisalmer signed an agreement to permit any exploration of coal in Western Rajputana, and also to bear its cost¹. It was reported that coal had actually been found in Jaisalmer². But later on this report was found false and what was considered as coal turned out to be black sand stone.

The affairs of Jaisalmer were mainly conducted by Mehta Nath Mal, who enjoyed the confidence of the Maharawal. His services were also utilised by the Resident at Jodhpur to investigate into the charges against his predecessor Mehta Ajit Singh, the grandson of Mehta Salim Singh. However, in the last days of his administration, Mehta Nath Mal lost the confidence of the Maharawal on the question of *Lani* (लानि) and sought retirement on the grounds of ill-health and old age. After retirement he settled in Marwar.

Bairi Sal died in 1891 A. D. and was succeeded by Salivahan II (Shyam Singh). Mehta Nath Mal who was an acute politician of the old oriental school of thought and had a very convenient and adaptable conscience, once again came back to Jaisalmer and Maharawal Salivahan II (Shyam Singh) paid him pension so long as he lived³. He and Bhati Bulidan, another influential man at the court of Jaisalmer, kept Maharawal Salivahan under their thumb as they were in the know of State secrets and they could, if they chose, make things difficult for him. Nath Mal's son Kalyan Mal Mehta was made the *Hakim* of Bup, one of the biggest *Hakumats* in the State⁴.

Salivahan II (Shyam Singh) was the son of Thakur Kushal Singh of Lathi. His choice was said to be in accordance with the last wishes of the late Maharawal⁵ expressed shortly before his death. The adoption was accepted by the Jagirdars and officials, and was unopposed. The Government of India also permitted this adoption. At this time, there

1. Foreign Department, Internal-B, September 1886, Nos. 174-177 N. A. I.

2. *ibid.*

3. *Lani* was a ceremony observed among the Maheshwari Mahajans not only in Jaisalmer, but elsewhere also in Rajasthan though in other forms. It consisted of distribution of sugar in a brass vessel. It was an act conferring great distinction on the distributor.

4. Foreign Political Department, Internal-A, January 1915, No. 4 N. A. I.

5. *ibid.*

6. For a different view on the subject, see Foreign Department, Internal-A, Proceeding January 1915, No. 4 N. A. I.

was another claimant to the *gaddi* of Jaisalmer, Sheodan Singh, but he withdrew all pretensions to the throne.

Since the ruler was a minor the administration was run by a *Dewan* and the Council under the general superintendence of the Resident, Western Rajputana States.

The Maharawal was educated at the Mayo College, Ajmer which he left in 1906 after passing the final diploma examination. He was married in February 1907 to the second daughter of the Maharao of Sirohi and in November, 1913 to Hari Kanwar, the daughter of Rao Sahib of Dharangdhara.

During the early years of the reign of Salivahan II, certain changes were effected in the administration. So far the rules regarding the extradition between the States of Jaisalmer and Bikaner were not just. In 1891, the Viceroy approved the revised rules for facilitating the extradition of criminals between these States¹. The State however, could not get the claims for the Treaty payments either for salt compensation, salt royalties or compensation for the loss of transit duties etc.². When the Maharawal attained majority he was invested with full ruling powers in 1906. The Government of India found the condition of the State weak, and therefore proposed that the State should itself furnish the payment of the *peshkush*. The Government of India, also saved itself from creating inconvenient precedence by rejecting the State proposal to remit the Government debt of about Rs. 95,000 due from the State or present the Maharawal with certain arms in commemoration of the Maharawal's investiture³.

Barely five years after the succession of the Maharawal the administration had to face a unique revolt from a section of the people of Jaisalmer. Several complaints were lodged by the Maheshwari community against the levy of *Lani* cess⁴.

Lani cess was started during the reign of Maharawal Mul Raj when Salim Singh Mehta was the *Dewan*. As a mark of favour the distribution of *Lani* was permitted to three important persons without payment of any tax to the State. These persons were Salim Singh Mehta,

1. Foreign Department, Internal A, September, 1891, No. 149-156 N. A. I.

2. Foreign Department, Internal A, December 1891, No. 213-214 N. A. I.

3. Foreign Department, Internal A, February 1909, Nos. 39-44 N. A. I.

4. Foreign Department, Internal B, March 1, 1896, Nos. 282-87 N. A. I.

the Dewan; Mehta Ajit Singh, a State Councilor and grandson of Salim Singh Mehta; and Nath Mal Mehta, the ex-Dewan. But Maharawal Bairi Singh directed that all other persons were required to seek the Maharawal's permission for the distribution of *Lani* by paying a *Nazar* of rupees one thousand.

When Nath Mal Mehta was retired from his post, he started an agitation among the Maheshwari Mahajans against the *Nazar* on *Lani*, with the result that he was expelled from Jaisalmer in July 1894. There were instances when several persons had distributed *Lani* without *Nazar*. Recently two Maheshwaris, Dwarka Das and Ranchhor Das had distributed *Lani* without payment of *Nazar* and consequently Dewan Jagjiwan called on them either to pay the amount of *Nazar* or suffer fine in default of payment. In September 1895, the Dewan appeared to have taken advantage of an opportunity to renew the demand on Onkar Das Chandak, an adopted son of the widow of Ranchhor Das, who had died in the meantime. This aroused the resentment of the affected faction, and the State official who attempted to exact the payment was ostracised. The Maheshwaris also observed a *Hartal* and defied the State orders.

The British Resident did not like to weaken the Maharawal on this question. He, therefore, did not take side with Maheshwaris, though, at the same time, he desired to check a general exodus of Maheshwaris from Jaisalmer in the interest of the State. The Resident was also against the intimidation of State officials belonging to the Maheshwari caste¹.

Besides the *Lani* custom among the Maheshwaris, the British Government were keenly interested in reforming the social customs prevalent among the Rajputs. The Walterkrit Rajputana Hitkarini Sabha² was founded in 1888 on the initiative of Colonel C.K.M. Walter, Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana. The object of the Sabha was to promote the social welfare of the Rajput clan by reducing the expenses on the occasions of marriage, funerals etc. and regulating the marital age and considering other cognate matters. The Rajputs of Jaisalmer improved their social and financial conditions under these rules. Jaisalmer was represented by eminent State officials in every meeting of the Sabha.

The period 1895-1900 A. D. was marked by famine years and Jaisalmer was badly affected³. The worst year was 1899 when the life and

1. Foreign Department, Internal B, March 1896, No. 282-287 N. A. I.
2. Jaipur Agency, Walterkrit Rajputana Hitkarini Sabha, File No. 1 of 1887.
3. Foreign Department, Internal B, May 1896, No. 354-372 and Foreign Department, Internal B, August 1896, Nos. 254-256 N. A. I.

work in the State was almost paralysed. Seeking relief, the Dewan sent a telegram to the Viceroy and thereupon as a measure of relief, a loan of Rs. 50,000 at an interest of 4 per cent was granted⁴.

The Maharawal was also forced² to double the import duty on silver from Rs. 4 to 8. Famine relief measures were so beneficial that there was a fall in the price of food grain and stocks were reported to be sufficient. There occurred no deaths from starvation in the State³.

The able administrator Thakur Kushal Singh, the real father of Maharawal Salivahan who was member of Council and acting Dewan of Jaisalmer⁴ died in 1900. While the administration of Jaisalmer was combating numerous difficulties and impediments, another trouble cropped up. Mehta Jagjiwan retired owing to advanced age and failing health, in 1903. On his retirement, one Laxmi Das Raoji Sapat, who had lately served as Police Commissioner in the Kutch State, was appointed as Dewan of Jaisalmer⁵. But there was no change in the constitution of the Council. Under his able administration the State made considerable progress. Efforts were made to liquidate the debt of the State although the financial condition was very embarrassing. The military force was also re-organised. He retired in 1909.

With a view to associate himself personally with the administration of the State, the ruler created a Secretariat in the Mahkma Khas consisting of two departments—Home, Foreign and Political. There were no other changes in the administrative machinery of the State⁶.

Maharawal Salivahan died in 1914 A. D. leaving no heir by blood or adoption to succeed him. Since the senior living member of the Jaisalmer House was Thakur Man Singh of Lathi, it was suggested that he should succeed the late Salivahan. But the Government of India, after

1. Foreign Department, Internal B, November 1899, Nos. 79-90 N. A. I.
2. Foreign Department, Internal B, May 1897, Nos. 190-91 N. A. I. This raise in duty was mainly due to fall in the price of metal in Bombay and also to prevent excessive import.
3. Foreign Department, Internal A, January, 1900, Nos. 44-67 N. A. I.
4. Foreign Department, Internal B, September, 1900, Nos. 180-81 N. A. I.
5. *ibid.*, January 1903, Nos. 160-161, N. A. I.
6. *Administration Report of the Jaisalmer State, 1908-1909.*

consulting the *Sirdars* of the State selected¹ Jawahir Singh the adopted son of Man Singh (Thakur of Eta) as the ruler of the State and he was installed on the throne in June 1914.

The early years of Maharawal Jawahir Singh's reign were mostly covered by the events of First World War. The Maharawal presented a sum of Rs. 15,000 as a gift to the Government of India for war purposes. In pursuance of the directives of the League of Nations, the Maharawal issued an ordinance in 1930 to suppress immoral traffic in women and children in Jaisalmer State. Practically there existed no such practice².

In the proposed scheme of an All India Federation under the Government of India Act 1935, Jaisalmer was assigned only half a seat each in the Council of State and the Federal Assembly and was grouped with Kishangarh State. The Maharawal represented to the Government of India his disappointment on this arrangement but in vain. He felt little enthusiasm for the proposed Federation³. The proposal however did not come into effect.

During the thirties and forties of the present century the administration of Jaisalmer suffered a great deal by quick changes of *Dewans* and the consequent instability in the administration. In 1942 certain important events occurred. It was reported that some leading Sindh Hurs were residing in Jaisalmer State. It was also believed that the famous Muslim Faqir Pir Pagaro was a close friend of Maharawal Jawahir Singh, but there was no evidence to prove it. Pir Pagaro, at some period between his return from jail in 1936 and his reincarceration in 1941, was suspected to have obtained some arms from the Maharawal⁴. In 1944 the State of Jaisalmer and Khairpur agreed to surrender the Hurs from their respective States. It became legitimate that any Hur required in connection with

1. Foreign Department, Internal-A, August 1913, Nos. 68-105 N. A. I. The selection of Jawahir Singh was delayed as the Government of India's orders were awaited in this connection. Meanwhile the administration was conducted by the *Dewan* acting under the orders of the Resident, Western Rajputana States, Jodhpur. Two *Maharanis* had selected Dan Singh, as Salivahan's successor. But late Salivahan was not on good terms with him and his failure to succeed must be attributed to this cause. *ibid.* After about 35 years of reign, Jawahir Singh was succeeded by Maharawal Girdhar Singh in 1949 after India had achieved Independence and the formation of Rajasthan was in the transition.

2. Rajputana Agency Office, File No. 138, p. 1929, N. A. I.

3. Political Department, File No. 363 (9), Federal (Secret) of 1936, N. A. I.

4. File No. 13 (35) I.A./1942, N. A. I.

the criminal and illegal activities of this rebellious tribe should be handed over without the usual formalities because the criminal activities of the Hurs were not treated as political¹.

Political Awareness²

Jaisalmer was a backward State in the sense that its modernisation had begun very late and its people were not advanced like the people of other States of Rajasthan. But in course of time, a few political workers brought about a change in the outlook of the people.

In 1915, a library known as the Sarva Hitakari Vachnalaya was established in Jaisalmer city by some leading personalities of the town with the object of encouraging education in the State. But it was not allowed to subscribe nationalist and patriotic papers or purchase nationalist literature. The nationalist literature reached the hands of the masses only in 1918 by the efforts of Sagar Mal Gopa, a dynamic political worker. He convened a public meeting in the *maidan*, now called Gandhi Chowk, on 7th January, 1918, which passed a resolution requesting the State Government to extend education upto middle standard throughout the State, but little was done to implement it.

The non-cooperation movement was started in August 1920 advocating boycott of schools, liquor and foreign cloth. The people of Jaisalmer also joined the movement in 1921 and the use of Khadi was zealously propagated. A branch of Khadi Bhandar and a branch of Arya Samaj were opened to bring about social reforms.

On 16 November, 1930, Jawahar Day was observed throughout the State in a solemn way as elsewhere in the country. Prayers were held for an early recovery of Jawahar Lal Nehru, who was ailing behind the bars of Naini Jail. People from all walks of life attended the function and its success reflected the irrepressible passion of the people for freedom. During this time a memorandum containing suggestions with regard to education, health, communication and justice was submitted to the Maharawal but with no result.

When Gandhiji started the civil disobedience movement, Jaisalmer readily participated in it. Hartals were organised. People maintained

1. Political Department, File No. 2 474-P (Secret) of 1944 N. A. I.

2. File No. 34/3 Region IV-V, The History of the Freedom Movement Unit, Ministry of Education, Government of India,

peace and restraint even under grave provocation. At this time the Salt *Satyagrah* was also organised in the State. The State police unleashed repression on the *Satyagrahis*.

An organisation, the Maheshwari Yuvak Mandal was formed in 1932 to introduce social reforms in the society. Its activities were ostensibly confined to promoting the interests of the Maheshwari community, but the State Government found it disseminating proscribed publications and encouraging the recitation of national poems in the schools. The Mandal was declared illegal¹ by the State Government and its president was arrested. All the property of the Mandal was confiscated. This action of the Government was resented by the people of Jaisalmer and several influential people of the State, addressed a letter² to the ruler pleading for the release of the president. This letter produced a great effect on the Maharawal who ordered the release of the president unconditionally.

Later on, branches of Jaisalmer Rajya Praja Mandal were opened outside the State at Hyderabad (Sindh) and Nagpur.

The political workers were much disappointed when the Government of India declared that in the proposed formation of a Federation under the Act 1935, the States would be represented by the respective rulers and not by the representatives of the people. An agitation was started against it by the Praja Parishad Peoples Conference in almost all the Indian States. In Rajasthan this agitation was organised by Jai Narain Vyas. A branch of the All India States Peoples Conference was established in Jaisalmer in 1937.

Jaisalmer was quiet during the Quit India Movement in 1942 as its leader Sagar Mal Gopa, who had come to Jaisalmer in 1941 to console his mother after his father's death, was arrested. The arrest and the subsequent rigorous imprisonment of Sagar Mal Gopa caused a stir

among the people of Rajasthan in general and of Jaisalmer in particular. In 1945 the people of Jaisalmer tried to take necessary steps for the release of Gopa. For this purpose, the Jaisalmeri Seva Sangh was established at Nagpur and an appeal was made to the Maharawal to set Gopa free. Unfortunately, the appeal had no effect.

In 1945, the Praja Mandal was established and it launched an agitation for Sagar Mal Gopa's release. Shri Jainarayan Vyas took an active part in this movement. It attracted the attention of the Political Agent, Western Rajputana States, who wished to meet Gopa in prison but the ruler dissuaded him. When the movement for the release of Gopa was in full swing, it was reported that Gopa had died (April 1946). The news of his sudden death in jail spread in the town and caused great tension and excitement. Press and public both within and outside the State agitated for an enquiry into the causes of the death of Sagar Mal Gopa. The demand was at last accepted by the State. The same year the office of the Rajya Praja Mandal was set up at Jaisalmer.

After the birth of the Praja Mandal in Jaisalmer a counter organisation, Jaisalmer Rajya Lok Parishad, was founded by feudal elements. But this organisation could not survive long. The events were moving very rapidly and India achieved Independence in 1947. The process of integration of Indian States had begun. The Government of India started negotiations for a covenant with all the rulers of Rajasthan. Besides other rulers, it was accepted by the ruler of Jaisalmer also. Later, they agreed to merge their States into an integrated body known as United State of Rajasthan which came into existence in 1949 and which finally merged into other such units to form Rajasthan.

Indo-Pakistan War, 1965

The people of the district of Jaisalmer and particularly of the border villages admirably assisted the Government in combating aggression during the Indo-Pakistan War in 1965.

1. National Archives of India, Home Department, File No. 18/8/1932 Political, N. A. I.
2. The abstract of one of the letters read as follows : 'I am compelled by so many friends of Raghunath Singh to hold a conference of the public of Jaisalmer either at Nagpur or Bombay to disclose the high handed atrocities of the ruling class of Jaisalmer. The list of all such activities be sent to every M. P. and to the Secretary of State for India and a deputation should attend on the Governor General and the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana in order to apprise them of all the actions and activities of Jaisalmer'.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

POPULATION

At the 1961 Census, the district had a population of 140,338 persons i.e. about 0.007% of the total population of the whole State. The distribution of population in various tahsils is given below:¹

Sub-Division	Tahsil ²	Persons	Population	
			Males	Females
Jaisalmer		74,374	41,783	32,591
	Fatchgarh	20,209	11,299	8,910
	Jaisalmer	28,297	15,646	12,651
	Ramgarh	10,489	5,963	4,526
	Sam	15,379	8,875	6,504
Pokaran		65,964	36,088	29,876
	Nachna	10,535	5,757	4,778
	Pokaran	55,429	30,331	25,098

Variation in Population

The population of the district has increased by 28.62 per cent over the decade 1951-61 outstripping the State and national figures of 26.20 and 21.50 per cent respectively. Before this, the highest increase in the district was achieved in the decade 1931-41 when the population had increased by 23.27 per cent. The increase in the district population was greater than the State and national increase during the decades 1901-11, 1931-41 and 1951-61 and lesser during 1941-51. In the decade 1921-31 the district recorded an increase which was lower than the State figure but higher than the national.

1. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-A, General Population Tables*, p. 28.
2. The number of tahsils was reduced after the 1961 Census. There are now only two tahsils, viz., Jaisalmer and Pokaran. See Chapter X for details.

There was a fall in the population by about one-fifth (20.62 per cent) during the years 1911 to 1921. During the same period the population of the State fell by 6.29 per cent and that of the country by 0.31 per cent. It was this decade during which the country saw the worst epidemics of plague, cholera, small pox and influenza.

The variation in population since 1901 is shown in the table below:

Census Year	Jaisalmer District		Percentage decade variation	
	Persons ¹	Percentage decade ² variation	Rajasthan ³	India ⁴
1901	75,207	—	—	—
1911	86,810	+15.43	+ 6.70	+ 5.73
1921	68,914	-20.62	- 6.29	- 0.31
1931	78,287	+13.60	+14.14	+11.01
1941	96,506	+23.27	+18.01	+14.22
1951	109,114	+13.06	+15.20	+13.31
1961	140,338	+28.62	+26.20	+21.50

Rural and Urban Population

The 1961 Census figures show that urban population of the district increased by 1.91 per cent over 1951-61 period. For Rajasthan as a whole the increase in urban population over the same period was of the order of only 0.2 per cent. In other words, whereas in 1951, 92.19 per cent of the population of the district was classified as rural, this figure came down to 90.28 in 1961, and the figure of urban population went up correspondingly from 7.81 to 9.72. This trend is given in the following table:

		Percentage to total population	
		Rural	Urban
Jaisalmer District	1951 ⁵	92.19	7.81
	1961 ⁶	90.28	9.72
Rajasthan State	1951 ⁷	83.74	16.26
	1961 ⁸	83.72	16.28

1. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-A, General Population Tables*, p. 96.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*, p. 95.
4. *Census of India, Paper No. 1 of 1962, 1961 Census, Final Population Totals*, p. 9.
5. *Census 1951, Rajasthan and Ajmer, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer, Part I*, p. 12.
6. *Census of India, 1961, op. cit.*, p. 15.
7. *Population Statistics (Provisional), 1951, Rajasthan*, p. 7.
8. *Census of India, 1961, op. cit.*, p. 15.

Towns

The number of towns in the district has remained unchanged at two throughout the present century. These are Jaisalmer and Pokaran. Both are municipal towns. The population of Jaisalmer increased by 4.19 per cent and that of Pokaran by 3.26 per cent during 1951-61.

The largest percentage increase of population in case of Jaisalmer was during 1921-31, (47.26) and during 1941-51 in case of Pokaran, (18.23). The population of Jaisalmer decreased only once since 1901 (34.84 per cent in 1911-21) while Pokaran faced the phenomenon thrice, i.e. 18.40 per cent in 1901-11, 23.75 in 1911-21 and 4.16 in 1931-41. In other words, but for a nominal rise of 1.87 per cent during 1921-31, the town had seen a continuous decline in its population during the first forty years of the present century. By 1961 it had still not been able to reach its own population figure of 1901.

Of the two towns, Jaisalmer had the larger population while Pokaran claims the larger area. Regarding classification according to population ranges, Jaisalmer has been in the fifth category¹ throughout the present century except for a demotion once (in 1921) to the sixth². Pokaran was in the sixth category in 1921, 1931 and 1941, and in the fifth at the rest of the seven enumerations that took place in this century.

The table below shows the population of the towns since 1901:³

Name of Town	Status of Town	Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage Decade Variation	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jaisalmer	Municipality	1901	7,137	—	—	3,575	3,562
		1911	7,420	+ 283	+ 3.87	3,667	3,753
		1921	4,855	—2,585	—34.84	2,433	2,402
		1931	7,120	+2,285	+47.26	3,706	3,414
		1941	7,340	+ 220	+ 3.09	3,891	3,449
		1951	8,026	+ 686	+ 9.35	4,462	3,564
		1961	8,362	+ 336	+ 4.19	4,524	3,838

1. Population between 5,000 to 9,999.

2. Less than 5,000 people. Ordinarily a place with less than 5,000 people is not classed as a town, unless it has predominantly urban characteristics.

3. *Census of India, 1961, op. cit.*, pp. 143-145.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pokaran	Municipality	1901	7,125	—	—	—	—	3,519	3,606
		1911	5,814	—1,311	—18.40	—	—	2,863	2,951
		1921	4,433	—1,381	—23.75	—	—	2,197	2,236
		1931	4,516	+ 83	+ 1.87	—	—	2,229	2,287
		1941	4,328	— 188	— 4.16	—	—	2,149	2,179
		1951	5,117	+ 789	+18.23	—	—	2,868	2,249
		1961	5,284	+ 167	+ 3.26	—	—	2,757	2,527

Villages

The villages of the district are far flung and consist of a few circular huts made of dried tree branches or stones loosely put together. There are 485 inhabited villages. Uninhabited villages number 27.

As seen earlier an overwhelming majority (90.28 per cent) of the district population lives in villages. It should be interesting to note that less than one-tenth (9.04 per cent) of this rural population belongs to the bigger villages. Only 4.41 per cent population lives in villages with 2,000 to 4,999 people, and 4.63 per cent in places with 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 people. More than fifty per cent people live in villages with less than 500 persons each. The percentage of population in villages according to population sizes is shown below¹:

Population Range	Percentage of Population
Less than 200	18.16
200 to 499	32.78
500 to 999	25.89
1,000 to 1,999	14.13
2,000 to 4,999	4.41
5,000 to 9,999	4.63

About 86.6 per cent (420) of the total villages claim among themselves 50.94 per cent of the population. There is only one village with a population of more than 5,000, two have a population between 2,000 and 4,999 and the remaining 62 between 500 to 1,999.

1. *Census of India, 1971, op. cit.*, p. 105.

The number of villages classified by population and other details in 1961 are given below:¹

	Less than 500	500 to 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 4,999	5000 and above
Number of villages	420	62*	—	2	1
Population Males	36,172	28,155*	—	3,028	3,235
Females	28,362	22,547*	—	2,561	2,632
Per cent share of total number of villages	86.60	10.10	2.68	0.41	0.21
Per cent share of the total Population	50.94	25.89	14.13	4.41	4.63

As stated earlier, the main criterion for the classification of a place as a town is a population of at least 5,000. But it is seen that Phalsoond, in Pokaran tahsil with a population of 5,867 is categorised as a rural area.

The largest number of the small villages (population less than 200) is in Sam tahsil while all the three big villages (population 2,000 and above) are in Pokaran tahsil. In fact villages with a population of less than 200 form a majority of the total villages. The tahsilwise number of villages according to population sizes is given in the table below²:

Tahsil	Total number of inhabited villages	Number of villages in population range					
		Below 200	200-499	500-999	1,000-1,999	2,000-4,999	5,000 & over
Ramgarh	39	22	12	4	1	—	—
Nachna	34	18	8	6	2	—	—
Jaisalmer	96	59	32	6	1	—	—
Pokaran	83	22	29	21	8	2	1
Sam	143	116	23	3	1	—	—
Fatehgarh	88	51	28	9	—	—	—
	485	288	132	49	13	2	1

1. *Census of India, 1961, op. cit.*, pp. 106-107.

*These figures are for the category 500-1,999.

Separate figures for the constituent categories are not available.

2. *Census of India, 1961, op. cit.*, pp. 116-117.

Density

At the time of the 1961 Census, the density of population was 9 persons per sq. mile i.e. one seventeenth of the State average, and the lowest in the State. The density in the towns of Jaisalmer and Pokaran was 157 and 61 per sq. mile respectively. The density per sq. mile in tahsils varied between 4 in Ramgarh and Sam to 27 in Pokaran. The density at the first enumeration was 6.73 in 1881 and at that of 1901, 4.571. The following table gives the density of population in tahsils and towns as per the 1961 Census².

Tahsil/Town	Density per square mile		
	Total	Rural	Urban
Ramgarh	4	4	—
Nachna	8	8	—
Jaisalmer	9	7	157
JAISALMER	—	—	157
Pokaran	27	25	61
POKARAN	—	—	61
Sam	4	4	—
Fatehgarh	12	12	—
Jaisalmer district	9	9	98
Rajasthan State	153	130	1548

Sex Ratio

The district has now lesser females per 1,000 males than it had at the beginning of the century. On an average there are 802 females per thousand males in the district, the lowest in Rajasthan. The number of females per thousand males in rural areas is 795 while in urban areas it is 874. The sex ratio in individual towns is 917 in Pokaran, and 848 in Jaisalmer. The following table gives the number of females per thousand males at the time of each enumeration during the present century.⁴

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteer, Vol. III-A, The Western Rajputana States & the Bikaner Agency, Text*, p. 18.
2. *Census of India, 1961, op. cit.*, p. 28.
3. *ibid.*, p. 19.
4. *Census of India, 1961, op. cit.*, p. 90.

Year	Total	Females per 1,000 males	
		Rural	Urban
1901	870	839	1,010
1911	837	807	1,027
1921	808	781	1,002
1931	851	833	961
1941	829	816	932
1951	817	820	793
1961	802	795	874

Age Groups

The largest number of persons in the district are aged below four. Those between the ages of 5 and 9 make almost the same number. About one-third of the total population is covered under both these age-groups. Males predominate in all the age-groups, taking the district as a whole. There are 29 centenarians, 13 men and 16 women¹. The population of the district by age-groups is shown in the table below as per the 1961 census²:

Age-group	Persons	Total population	
		Males	Females
1	2	3	4
All ages	140,338	77,871	62,467
0-4	21,242	11,207	10,035
5-9	20,906	11,529	9,377
10-14	16,270	9,489	6,781
15-19	10,320	6,033	4,287
20-24	13,711	7,316	6,395
25-29	12,547	7,097	5,450

1. *Census of India, 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer District*, p. 149.

2. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C(i), Social and Cultural Tables*, pp. 89-90.

1	2	3	4
30-34	11,346	6,027	5,319
35-44	13,991	7,640	6,351
45-59	12,800	7,641	5,159
60 and above	7,151	3,846	3,305
Age not stated	54	46	8

Civil Condition

The figures of married persons under nine years of age according to 1961 census are not yet available. There are, however, married, divorced, separated and widowed persons in the age-group 10-14. This indicates that child marriages are still prevalent. Another revealing feature of the civil condition of the population of the district is that among widowed persons females outnumber males in all age groups. The largest number of widowed men and women both are in the age group of 50-54.

There are more divorced or separated persons in the rural areas than in urban. Taking the district as a whole divorced or separated females outnumber males by about two to one. Such females in the rural areas are ten times their urban counterparts. Divorced or separated males in rural areas are about twice the number of urban males of the same civil status. The largest number of divorced or separated persons is in the age-group 25-29 and 30-34, each having ten : (seven females and three males¹). The civil condition according to age-groups, at the time of 1961 Census is given in the Appendix 'A'.

Migration

This district was, in former times, constantly harassed by recurring famines and emigration had more or less become a part of the life of the people². When distress mounted, people drove their herds towards the

1. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C(i), Social and Cultural Tables*, pp. 50-51.

2. As a couplet has it, *Famine says "My feet are in Pungal, the head in Merta and belly in Bikaner. I sometime visit Jodhpur but my permanent residence is Jaisalmer"*.

पग पुंगल, सिर मेड़ता, उदरज बीकानेर,
भूलो चूको जोधपुर, ढावो जैसलमेर ।

east and returned when nature showed signs of relenting. At the time of the great famine of 1899-1900, about 43 per cent of the population is said to have emigrated¹.

During the outbreak of cholera that followed the famine, there was an exodus towards the villages, when panicky people left the town to escape the scourge of the rampant epidemic.

The absence of industrialisation, scanty rainfall, and lack of irrigation prevent any appreciable immigration into the district. However, about one thousand persons immigrated to this district from Pakistan at the time of partition of the country in 1947. The number of these immigrants who later came to be designated as Displaced Persons, is shown below².

	Persons	Males	Females
Total	1,072	598	474
Rural	377	227	150
Urban	695	371	324

According to the 1961 Census a very large part of the population is indigenous, in the sense that it was born within the district. Only 762 persons were born outside the State (Rajasthan) but within India³. A larger number (1,165) was born outside India (but within Asia). The largest number of these (839) were born in Pakistan⁴, 323 in Nepal, two in Burma and one in Afghanistan. But not all those who were born abroad were foreign nationals.

Of the total number of persons born in other States of India (762), the largest number came from Uttar Pradesh (343) followed in order by Madhya Pradesh (146) and Punjab (132). The smallest number (two each)

1. *Report on the Famine in the Native States of Rajputana*, 1898-1900, Ajmer, 1901, p. 47.

2. *Census 1951, Rajasthan and Ajmer, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer, Part I*, p. 13.

3. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C (ii), Migration Tables*, pp. 37-38.

4. These are evidently the Displaced persons.

came from Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh. A majority of the immigrants from other States are in Urban areas (449). But a majority of those born outside India stay in the rural areas.

The 1961 Census showed that there were 226 foreign nationals in the district, 223 Nepalis (220 males and 3 females) and three Pakistanis (one male and two females)¹.

LANGUAGES

The mother-tongue of a vast majority of the inhabitants is Marwari. It is spoken by 128,629 persons (70,963 males and 57,666 females). The next large linguistic group (5,365 males and 4,084 females), though extremely small as compared to Marwari, consists of those whose mother-tongue is Sindhi. Other important linguistic groups are Urdu (462 males and 434 females), Khariboli (493 males and 153 females), Nepali (258 males and 62 females), Godwari (122 males and 8 females), and Punjabi (80 males and 31 females). The residents of the district speak 18 languages in all².

An important feature of bilingualism is that no one has returned Marwari as the subsidiary language³. English is spoken by a few from each linguistic group. The largest bilingual group from among those whose mother tongue is Marwari speaks English and Sindhi as the subsidiary language. But none of the Sindhi speaking people speak Marwari as the second language; the largest group here speaks Hindi.

The variety of Marwari met with in the district is mostly *Thali*, the Western Marwari or the Marwari of the desert. The most common dialect of Sindhi is *Thareli*. The language used by the village folk is the simpler form of the main language.

Marwari belongs to the central group of the Indo-Aryan family. Also known as the Western Rajasthani, it is the principal dialect of the

1. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C(ii), Migration Tables*, pp. 4-5.

2. *Census of India, 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer District*, p. 150.

3. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C(i), Social and Cultural Tables*, pp. 264-265.

State¹. The sub-dialect commonly spoken in Jaisalmer, carries a strong influence of the neighbouring language, Sindhi.

The written script for books is the standard *Devnagri*. For correspondence and mercantile documents, however, a rough corruption similar to the *Mahajani* characters of Upper India and to the *Modi* of Marathi is used.

RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL GROUPS

Religion

The Hindus constitute the principal religious group consisting of 73.06 per cent of the total population, followed by Muslims constituting 26.40 per cent. The percentage share of these two principal religions in the total population of the district has varied during the decade 1951-61. Thus while the proportion of Hindus has declined from 74.70 per cent in 1951 to 73.06 in 1961, that of the Muslims has gone up from 24.65 to 26.40 per cent. Of the other groups, the Christians and Sikhs have gained, and the Jains have lost. The number of persons belonging to different religions at the Census of 1951 and 1961 is shown in the table below :

Religious Group	Persons		Percentage to total population of the district	
	1951 ²	1961 ³	1951	1961
Christians	1	46	Insignifi- cant	0.03
Hindus	76,737	102,526	74.70	73.06
Jains	724	638	0.70	0.45
Muslims	25,237	37,049	24.65	26.40
Sikhs	44	79	0.04	0.06

1. Dr. Grierson has given the name Rajasthani to the combined dialects (five in all) of Rajasthani in order to distinguish it from Western Hindi and Gujarati (*Linguistic Survey of India*, 1908, Vol. I, Part II, p. 1.).

2. *Census, 1951, Rajasthan and Ajmer, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer, Part I*, p. 13.

3. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C(i), Social and Cultural Tables*, pp. 288-289.

Hindus

Practical religion in Hindus often takes the form of rituals, elaborate or simple, according to personal capacities. Every religious household has at least one image or picture before which *puja* in the form of prayer, hymn singing, floral offerings and the burning of incense or *arti* (waving of a lighted lamp) is performed, especially by the women of the house. Richer houses maintain a regular *puja* room or chapel. There are regular fasts on particular days of the week, and some time is spent listening to or reading from religious texts.

Rituals are performed in order to produce rain, at the time of eclipses, and to propitiate the deities of disease, such as *Shitala* (the goddess presiding over small pox) etc. There is indeed an endless multiplicity of motivation and manifestations.

The Hindu trinity consists of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesha. Ram and Krishna are also worshipped. Besides, Ganesha is the popular household deity of prudence and prosperity, he has the power to remove obstacles and his blessings are invoked before the start of any enterprise. Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth and fortune, and Saraswati that of learning and arts. Parvati has many attributes and is worshipped according to whichever is nearer an individual's concept. Then there is Hanuman who assisted lord Ram in the recovery of Sita.

There are also sacred plants, trees, rivers and animals, for example the *Tulsi* plant (*Ocimum gratiseimum* or *sanctum*), the *Pipal* (*Ficus religiosa*) and the banyan trees, the river Ganga, and the cow and bull. There are also *Lok Devata* like Ram Devji, who command a fairly large following. Local gods (*Gram Devata*) and family gods (*Kul-Devata*) are also common.

At certain festivals a workman will worship his tools, the warrior his weapons, the learned man his inkpot, the merchant his ledger etc.

Islam

The two principal sects of Mohammadans are Shia and Sunnee. Both the sects regard Mohammad Saheb as the prophet.

Temples and Places of Pilgrimage

This farflung westernmost district of India is an important place of pilgrimage for the Jains. Many of the important Jain temples are

situated in the fort of Jaisalmer. These temples are devoted to Parsvanath, Sambhavanath, Shitalnath, Shantinath, Ashtapad, Chandraprabha Swami, Rishabh Dev and Mahavir Swami. The temples outside the fort, but within the city, are those of Suparsvanath and Vimalnath. The temples at some distance from Jaisalmer are Adishwar at Amarsagar (4.8 km. or three miles), Parsvanath at Lodorva (16 km. or ten miles), Adinath and Parsvanath at Brahmasar (12.8 km. or eight miles), Adinath at Devikot (38.6 km. or 24 miles) and Parsvanath at Barsalpur (225.3 km. or 140 miles).

There are four temples dedicated to Vishnu in the Jaisalmer town. There is a *Mata* temple at Lodorva and another Hindu temple in the fort of Devikot.

SOCIAL GROUPS

The Hindu society was traditionally divided into Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Sudras—the four *Varnas*. The functional bias of the caste system in course of time froze into a rigid mechanism with strong taboos against intermarrying, or even intercaste eating.

While in the present age caste distinctions have lost much of their validity in regard to the professional division of labour, the taboos persist. Legislative efforts have been made to do away with social injustice originating from caste tyranny. The spread of education too has had its own effect on liberalisation of attitudes. Economic exigencies have lowered caste barriers. But the creation of a casteless society still remains a distant goal. The important Hindu and Muslim social groups in the district are as follows :

Hindus : Rajputs (Bhati, Rathor, Chauhan, Sisodia, Solanki)
Brahmans (Pushkarna, Shrimali, Joshi, Purohit)
Vaisya (Maheshwari, Oswal)
Others (Chamars)

Muslims : Sheikhs, Musalman Rajputs

CUSTOMS

Hindus

Personal ceremonies for a Hindu begin even before he is born. Rites in which the expectant mothers participate pertain to the safe delivery,

preferably of a male child. The child and the mother are considered impure for ten days and the impurity is washed off in a ritual bath on the tenth day after child birth.

The ceremony of *upnayan* marks the beginning of formal schooling. The male child is given the sacred thread (*Yagnopavit*) which he carries over his right shoulder for the rest of his life. The *Gayatri Mantra* is whispered into his ear and he now becomes qualified to study the *Vedas*. This is the beginning of the first phase (*Brahmacharya*) of the traditional four phases of an individual's life. This ceremony is now largely confined to Brahmins.

Hindu marriage is a lengthy and complicated affair. Nowhere else than in a traditional Hindu marriage the adage that marriages are made in heaven is more true. After the precautionary tallying of the horoscopes, there must come about a propitious conjunction of the stars in the heavens before the couple can marry. And if the heavens ordain the unearthly hour of midnight for the sacred union there is no option about it. The essential part of the ritual is the going round the nuptial fire by the bridal pair (*phera*) and the seven steps (*Saptapadi*) they take with their garments knotted together. Other ceremonies connected with the marriage are :

(i) *Lagna-Lagna* is the recording of the agreement by the fathers or guardians to marry their children at an appointed day and time. It is recorded at the bride's house in the presence of relatives and friends and sent to the boy's people where it is ceremoniously received. (ii) Some people observe the ceremony of the *Varmala* in which the girl garlands the boy at her door step and the boy reciprocates the gesture by garlanding her. (iii) The ceremony of *Toran*, if performed, consists of the boy touching a replica of a castle gate, suspended on the bride's door, with a sword or dagger or just a stick. (iv) In the ceremony of *Palkachar* the couple sit face to face on the bridal cot, and the bride's male relatives and their wives go round them showering grain on the bed to wish the couple prosperity and fertility. (v) *Vida* is the ceremonial farewell by the bride's people to the bride and the groom's party.

A funeral involves cremation. The corpse is cremated as soon as possible after death, the logic behind burning being that the body should return to the elements which it was made of. The ashes are immersed in the Ganga or some other holy river or tank. For ten or more days the family is considered impure and the near relatives (many

times shaven-headed) confine themselves, as far as possible, to the house. During the cremation the important ritual is *Kapal Kriya* in which the son of the deceased (or failing a son the nearest male relative) pours *ghee* on the skull of the burning body after it has been half-consumed by the fire. The funeral ceremonies (*antyeshti*) consist of pouring libations of water and offering rice balls and milk to the departed. The *Sharadha* ceremony is repeated at regular intervals for the continued peace of the departed. Children who die before leaving the mother's breast are buried. So also are Sanyasis, Gosains, Dadupanthis, Bishnois and Nathis.

Muslims

Among the Muslims there is no ceremony during pregnancy. After birth, the *Kazi* (Muslim priest) utters *azan* in the ears of the child. The child is given the ritual bath on the sixth day, *aciq*a (also called *haciqa*) takes place on the seventh day. The child's head is shaved and goats are sacrificed. The important Muslim rite is *khatna* (circumcision) on an auspicious day between the second and the ninth year. A feast is held when the wound has healed. The schooling begins with the ceremony of *Bismillah*, around the age of five. The rite of giving the child the first word of *Bismillah* is performed by the *Kazi*.

Most Muslim marriages, like those of the Hindus are arranged by the parents. The proposal, unlike among Hindus, often emanates from the boy's side. The ceremony of *ganthe* is the counterpart of the Hindu *lagna* in the sense that it puts the final seal on the engagement and the date of marriage is announced. If among the Hindus, the most important part of the marriage ceremony is *phara*, in a Muslim marriage this key position is occupied by the ceremony of *ijah* and *kabool* (offer and acceptance). The boy and the girl are asked whether they are acceptable to each other as spouse and only when both have answered in the affirmative, is the marriage considered solemnized. The amount of *Mehar* is also fixed at this time.

The dying mother says "Dudh Bakhshiti Hun" (I forgive you for the non-performance of duties in return of the mother's milk). This the mother also does when the son predeceases her. Similarly the wife forgives the unremitted part of *Mehar* at the time of her or the husband's death. The Muslims bury their dead. Burial feasts are held in the third, sixth and twelfth month as also on festival days. Alms are distributed during *Moharram* in the name of the deceased.

SOCIAL LIFE

Inheritance

Ancestral property is traditionally passed on to the sons. Even though legislation has now given equal inheritance rights to daughters, this right exists more on paper than in practice.

Adoption is generally allowed by all communities. The adopted son enjoys the privileges and rights of a natural son in the house of the adoptive father and loses all rights in the house of the natural father.

Joint Family System

Even though the tensions of modern life tend to press hard upon the tender fabric of the joint family system, it is apparent that the system has not completely crumbled. The figures given in Appendix 'B' give an insight into the composition of households.

Litigation for property

Blood sometimes ceases to be a bond and members of a family take to the courts of law to get their rightful portion of property.

The number of suits filed for property during 1960-1967 is shown below¹ :

Year	(Number of suits)			
	Money or movable property	Immovable property	Specific relief	Mortgage suits
1960	50	5	—	5
1961	44	7	—	1
1962	67	6	1	1
1963	106	7	—	2
1964	93	7	1	—
1965	96	3	—	2
1966	156	7	—	7
1967	29	—	—	—

1. Source : Office of the District Judge, Jodhpur.

Parents sometimes transfer property through a will. The system is not still very much in vogue in the district. The registration of wills and the suits for property are in a way indications of the weakening of the joint family system.

Marriage

Marriage is universal, in the sense that there is hardly anyone who would like to remain unmarried. Religion, and other considerations of continuance of race are important factors operating in determining attitudes towards marriage. An interesting and noteworthy feature of marriage in the Pushkarna community is that it takes place only on one day in a whole year. It naturally follows that there are mass marriages leading to a great economy.

Polygamy has social sanction among the Muslims whose personal law allows it. Formerly the Rajputs allowed it. But except for the Muslims it is now hardly prevalent among other classes.

Restrictions on Marriages

The Hindus avoid marrying from among one's own *gotra*. They are in a way both endogamous and exogamous, in that while a Hindu is expected to marry in one's own caste, he is at the same time barred from marrying one related to him within seven degrees. The Muslims avoid matrimony with only direct blood relations, e. g., brothers, sisters, and uncles and aunts on both mother's and father's side. Brides are frequently sought from the *mama's* (maternal uncle) house.

Statutes like the Hindu Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act have so far not been made use of in this district. This is an indication of the continuing traditional nature of society in this area.

Widow Marriage

It is allowed among Jats, Muslims, Kumhars, etc. In some communities the deceased husband's younger brother has the first right to marry the widow.

Economic Dependence of Women

According to the Census of 1961 there are 19,175 working women in a total working population of 68,136. The Census has returned only four women as employers.

Houses

The total number of Census Houses in the district is 38,546. Of these 11,037 were lying vacant at the time of house listing.

A Census house is a structure or part of structure inhabited or vacant, or a dwelling, a shop, a shop-cum-dwelling or a place of business, workshop, school, etc., with a separate entrance and a Census household is a group of persons who commonly live together and would take their meals from a common kitchen unless the exigencies of work prevented any of them from doing so.

There are 5.82 persons per occupied Census House in the district (5.94 in rural and 4.90 in urban areas). The corresponding figures for Rajasthan State as a whole are 6.35, 6.31 and 6.57. The number of occupied residential houses is 24,116 and that of households in them 24,790. Jaisalmer town has 1,631 houses and 1,737 households while Pokaran with the larger area has a fewer number of houses (1,153) and households (1,235). It should be interesting to note that there were 17,763 houses and 4.13 persons per house in the district in 1901.

The number of occupied residential houses for each tahsil and town is shown below¹.

Tahsil/Town	Total	Rural	Urban
Ramgarh	888	888	—
Nachna	1,719	1,719	—
Jaisalmer	5,216	3,585	1,631
Pokaran	9,838	8,485	1,153
Sam	2,922	2,922	—
Fatehgarh	3,733	3,733	—
JAISALMER	1,631	—	1,631
POKARAN	1,153	—	1,153

The houseless and institutional population in the district is 7,763.²

The common village dwelling is *Jhumpa*, a circular hut. But one comes across stonehouses some of which have great ornamentation. It is in this field that one finds the favourable effects of adversity. The isolation

1. Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-A, General Population Tables, p. 28.
2. This population is included in the household population.

of the district resulting from lack of communications, had made it less prone to depredations. The wealthy merchants, mostly Paliwals, therefore, gravitated towards the comparative safety of Jaisalmer and these fine houses are their creations¹. The common village house is without any furniture as we understand the word in the towns. There is no permanent decoration either. But on festivals like Diwali, the freshly coated walls are decorated with images of gods and the courtyards with fancy patterns.

Most houses in the towns, in contrast to the thatched huts of the countryside with their conical roofs, are mortar and stone structures with flat roofs. The hills in and around Jaisalmer contain soft yellow stone which yields well to chiselling. The stone is soft when quarried but hardens on exposure. Many urban houses have fronts beautifully carved out of this marble. Some of them are indeed so beautiful that at first sight it is difficult to realize that the work is in stone. Of the older houses, nearly everyone of any importance has a carved balcony, balustrade, or latticed window, and ornamented columns and porches supporting ornamental projections. Among the most beautiful houses of the place is the one belonging to a former Dewan of the State. This grand edifice of six storeys, towering above the rest of the city, has cupolas and magnificent ornamentation especially in the top storey. Another excellent specimen of the region's ornamental architecture is provided in the building known as *Patwon ki Haveli*. The local yellow stone is so widely used as a building material that the whole city glows with this colour.

The villages are not laid out according to any regular plan. They are just clusters of houses with boundaries marked by thorny brushwood. The narrow and winding streets open out into a central square which is

1. The following extract is of interest in this context :

"Before the coming of the British, Jaisalmer was a much larger town than it is now, as many of the rich Marwari Seths from big Indian cities used to maintain houses there as a place of safety to flee to with their riches in time of trouble. With the coming of railways trade-routes changed, Jaisalmer got left out, and the need for a bolt-hole grew less. So Jaisalmer is now full of ruined mansion houses. During the recent war when there was a threat of Japanese invasion into Calcutta and Madras, it was amusing to see how history repeated itself, and all those desert States like Jaisalmer became filled with Seths and their families flying as far away from trouble as they could and bringing their gold and silver with them". Lothian, A.C., *Kingdoms of Yesterday*, London, 1951, p. 166.

the bazar. There is a central lane, and the unfamiliar traveller may just as well keep to it. Once he deviates far into the secondary lanes he might get lost into the maze. The better houses, as may be expected, are in the centre of the village. They are solidly built of lime and stone and have stone or tile roofs. All houses have enclosures for domestic animals. In the better houses these are walled in with arched doors, but are just fences of thorn brushwood in others.

Villages are of many sorts and sizes. There may be a big village, fortified with arched gateways, battlements and turrets. A broad street, flanked by fine houses, the subsidiary lanes joining it, may lead to the house of a (former) Thakur, whose mansion, a veritable castle, may now be seen slumbering, reminding one of its past glory.

A small village has a few houses in the central vista and a number of huts around them. Alternatively a village may just be the headquarters of a number of small hamlets around it. The agricultural population stays in fields in hutments called *dhanis*. The others live in the village proper.

Then there is the temple, a raised mound or a small enclosure within a grove in small villages or a formal residence of god with all paraphernalia in the affluent villages. The villagers are religious and make liberal offerings. The temple bells chime morning and evening and the village women can be seen going to and coming from the place.

A common feature of the village people is the love of their animals. The Rajput really loves his steed. The Brahman, Banias, and others keep their animals (horse, cow, etc.) in a front enclosure. In fact one need not be shocked if one finds an animal tethered in the front verandah. The camel man, not to be outdone, allows his animal to rest where he sleeps. The herdsman cannot possibly take their sheep and goats inside the houses. So the *rabaris* sleep in the enclosure, and their wives and children feed them there.

Village life is comparatively simple. The occupations of the people are outdoor and healthy. Every member of the community takes to his job naturally. There is no mad race for money and position, so characteristic of a city. The system, therefore, wears off more slowly in villages rather than in the bigger centres of population.

Omens and beliefs

Society is still traditional and superstitious. So many *Sadhus* (ascetics) residing in remote corners claim occult powers in medicine, prophecy, etc., and a hold over evil spirits. They profess great piety and self-denial. Many inferior ascetics go around singing at door steps and filling their bags with flour offered by pious and credulous people. Yet people dread their curses and court their blessings.

People, in general, are superstitious. Most omens for good or bad luck are taken from birds, beasts, dreams, etc. It is unlucky to meet a stingy man in the morning. An evil spirit can do much harm. It can even enter the victim's body while he yawns. But snapping of fingers keeps it at bay. In former times barons used to keep retainers whose only duty on earth was to snap fingers when the master yawned.

Birds of good omen are the crane, the white dove, the peacock, the blue jay, the partridge, the tree mag-pie, the kite, etc. Those of ill-omen are the owl, the brown dove, etc. If the nest of the black robin be high, the *bajra* will go high; if near the ground, it will be short. But its nesting can also indicate an impending famine. There are beliefs about animals too.

Sneezing before starting on any project indicates failure but a sneeze at the back is lucky. Three people going together for an errand never make it.

A laughing dream is unlucky and a crying dream lucky. Seeing gold, copper and iron in a dream is inauspicious, while the sight of silver and sweet-meats is auspicious. Eating sweets in a dream is, however, inauspicious. Dreaming of a beautifully dressed woman is auspicious, but only so long as she does not sing. Dreaming of elephants is lucky and denotes prosperity; but dreams of water, snake bite and fire are otherwise.

Proverbs and couplets describe the country, human nature, kings and queens, and also exhort one to righteous actions.

Dress and Ornaments

The dress of people in the cities and the villages around them is much similar to that of other parts of Rajasthan, though the turban is worn differently. Western style clothes have not much affected tastes in

dress probably on account of educational backwardness and lack of urbanisation.

The women are fond of ornaments as elsewhere. The men of the Brahman, Rajput and Vaisya communities put on light ornaments of gold. The poorer people are content with silver ornaments. Some influence of modern designs is discernible in the urban areas.

Food

The staple food grain of the poor people is *bajra*. The well-to-do eat wheat, barley etc. Milk is a common ingredient of food¹. Vegetables are scarce. Opium was widely used during the former times. It used to drown Rajput enmities, but can, if refused, create new ones². The use of tobacco is common. *Bhang* finds place on even royal entertainment menus³.

In former days barks of trees, roots, grass, seeds, etc. used to come in handy as articles of food in times of scarcity. Locusts were also favoured, both fresh and dried.

Tank water is preferred to well water, and people take well water only when tanks have dried up.

Amusements and Games

Camel races are a traditional pastime. Other sources of entertainment are musical and dance performances by itinerant performers. The younger generation in the villages plays *tangal*, a sort of battle on one leg, and *kundo*, a game resembling hockey. Educational institutions have popularised modern games like volley ball and foot ball. The cinema as a form of entertainment has also made its appearance in a small way. The only cinema hall in the district is in Jaisalmer town. Field publicity teams of the State and Central Governments visit the villages showing

1. The 1909 Gazetteer, in fact, records that "...in the west...there are no crops and the people live almost entirely on milk in various forms, a little *bajra* and *moth* being, however, imported from Sind in exchange for sheep" (pp. 5-6).
2. The practice of exchanging opium to bury the hatchet is called *Amal Galna*.
3. See Ralf Oppenheim, *A Barbarian in India*, London, 1957, pp. 138 *et. seq.* for an interesting account of the royal hospitality for a foreign tourist, with *bhang* overflowing.

newsreels, documentaries and occasionally feature films. The *Kathputli* (puppet show) is popular equally with children and parents.

The people are generally fond of songs and story telling. Many an ancient song and fable is orally handed down from generation to generation. Whole villages seem to come alive at once with reverberating sounds of dance and song on occasions like Gangor and Teej. The most popular dance form is the *ghumar* (a group dance). Colourfully attired women dance in circles to the rhythmic clatter of small sticks or wooden swords. The precision of the movements and the clapping is charming. Moomal which is a very important folk tale of the area is given in short in Appendix C.

Radios are owned by some. For the benefit of those who don't have one, there are community sets at all the Panchayat Samiti headquarters, and in some panchayats.

APPENDIX 'A'
Age and Marital Status, 1961

Age-group	Total Population		Never Married				Married				Widowed				Divorced or Separated				Unspecified Status			
			Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Persons		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
All Ages	140,338	77,871	62,467	45,459	25,515	22,736*	19,412*	29,210	28,673	3,150	8,187	16	33	36	59							
0-9	42,148	22,736	19,412	9,183	5,172	4,815	4,655	292	1,574	5	20	1	1	8	14							
10-14	16,270	9,489	6,781	5,080	743	3,107	2,179	927	3,489	16	47	2	2	10	6							
15-19	10,320	6,033	4,287	3,107	131	4,815	5,181	927	3,489	40	126	2	3	5	7							
20-24	13,711	7,316	6,395	4,162	18	4,994	4,655	3,107	2,179	122	237	3	7	6	7							
25-29	12,547	7,097	5,450	2,151	20	4,994	4,655	3,107	2,179	182	633	3	7	2	4							
30-34	11,346	6,027	5,319	846	5	3,104	2,538	4,994	4,655	149	446	1	4	2	3							
35-39	6,164	3,527	2,637	271	3	3,483	2,538	3,104	2,179	274	1,165	—	3	2	5							
40-44	7,827	4,113	3,714	354	4	2,268	1,025	3,483	2,538	241	574	1	3	—	1							
45-49	4,262	2,655	1,607	145	2	3,064	1,212	2,268	1,025	611	1,641	3	2	1	2							
50-54	6,721	3,862	2,859	183	—	816	235	3,064	1,212	236	457	1	—	—	1							
55-59	1,817	1,124	693	71	1	1,389	298	816	235	605	1,471	—	1	—	—							
60-64	3,906	2,128	1,778	134	—	314	63	1,389	298	140	325	1	—	—	1							
65-69	878	489	389	34	—	630	91	314	63	528	1,044	—	—	—	—							
70 and above	2,367	1,229	1,138	71	2	—	—	630	91	—	—	—	—	—	—							
Age not stated	54	46	8	38	2	7	5	7	5	1	1	—	—	—	—							

Source : Census of India 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C (i), Social and Cultural Tables, pp. 50-51.

*Treated as 'never married.' For details see *ibid.*, p. 25.

APPENDIX

Composition of Sample Households by

(Based on

Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total No. of Sample households	Total Sample household population			Composition of Households			
		Persons	household population		Head of households		Spouses of Heads of households	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total	4,989	25,920	14,271	11,649	4,677	308	---	3,574
Rural	4,402	23,203	12,846	10,537	4,151	247	---	3,156
Urban	587	2,717	1,405	1,312	526	61	---	418

Source : *Census of India 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C (i), Social and Cultural Tables*, pp. 12-13.

'B'

Relationship to Head of Family, 1961

20% Sample)

Composition of Households						
Sons	Married relations others		Never Married, widow- ed and divorced or separated relations		Unrelated Persons	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1,012	449	1,735	8,030	5,975	103	57
927	398	1,552	7,300	5,325	90	57
85	51	183	730	650	15	—

APPENDIX C

Moomal was the princess of Lodorva and the story of her love with Mahendra the prince of Umarkot is a popular folk tale of the area.

As the story goes¹, Mahendra who was once escorting his brother-in-law (sister's husband) Hamir from Umarkot to the latter's place camped on way at a place about 8-10 *cos* from Lodorva. Both being fond of hunting, they went on a *Shikar* and the chase took them to River Kak where Moomal was staying. Seeing the strangers the princess sent her attendant to fetch one of them so that she could enquire about their place, purpose of visit etc. Hamir went first, but could not reach the princess' apartments, having been terrified by (stuffed) wild animals in the courtyard. Mahendra, however, was of different clay and made his way with the help of his sword.

As soon as he reached Moomal's presence, both were instantly captivated by each other's charm. When Mahendra began to leave in the morning, he saw in Moomal's eyes an invitation to come back. On his return home he asked his camel-man to get him a camel which could take him to Lodorva every night and bring him back before dawn. He started his daily run and it became a routine. Every evening Moomal would climb to her palace roof and play on her instrument songs o Mahendra's charms, inviting him to come to her. And Mahendra would span the long distance on his camel and announce his arrival saying "Lo, I am here."

Straight from the journey from Lodorva to Umarkot he would go to the youngest of his eight wives' apartments, and slept till late morning. Bitten by the natural jealousy the other seven complained to their mother-in-law. The youngest wife, upon being questioned told that all that she knew was that Mahendra returned in the early morning, with water dripping from his hair.

The matter was reported to Mahendra's father who, though blind, was a wise man. He asked the youngest wife to collect the water dripping

from Mahendra's hair in a jar, which she did. The old man tasted the water which he found to be of river Kak, and it took him no time to imagine that his son had been charmed by Moomal's beauty.

Mahendra's wives then conspired and killed the camel, their surest way of preventing their husband from going to the princess of Lodorva.

Mahendra, however, arranged another camel and started on his journey. The new camel panicked and darted in another direction and landed him in a wrong place. From there when he tried to take the correct course, the camel ran in yet another direction. All this took up the better part of the night and he reached Lodorva in the last part of the night.

In Lodorva, Moomal that day had had her sister who, while playing with her friends had dressed herself up as a prince. After a short gossip she fell off in Moomal's bed and Moomal, tired of waiting for Mahendra, also slipped in the bed by the side of her sister.

When Mahendra entered the dimly lit room he was taken aback at the sight of Moomal sleeping with another man. The camel whip slipped from his hand and he left the room, never to return.

When Moomal got up in the morning she saw the whip and thought Mahendra would be somewhere there. She searched for him, but found instead only marks of the camel's feet in the sand below.

That evening she again went to the roof and sang the same song but did not hear the familiar voice. Days rolled on, but Mahendra did not come.

She at last wrote to Mahendra to which he sent a curt verbal reply through her messenger asking her to forget him as he had lost faith in her by that night's sight.

She immediately set forth for Umarkot to clear his doubts. On reaching Umarkot she sent word to Mahendra, who tutored his attendant to tell Moomal that he had been bitten by a cobra.

The news was too much for Moomal to bear. She slumped and died. On hearing of Moomal's death like this, Mahendra swooned. But it was too late. He lost his mental balance, and roamed the streets shouting Moomal's name.

1. Based on the version given by Rani Lakshmi Kumari Chundawat in *Moomal*, Rajasthani Sanskriti Parishad, Jaipur, 1961.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION

General Agricultural Conditions

Jaisalmer district forms part of what is known as the Thar section of the western plains of Rajasthan. The district is almost an arid sandy plain intersected with ranges of sand-hills, presenting a sight of desolate barrenness with patches of wild vegetation. The soil is generally light and sandy and is quite fertile when fairly watered. The climate is dry and ranges between extremes, intense heat and scorching winds prevailing in summer, and cold crisp bracing air in winter. In the north-east, around Bap and Bikaner border and in some places adjacent to Jaisalmer town, the soil is firmer and water can be stored without much seepage. The water-level in these and many other parts of the district is very deep, 76 metres (250 ft.) on an average. So very few wells exist and all of them are not suitable for irrigation, the water being brackish and, sometimes, even poisonous. In the absence of any regular system of irrigation, the scanty and erratic rainfall provides the only source of water for a few rain crops grown in the north-eastern part. This has forced the people of the area to resort to raising only inferior crops. Another factor for preference for inferior crops like *Jowar*, is their high fodder content, which is essential for the large cattle population in the area. In the north-west, in parts of Tanot, Kishangarh, Barawa-Buili and in the west in Shahgarh-Ghotaru, there is practically no cultivation. Crop-failures due to elusive rains are most common, and cattle-breeding provides an alternative source of subsistence for most cultivators, though few.

Under such conditions of the district, unlike all other districts of Rajasthan and most parts of the country, agriculture is not the predominant occupation of the people. In 1901¹, 38 per cent of the population

was found to be directly or indirectly depending on agriculture and pastures for their livelihood. These people led mostly a nomadic life, migrating regularly to Sind and Bahawalpur (now in Pakistan), in the cold season, to find employment after the crop had been harvested. Many of them were grazers, keeping herds of camels, cattle, sheep and goats. As against this, the Census of 1951 recorded the percentage of population deriving their livelihood from agriculture, directly and indirectly, as only 35.61. This is in spite of the predominantly rural composition of the population of the district. At the time of the 1961 Census², which adopted a different basis of occupational classification from 1951, the two categories of agriculturists, the independent cultivators and the agricultural labourers, together accounted for about 51.5 per cent (35,094 workers out of a total of 68,136) of the working population of the district. This did not include the non-working dependents of these agricultural workers.

As in other desert districts, the size of holdings in Jaisalmer is comparatively larger than in the eastern parts of the State. The net area sown per agricultural worker in the district is about 5.21 hectares (12.91 acres), as against an average of 1.84 hectares (4.59 acres) for the whole of Rajasthan. The per capita (rural population) gross value of agricultural output in the district is Rs. 366.87 as compared to Rs. 215.18 and Rs. 199.08 in Jaipur and Udaipur districts, respectively. Both these factors point to the lesser pressure of population on land in the district.

Land utilisation

The pattern of land use in the district is typical of arid zones with a very high proportion of fallow area, which is covered by nothing but grass vegetation due to sand. In fact, the degree and extent of sand dunes in various parts of the district have gone a long way in determining the effective land use for agricultural and other purposes.

Roughly 30 per cent of the land in the district is uncultivable and *banjar*. About 60 per cent of the area remains fallow, which gives an idea of the extent of the land which, given the necessary facilities, could be brought under the plough. Allowing for the non-agricultural uses to which land is put, the net percentage of the area cultivated comes to a

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, 1909, Vol III-A, p. 23.

1. *1951 Census-Rajasthan and Ajmer-District Census Hand Book, Jaisalmer, Part I, p. 2.*
2. *Census of India 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer District,* p. 10.

little over 5. This has recently been going up with the commissioning of tube wells but is still less than one-twelfth of the total cultivable land. The fallow and uncultivated land is partly covered with natural growth of grass, its area varying with rainfall in a particular year. This provides grazing to sheep, goats and camels, which constitute the bulk of live-stock in this desert region. A majority of land is covered under the categories which, in effect, signify land not available for cultivation (amounting to about 88 per cent of total land area). Jaisalmer tahsil has nearly one and a half times more pasture land than Pokaran tahsil. The forest area, which is insignificantly small (about half per cent of the total), lies completely in the Jaisalmer tahsil, but Pokaran tahsil has nearly double the area under crops than in the former. This is mainly due to more adverse natural conditions in Jaisalmer. The studies undertaken at the Central Arid Zone Research Station have proved that there is a positive correlation between rainfall and population. Consistent with the distribution of rainfall, a pattern of land utilisation as witnessed in Jaisalmer district, consequently, emerges.

Co-operative Farming Movement

The co-operative movement in the field of farming is of very recent origin in the district. The first tenant farming society was registered on 21st July 1959, under the name of Lathi Raiyat Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Lathi. The society started with 11 members and a share capital of Rs. 550. Two more tenant farming societies at Lawa and Pokaran, with memberships of 15 and 10 and share capitals of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 respectively, were registered during the next two months. But while societies at Lathi and Lawa remained totally inoperative, the Pokaran Society went only one step further in getting 202 hectares (500 acres) of land allotted to it. All the three societies have remained defunct till this day (1967-68) without achieving any results in the field of tenant co-operative farming.

The collective farming movement was the next to be initiated, and really effectively, with the registration of the Kisan Samuhik Krishi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., in village Roopsi, on 31st August, 1959. This was followed by another registration in the very next month, under the name of Adarsh Samuhik Krishi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Narji-ki-Dhani. These two societies were re-organised in 1963. Two more similar societies were registered at Pokaran and Kheeya, in the years 1964 and 1965 respectively. While the latter society had not started operation till the end of 1967-68, the former,

formed by the goldsmiths affected by the promulgation of Gold Control Order, did take to the cultivation of *Bajra*, on a plot of 158 hectares (390 acres) of land allotted to it. But the scarcity conditions, which have been ravaging the district since the *Kharif* season of 1964, have paralysed the activities of the two societies and production has been extremely poor.

The maximum number of farming co-operatives, formed in the district, are of the joint type. Since their comparatively belated start in 1962, 18 such societies were registered in the district till the end of 1967-68, 14 of them in 1962 alone, 3 in 1963 and the last one in 1965. The members of these societies have mostly been landless persons, financially weak and lacking in knowledge of agricultural techniques. The result of their efforts, consequently, has been low production and high costs. Moreover, either because the land was of a poor quality and had remained uncultivated for long periods, it could not, very often, be completely brought under the plough and, in many cases, the allotment of land had to be either suspended or land acquired back by the Government, under rules. Because of these circumstances, many of these societies have become defunct. Certain others did not start working at all, due to non-allotment of land. Some of them were forced to stop operations due to adverse natural conditions or their failure to get necessary facilities, like irrigation, while certain others could not face the recurrent losses.

The table at Appendix I gives the names and other details of all types of co-operative farming societies in the district, at the end of the year 1967-68.

Afforestation

Afforestation has only a limited scope in the district, due to the general scarcity of water and recurring conditions of drought. However, minor schemes are taken up by the Forest Range Office every year, though the results have been rather disappointing. In 1960-61, *Prosopis Julifloras* (*Khejra*) were planted along the 31 km. (20 miles) route from Pokaran to Jaisalmer, and *Neem*, *Shisham* and *Siris* trees along 8 km. (5 miles) route of Chandhan-Lathi Road. The 80 per cent survival, in the former case, was encouraging, while in the latter case, it was only 5 per cent. Similar plantations along Chandhan-Lathi road were tried on further 8 km. (5 miles) lengths each year, during 1961-62 to 1965-66. But, except for the 5 per cent survival in 1961-62, the plan was a failure. The plants died, owing, probably, to the continuous drought in these years. A Farm Forestry was established at Chandhan in 1966-67, on which Rs. 3,498 in

1966-67 and Rs. 4,498 in 1967-68, were spent. Another Rs. 2,800 were spent on soil conservation work in ravine area in 1966-67. In 1967-68, Rs. 86,860 were spent by the State Forest Department on Karah Jor Paddocks, on an area of 1,214 hectares (3,000 acres), taken up as a famine relief work. However, the area under forests has remained almost the same, during recent years.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation by Sources

RIVERS—The district has no perennial river flowing in or through its boundaries. A small stream, called Kakni, flows for a few kilometres and then turns into Bhuj lake. In an exceptional year of heavy rainfall, it changes its course and its water is accumulated at Daiya dam. The river does not irrigate any area, but the wells on its banks get some water through percolation. By 1979-80, parts of Jaisalmer district are expected to be covered by a canal-irrigation network, on the completion of the second phase of the Rajasthan Canal Project. Then the existing pattern of economy in this desert region, including, besides Jaisalmer, the districts of Bikaner and parts of Ganganagar, is expected to be completely transformed.

WELLS—Due to the extremely deep underground water level, digging wells, particularly for the purpose of irrigation, is almost impossible.

Khadeens—Under the existing conditions in the district, absence of perennial streams, and wells too deep to be economically utilised for irrigation purposes, artificial irrigation, on any significant scale, is impracticable. The agricultural yield, therefore, has to depend entirely on seasonal rains, not only insufficient but undependable. In parts of the district, particularly around Jaisalmer town where the soil is harder and the surroundings hilly, rain water from the catchment area flows in small nullahs, constructed into sort of contour bunds. Minor irrigation is possible from these low lying accumulations of water, locally termed as *Khadeens*. In a few cases, the water thus stored is conveyed by channels to adjacent land, but the usual custom is to sow wheat and other grains in the beds of these tanks, manured by the frequently migrating cattle.

The majority of these *Khadeens* were constructed by the Paliwal Brahmins. From the time these people were driven out of the Jaisalmer State, until 1892, *Khadeens* were completely neglected and fell into disrepair, due, probably, to propaganda leading to a belief that any attempt

to supplement efforts of nature, in the matter of watering the land, was wrong and punishable like a crime. During recent times, prior to merger of the State into Rajasthan, the Jaisalmer ruler started getting the old repairable pools renovated, and building new ones. Individual and collective private efforts were mobilised to the construction and proper maintenance of several of these useful irrigation works, by promises of the right of cultivation and reduction in land revenue.

The number of *Khadeens* in the district is estimated at a little over 500 and the area of their beds and of land in the vicinity, irrigable from them, is roughly 12,140 hectares (30,000 acres). Notable amongst these *Khadeens*, nearly 400 of which are used for cultivation in years of adequate rainfall, are Bhuj and Mesurdi in Sam sub-tahsil of Pokaran tahsil and Lakhina in Jaisalmer tahsil. The State Irrigation Department has restored, since April 1965, a number of these and, at present (1967-68) maintains 66 *Khadeens*, 42 in Jaisalmer, 13 in Sam and 11 in Sankara Panchayat Samiti areas. The commanded area of each of these *Khadeens* has been fixed individually, taking into consideration all the factors relevant to the optimum use of water resources. These *Khadeens* have been designed in such a way that they fill up with 76 to 101 millimetres (3 to 4 inches) of rainfall. The results have been encouraging with improved prospects of crops.

TUBE-WELLS—To meet, to the maximum possible extent, the problem of water scarcity, both for drinking and agricultural purposes, through the optimum utilisation of underground water resources of the desert regions, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, sanctioned a project for the construction of 250 tube wells by the Exploratory Tube-well Organisation and the Rajasthan Ground Water Board, in the desert districts of Rajasthan. The programme aimed at, besides providing drinking water and irrigation to the fields, checking the dreaded expansion of the Rajasthan desert and included exploration of sites for digging of tube-wells in the seven districts, of Jaisalmer, Barmer, Churu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Bikaner and Jalor. A Co-ordination Committee consisting of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Rajasthan and representatives of the Rajasthan Ground Water Board and the Tube Well Organisation, has been formed to implement the scheme.

A tube-well, when dug, should have a discharge capacity of at least 22,740 litres (5,000 gallons) to make it viable. It is designed to meet

the requirements of only drinking water for the area, if its discharge capacity does not reach the 90,919 litres (20,000 gallons) mark. Above this capacity, subject to a brackishness test, its water is used for agricultural purposes. In case a tube well, after commissioning, is to be maintained only for drinking water purposes, it is handed over to the Public Health Engineering Department. The operation and maintenance of tube wells for agricultural uses is done by the Rajasthan Ground Water Board.

In Jaisalmer district, out of a total of 51 tube wells commissioned upto the end of 1967-68, 20 had already been accepted finally and another 7 accepted provisionally. 20 were abandoned and four not found technically acceptable. Out of the 27 accepted tube-wells, eleven viz. Sagra-II, Sodha Kanwar-5, Chandhan I-A, Jetha I, Bhojka-12, Bhagu-Ka-Gram, Badoda Gaon-II, Bhairwa-2, Dhaysar-3, Lathi-6 and Soda Kanwar-15 are used for agricultural purposes. The first of these tube wells was located at Chandhan, commissioned in 1956. The rest of them were commissioned only after 1960-61. The total area commanded by these eleven tube wells is 2,244 hectares (5,545 acres), but the actual irrigated area was only 140.4 hectares (347 acres) in 1967-68 (81 hectares for *Kharif* and rest for *Rabi* crops). Jetha-I and Sagra-II served areas are under a Seed Multiplication Farm, run by the State Agriculture Department, while Chandhan I-A is utilised by a Cattle Breeding Farm of the State Animal Husbandry Department. The Government of Rajasthan are allotting land in the command areas of the rest of the eight tube wells to co-operative societies and, for that purpose, have finalised the Rajasthan Land Revenue (Tube Wells Land Allotment) Rules, 1966. In 1967-68, cultivation of Maxican Hybrid and *Kharchia* varieties of wheat and barley, respectively, as *Rabi* crops, on 49.96 hectares (121 acres) of land and Hybrid *Jowar* and *Bajra* and *Guar* as *Kharif* crops, on 30.5 hectares (75.5 acres), besides vegetables like peas, onions, tomatoes etc. and *sarson*, has been started in the Seed Multiplication Farm.

Under existing conditions of water scarcity, the total irrigated area in the district is naturally almost negligible, being just 0.17 per cent of gross area cultivated. Whatever irrigation is provided, is mostly through the recently commissioned tube-wells. Open surface wells are of little use for irrigation, since either they are uneconomical to dig, the water-level being very deep, or are found to contain water which is unsuitable for crops.

The source-wise area irrigated in the district has been as follows¹:

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volumes for various years.

(Hectares)			
Year	Wells & tube-wells	Other sources	Total area irrigated
1956-57	118	—	1 8
1957-58	53	—	53
1958-59	65	—	65
1959-60	81	—	81
1960-61	84	—	84
1961-62	42	—	42
1962-63	68	—	68
1963-64	88	109	197
1964-65	226	—	226
1965-66	283	—	283
1966-67	334	—	334
1967-68	326	—	326

In 1967-68, the wells in the district numbered 533. Out of the 485 open surface wells 457 were old wells and 5 wells were dug during the year. Wells not in use were 23.

Irrigation by Crops

A bulk of the irrigated area in the district is used for producing food-crops. A major part of it was under wheat cultivation, in 1967-68. The other partly irrigated crop is *Bajra* and to a little extent *Jowar* and chillies. Fruits and vegetables account for about one seventh of the irrigated area (1967-68). The non-food crops, like oilseeds and fodder crops, have 15.7 per cent of irrigated land under them.

The irrigated area under various crops, during 1963-64 to 1967-68, was as under¹ :

(Hectares)											
Year	Irrigated Area under										Total
	<i>Bajra</i>	<i>Jowar</i>	Wheat	Barley	Pulses	Condiments & spices	Fruits & vegetables	Oil seeds	Cotton	Fodder crops	
1963-64	1	0.5	121	—	—	13	47	3.5	—	11	197
1964-65	14	—	141	—	—	15	47	0.5	5	3.5	226
1965-66	59	1	107	—	—	16	45	17	2	36	283
1966-67	22	14	133	7	4	6	51	14	—	83	334
1967-68	54	10	148	6	—	10	47	6	—	45	326

1. Source : Board of Revenue (Land Records), Ajmer.

Soil Erosion and Conservation¹

Soil erosion poses a serious problem for the farmers of this district. The sandy nature of the soil, the high velocity of winds and high incidence of grazing by the large number of livestock, expose the soil, particularly its finer fractions, to easy erosion by wind. The depletion of its fertility through erosion is particularly serious from March to June, when most of the land is devoid of any kind of vegetation and sand particles and sand hummocks form into low dunes.

The futility of measures to reclaim and conserve land, without sufficient water supply and other prerequisites to agricultural development having been recognised, Jaisalmer district was not taken up as a soil conservation district by the State Soil Conservation Department till 1966-67, nor was any separate staff or budget provision made for the purpose. The District Soil Conservation Officer, Jodhpur, paid visits to Jaisalmer to give technical advice, as and when the need for it arose. However, after the recent commissioning of the tube wells in the district, a survey of the area commanded by 11 tube wells of Lathi series had been conducted, till 1965-66, by the conservation staff for levelling and lay out of irrigation channels. A preliminary survey of the *Khadeens* was also conducted under the new scheme, and the *Khadeens* were, thereafter, renovated by the Irrigation Department. During the years 1966-67 and 1967-68, soil conservation work was taken up as a part of famine relief work, under the production programme. Special staff was deputed for the construction of small *Khadeens* and contour bunding in Chok, Madwa and Bhaniyana villages. Willing cultivators' fields were taken up for survey work on the terms of 75 per cent of the expenditure incurred as subsidy and 25 per cent as loan. The areas covered in 1966-67 and 1967-68 were 440 hectares (1,087 acres) and 980 hectares (2,419 acres) and the expenditure incurred, Rs. 30.7 thousand and Rs. 124.2 thousand, respectively.

AGRICULTURE

Soils

The soil in most parts of Jaisalmer district may be described as sandy to sandy loam in structure, with poor water holding capacity. This soil, developed in the arid climate of the district, has a depth ranging from 50 to 150 cms. and is quite unfertile due to lack of nitrogen, carbon and

mineral salts. It is more favourable to some grains, notably to *Bajra*, of which a good harvest is, sometimes, reaped.

According to preliminary findings, the soil of the district is suitable for cultivation of almost all the crops generally grown in north-western India, if water is made available for irrigation and chemical deficiencies removed by application of suitable fertilisers.

The district has never been scientifically surveyed for the purposes of settlement, except for portions of Pokaran tahsil which formed part of the erstwhile Jodhpur State. However, the district has been divided into certain portions possessing common soil characteristics, from the settlement point of view.

The whole of the Pokaran tahsil of the district, except parts forming the Nachna sub-tahsil, has soils classified as *Chahi* and *Barani*, according to whether it is irrigated or unirrigated. The *Barani* land is further sub-divided into four categories of *Barani* I, II, III and IV, according to the fertility of the soil. Most of the crops grown in the district, viz., *Bajra*, *Jowar*, *Guar* and pulses as *Kharif* crops, and wheat as a *Rabi* crop, are sown in the well irrigated areas comprising the *Chahi* type of land. The Nachna sub-tahsil area of Pokaran tahsil has *Khadeen* irrigated land, in addition to the two other categories of *Chahi* and *Barani*. Parts of the district, comprising Ramgarh, Fatehgarh and Sam sub-tahsil of Pokaran tahsil, possess *Chahi*, *Khadeen*, *Barani* and *Bajaria* lands, the last type being mostly the stony portions around Jaisalmer town, which are utterly unsuited for cultivation. The crops in this part are the same, the *Khadeen* area being mainly wheat-growing during the *Rabi* season.

Principal crops

The principal *Kharif* or autumn crops are *Bajra* or spiked millet, *Jowar* or great millet, the creeping pulses, *Moong* and *Moth* and *Til* or sesamum. Of these, *Bajra* is the most important, occupying about 90 per cent of the crop area in the *Kharif* season. *Rabi* or spring crops are grown only in those parts where artificial irrigation is possible and, consequently, their cultivation is limited. These are wheat, gram and occasionally, a little barley. The most important irrigated *Rabi* crop is wheat, which is grown in the *Khadeen* areas. Tod¹ mentioned cotton being sown in the same soil as *Bajra*, but it is not so now.

1. Tod, Col., *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, quoted in Erskine, Major K. D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, p. 23.

1. Source : Office of the State Soil Conservation Officer, Jodhpur.

A description of the principal crops grown in the district is given below :

BAJRA (*Pennisetum typhoides* Pers)—This is the most important staple food of the majority of the people of the district. It is sown as early as possible, with the first fall of regular monsoon rain. The preparations begin by about the end of March or the beginning of April. The seed is sown broadcast and the crop takes about three months to ripen. The crop does not need much water. Low rainfall and the warm climate of the district are suitable to its growth.

The area under *Bajra* in 1967-68 was 1,62,914 hectares and production 2,281 tonnes. This area was shared by the Pokaran and Jaisalmer tahsils in the ratio of 3:5 (58,816 hectares and 1,04,098 hectares respectively).

JOWAR (*Sorghum vulgare* Pers)—*Jowar* is the next most important *Kharif* crop of the district, after *Bajra* both in regard to area and production. It is the staple food of the poor.

Jowar is sown about the same time as *Bajra* but takes a little longer to ripen. The plant can withstand the scanty rainfall. Early *Jowar* for fodder or *Chari Jowar* is sown early in April or May and its harvesting also starts by the end of May. No irrigation is provided.

The area under the crop in 1967-68 was 3,490 hectares which produced 431 tonnes of *Jowar*. The bulk of the area growing *Jowar*, 2,564 hectares or about three-fourth of the total, was in Pokaran tahsil.

PULSES—Of all the desert districts of Rajasthan, Jaisalmer has the least area under *Kharif* pulses. They are sown later than other *Kharif* crops and ripen in some 6 weeks, if rainfall is sufficient.

The most important of these pulses is Gram, sown in the whole of the area under all pulses in the district in 1967-68.

The area under all *Kharif* pulses in 1967-68 was 103 hectares and production 82 tonnes. The bulk of this area under this crop was in Jaisalmer tahsil.

OILSEEDS—Rape and Mustard and Sesamum are the important oil-seed crops of the district. Sown a little later than other *Kharif* crops, these are grown unmixed with other crops or, sometimes, mixed with *Bajra* or *Jowar*.

The area under Rape and Mustard and Sesamum taken together in 1967-68 was 307 hectares and only about 39 tonnes of production was recorded.

WHEAT (*Triticum sativum*)—Wheat is cultivated in the *Khadeen* areas, as almost the only *Rabi* crop of the district. After the recent commissioning of tube-wells, it is also sown in the commanded areas of these wells as an irrigated crop. Jaisalmer tahsil with most of the *Khadeens* and tube-wells, consequently, accounts for almost the whole of the wheat area.

With preparations starting by the third week of April, the crop is sown by October-November and is ready for harvesting by about the 10th of April.

The area under wheat in 1967-68 was 1,057 hectares and the production 1,057 tonnes.

The area under important crops produced in the district and their annual production figures for the last twelve years are given in Appendix II.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES—There are no fruit gardens in the district except a few gardens in Jaisalmer town, belonging to the former ruler, which produce good quality of mangoes and a little of grapes. Two small gardens at Pokaran, which existed some two decades ago, have been abandoned. Vegetables like radish (*Mooli*), brinjals, onion, *torai*, lady's fingers (*Bhindi*), potatoes and sweet potatoes (*Sakarkand*), are grown by the *Malis* in a few *Badies* or small vegetable gardens in Jaisalmer and Pokaran towns, to the extent they can find ready local market. Cultivators grow *Matira* and *Kakri* in their fields during rains and these grow in abundance. Vegetables were grown on 47 hectares of land in 1967-68.

Double cropping

There is hardly any area which is sown more than once in this district, since there is little need felt for it, land being available in plenty for the only *Kharif* cultivation. *Rabi* cultivation of wheat is done in *Khadeens*, again without rotation, though the field is changed almost every year.

Agricultural Practices and Implements

The agricultural practice being subsistence farming, the system of cultivation in the district has continued to be rudimentary. Crude and

century-old types of field tools and implements are still in use. Camel or donkey driven ploughs for sandy tracts and bullock ploughs for the harder surfaces, are used to cultivate the land when the rains come. The ploughs used are of the *Desi* variety. They are very light and merely scratch the surface, 15 to 20 cms. (6 to 8 inches) in clay and 20 to 25 cms. (8 to 10 inches) in sandy soils. However, camel-driven ploughs have the advantage, in that the fast movements of the camels help cultivation of larger areas in shorter periods.

Since agriculture has an insignificant place in the economy of the district, few attempts have been made to improve agricultural practices. Moreover the poor cultivator can neither be expected to take any interest in bringing about a real change in the methods of agriculture, nor has he any resources for the purpose. Still, the response of the cultivators has always been found to be positive, wherever conditions warranted the use of improved techniques and implements. This has been brought out by the attitude of the few farmers, whose land was brought under the command of tube-wells, particularly in the Sankara Panchayat Samiti area. Co-operative farming societies, which are being allotted land in the tube-well command areas, have also been found to be progressive and take to mechanised agriculture, as far as possible. Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer and Gram Panchayat, Chandhan have arranged for tractor-driven implements for demonstration and use in their respective areas. The Government Farm at Jetha also proposes to make a tractor unit available for use by the cultivators, on hire.

The following table records the use of various types of agricultural implements at the time of the three quinquennial Livestock Censuses of 1956, 1961 and 1966.

(Number)			
1	1956 ¹ 2	1961 ² 3	1966 ³ 4
1. PLOUGH	20,212	24,555	36,765
(i) Wooden	19,658	22,523	33,631
(ii) Iron	554	2,032	3,134
2. CARTS	2,084	2,717	2,766
3. OIL ENGINES, WATER PUMPS for irrigation purposes	—	—	11

1. *The Rajasthan Quinquennial Livestock Census Report, 1956*, p. 21.

2. *Report on the Livestock Census of Rajasthan, 1961*, p. 56.

3. *ibid.*, 1966, p. 362.

	1	2	3	4
4. ELECTRIC PUMPS for irrigation purposes		—	2	3
5. Persian wheels or <i>Rahats</i>		—	28	1
6. TRACTORS		2	3	16
7. GHANIS		10	26	18

Seeds

Improved and approved varieties of wheat and *Bajra* were introduced by the State Agriculture Department more than a decade ago. C-591 variety of wheat, being used till 1964-65, was replaced by a still better variety RS. 31-1, in that year. 681 quintals of seeds of this variety and 22.5 quintals of *Kharchia* variety were multiplied at Jetha Farm during 1967-68 and released for distribution to cultivators in Jodhpur and Jaisalmer districts, through the Panchayat Samitis. For *Bajra*, the approved variety is *Chaddi*. It is procured by the Panchayat Samitis from *Chaddi* area of Jodhpur district and distributed to the cultivators. 40.6 quintals of Hybrid *Bajra* were produced at Jetha Farm and distributed to the Panchayat Samitis.

Manures

The use of manures is almost non-existent in the district. Cattle refuse is sometimes put in the fields by penning the cattle there. Artificial manuring, on a large scale, has been found to be useless till reliable arrangements for timely and sufficient watering of crops are assured. However, since 1963-64, with the beginning of cultivation in the tube-wells command area, the use of chemical fertilisers has been introduced for the first time. But the local demand for them has not been very significant.

Crop Pests and Diseases

Locusts, rats and white ants are the main agricultural pests in the district. Locust swarms come to this district usually from across the Pakistan border and seem to find the sandy tracts ideal for laying eggs. The usual time of swarm-attack is the monsoon season, starting from July. Locusts are extremely harmful, as they devour all varieties of crops and even forests and fodder.

Rats are also found in large numbers, in almost all parts of the district. Controlling them in the vast expanse of the desert, poses an insurmountable problem and hence very little has been found possible in the direction of their complete annihilation.

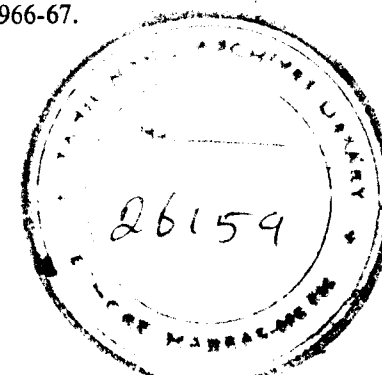
Rust and white ants have no wide-spread effect in the district, as the agricultural fields are situated at considerable distances from each other.

Prior to 1939, a locust outpost was working at Nokh, in Jaisalmer State area, manned by a Locust *Mukaddam* and a messenger under the supervision of a Senior Research Assistant, stationed at Barmer. This unit was mainly engaged in the work of collecting data on the life history, distribution, periodicity of infestation and migration of the desert locust in Jaisalmer. Since 1939, the Government of India has been maintaining the Anti-Locust Organisation and a network of check-posts, which work in the field of locust intelligence and warning, control of locust invasion and checking their growth. At present, Jaisalmer district, for the purpose of administrative control under the Organisation, is divided into two zones, each headed by a Locust Warning Officer, working under the control of Deputy Locust Entomologist, Jodhpur. Jaisalmer (revenue) sub-division constitutes one zone under the Barmer circle, while the Pokaran sub-division forms part of the Phalodi zone under Jodhpur circle. There are six outposts in the district, situated at Jaisalmer, Sam, Ramgarh, Mohangarh, Pokaran and Nokh, the first four in the Jaisalmer zone and the rest of the two in the Phalodi zone. Each outpost is manned by a team of an Assistant Locust Warning Officer, a Technical Assistant, a Locust *Mukaddam* and other staff and is equipped with a light or medium vehicle, a couple of power driven dusters and sprayers and a few hand dusters, to fight locust incidence in its area. Very strong measures are taken to destroy the locusts and hoppers through dusting poison, spraying of chemicals like H.H. Aldrin etc. and digging trenches. The work of chemical control of other pests is undertaken by the Village Level Workers, Agriculture Extension Officers, attached with the Panchayat Samitis and the plant protection staff of the Agriculture Department, as and when such need arises. This work is mostly confined to the tubewell commanded areas, at present.

The findings of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, point to the Indian Desert Garbil as the most important agricultural pest of the area, forming the district. Experimental work on the ecology and physiology of this pest

the infirm. In 1950-51 too, the rains failed and an acute famine stalked the district, resulting in a most difficult position with regard to food, fodder and water. The years 1964-65 and 1965-66 were also scarcity ridden, having followed similar ones in the recent past. In 1964-65 (*Samvat* 2021) the rainfall was only 82 mm. and 201 mm. in Jaisalmer and Pokaran tahsils, respectively. Over 60,000 persons, living in 121 villages in the former and 59 villages in latter, were affected by the scarcity conditions. The affected cattle population was estimated at about 4.28 lakhs. Besides suspending land revenue to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs, the Government started relief works on which about 3.5 thousand persons, on an average, were employed. These relief works, including construction of 10 roads, cost over Rs. 4.03 lakhs to the exchequer. 42 persons who were unable to work were provided gratuitous relief. Another Rs. 13.8 thousand were spent on water supply arrangements in the district, and *Taccavi* loans amounting to over Rs. 4.88 lakhs were distributed. During 1965-66 (*Samvat* 2022) 409 villages extending over an area of 35,834 sq. km. (14,994 sq. miles), with a total human population of 10.8 lakhs, were affected by scarcity conditions. The State Government suspended Rs. 8.66 lakhs of land revenue and spent another Rs. 8.11 lakhs on various relief works and gratuitous relief to 190 persons. Additional sums of Rs. 24.6 thousand were spent on water supply arrangements and Rs. 1.85 lakhs given away as *Taccavi* to the affected cultivators. Milk was distributed, and fair price shops and fodder depots opened to make food and fodder available in the villages. The years 1966-67 and 1967-68 have also been very difficult years with persisting scarcity conditions. 1.40 lakh persons in 1966-67 (*Samvat* 2023) and 1.18 lakh in 1967-68 (*Samvat* 2024) living in 512 villages of the district, besides 11.79 lakh and 10.16 lakh heads of cattle respectively in the two years, were affected by famine conditions. The areas affected measured 39 thousand sq. km. (15 thousand sq. miles) and 37 thousand sq. km. (14 thousand sq. miles) in 1966-67 and 1967-68, respectively. The collection of land revenue amounting to Rs. 2.14 lakh in 1966-67 and Rs. 1.85 lakh in 1967-68 was suspended, by the State Government. Eleven relief works in 1966-67 and forty-six in 1967-68 were started, which cost the Government Rs. 8.11 lakhs and Rs. 6.12 lakhs respectively in the two years. 190 persons were provided gratuitous relief in 1966-67.

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APPENDIX I

Co-operative Farming Societies in Jaisalmer District¹ (1967-68)

S.No.	Name of the society	Date of registration	Membership	Share capital (Rs.)	Working capital (Rs.)	Land acquired (Hectares)	Type
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Shri Bhagu-ka-Gram Samyukt Krishi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Bhagu-ka-Gram.	7.12.62	16	3,045	15,719	283	Joint
2	Jhabra Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Jhabra.	15.10.62	15	5,925	28,590	222	-do-
3	Sosio Agriculture Works Joint Co-operative Farming Society Ltd., Sodha Kanwar.	22.3.63	11	4,300	14,107	202	-do-
4	Sanwla Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Sanwla.	15.10.62	13	10,450	18,267	243	-do-
5	Adarsh Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Dhaysar.	15.10.62	12	4,200	26,084	222	-do-

1. Source ; Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Bhadriya Rai Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Karmo-ki-Dhani.	4.12.63	26	5,200	19,042	243	Joint
7	Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Bhairwa.	15.10.62	13	5,700	12,252	243	-do-
8	Kishan Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Bhairwa.	15.10.62	12	5,500	15,326	222	-do- (under liquidation)
9	Jambeshwar Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Chandhan.	15.10.62	15	4,455	6,281	283	Joint
10	Laxmi Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Chandhan.	15.10.62	11	1,100	1,161	222	-do-
11	Shri Dhegnrai Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Dhaysar.	4.12.63	18	1,300	13,132	74	-do-
12	Sarvodya Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Dhaysar.	15.10.62	12	1,200	1,260	243	-do-
13	Shri Bhawani Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Karmo-ki-Dhani.	15.10.62	11	2,000	12,295	222	-do- (under liquidation)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	Sangiaji Samyukt Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Sodha Kanwar.	15.10.62	18	5,000	13,335	344	Joint (under liquidation)
15	Ainath Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Sodha Kanwar.	15.10.62	19	3,800	14,365	364	-do-
16	Krishna Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Sodha Kanwar.	15.10.62	12	4,200	13,302	222	-do- (under liquidation)
17	Karni Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Jetha.	13.7.67	18	900	910	-	-do-
18	Badoda Gaon Samyukt Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Badoda Gaon.	13.1.65	11	2,150	2,220	222	-do-
19	Kisan Samuhik Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Roopsi.	31.8.59 (Re-organised 23.5.63)	14	140	2,145	32	Collective

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20	Adarsh Samuhik Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Narji-ki-Dhani.	9.9.59 (Re-organised 23.5.63)	11	330	7,493	27	Collective
21	Shakti Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Kheeya.	19.4.65	11	550	561	87	-do-
22	Swarnkar Samuhik Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Pokaran.	25.8.64	13	2,050	2,063	158	-do-
23	Lathi Raiyat Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Lathi.	21.7.59	11	550	561	-	Tenant
24	Pokaran Raiyat Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Pokaran.	9.9.59	10	500	509	202	-do-
25	Lawa Raiyat Krashi Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Lawa.	11.8.59	15	1,000	1,005	-	-do-

APPENDIX II

Area and production of crops in Jaisalmer district¹

(Area in Hectares, Production in Tonnes)

Year	Aaira		Jowar		Wheat		Barley		Gram		Other Kharif Pulses		Sesamum		Rape & Mustard		Chillies	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
1956-57	70,205	8,656	3,568	70	4,85	2,783	154	181	292	112	64	22	22	2	217	107	2.4	1
1957-58	60,729	1,638	3,007	414	2,308	1,939	52	55	89	32	26	4	419	41	4.4	1	1.2	1
1958-59	80,384	18,374	4,343	755	799	656	3	3	58	26	21	3	157	44	4	1	2	1
1959-60	117,011	27,427	6,226	1,041	2,915	2,728	183	209	251	93	98	15	111	16	5	1	1	1
1960-61	134,100	14,040	4,742	378	677	643	27	29	111	19	19	5	138	7	-	-	1	5
1961-62	159,127	33,458	10,086	1,314	4,156	4,919	-	-	459	210	231	64	1,524	238	15	6	3	1
1962-63	147,708	24,469	8,696	1,696	950	698	39	52	66	12	152	35	909	109	1	-	6	2
1963-64	123,282	5,803	7,966	206	1,289	1,052	7	7	58	7	38	-	35	1	4	1	10	2
1964-65	164,876	25,502	7,681	942	1,221	1,276	-	-	80	24	34	5	866	73	4	2	12	7
1965-66	163,651	-	6,495	303	701	638	6	7	32	12	5	-	120	10	2	1	8	5
1966-67	158,537	1,585	5,141	293	1,192	1,095	30	25	99	46	40	1	188	13	2	-	6	4
1967-68	162,914	2,281	3,490	431	1,057	1,057	6	7	103	82	-	-	304	38	3	1	10	4

1. Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, yearly volumes 1958 to 1969.

APPENDIX III

Area and Production of Crops at Government Seed Multiplication Farm, Jetha

	Year	Area sown (Hectares)	Production (Quintals)	Yield per hectare (Quintals)
Kharif Crops				
<i>Bajra</i>	1964-65	8	9.01	0.18
	1965-66	8	20	0.4
	1966-67	4.24	25.74	0.97 for <i>Chadi</i> variety
	1967-68	27.51	61.4	1.2 for <i>Chadi</i> variety
				0.37 for Hybrid Female variety
<i>Jowar</i>	1964-65	—	—	0.22 for Hybrid Male variety
	1965-66	2	1.75	—
	1966-67	5.66	80.00	2.20 for Hybrid <i>Jowar</i>
	1967-68	—	—	—
				—
<i>Sesamum</i>	1964-65	4	8.45	0.34
	1965-66	4	3.49	0.14
	1966-67	—	—	—
	1967-68	—	—	—
<i>Chillies</i>	1964-65	0.3	0.50	0.10
	1965-66	0.7	3.76	0.57
	1966-67	—	—	—
	1967-68	—	—	—
<i>Castor</i>	1964-65	0.3	5.23	1.05
	1965-66	—	—	—
	1966-67	—	—	—
	1967-68	—	—	—

	1	2	3	4	5
Rabi crops					
Wheat	1964-65	17	285.84	2.75	
	1965-66	23.5	335.45	2.35	
	1966-67	39.25	509	2.59 for RS 31-1	
	1967-68	43.70	723.24	2.75 for RS 31-1 variety	
				2.02 for <i>Khurchia</i> variety	
Barley	1964-65	0.8	18.90	3.84	
	1965-66	4.5	66.62	2.47	
	1966-67	3.23	40.5	2.06	
	1967-68	5.26	85	2.63	
Cumin	1964-65	0.6	0.94	0.25	
	1965-66	1.8	5.8	0.60	
	1966-67	—	—	—	
	1967-68	—	—	—	
Onion	1964-65	0.1	5.6	8.88	
	1965-66	0.4	6.6	2.63	
	1966-67	—	—	—	
	1967-68	—	—	—	
Rai	1964-65	—	—	—	
	1965-66	1.0	2.85	0.44	
	1966-67	—	—	—	
	1967-68	—	—	—	

APPENDIX IV

Livestock Population in Jaisalmer District

(Number)

Livestock & Poultry	Years		
	1956 ¹	1961 ²	1966 ³
1. CATTLE	2,33,322	2,93,733	3,43,933
(1) Males over 3 years	26,602	33,490	49,043
(2) Females over 3 years	1,32,396	1,72,014	1,90,976
(3) Young Stock (3 years and under)	74,324	87,419	1,03,914
2. BUFFALOES	1,377	1,341	1,382
(1) Males over 3 years	475	312	413
(2) Females over 3 years	541	615	611
(3) Young Stock (3 years and under)	361	414	358
3. SHEEP	3,94,730	4,66,819	5,90,864
(1) One year and above			
(a) Males	62,896	82,305	1,02,316
(b) Females	2,49,885	3,04,611	3,81,869
(2) Below one year	81,949	79,903	1,06,679
4. GOATS			
(1) One year and above			
(a) Males	34,709	28,281	1,10,902
(b) Females	1,08,973	1,12,300	1,40,222
(2) Below one year	44,963	1,45,224	52,737
Total Goats	1,88,645	1,85,805	2,03,861
5. HORSES & PONIES	664	777	988
6. MULES	—	1	5
7. DONKEYS	10,637	10,982	16,863
8. CAMELS	20,439	28,773	41,135
TOTAL LIVESTOCK	8,49,814	9,88,231	11,99,031
POULTRY	262	1,337	3,811

1. *The Rajasthan Quinquennial Livestock Census Report, 1956*, pp. 6-12.2. *Report on the Livestock Census of Rajasthan, 1961*, p. 46.3. *ibid.*, 1966, pp. 48-85.

CHAPTER V INDUSTRIES

OLD TIME INDUSTRIES

Natural conditions prevailing in Jaisalmer are least conducive to the growth of industries. There are neither raw materials nor power, water etc. to help their establishment. So Jaisalmer district, has never figured on the industrial map of the State. However, a few cottage crafts and industries did exist, owing to tradition and attempts at self-sufficiency. Erskine¹, writing in 1909, remarked that the manufactures of the State were unimportant and consisted of coarse cotton cloth, woollen shawls or *Lois* of fine texture and good quality, cups, platters and paper weights made from the limestone of the country. The people of Jaisalmer were never attracted by the benefits of industrial enterprise and they had always been very slow to take new ideas and methods². Making of coarse country cloth, woollen blankets, camel hair carpets and goat-hair bags on a small scale flourished as a rural industry. These articles also formed a part of the traditional exports of the State. The methods were almost primitive and machinery unknown, except for a few handlooms used in weaving. Beautiful stone work was turned out in Jaisalmer, which was famous for stone paper weights, cups & plates, tumblers etc. Some fanciful cups and vessels were carved from a peculiar chocolate coloured stone and engraved with yellow stripes or spots³. Except for the wool industry, which had a rich supply of raw material from the large herds of sheep, goats and camels reared by the people, other crafts have almost disappeared with time. The wool industry, however, has found scope for growth and its market widening with concerted efforts for its development through wider contacts with the outside world.

POWER

In the absense of potential for development of agriculture or industry, little need was felt to develop power resources, nor has such

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, 1909, p. 27.
2. *Report on the Administration of Jaisalmer State* for the year 1910-11, p. 10.
3. Blair, J., *Papers Regarding Jeysulmere*.

development to any appreciable extent been found feasible atleast in the present circumstances.

Thermal Power

There being no rivers or streams even in the vicinity of the district, the possibilities of generating hydro-electric power never existed. The sole source of power supply, therefore, had to be thermal.

At present, there are two power houses in the district which are being run by the Rajasthan State Electricity Board. The sales of electricity in the district during the four years 1964-65 to 1967-68 were of the order of 2,81,754 kwh., 4,11,499 kwh., 5,31,491 kwh. and 8,19,214 kwh. Most of the electricity produced is supplied to meet the requirements of street lights and domestic consumption in the towns. 1,412 connections, including 1,049 for domestic, 336 for commercial and 16 for industrial purposes, and another 3 for street lights, and 8 for water works operation had been provided till the end of 1967-68.

Rural Electrification

The electric power supply in the district is limited to the two towns of Jaisalmer and Pokaran. Since 11th May, 1964 the supply lines from Jaisalmer have been extended to Dabla, 9.6 km. (six miles) from the town, for supply of power to the newly established Water Works. The Dabla village has yet to receive its first electric connection for other uses.

MINES AND MINERALS

Jaisalmer district has only negligible mineral production. But preliminary geological investigations carried out till now point to the possibilities of the district providing a rich base for certain valuable products like mineral oil, gas, phosphatic rock, and some non-metallic minerals.

The mineral products so far known to exist in the district are salt, gypsum, fullers' earth, limestone, sand stone, *Kankar* and other building material, and phosphites. Salt of fair quality is found in several localities, but is chiefly manufactured at Kanor, about 38.6 km. (24 miles) north-east of Jaisalmer town. This *Rann* or salt marsh, extending over about 31 sq. km. (12 sq. miles), lies at the rocky valley separating the stony desert from the sandy and waterless parts, extending northwards. Brine is found three metres (ten feet) below the surface and is drawn from

pits by the weighted pole and bucket. It is then exposed to evaporation in pans. A small-grained white salt remains. This is a very old product of Jaisalmer, though its manufacture was restricted according to the terms of a treaty between the ruler of Jaisalmer and the British India Government in 1879, which limited production to 560 tonnes (15,000 maunds) per year. The present production from this *Rann* is about 373 tonnes (10,000 maunds) of salt, which is consumed locally. Other salt sources are near Bap, and around village Parawar, about 48.2 km. (30 miles) from Jaisalmer, having reserves of a slightly inferior quality of salt, which too is locally consumed.

The limestone or fossiliferous marble of Jaisalmer has, for centuries, been famous and has gained much importance in the marble industry of India. It is said to have been used for the elaborate inlaid work of Taj Mahal at Agra. Its unique quality and texture stands a high grade polish and is found in various shades. The limestone quarries are mostly within a few kilometres of Jaisalmer town. The hill, on which the town is built, furnishes a limestone more valuable than even the red stone of Marwar. It is of a dull yellow or light brown colour, takes a fair polish and is very fine, even grained, compact and admirably adopted for carving. One variety of limestone was formerly used for lithographic blocks and though not suited for fine chalk drawings, could be used, it was said, for all other purposes. Its composition was reported to be 97.5 per cent calcium carbonate and 2.5 per cent of yellow earth, resembling bole. Another variety of yellow limestone called *Abur* or *Haboor*, quarried from the village of the same name, lying 45 km. (28 miles) north-west of Jaisalmer, contains large quantities of an iron substance like red ochre blended with it, and is used for flooring the most sacred parts of temples.

Sandstone of good quality is found near Jaisalmer town and in the plateau at Bhadasar, 27.3 kms. (17 miles) to its north-west and is worked chiefly at the latter place, where it is of a reddish brown colour. It is very hard and is used for making grinding stones. The reserves of this mineral in the district have not yet been estimated by detailed prospecting and its present output is quite small due to lack of power and transport facilities.

The clays found in the district consist of fullers' earth or *Multani Mitti* quarried at four places, Mandha, Mandhau, Nehdai and Ramgarh. It is locally used as a hair-wash and is also exported in some quantities for the manufacture of better grades of pottery. *Geru*, found in small

lumps in the south-east, is yellow in colour and is used for dyeing of tents and clothes. *Sermitti* also found in the south-east is used as a white wash. As these centres are still far from the rail-heads, the exploitation of clay resources has not yet been found possible, on a large scale. According to the preliminary estimates worked out by the Geological Survey of India in 1949, the reserves of fullers' earth and clay at different locations in the district were as follows :

		(tonnes)
Location	Quantity	
FULLER'S EARTH		
Mandha	5,80,000	
Mandhau	30,000	
Bandah	28,800	
CLAY		
Keeta	4,000	
Devikot	29,999	

The yellow ochre at Mandhau was first excavated in 1959-60 and its production was 130 tonnes in 1968, valued at Rs. 10.24 thousand. The reserves of gypsum at Hamirwali and Nehdai heads were estimated at 12 lakh tonnes by the Geological Survey of India during the survey conducted by it in 1949. 69 thousand tonnes of gypsum were produced at Mohangarh in 1967-68. The produce was valued at Rs. 4.05 lakhs. 100 labourers were employed at the mine, the work at which started in November 1967.

Carbonate of lime, in the form of *Kankar* is common throughout the district, although it is deeply embedded in stone at many places. Sulphate of lime is found 19.3 km. (12 miles) from the town of Jaisalmer. Two mines of Dolomite at Chacha and Mandhai were excavated in 1962-63. While the latter mine was surrendered, the Chacha mine produced 2.3 thousand tonnes of the mineral in 1968, valued at Rs. 10.2 thousand as against the production of only 382 tonnes in the first year. Ten labourers were employed in this mine during 1968.

It is probable that belts of coal found in Bikaner district extend into Jaisalmer. In some places there are indications of some iron

and lignite reserves in small quantities. There is also an indication of a sizeable reserve of phosphate in the district. It is, however, of low grade. Recently, a glass sand deposit has been located near Lathi village and prospecting is being done to assess its reserve and quality.

The mining activity in the district is carried by open cast methods and there is very little of mechanisation. Excepting sandstone, which is either locally consumed or consumed in the adjoining districts, other mineral products are exported to other districts and places outside Rajasthan viz. Delhi, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and West Bengal.

The mining activities in Jaisalmer district are looked after by the Mines Foreman, Jodhpur, whose jurisdiction extends over Jodhpur, Pali and Barmer districts. His immediate controlling authority is the Mining Engineer for Jodhpur Division. The Mines Foreman, assisted by one Mines Guard, inspects the mines and quarries, collects royalties on minerals and conducts geological surveys etc. in the district.

Exploration of oil and gas¹

The very first attempt at geological exploration of Jaisalmer district made by M/s Blanford and Oldham of the Geological Survey of India, during the last two decades of the 19th century, revealed interesting information about the possibilities of finding oil and natural gas in the district. However, the exploration of oil in the area, in the strict sense of the term, was started by the Geological Survey of India only in 1954. This work was taken over in, 1957, by the then constituted Oil and Natural Gas Commission. By the end of 1961, almost the whole of the district, except parts of the sub-tahsils of Mohangarh, Nachna and Fatehgarh, had been covered by various geological survey's viz. Geological surveys on a very detailed scale, Gravimetric surveys, and Ground Magnetometer surveys. This had been preceded by an air-borne Magnetometer survey, carried out under the auspices of the Colombo Plan in 1956. Reconnaissance geological survey has also been made over the entire district.

Detailed seismic work began in late 1963 with three long refraction profiles, which provided valuable structural and stratigraphic information².

1. Based on the information supplied by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Jaisalmer Project Office.
2. By French Geophysical Company *Compagnie General De Geophysique*, under contract with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

They were followed by detailed reflection surveys which are still under progress to cover the whole of the district.

The geological picture as brought out by drilling wells on the Jaisalmer-Mari arch is typical of the eastern flank of the Indus geosyncline. Some of the units such as the Coniacian Turonain (Parh) limestones and the Cenomanian (Upper Goru) shale which are met in the wells drilled on arch wedge out and are not exposed. The *Abur* beds of polished limestone slabs represent only a part of the sub-section of the surface, further completely overlapped by the Dunghan limestone (*Laki*) in the area, east of the old Jaisalmer-Ramgarh road. These limestone slabs were used in places as far as the Jawalamukhi Temple in the Kangra valley, Akbar's tomb at Sikandara and Khwaja Mohinddin Chisti's tomb at Ajmer. Drilling for oil has been restricted to structures on this arch, with the flanking basins yet to be explored.

No significant oil and gas seepages have been recorded in Jaisalmer district. However, the wells drilled by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission have indicated the presence of natural gas and residual oil, but no commercial accumulation of oil and gas has been recorded so far in any of the wells drilled.

The drilling activities of the Commission were so far confined to the arch area and the flanking basins on either side of the arch are yet to be explored. In this connection, the Commission has recently released two deep drilling locations at Gotaru and Longwala in the south-western basin and one deep drilling location at Shumarwali-Talai in the arch area.

INDUSTRIES & MANUFACTURES

Large Scale Industries

No industry, approaching the scale of operation termed as large, exists in the district.

Small Scale Industries

Despite the natural handicaps, which bar almost any appreciable development in the industrial field, a few small scale producing units have recently been coming into existence, as a matter of necessity, to cater to some of the day-to-day needs of the population, as also to serve as a base for developmental activities, initiated mostly through official efforts under the Five Year Plan programmes. The number of these small scale

industries has not yet reached the figure of a dozen or so and they have been engaged in the manufacture of common articles like agricultural implements, tanned leather, confectionary items, soap, ivory bangles, garments, optical glasses and engineering workshops for power driven vehicles. None of these industries has embarked upon a size necessitating their registration under the Factories Act.

The following is the category-wise description of these units :

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS—There is one small scale unit, viz., M/s Mehta Bros., manufacturing small agricultural implements at Jaisalmer. It was established in 1964 and had a fixed capital investment of Rs. 2,000 in 1966-68. M/s Mehta Brothers produced 8 tonnes and 15 tonnes of agricultural implements during 1966-67 and 1967-68 respectively. The sales during these two years amounted to Rs. 34,274 and Rs. 38,945 respectively. Seven persons were employed by the concern during 1967-68.

IVORY PRODUCTS—A co-operative society of bangle-makers, under the name of Churi Utpadak Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Jaisalmer, started working in the field in 1961, with a subscribed capital of Rs. 1,300 and working capital of Rs. 2,185. 13 workers were engaged in the production of ivory bangles, buttons, glasses etc. in 1967-68. Their wages ranged from Rs. 35 to Rs. 135 per month, according to their skill. They produced Rs. 7,470 worth of goods in the first year. Their articles were mostly exported outside the district, after meeting the meagre local demand. The work was mostly done by hand, though a 2 H.P. bangle manufacturing machine was also installed. The raw material used included powder sheets and films etc., purchased from Jodhpur. In spite of a subsidy of Rs. 600 from the Co-operative Bank in 1962, for meeting the establishment expenditure, the financial position of the concern remained highly strained. The added difficulty has been of obtaining raw material.

CANDLES, CHALKS etc.—In 1967, a unit under the name of Jaisalmer Grah Udyog Sahkari Samiti Ltd., Jaisalmer started producing candles, chalks and *agarbattis*. Its initial investment was Rs. 5,000 and it employed three persons in 1967-68.

REPAIR WORKSHOP—A motor workshop, under the name of Ramesh Engineering Works, has recently come up at Jaisalmer.

Apart from these, there were several other units in the district, which have now stopped functioning. Some such units¹ were a leather tannery at Pokaran, run by M/s Jetha Ram Bhanwarlal Charma Udyog Shoudhshala (1960); confectionary items and hair oil producers, Om Grah Udyog, Jaisalmer (1960); soap manufacturers, Jagdamba Soap Factory, Jaisalmer (1964); optical glass makers, Vimco Optical Industries, Jaisalmer (1965); tyre retreaders, Jai Hind tyre works (1961) and Ashok Tyre Retreading, Jaisalmer (1964); tin printers, Kamal Tin Printing, Jaisalmer (1961) and readymade garment makers, Readymade Cloth Industries, Jaisalmer (1961).

FLOUR MILLS—There are a few flour mills which cater to the urban population of Pokaran and Jaisalmer. These mills mostly work to order, grinding grain brought by the customers and charge them according to the weight of the grain in cash and, sometimes, in the form of a minor portion of the flour ground. There are no such mills in the villages, since every household almost invariably uses a hand operated stone *ghatti* for grinding the locally produced corn for domestic use.

Industrial Co-operatives

The emergence of manufacturing on co-operative lines, in the district, is of recent origin. The first industrial co-operative society of weavers was started in the year 1954. A similar society was earlier started in 1946 in the Pokaran tahsil area, then forming a part of Jodhpur State, but it soon died out due to initial difficulties facing such a venture. The comparatively better prospects for such a concern, over the ones run through individual initiative, encouraged the formation of many more societies of weavers, garment makers, salt producers and leather workers. At the end of the Second Five Year Plan, the number of industrial co-operative societies was 15, with a membership of 278 and capital investment of Rs. 4,730. During the Third Five Year Plan period, more co-operatives were formed to produce ivory bangles, ready-made garments and *ghattis*. A co-operative institution of the *Mahila Mandal* type was the Adarsh Mahila Sahkari Samiti Ltd., founded in 1963 as an industrial society of household crafts, for the benefit of women.

Though their progress and performance has not been very encouraging, these co-operative institutions may be regarded as being responsible for quite a few new industrial ventures. Category-wise particulars of the industrial co-operative societies, working in the district at the end of 1967-68, are given in Appendix I.

1. Years in brackets indicate the years of establishment of the units concerned.

Cottage Industries

The industrial activity in the district, however meagre, have been almost confined to households or cottages. These cottage industries have been kept alive inspite of all adversity and the absence of any impetus, even in name, by virtue of their traditional pursuance. Recently they have, however, been getting all encouragement from the government and through demi-official agencies like Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Khadi and Gramodyog Parishad etc. Concerted and organised efforts for their development through these and other bodies, in the form of active help to artisans, as well as establishment of production centres etc., has resulted in their consolidation. The major fields of operation of these industries are as follows :

WOOL AND WOOL PRODUCTS—The major occupation of the people in the district being sheep and camel rearing, wool industry is provided with a rich resource base and is in fact the only industry worth the name in the district. Wool worth about Rs. 30 lakhs is produced annually in the district, and it is recognised to be of a very good quality because of its long fibre. The most important centres of concentration of the wool industry are Ramgarh, Gomat and Lawa. There is a good scope for the establishment of a wool spinning plant in Jaisalmer, to utilise the raw material available.

Wool is either exported unprocessed or made into plain carpets, known as *Candas* and *Boras*, out of camel wool and goat hair. Sheep wool is used for preparing *Bardies*, *Kambals*, *Galichas* and *Namda*. The articles are made in two shades, white and black. The black *Kambals* with red borders are the best known for their beauty and warmth.

The approximate number of persons engaged in this industry runs into a few thousand cattle breeders, who come from the Bhambi (Chamar) community, and a few Muslims.

STONE CARVING AND CHIPS MAKING—The stone-carving craft was at its height of glory in the past. This is evident from the Jain temples and private buildings at Jaisalmer. With the migration of many Muslim families, who formed the majority of stone carvers, to Pakistan at the time of partition and also due to the absence of any special impetus and lack of taste for fine stone-work under modern influence, the craft has been slowly dying out. There has, however, recently been an increase in demand for stone work, particularly for yellow stone chips for mosaic

floorings and tiles. The demand for stone and stone chips also comes from the contractors employed by the railways and the Public Works Department for construction of roads etc. This has kept quite a few persons tied to the job even now. Though the exact number of workers in the field cannot be readily estimated, they run into a few hundreds and are mostly concentrated in the two towns of Jaisalmer and Pokaran.

ROPE MAKING—Rope making is pursued by many rural households as a subsidiary source of livelihood. Ropes are made of grass and *Aak* pulp as also of goat and camel hair. *Aak* plant is found in abundance in the district. The villagers cut down the fully grown plants and remove the pulp by beating them wet, making long thin pieces and then spinning with hand with the help of wooden *Takhtis* into ropes of various thickness. The colour of the rope comes out to be white and looks like cotton rope. The goat and camel hair ropes are similarly made by spinning the hair.

SHOE MAKING—This is another traditional industry of the area pursued by the *Mochi* and the *Chamar* communities. Finer varieties of shoes are made in Jaisalmer and Pokaran, while in villages the shoes made are crude but strong enough to stand the tread of long distances. The most common type of footwear produced is the ordinary Rajasthan *Jooti*. The upper part of the shoes are, in some cases, embroidered with coloured thread. Only the toes are covered, probably to facilitate putting on and taking off to shake out the sand. It is estimated that about 100 persons are pursuing this profession and producing shoes worth about Rs. 20,000 every year. Most of the rough varieties are consumed locally while the embroidered ones are sometimes exported outside the district.

OTHERS—Other cottage industries of the district include smithy, dyeing and printing, tanning, carpentry, pottery, and *Ghee* making.

Gold and silver smiths, who prepare articles of gold and silver to order, are found in towns and all bigger villages, though only a small part of the population of the district is economically well off to afford them. A family or two each of black-smiths (*Lohars*) is found to be residing in Jaisalmer, Pokaran and some bigger villages. They are mostly engaged in preparing iron pots, locally known as *Kuries* and repairing agricultural implements. There are some families of *Gadia-lohars*, who keep on moving about, repairing utensils and agricultural implements in the villages.

The most suitable centre for dyeing is Jaisalmer town, where the water is favourable to the job. The majority of persons engaged in this occupation belong to the Khatri community. The cloth printing industry suffered a setback with the partition of the country in 1947, when a traditional and sizeable market of the industry in Sind was lost.

Because of the large cattle population tanning has become a fairly important cottage industry of the district. The main centres are Pokaran, Jaisalmer, Ramgarh, Mohangarh, Khuiyla and a few other bigger villages. The industry is carried on mainly by families as units and the tanners are mostly farmers who take to the job during slack or difficult times. The annual production comes to about Rs. 2 lakhs and is mainly consumed locally, though small quantities of hides are also exported to Jodhpur, Jaipur, Nasirabad, Agra and Kanpur.

Carpenters are found in towns and bigger villages. They make *Palangs*, camel seats, rough type of furniture, agricultural implements and indigenous tools.

The pottery of the area largely consists of utility manufactures like water pots of various designs. Every village has its own *Kimhars* or potters. Due to general scarcity of water, it has not been possible for the pursuers of the crafts to manufacture ornamental pottery. About 30,000 pots are estimated to be made annually, all of these being locally consumed.

With a substantial amount of milk production, *Ghee*-making had been an important cottage industry of the district, though it has recently suffered a set back due to continuing drought and scarcity of water and fodder for cattle, during the last few years. *Ghee* is usually prepared from a mixture of cow, goat and camel milk.

Jaisalmer Zila Khadi Gramodyog Parishad

This is an important institution providing initiative in the production of woollen yarn, woollen *Khadi* and various kinds of ready-made *Khadi* garments. The Parishad started its activities in Jaisalmer district in September 1961. It runs ten production centres, opened during 1961 to 1963 and another ten centres engaged in the work of dyeing, stitching and distribution of its products. The production is done by four ginning machines, run by power. The raw material consumed is wool which is purchased from the local sheep breeders, with whom the Parishad keeps close and constant touch, thereby encouraging them to produce good quality

wool. The production of woollen yarn during 1967-68 was over 21 thousand kg, valued at Rs. 3.59 lakhs and 42.7 thousand sq. metres of woollen *Khadi*, valued at Rs. 5.22 lakhs. The institution uses about 30 thousand kg. of raw wool costing about Rs. 3 lakhs in an year, in the production process. The Parishad employed 1,892 spinners, 159 weavers and 136 other workers during the year 1967-68. These workers in all received Rs. 2.45 lakhs as remuneration for their services to the Parishad.

The sales of products manufactured by the Parishad during 1967-68 amounted to Rs. 3.19 lakhs worth of goods in retail and of Rs. 4.32 lakhs in wholesale. Wholesale sales within Rajasthan were of the order of Rs. 0.59 lakhs while exports outside the State, mostly to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat, amounted to Rs. 3.73 lakhs.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Another institution working for the development of village industries is the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, with its Regional Border Development Office at Bikaner. The activities of the Commission, initiated in the border district of Jaisalmer on 11th January 1964, have extended since April 1965 to various other fields of manufacturing besides *Khadi*. The production work of woollen *Khadi* was started at six Centres, viz. Nachana, Myajlar, Loonar, Shahgarh, Kishangarh and Mohangarh. Out of these, Shahgarh, and Kishangarh centres were closed in 1965. The important features of the development programme of *Khadi* industry, initiated by the Commission, are the production of woollen yarn through the distribution of *Charkhas* (spinning wheels) at a very nominal price, subsidised up to 75 per cent, to the poor and needy spinners. 545 *charkhas* distributed so far have helped spinners to supplement their income by taking up spinning of woollen yarn which is purchased by the Commission at the prescribed rates. The total production of yarn was 1,178 kg., valued at Rs. 1.81 lakhs. Rs. 54,915 were paid to 2,412 spinners as remuneration for spinning. Weaving is being also taken up, though on a small scale, and the value of woollen *Khadi* produced came to Rs. 8,593; 10 weavers worked to make *Pattoo*, shawls etc. and were paid Rs. 1,800 as wages.

The leather industry in the area is helped by the Commission by construction of tanning pits with sheds for the tanning of hides, providing technical guidance to the leather workers as also improved tools and implements free of charge to the extent of Rs. 50 per worker and

other accessories on no profit no loss basis. The construction of a tanning pit was started at Badoda Gaon. Construction of more pits was scheduled to be taken up in hand on acquiring more land for the purpose. One village model tannery and a playing platform for the benefit of needy leather workers are also proposed to be set up at Jaisalmer.

Another beneficiary of the Commission's activities in the district is the fibre industry. It has been started at Nachana and Dudhu training centres, where training is being provided to local persons as artisans in using raw materials such as *Ankala*, *Sania* and *Khip*, available in abundance in the area, for making *Bans*, strings and ropes. Rs. 2,645 as stipended were distributed till 1965-66 among the trainees, who had also been given 24 *Ban* making machines costing Rs. 3,840 at subsidised rates of 75 per cent free grant.

The Commission's activities also extend to the processing of cereals and pulses industry. The programme for its development was initiated by the Commission with the distribution of 28 *Atta Chakis* costing Rs. 1,260 and a few other types of tools among the refugees at Guhra on the basis of 100 per cent grant. *Atta-Chakis* are also distributed on a 75 per cent subsidy basis to other residents needing help.

Industrial Potential

Under the conditions of acute shortage of water for even drinking purposes and subsistence farming facing drought conditions for an average of 4 years in a cycle of 5, industrial development in the real sense of the term is unthinkable. Certain traditional cottage industries, which had acted as a mainstay of the rural economy for centuries, have been losing ground with the breaking up of the ancient bonds of economic aloofness. However, the prospects of finding oil and abundant water supply in large areas of the district through the programme of commissioning tube-wells, and possibility of affording sufficient irrigation facilities on the completion of the Second stage of the Rajasthan Canal Project, hold out high hopes for the district to become as industrially advanced as any other part of the State.

In view of the available local resources economic, facilities and demand, the following industries can be developed in the area¹:

1. *Industrial Potentials of Rajasthan*, pp. 52-53.

1. Chalk crayons,
2. Mixed fertilizer,
3. Bone meal,
4. Glue making from tannery waste,
5. Agricultural implements and sheet metal goods,
6. Iron water carriers,
7. Builders' hardware items and chaff cutting blades,
8. Milk products (*Ghee*),
9. Model leather tannery for sole leather,
10. Chrome tanned lining leather (Sheep and Goat),
11. Chrome tanned uppers (Black and brown finished),
12. Wool spinning and Blanket making,
13. Woollen Hosiery items,
14. Handloom weaving,
15. Yarn dyeing and printing,
16. Carpet and durries from camel hair for exports.
17. Mineral grinding.

State Assistance

State Assistance or encouragement cannot be expected to go a long way unless the pre-requisites for the growth of industries are available in an area. The State Government has been extending financial help to a few small entrepreneurs who were able to foresee the possibilities of establishing a few small scale or cottage units to manufacture items the demand for which was expected to increase as a result of the widening economic influences. The other category of industries, which have qualified themselves for State assistance, are those which have found facilities like the availability of raw material, e.g. wool etc. During the last decade covered by the Second and Third Five Year Plans, 47 loans amounting to Rs. 38,700 were disbursed by the State Industries Department. No single loan, however, exceeded Rs. 2,000. These loans were given mostly for the purchase of raw material or tools and implements in the initial stages of the establishment of these industries. A quota of allotment of iron and steel was also given to one firm manufacturing agricultural implements. No need has been felt for the establishment of a separate Industries office for the district and Jaisalmer is concurrently looked after by the Industries Officer of the Jodhpur district¹.

1. Jaisalmer has since been placed under the charge of a newly appointed District Industries Officer, incharge also of Barmer district (March 1971).

LABOUR WELFARE

The district, having no large scale industry and hence no industrial labour force, is not covered by any scheme of labour welfare by the State Labour Department. The only industrial unit in the district coming under the purview of Factories Act, 1948, is the Rajasthan State Electricity Board run power house. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been applied to the employment specified in schedule (Part I and II) of the Motor Vehicles Act e.g. Public Motor Transport and flour mills and for the employees of the local authorities i.e. the Pokaran and Jaisalmer municipalities etc. The Labour Inspector, Jodhpur, acts as the inspecting authority for the implementation of this act, and pays occasional visits to the organisations to make an on-the-spot enquiry about the implementation of the Act. He also acts as a conciliation officer under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

There is no labour or employers' organisation in the district.

APPENDIX I**Industrial Co-operative Societies in Jaisalmer District (1967-68)**

Type of Societies	Number	Membership (No.)	Share capital (Rs.)	Working capital (Rs.)
1. Weaving	10	244	9,915	38,860
2. Leather work	11	216	7,836	34,819
3. Salt Production	4	57	2,660	6,889
4. Clothes and Garments	2	29	3,330	8,115
5. Bangles-making	1	13	1,300	2,185
6. Others	10	228	4,595	8,324

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

BANKING AND FINANCE

Historical Aspect

The money market, from early times till the emergence of modern joint-stock banking, consisted solely in the monetary operations of the village money-lenders and indigenous bankers. These money lenders almost invariably mixed their transactions in money with trading activities in other commodities. The scope for financing has been limited in Jaisalmer area, there being little economic activity. The little business that was transacted was almost exclusively monopolised by the Mahajans, belonging to Maheshari (Maheshwari) and Oswal (mostly Jains) divisions, and Brahmin communities. These money-lenders preferred restricting their transactions to their own area and that accounted for their narrow field of operations.

The system followed by indigenous bankers was never uniform and organised. Local and individual traits were discernible in each of the transactions that took place between a particular lender and his clients. The loans granted were for carrying on agricultural operations which were not very extensive. The credit granted was mostly for buying cattle or other agricultural requirements and in times of famine and drought people were allowed to borrow even for buying food. In the absence of any alternate sources of finance in the form of co-operatives or such other institutions, the villagers in Jaisalmer depended completely on their lending patrons in that particular area. Moreover, the system of granting and repayment of indigenous loans has been, as anywhere else, very flexible and accommodated each individual case. All this resulted in providing a free hand to the lenders in dictating their interest rates and conditions of lending. The unproductive occasions for borrowing, such as marriage and death feasts, carried higher rates of interest. Since Jaisalmer had close commercial links with Sind, the rates of interest and the lending

practices of the indigenous bankers in the State were closely influenced by the money-market conditions and practices in that part of the country.

General Credit Facilities

In spite of the emergence of alternatives in the form of co-operative credit institutions and Government agencies for providing cheap credit to the cultivators and cottage and small industrialists, indigenous bankers and money lenders still seem to dominate the rural credit scene. The indigenous bankers now operate more scientifically. They receive deposits and deal in negotiable instruments and commercial documents. There are, however, only a few such bankers in Jaisalmer district, their number being 17 at the time of 1961 Census. The professional and agricultural money lenders play an indispensable part in the lives of the rural masses, who find them the ultimate resort for loans for various periods and purposes. These money-lenders claim hereditary clientage and advance money even without any tangible security. The illiteracy of the villagers provides them with an opportunity for mal-practices, though the legal requirements for their operation enforced after Independence have minimized them considerably. Co-operative credit societies, being of comparatively recent origin, have yet to find custom among the borrowers of the district. *Taccavi* loans by the State Government to the cultivators have been helping them in their operations in times of difficult conditions. These loans are provided through the media of the Panchayat Samitis.

The following are the year-wise figures of *Taccavi* loans given through the three Panchayat Samitis of the district during the last few years¹:

Year	Panchayat Samiti			(Rupees)
	Sankhra	Jaisalmer	Sam	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1959-60	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
1960-61	3,300	3,100	2,100	8,500
1961-62	3,000	3,000	6,000	12,000
1962-63	1,500	2,000	1,500	5,000
1963-64	3,500	3,500	3,500	10,500

1. Source : Office of the Senior Accounts Officer, Panchayat and Development Department, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

1	2	3	4	5
1964-65	3,500	-	3,500	7,000
1965-66	5,000	-	-	5,000
1966-67	5,000	2,400	4,100	11,500
1967-68	-	3,500	-	3,500
Total	25,800	18,500	21,700	66,000

Indebtedness

No effort at estimating the extent and causes of indebtedness among the rural or urban population of the district has ever been made. But it is generally understood that inspite of the extreme poverty of the people, they do not suffer too highly from indebtedness. This is partly because of their ability to adapt themselves to the conditions in which they live and, to some extent, to the comparatively fewer opportunities and sources of borrowing. However, the agriculturists, mostly Rajputs who cultivated their own land, had been under age-old debts, passing from one generation to another, since there were no laws of debt limitation in the former State of Jaisalmer. The debts were usually incurred for the purchase of cattle, for marriage and death feasts, and, in bad seasons, for bare necessities like food.

Joint-Stock Banks

The district has few banking institutions mainly because there has been little need for banking and credit facilities in the area and also because of the backwardness of the people in using the banking facilities made available. Only two branches of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur are functioning in the district. The branch at the district headquarters town of Jaisalmer was opened on 17th April, 1950 and the Pokaran branch on 14th December, 1964. The Government treasury work is undertaken by the Jaisalmer branch of the Bank. A total of 2,004 accounts were operating in both the branches during the year 1968, out of which 185 were current deposit accounts, 1,650 savings bank accounts and 169 fixed deposits accounts.

Rajasthan State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Jaisalmer

A branch of the Apex Co-operative Bank was opened at Jaisalmer town on 24th February, 1962. It was established with the main purpose of financing the co-operative societies in the district.

The societies working in the district were affiliated to the Bank and, put together, they have subscribed Rs. 38,250 towards its share capital. The term loans advanced to these societies numbered 85 in 1965-66 and 18 in 1967-68. The year-wise amounts of these loans during the last six years are recorded in the following table¹ :

(Rupees)			
Year	Short-term	Medium-term	Industrial
1962-63	1,02,400	-	2,900
1963-64	-	-	-
1964-65	43,200	48,000	-
1965-66	93,140	49,700	-
1966-67	-	-	-
1967-68	1,47,550	-	-

The Bank has also taken to certain commercial banking functions and, in that capacity, accepts deposits both from the co-operative societies and the general public. It also deals with the business of collection of bills and issue of drafts for the local constituents. The quantum of deposits received by the Bank has been steadily going up, as is indicated by the following yearwise figures of various types of deposits².

(Rupees)					
Year	Current Deposits	Savings Deposits	Fixed Deposits	Recurring Deposits	Total
1962	5,600	400	—	—	6,000
1963	17,000	67,200	—	—	84,200
1964	20,300	75,500	7,000	—	1,00,800
1965	39,000	67,300	14,300	—	1,20,600
1966	19,300	73,500	34,800	—	1,27,600
1967	41,993	1,19,161	85,292	—	2,46,446
1968	38,206	1,15,255	1,25,294	720	2,79,475

The position about the ownership and size of the deposits in the district, held by the three banking institutions during the year 1966, is given in the table given at Appendix I.

1. Source : Office of the Branch Manager, Rajasthan State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Jaisalmer.
2. —do—

Co-operative Societies

Co-operative movement in the Pokaran tahsil area of the district, which formed part of the erstwhile Jodhpur State, was started in the year 1938, with the passing of the Marwar Co-operative Societies Act 1938, later repealed by the Act of 1943. But it did not make much headway till after the merger of the State into the Rajasthan union. The part of the district comprising the former Jaisalmer State had its first co-operative society set up only after the enforcement of the Rajasthan Co-operative Societies Act 1953, which was brought into effect from the 1st April of that year. At the time of the passing of this Act, nine societies existed in the district, all of them in the present Pokaran tahsil area. The district co-operative office was set up in the year 1954 and was manned by only one Assistant Inspector with headquarters at Pokaran. In spite of the initial difficulties, the number of co-operative societies in the district had gone up to 19 by the end of June 1955. Eight of them were agricultural credit societies, with a membership of 256 and a paid-up capital of only Rs. 2,396. These societies had advanced loans to the tune of Rs. 2,607. Looking to the adverse conditions for agricultural development, no better performance could be expected. 7 consumers' co-operative stores claimed a membership of 181. These sale and supply stores were formed to serve as distribution channels for controlled items, particularly foodgrains. They served both members and non-members. After the decontrol of foodgrains, most of them became defunct, though some of them were revived later in different shapes and forms. The rest of the four co-operatives were industrial societies of sheep breeders. The district being one of the largest wool producing areas, good scope existed for organising wool-grading societies, which were encouraged to help sheep-breeders to improve their economic condition. The total paid-up share capital of these four societies was a mere Rs. 804 and the membership 124. Though the number of these societies went upto 23 by 1967-68, they remained quite inactive in the absence of technical know-how and adequate financial assistance to the sheep-breeders.

The progress of the co-operative movement during the last twelve years and the working of the societies is highlighted by the following figures regarding their membership, capital, loans advanced, recovered and due¹ :

Year	Societies (Number)	Membership (Number)	Rupees in lakhs				Loans due
			Share capital	Working capital	Loans advanced	Recov- eries	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1956-57	51	1,441	0.31	1.93	0.18	0.11	1.43

1. Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, for the years 1958 to 1968.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1957-58	65	2,206	0.48	1.99	0.15	0.55	0.93
1958-59	72	2,484	0.73	2.45	0.24	0.13	1.05
1959-60	112	4,117	1.20	3.72	1.21	0.80	1.45
1960-61	132	4,905	1.53	4.83	1.22	0.11	2.60
1961-62	146	5,584	1.76	4.42	0.64	1.63	1.85
1962-63	172	6,173	2.38	5.76	1.15	0.66	2.34
1963-64	191	6,655	2.60	6.91	0.18	0.31	2.12
1964-65	214	7,502	3.03	8.07	0.62	0.78	1.97
1965-66	219	8,362	3.14	10.18	1.73	0.25	3.53
1966-67	220	8,350	3.22	11.27	—	0.10	3.29
1967-68	222	8,861	3.61	12.48	1.46	0.33	4.41

The basic unit in the co-operative structure is a primary co-operative society at the village level. Though initially confined to agricultural credit, the scope of operation of these societies has now extended over other fields, like farming, marketing, manufacturing, transport, distribution and sale, labour-contract etc. The financing is done by the Jaisalmer branch of the State Co-operative Bank. The position of these societies as on 30th June, 1968 is given in the Appendix II.

The district Co-operative Office, set up in 1954, was for the first time headed by a separate Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the district on 25th September, 1951. Prior to this, the district was concurrently controlled by the Assistant Registrar for Jodhpur district and then by the Assistant Registrar, Barmer. The district Assistant Registrar was initially assisted by one Technical Assistant, 3 Inspectors (Audit), one Inspector (Extension), 2 Assistant Inspectors and other ministerial staff. Out of them one Inspector (Extension) and 3 Assistant Inspectors were deputed to the blocks to look after the co-operative work. Subsequently, the strength of the staff was increased by the addition of one more Inspector (Audit), one Audit Assistant, one Inspector (Farming) and 2 village level workers (farming). The number of Inspectors (Extension) on deputation to the Panchayat Samitis has now been raised to three.

The core of the movement being proper and timely financing of the societies, impetus was sought to be provided by opening a separate central financing agency at the district headquarters in 1962, with the opening of a branch of the Apex Bank (Rajasthan State Co-operative Bank Ltd.). The details about the working of this Bank have been given above. Prior to 1962, the co-operative societies were being financed by the Jodhpur Central

Co-operative Bank Ltd., Jodhpur. Being situated far from most district centres, this bank was not suited to provide timely assistance and recoveries were also unduly delayed.

GENERAL AND LIFE INSURANCE

Sensing little scope for business in the backward conditions of the district, coupled with the traditional apathy towards life insurance, no general or life insurance company chose to set up an office or permanently station an agent anywhere in the district. After the nationalisation of life insurance in September 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India set up a field office at Barmer, which was later raised to the status of a Development office, to cover life insurance business in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts. Jaisalmer district has still no branch of either Life Insurance Corporation or any general insurance company. A Development Officer working under the Jodhpur Branch looks after the district business. Recently Life Insurance Corporation has also been engaged in general insurance business on competitive lines. The growth of life insurance business in the district during the last few years was as follows :

		(Rupees)
Year	Sum Assured	
1963-64	35,06,600	
1964-65	16,46,000	
1965-66	18,36,500	
1966-67	21,37,750	
1967-68	22,43,500	

State Insurance Scheme

The compulsory scheme of insurance for State Government employees was introduced in the district on 1st of March 1954. This scheme, entailing in the first stage the compulsory insurance of all permanent Government employees drawing Rs. 51 or more, was later, from 1st September, 1956 extended to all permanent employees irrespective of their emoluments. The employees of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad were also brought into its fold from 2nd of October 1959. The scheme was withdrawn from these local bodies' employees from 1st February 1962, though those covered before 1962 continued to be insured even thereafter. Since 1959 the scheme has been made applicable also to temporary employees having

put in one year of service under the State, with the exception of those who are not likely to be made permanent in the opinion of their drawing officers. Insurance policies under the Endowment Plan and Whole life Plan are issued to the insured employees.

The district unit of the Insurance Department at Jaisalmer is manned by three Insurance Assistants, who work under the direct supervision of Insurance Supervisor, Jodhpur. The issuing of policies, further assurances, granting of loans, settlement of claims, maintenance of accounts and valuation of the data is done at the head office at Jaipur. Till the year 1967-68, 3,269 employees were covered by the scheme in the district. Their premium amounted to over Rs. 2.0 lakhs during the year. Loans amounting to Rs. 13.8 thousand were advanced to 56 policy holders. 11 cases of death claims of Rs. 14.60 thousand and 12 maturity cases of Rs. 8.08 thousand were paid off during that year (1967-68). Rs. 1.64 thousand were paid off to 9 surrendered cases.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

The district was first brought under the National Small Savings Scheme of the Government of India in 1965. But since the district had little potential to justify the appointment of an exclusive District Organiser for National Savings, it was put under the charge of the District Organiser for Jodhpur District, with his headquarter at Jodhpur.

The details of gross subscriptions received under various schemes during the year 1964-65 to 1967-68 are given below :

					(Rupees)
Year	Postal certificates	Post Office Savings Bank Accounts	Cumulative Time Deposit Accounts	Total	
1964-65	5,000	63,000	10,000	78,000	
1965-66	4,000	58,000	28,000	90,000	
1966-67	16,000	84,000	57,000	1,57,000	
1967-68	27,000	81,000	75,000	1,83,000	

Currency and Coinage

Copper coins were first struck in Jaisalmer State in *Samvat* 1716 (1560 A.D.). A regular mint, however, was established later in 1756¹ by

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, 1909, p. 32.

Maharawal Akhai Singh. The currency minted was called after the name of the ruler, *Akhai Shahi*. The mint was established in defiance of the orders from the Delhi emperor Shah Alam II, whose *Mohammad Shahi* coins were the circulating medium till then. Proper sanction to the circulation of *Akhai Shahi* coins was accorded by Shah Alam II himself on application from Mulraj, the successor to Akhai Singh. The original *Akhai Shahi* rupee weighed 168.75 grains and contained 164.53 grains of silver and only 4.22 grains or 2.5 per cent of alloy. But the issue gradually deteriorated in purity of contents until the alloy reached as much as twelve per cent, reducing the weight of *Akhai Shahi* rupee to 162.5 grains. Thakur Kesri Singh, who was a minister in the sixties of the Nineteenth Century, tried to restore purity but reduced the weight of the coin. This led to distrust in his action and he was obliged to abandon the attempt. His rupee weighed 162.5 grains, composed of 158.5 grains of silver and 4 grains of alloy.

The silver coins, current in the erstwhile State of Jaisalmer were, for some time, also current throughout Sind, Bahawalpur, Mullani and Jalore territories. These formed into two groups, namely those bearing the name of Muhammad Shah and those bearing that of Queen Victoria. The latter consisted of the rupee, eight-*anna*, four-*anna* and two *anna* bits, and were struck in 1860, though actually brought into circulation only after 1863. The inscriptions on either side were in Persian, that on the reverse being to the effect that the coin was minted "in the 22nd year of Her (Queen Victoria's) fortunate reign"—an obvious mistake for the 24th year. The special mint marks were circles of dots, the *palam* (a sacred bird), and the *Chhata* or regal umbrella. The rupee weighed 162.5 grains. It was worth fifteen Imperial *annas* in early eighties but its value fell to ten to eleven *annas* and even nine *annas* sometimes, according to fluctuations in its exchange value due probably to over and unrestricted coinage in former times and a series of bad years. A failure of crops invariably meant an increased demand for the Imperial rupee wherewith to purchase grain in Sind, leading to a depreciation in the exchange value of the local currency.

Gold coins were also issued in the year 1860 in a limited number, but were later on in circulation only in the form of *Muhrs*, half-*Muhrs* quarter *Muhrs* and one-eighth of a *Muhr*. The inscriptions on them were the same as on silver coins. The weight of the *Muhr* was 167 grains of pure gold and of the smaller pieces in proportion to their value.

Copper coins known as *Dodis* were first struck in 1660 and there was a further issue about 1836. Each coin weighed from eighteen to twenty grains.

The minting operations in the State were suspended in 1899 and remained so till 1915-16, when eight *anna*, four *anna* and two *anna* pieces of the aggregate value of Rs. 1,467 *Akhai Shahi* were minted during the course of the year¹. Next year, another Rs. 1,521 worth of *Akhai Shahi Muhrs* were minted². Mint operations were again undertaken in 1927-28, but on a small scale and then during 1933-34 when the mintage was to the extent of Rs. 2,551As.6 (Rs. 2,551.37).

Decimal coinage was introduced in the district in 1957 along with the rest of the country. In the new system the rupee consists of 100 new *Paise* instead of 64 old *Paise*. The intermediate units of *annas* were dispensed with. However, during the short transitional period of three years both the old and new coins continued to be legal tender.

TRADE & COMMERCE

Courses of Trade

In former times, the town of Jaisalmer, from its position on the direct route between the valley of Indus on the west and the Punjab and United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) on the north-east, was a commercial mart of importance³. Caravans of camels were constantly passing through the State carrying indigo of the Doab, opium of Kotah (Kota) and Malwa, the famed sugarcandy of Bikaner and iron implements from Jaipur to Shikarpur and lower Sind, and returning with ivory, dates, coconuts, drugs, scented wood and dry fruits⁴. Quite a few trade routes connected Jaisalmer town with the neighbouring trade-centres outside the State. The trade-route to Khanpur in Bahawalpur State was via Mohanagarh, Nachna, Dewa and Buili. There was also a direct route to Bahawalpur from Bap (then forming a part of the State) via Nokha (Naukha) in Bikaner territory. The routes to Daharki were via Ramgarh and Tanot and via Khuiala. There was also a direct route to Khairpur via Ghotru and Shahgarh. This too was in little use for carrying goods.

1. *Report on the Administration of Jaisalmer State*, 1915-16, p. 12.

2. *ibid.*, 1916-17, p. 14.

3. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, 1909, p. 27.

4. *ibid.*, p. 27.

5. *Report on the Administration of Jaisalmer State*, 1916-17, p. 13.

Another route via Khabha and Mayajlar led to Gadra and Chhor in the Thar and Parkar (Sind). The way to Ramsar and Ghagrio stations between Barmer and Gadra were routed via Lakhan. Jaisalmer was connected with Barmer through Devikot and Binjorai, with Phalodi through Pokaran or Bap, and with Bikaner through Nokh and Bap.

Before Independence, Jaisalmer depended largely for most of the necessities of life on imports from outside the State. The bulk of the trade was with Punjab and Sind and to some extent with United Provinces (Uttar Pradesh). It was generally via Daharki, that the articles of daily need were imported. The traffic with Marwar, Bikaner and some other parts of Rajputana such as Beawar etc. and with Gujarat and Bombay was generally via Barmer and Phalodi. Traffic via Daharki used to be scanty during April-July, when there was excessive heat and later during the monsoon. During this period the alternative route via Barmer and Phalodi was much in use. During November-March, the former route had brisk traffic. The transportation of goods from Daharki to Jaisalmer by road took about 15 to 20 days, while the alternative route took a little less time.

Erskine¹, writing in 1909, outlined the commercial importance of Jaisalmer in former times, emphasising that it lay on the direct caravan route from Sind, Punjab and the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh). Tod's² mention of the State's transit-duty reaching the figure of about three lakhs of rupees a year gives an idea of the extent of the trade done through these routes. The building of railways on the border sides of the State in the early years of the Twentieth Century almost annihilated the trade through these routes and its quantum was brought down to less than one-hundredth part of what it used to be. Camels have been almost monopoly carriers of goods since the sandy paths would not let any other means to be used as an alternative.

With the introduction of faster means of communication, the district, ill-connected as it is with the outside world, has been written off as a centre of passing caravans of commercial merchandise. The partitioning of the country in 1947 and the north-western Provinces becoming parts of a foreign country, further restricted the course of trade through the district.

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, p. 27.

2. Tod, J., *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, quoted by Erskine, *ibid* p. 27.

Imports and Exports

During the princely State times, the trade was mostly with Sind. The chief items exported from the State were ghee, wool, camels, sheep and goats, bullocks, hides, and a little of building stone. In return, things imported from outside were grains, cotton, sugar, *gur*, tobacco, oil, cotton and ivory. The nature and magnitude of both the export and import trade, to a great extent, depended on the conditions of rain in different parts of the districts. Grains, naturally, were the chief items of imports. The principal imports and exports came from and went to Khairpur in Sind, Khanpur in Bahawalpur, and the various districts of Marwar, lying on the border with Jaisalmer. The main direction of transit trade was from Pokaran and Phalodi in Marwar (Pokaran now forms a part of the district) and to Khanpur in Bahawalpur. The chief items of imports and exports along with their quantum during various years, when Jaisalmer was a princely State are shown in Appendices III & IV.

Apart from the above, camel saddles, woollen blankets, camel hair carpets and rugs and millstones manufactured locally, were also exported. The traffic of animals, exported from the district was mostly towards Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The district being deficit in food grains even at present, the import trade is mainly in foodgrains like *bajra*, *jowar*, *guar*, wheat, rice, *gur*, sugar and spices. The other items imported are opium, pulses, tobacco, machinery, cement, stone slabs, agricultural implements, cloth and vanaspati ghee. The major exports consist of wool, bones, hides, camels, goats, sheep, gypsum, ghee and woollen clothes. The main markets for wool and ghee are Bikaner, Beawar and Jodhpur, while the imports of foodgrains is from Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan markets, mainly Jodhpur, Kota, Barmer and Ganganagar.

Markets

There are no regulated markets in the district. Pokaran and Jaisalmer are the two important distribution centres of wholesale and retail trade. Jaisalmer market has 3 *Arhatias*, 10 wholesalers, 15 retailers and one co-operative marketing society and a consumers' co-operative store as its important functionaries¹. Besides, there are 46 pedlars, licenced by the municipality under the Food Adulteration Act, selling eatables².

1. Source: Marketing Officer, Directorate of Agriculture, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

2. Source: Office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Board, Jaisalmer.

Pokaran also has one co-operative marketing society, a consumers' co-operative store and a couple of trading institutions, besides a score of small retailers trading as individuals¹. There are about a dozen pedlars selling mostly eatables and a few articles of consumption.

Retail markets exist mostly in bigger villages where Mahajans reside. Local markets exist at Sadhan, Ramgarh and Sonoo in sub-tahsil Ramgarh, Didhu, Askanda and Nokh in sub-tahsil Nachna and Mohan-garh, Chandan and Badoda Gaon in the Jaisalmer tahsil areas. Similar markets are also found in Bhadariya, Nawatala, Loharki, Chhayana, Khetolai, Lathi, Nedan, Shakra, Luna Khurd, Bhesra, Sangramsingh-ki-Dhani, Luna Kalan, Ola, Balar, Bhikhorai Jhooni, Phalsoond in Pokaran tahsil, and also at Sam in sub-tahsil Sam, Kotri, Mulana Rasta and Janra villages in Fatehgarh sub-tahsil areas. These markets may be insignificant from all India or State standards but are important for the residents and the economy of the district². The Ramdeoora Fair markets also attract large gatherings of buyers and small sellers³, though the volume of trade is not very significant.

Fairs

The most important fair in the district is held at Ramdeoora, in *Magha* and *Bhadrapad Sudi* 2 to 11 (August-September). More than a lakh of people from far and near congregate to pay their homage to the well-known 15th Century Marwari Saint, Ramdeoaji. Although it is a religious fair, a fair amount of trade in articles of daily consumption and for offerings in the temple is done through the stalls established on both sides of the road at the time of the fair. The shop-keepers come from Phalodi, Jodhpur, Pokaran, Mathura, Agra and Hardwar and sell betels, food-stuffs, ready made clothes, bangles, brassware, ornaments and pictures of Ramdeoaji and wooden toy horses. In 1962, 186 shops were established. No estimate about the volume of business done by them or their earnings is available.

A list of some of the religious fairs held in Jaisalmer district is given in Appendix V. Though these fairs are largely attended by all communities no significant amount of trade is carried on in them.

1. Source : Office of the Secretary, Municipal Board, Pokaran.

2. *Census of India, 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer District*, pp. 12-32.

3. Source : Office of the Tahsildar, Pokaran.

Co-operation in Trade

At the end of the year 1967-68, there were two co-operative societies working in the field of marketing, besides four consumers' co-operative stores. One consumers' store is lying defunct. The details about these societies in the field of trade during the years 1965-66 to 1967-68 are given in the following table¹:

Year	Type of Societies	Number	Member-ship (No.)	Amounts (Rupees in lakhs)			
				Share capital	Working capital	Purchases	Sales
1965-66	Marketing Societies	2	62	0.24	0.62	8.24	8.25
	Consumers' Stores	4	1,845	0.42	1.22	0.44	0.44
1966-67	Marketing Societies	2	61	0.24	0.62	7.63	8.07
	Consumers' Stores	4	1,915	0.42	1.52	21.43	19.81
1967-68	Marketing Societies	2	62	0.24	0.53	6.53	6.57
	Consumers' Stores	4	1,976	0.75	1.83	20.20	20.93

State Trading

State trading in foodgrains, with the main object of feeding the population of an essentially scarcity ridden area like Jaisalmer, was initiated in the district in March 1964. Fair Price Shops, presently (1968) numbering 78, have been opened in the district. In 1967-68 the following quantities of grains were sold through these shops² :

Commodity	(quintals)		
	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
Maize	4,014	—	269
Jowar	14,152	—	—
Gram	9,505	—	—

1. Source : Office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jaisalmer.

2. Source : District Supply Office, Jaisalmer.

1	2	3	4
<i>Bajra</i>	25,322	—	29,080
Punjabi <i>Bajra</i>	4,901	—	—
Imported Milo	—	1,00,656	83,355
Imported Wheat	—	1,69,596	39,588

It is estimated that these shops control as much as 75 per cent of the total trade in foodgrains in the district. This points to the utter insufficiency of local production and extent to which the people of the district must depend upon outside sources of supply for their bare subsistence.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Prior to the formation of Rajasthan, the weights and measures in use in the district were different from the standard weights and measures. The areas comprising the erstwhile Jaisalmer State, i.e. the present sub-tahsils of Ramgarh, Fathegarh and Sam of Jaisalmer tahsil, used a *seer* of 72 *tolas* as a standard of weight while the Pokaran tahsil areas, forming parts of the erstwhile Jodhpur State, had a 80 *tola-seer*¹. After the merger of the princely States into the Rajasthan union, a uniform 80 *tola-seer* became the standard of weight and duly marked iron weights were brought into use in September 1956, under the Rajasthan Weights & Measures Act, 1954. In practice, however, the villagers continued to talk and bargain in terms of the old weights, though the transactions made were actually converted in terms of the new ones. The standard of measure even in olden times has been a yard (called *Gaj*) which meant 3 feet, except in terms of a measure of land when it was 2 feet. The measure for liquids was the standard gallon.

The metric system of weights and measures under the Rajasthan Weights & Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, on the lines passed by the Government of India, bringing in a uniform system of the use of a kilogram as a standard of weight, a litre as a standard measure of volume and a metre as a standard of length, was introduced in the district on 1st April, 1962. These have gradually and almost completely replaced the

older system and this process was completed on 1st April, 1963. An Inspector of Weights and Measures, with headquarters at Jaisalmer, looks after the implementation of the provisions of the Act, laying down the compulsory use of the standard metric weights and measures duly marked by his office. The Inspector of Weights and Measures is assisted by a Manual Assistant at the headquarters and an Assistant Inspector and a Manual Assistant posted at Pokaran. The over-all control of the district is exercised by an Assistant Controller of Weights and Measures, posted at Jodhpur, who works under the Controller of Weights and Measures, Jaipur, for the whole State.

Wide publicity to acquaint the public with the new system of weights and measures has been given and liberal licences granted to dealers for extensive sale of the new weights and measures.

1. Source : Office of the Inspector, Weights and Measures, Jaisalmer.

APPENDIX I

Ownership and Size of Bank-deposits in Jaisalmer District in 1966

Ownership	Rs. 50,000 and above		Between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 50,000		Between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000		Between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 5,000		Between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000		Total	
	No. of A/cs	Amount (Rs.)	No. of A/cs	Amount (Rs.)	No. of A/cs	Amount (Rs.)	No. of A/cs	Amount (Rs.)	No. of A/cs	Amount (Rs.)	No. of A/cs	Amount (Rs.)
1. Manufacturing Concerns	1	66,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	66,000
2. Trading concerns	-	-	4	89,485	1	6,459	17	38,914	3	2,000	100	30,153
3. Personal	7	19,02,529	144	4,17,078	28	1,77,176	206	4,23,802	101	68,787	1,069	84,478
4. Business	1	79,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	79,000
5. Public Institutions & Trusts	1	1,75,000	1	14,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Others	2	2,33,000	102	1,02,000	1	6,131	5	13,455	2	1,198	7	1,187
7. Banking companies	-	-	2	34,295	1	6,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12	24,55,529	253	6,57,258	31	1,95,766	228	4,76,171	106	71,985	1,176	1,15,818
											1,806	39,72,527

APPENDIX II

Co-operative Societies in Jaisalmer District as on 30th June, 1968¹.

S.No.	Type of societies	No.	Membership	Share capital (Rs.)
1.	Agricultural Credit	101	4,266	1,08,406
2.	Non-Agricultural Credit	2	45	483
3.	Marketing	2	62	23,878
4.	Milk supply	1	28	760
5.	Sheep Breeding	23	665	17,175
6.	Farming	16	226	50,540
7.	Agricultural Non-credit	3	36	2,050
8.	Non-Agricultural Non-credit	12	251	14,652
9.	Motor Transport	2	28	5,950
10.	Labour contract	7	129	6,450
11.	Bal Sewa	2	36	210
12.	Consumers' Stores	4	1,976	74,928
13.	<i>Charm Utpadak</i>	10	201	7,809
14.	Salt production	3	42	1,630
15.	<i>Kapra Silai</i>	2	26	3,960
16.	<i>Churi Utpadak</i>	1	13	1,300
17.	<i>Mahila Sangh</i>	2	35	218
18.	<i>Gatti Udyog</i>	1	15	150
19.	<i>Tel Ghani</i>	1	26	1,700
20.	District Union	1	53	-
21.	Weavers'	16	410	11,931
22.	Other Industrial	20	362	16,387
23.	Under liquidation	21	481	40,127
	Total	222	8,861	3,61,347

1. Source: Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

APPENDIX III

Major Imports of Jaisalmer State¹

(Quantities in Maunds)

S. No.	Commodity	1910-11	1917-18	1920-21	1925-26	1930-31	1935-36	1940-41
1.	Wheat	12,180	52,732	25,754	25,438	38,020	21,177	10,896
2.	<i>Bajra, Jowar</i>	87,040	80,850	1,03,019	1,72,942	1,57,200	87,470	86,444
3.	Pulses	247	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Rice	6,194	6,235	5,423	3,254	5,457	7,652	4,806
5.	Sugar	3,197	18,847	6,694	7,981	9,973	16,540	14,064
6.	<i>Gur & Mushti</i>	6,047						
7.	Tobacco & Snuff	2,133	1,355	692	784	968	1,261	872
8.	Dates	1,483	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Coconut	105	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Oils	961	1,311	1,009	1,074	1,740	2,178	4,406
11.	Cotton	27	-	-	-	-	-	29
12.	Ivory	20	-	-	-	11	-	14
13.	Cloth	1,703	1,232	1,529	1,599	1,710	3,262	2,029
14.	Gram	-	880	832	1,413	1,279	1,941	1,504
15.	<i>Mung and Moth</i>	-	2,771	701	1,798	1,964	587	1,891
16.	Dried Fruits	-	2,180	1,988	1,484	1,584	2,798	2,440
17.	Spices	-	1,358	1,119	1,504	1,524	2,490	1,833
18.	<i>Ghee</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	174
19.	Hides	-	185	312	194	183	324	74
20.	Stone, Clay and Grinding Mills	-	541	104	85	323	769	325
21.	Wool	-	-	-	3	-	-	-

¹ Reports on the Administration of Jaisalmer State for the years 1910-11 to 1940-41.

APPENDIX IV

Major Exports of Jaisalmer State¹

(Quantities in Maunds)

S. No.	Commodity	1910-11	1917-18	1920-21	1925-26	1930-31	1935-36	1940-41
1.	Wheat	888	615	12	33	17	594	774
2.	<i>Bajra, Jowar</i>	10,122	72	265	52	45	436	59
3.	Pulses	1,528	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Ghee	4,215	17,602	1,518	880	1,881	1,318	125
5.	Wool	10,700	20,975	6,464	9,088	7,785	9,718	10,213
6.	Sheep (No.)	25,304	-	-	-	31,370	-	46,425
7.	Goats (,,)	31,779	-	-	-	16,128	-	14,313
8.	Camels (,,)	878	-	-	-	291	-	1,754
9.	Bullocks (,,)	4,004	-	-	-	3,502	-	1,427
10.	<i>Til</i>	11,582	-	-	-	147	-	-
11.	<i>Mung & Moth</i>	-	1	117	-	-	30	-
12.	Spices	-	23	17	-	12	5	1
13.	Cloth	-	49	75	124	172	132	91
14.	Hides	-	146	120	1,863	218	272	823
15.	Stone, Clay and Grinding Mills	-	6,784	6,848	8,434	9,600	11,682	15,882
16.	Oils	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
17.	Gram	-	-	-	-	2	-	-

¹ Reports on the Administration of Jaisalmer State, for the years 1910-11 to 1940-41.

APPENDIX V

Fairs in Jaisalmer District¹

Name of the fair	Place	Period	Estimated congregation
JAISALMER TAHSIL			
Sheetla	Dedansar	<i>Chaitra Badi 7</i>	1,000
Gangaur	Gharsisar	<i>Chaitra Sudi 4</i>	12,000
Vaisakhi	Bada Bagh	<i>Vaisakha Sudi 15</i>	20,000
Ganga Saptmi	Amarsagar	<i>Vaisakha Sudi 7</i>	500
Guru Purnima	Gharsisar	<i>Ashvina Sudi 15</i>	1,000
Chhoti Teej	Gharsisar	<i>Shravana Sudi 3</i>	2,000
Badi Teej	Gharsisar	<i>Bhadrapada Badi 3</i>	2,000
Guga Navmi	Bada Bagh	<i>Bhadrapada Sudi 9</i>	3,000
Ramdeoiji	Gulabsagar	<i>Bhadrapada Sudi 11 & Magha Sudi 11</i>	1,000
Udal Dema	Temrera	<i>Bhadrapada Sudi 7</i>	500
Kala Dungar	Kanond	<i>Bhadrapada 14 & Magha Sudi 14</i>	400
Amar Sagar	Amar Sagar	<i>Bhadrapada Sudi 7</i>	500
Dashera	Chohta	<i>Ashvina Sudi 8 & 9</i>	13,000
Vijya Mela	Dashera-ka-Burj	<i>Ashvina Sudi 10</i>	1,000
Mahashivratri	Deochandreshar	<i>Phalguna Badi 13</i>	2,000
POKARAN TAHSIL			
Ramdeoiji ²	Ramdeora	<i>Bhadra Sudi 2-11</i>	1,00,000
Gandhi Mela	Sakra	30th & 31st January	400
Swangiyoji	Bhadariya	<i>Bhadrapada Sudi 6 & Magha Sudi 6</i>	1,000

1. *Census of India, 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer District*, p. 213. (The information relates to only Jaisalmer and Pokaran Tahsils during 1961).

2. *Census of India, 1961, Rajasthan Fairs and Festivals*, p. 81.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

OLD TIME ROUTES

Major C.K.M. Walter¹, writing in 1877, noted that there were no roads worth the name in the whole area of the former Jaisalmer State. But a number of cart and camel routes passing through and emanating from Jaisalmer did exist and these were used by caravans travelling across its territory and serving important links between important trade and pilgrim centres of India.

The most frequently used of the routes from Jaisalmer was the one which led up to Jodhpur, passing through Basanpur, Chandan, Lathi, and therefrom upto Jodhpur via Udhania in Marwar. This was a cart-route and drinking water, though not very sweet, was available in plenty to the travellers at various places on the way. A second cart-route connected Jaisalmer with Bikaner. It passed Basanpur, Chandan, Bahadaria, Loharki, Saharor, Utargarh, Shekhasar, Bap (now in Bikaner district), Zalem Singh-Ka-Sar and Nokhra. An alternative route to Bikaner was through Nagaur and Phalodi in Marwar territory. A third route, from Jaisalmer to Bahawalpur (now in Pakistan), passed through Dirawar, Ahmadpur and Khanpur. It touched on the way the villages of Chaudhri and Boli before entering what was at that time the Bahawalpur State. This route was good only for camels.

There was a camel and cart route from Jaisalmer to Ahmadpur, Kot Sabzali, Khaerpur and Aobaora which passed through Lamila, Sanu, Ramgarh Ranao and Tanot, used mainly for bringing grain from Sind². Another route joined Jaisalmer with Arori, Sakkar, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Ladhkhana in Sind. It touched Chatrail Kachuri, Kholiwala and Gotrain in the Jaisalmer territory. Most of the distance covered was

1. Walter, C.K.M., *Gazetteer of Marwar, Mallani and Jeysulmere*, 1877, p. 124.

2. Sind is now a province of Pakistan.

through a sandy waste and a difficult one, water being obtainable at distant stages. A camel route connected Jaisalmer with Mirpur and Khangar. The travellers had to pass over a terrain covered with high *ribbas* (sand hills) and journeying was hard and trying. The villages of Hakarthala and Higola-ka Thala lay on this route beyond the three common stages of the fifth route. After the first two stages another route turned towards Sidhamran, Malakra and Shahgarh terminating at Khaerpur. This again was a difficult route used only by camel riders.

Jaisalmer was linked to Umarkot and Hyderabad (Sind) by a camel route which passed through Salta, Khorl and Bhojlar as three stages of travel. Camel carvans travelling from Jaisalmer to Gadra in Sind travelled by a route through Kachh Bhuj touching Karwan, Deora and Khora.

Marwar was reached through a route from Jaisalmer by way of Dhanwan and Devikot from where a cart route branched off to Balotra (in Barmer district). This route went beyond Devikot to Bijorai.

Till the first quarter of the present century Jaisalmer enjoyed the privileged position of falling on important trade routes connecting prosperous trade centres in Sind, Punjab, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Bahawalpur States and beyond up to Kabul. When railway communications were developed in Jodhpur and Bikaner States, the importance of Jaisalmer started to diminish.

Conditions on the trade routes determined the means of transport. Sophisticated vehicles which can now negotiate the most difficult deserts were unknown and the wooden cart and the camel provided the two means of transport across the desert. The carts were strong but crude. The cart wheels were fitted with rims made of thick wide pieces of wood placed concentrically in two rims, connected with the hub by wooden spokes, four to six inches long.

The carts were designed to facilitate loading and were sometimes given a respectable appearance by a *Charpai* (beds head) being fixed on the body and covering it with a canopy of matting or cloth, shaped like a dome and supported on two slender wooden poles. In recent years the well-to-do have been fitting such carts with pneumatic tyres. The richer people of the towns added ornamental trappings and comfortable seats, but the camel and the crude country cart still continue to be the most popular modes of transport in the district, particularly for journeys to the interior where no other means of transport are feasible.

ROADS AND ROAD TRANSPORT

Roads

The desert conditions of the terrain with loose and shifting sand, have prevented construction of pucca roads. Maintenance is difficult and expensive because the roads get buried under thick sand and lose their identity. The rudimentary stage of economic development of the district is another deterrent to building good roads even where the terrain is more favourable. The lack of good roads in turn has hampered the socio-economic development of the area.

The total length of the metalled roads in 1909 was a mere 9.6 km. (6 miles), all within the precincts of the Jaisalmer town. The unmetalled roads amounted to 190.4 km. (119 miles) and served as cam l or foot paths¹. Even these got buried under sand sometimes leaving no trace at all. Road building activity started in earnest only after the merger of Jaisalmer State into R j sthan. Programmes for the economic uplift of the district with the launching of the Five Year Plans included construction and improvement of roads. Expenditure on road building was a heavy item and Rs. 7.66 lakhs were spent on roads during thg first plan period (1951-56). Still the length of roads per hundred kilometres was much below the average in most other districts. It was only 4.37 km. (2.37 miles per 100 sq. miles) in Jaisalmer as against the all Rajasthan average of 16.9 km. (10.6 miles). The total length of the different kinds of roads at the end of the First Plan was 612 km. (383 miles) which works out at 593.8 km. (369 miles) per one lakh population according to the 1951 Census.

A more ambitious programme of road building was launched in the Second Five Year Plan. Rs 17.29 lakhs were actually spent against an allotment of 13.41 lakhs mostly on the improvement and uplifting of the already existing roads measuring 612 km. (383 miles). Besides this, two unfinished works covered under first plan and one new road were completed during this period. The Third Five Year Plan aimed at connecting almost all the small towns with a population of 5,000 or above with roads and also to connect the tahsil headquarters with the district headquarters by surface roads. In addition to the basic needs of the district, economy in the matter of communications has also to be considered. The extension of the railway line from Pokaran to Jaisalmer started during

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteer*, Vol. III-A, p. 27.

this period necessitated the construction of feeder roads in the district. During the Third Plan an expenditure of Rs. 7.11 lakhs was incurred on the construction of new roads and improvement of the already existing ones, bringing the total road length to 898 km. (506 miles) or 2.30 km. per 100 sq. km.

The road length in Jaisalmer district during the years 1957-1968 is given in the table below¹ :

On 31st March of	Road length (km.)					
	Concrete	Bituminised or painted	Metalled	Gravelled	Fair weather and dressed up	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1957	—	76	18	203	313	610
1958	2	101	2	213	295	613
1959	2	104	106	182	280	672
1960	2	196	5	194	309	706
1961	—	124	3	166	317	610
1962	2	143	2	172	322	641
1963	—	148	13	217	314	692
1964	—	150	5	312	314	781
1965	—	174	14	422	240	850
1966	—	177	13	462	248	900
1967	2	179	13	483	246	923
1968	2	179	13	483	246	923

Thus at the end of the year 1967-68 the district was covered by a net work of 923 km. of roads. Out of the 923 km. the bituminised roads measured 179 km. (111 miles) or 19.5 per cent; the gravelled roads 52.5 per cent and the balance 28 per cent (except small tracks of 2 km. of concrete and 13 km. of metalled roads) were fair weather or sandy-tracks. The road length per thousand of population (1961 Census) was 7.94 km. Roads have to provide the base of transportation in the district and the inadequacy of these has kept the already stagnant economy of the district at a low ebb.

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volumes for 1958 and onwards.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS¹—There is no National Highway passing through the district.

STATE HIGHWAYS²—There is one road in the district which falls in this category and has a total length of 286 km. with 157 km. within the district.

MAJOR DISTRICT ROADS³—One road falling in this category has a total length of 26.8 km. in the district.

VILLAGE ROADS⁴—There are twenty village roads maintained by Public Works Department in the district. Their total length is 496.8 kilometres.

The two municipalities of Jaisalmer and Pokaran have constructed small lane pavements, intracity roads or small approach roads of secondary importance within their respective jurisdictional limits. Jaisalmer Municipality spent Rs. 2,200 in 1966-67 and Rs. 30,404 in 1967-68 for construction and maintenance of 3,926 sq. metres (42,251.6 sq. ft.) of paved roads, while the Pokaran Municipality had spent a total of Rs. 17,614 during the period 1956 to 1962 for the purpose. The activities of these bodies in the field of road-extension have been limited due to paucity of funds at their disposal. The State Government provides funds to them for the purpose in the form of loans and grants in addition to what they can raise from their own resources.

1. Defined according to Nagpur Plan as "main highways running through the length and breadth of India, connecting ports, foreign highways, capitals of provinces and of large States and including roads required for strategic movements for the defence of India". The responsibility of their construction and maintenance rests with the Central Government.
2. The Nagpur Plan definition of a State Highway is "a main trunk or arterial road of a province or State connecting up with the National Highways or highways of adjacent provinces or States, district headquarters and important cities within the Province or State, and serving as the main arteries of traffic to and from district roads". These are constructed and maintained by the State Government.
3. District roads, according to the Nagpur Plan, were divided into two classes according to traffic and specifications necessary and were defined as roads traversing each district serving areas of production and markets and connecting these with each other or with highways and railways. Major district roads were to be roughly of the same specifications as the State highways, while other district roads are of somewhat lower specifications.
4. Described as- "Roads connecting villages and groups of villages with each other and to the nearest district road, main highway, railway or river shores" by the Nagpur Road Congress.

Road Administration

All roads in the district, except most of the approach roads, Panchayat Samiti or inter-Panchayat roads and culverts on such roads, are the responsibility of the State. The latter are the concern of the local bodies like Panchayat Samitis, Zila Parishad and Municipalities.

State Highways, Major District roads and District roads are constructed and maintained by the Building and Roads Section of the State's Public Works Department. The Central Government provides financial and advisory assistance in the construction of the roads of inter-State and economic importance. The State Government in turn provides funds on an adhoc basis as and when such need arises in the form of loans and grants to the local bodies for efficient village road administration.

Road Accidents

In an almost deserted area like Jaisalmer, far flung and not lying on any important route having only a few roads with low powered vehicles running on them, road accidents are rather rare. The following are the figures of these accidents during 1957-68¹ :

Year	(Number)			
	Accidents	Persons killed	Persons injured	Vehicles involved
1957	2	1	1	2
1958	—	—	—	—
1959	6	6	2	4
1960	—	—	—	—
1961	2	1	4	2
1962	5	—	6	7
1963	2	—	1	3
1964	5	2	6	4
1965	6	2	1	7
1966	1	2	3	1
1967	12	4	12	11
1968	14	2	55	16

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volumes for 1958 and onwards.

Motor Vehicles

The extension in road length and improvement in the surface of the roads since 1951 has led to an increase in transport facilities and consequently to an increase in the number of vehicles on roads. However, the economically backward conditions of the district and its situation have kept its roads free of heavy traffic.

The number of motor vehicles on road during the last few years is given in Appendix I.

Bus Services

With only one and insufficient rail-road in the district, bus services are indispensable and important for journeys within and across the district, and for contact with the outside world. Jaisalmer, the most important town by virtue of its being the seat of the district administration, and Pokaran, the only other town and sub-divisional headquarter, enjoy the benefit of being the most easily approachable by regular bus-services. Eleven routes are covered by regular bus services throughout the district apart from other inter-district routes.

Goods Carriers

A total of 238 trucks and other types of goods carriers catered to the needs of the district, to transport goods as on 31st December, 1968. 95 of these were Public Carriers and 143 Private Carriers including those owned by the Government. Public-carrier trucks were being operated by 26 privately owned concerns, mainly for carrying grain for controlled distribution on Government account, besides being used for transportation of private commercial goods. The private carriers, owned by private building contractors are used for carrying building and other construction material to the sites of the works. The Government carriers were employed for all and sundry jobs on behalf of the authorities. The plying is on routes inside and outside the district and the carriage rates to be charged by public carriers are as fixed by the transport authorities from time to time.

RAILWAYS

The area of the district forming the erstwhile Princely State of Jaisalmer was till recently without any railway route. During the pre-merger times a North-western Railway line ran from the boundaries of

Jaisalmer State at a distance varying from 48.2 km. to 144.8 km. (30 to 90 miles) from the northern and western borders, while at a similar distance from the southern and eastern boundaries ran the Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway route. The station nearest to the town of Jaisalmer was Barmer, lying at a distance of 152.8 km. (95 miles) to the south. The present Pokaran Sub-division area of the district, which formed part of the erstwhile State of Jodhpur was served by the Jodhpur-Pokaran line.

Till the completion of Pokaran-Jaisalmer line in December 1967, the district had just a small portion of about 20 km. of a railway line between Jodhpur and Pokaran. The 107 km. long Pokaran-Jaisalmer railway link was commissioned in January 1968 and opened to goods and passenger traffic later in the same month. Jaisalmer town thus has now a direct rail-link with Jodhpur. On Jodhpur-Pokaran route, two originating and two terminating trains run in the mornings and in the evenings. There is only one other railway station in the district at Ramdeora, apart from Pokaran the terminus of this train.

One originating and another terminating train runs on the newly commissioned Pokaran-Jaisalmer route. The originating train leaves Pokaran in the morning and the terminating one arrives in the evening. The intermediate stations on the route are Asnapura-Gomat, Odania-Chacha, Sri Bhadrya-Lathi, Jetha-Chandan and Thaiyat-Hamira. The requisite terminal facilities and passenger amenities like drinking water etc. exist at Pokaran station. There is an upper class waiting room and a waiting hall at Jaisalmer and a waiting hall and a drinking water hut at all other stations. The average daily booking of passengers on these routes is 177 and average number of passengers received is 210.

Two goods trains run daily in each direction on this route. The average annual outward and inward goods traffic is 19 thousand and 59 thousand quintals (1968) respectively. The passenger average traffic was about 275 per day (in 1967-68) on Jodhpur-Pokaran route. The annual fair held in the month of *Bhadra* (August) at Ramdeora, a shrine of Ramdeoji, a local saint hero, attracts large passenger traffic by rail.

Thus the total rail length within the district is insignificant. Having only a few railway stations it has no great impact on the economy of the district. However, it certainly helps a lot in the import of food and other articles of domestic use and comforts from other parts of the State and the country, thereby making the life of the inhabitants richer

and more varied. It also helps export of mineral products etc. from the district. Further more, it has opened the prospects of a closer contact with the outside world. The opening of railway lines around the boundaries of the district has certainly stopped the caravans passing through Jaisalmer and it has lost its importance as centre of trade which it enjoyed in former times when caravans were constantly passing through the territory of the district.

The recent completion of the railway line between Pokaran and Jaisalmer, is expected to go a long way in providing not only easy and so far unknown means of transport to quite a few far flung places of the district and their inhabitants numbering over a lakh and a half, but also in keeping them in contact with the outside world and making famine relief operations, not infrequent in the district, easier and more effective.

TRAVEL FACILITIES

Lacking sufficient passenger amenities, Jaisalmer is never the visited by pilgrims and a few other visitors.

Dharmashalas

There are two *dharmashalas* at Jaisalmer. Shri Jaisalmer Lodrapur Parshvanath Jain Trust *Dharmashala*, maintained by a trust of the same name has two buildings, Jain Bhawan and Mahavir Bhawan built about a century and half a century back respectively, with about 30 rooms which are open for use only to Shevatambar Jain pilgrims. Electric light and running water facilities are also available in the *Dharmashala*. The stay is free of charge for those permitted to do so. The other *dharmashala* in the town is Bhation-ki-Baghichi, maintained since 1950 by the clan of Bhatias, the original residents of Jaisalmer. This *dharmashala* which has 19 rooms is comparatively more generously allowed to be used by stray passengers for staying at a charge of one rupee per day, including charges for electricity and water.

Dak Bungalows and Rest Houses

Two Dak Bungalows and eight one-room Rest Houses are being maintained by the State P.W.D. in the district mostly for the use of public officials on Government duty.

The Dak Bungalow at Jaisalmer was opened during the times of the Maharajas but shifted to the present building in 1964. It has 4 double rooms with attached toilets and 4 small rooms. It is situated in the building next to the Collector's office. Electric light and water are available. Rs. 2 per day in addition to light and fan charges of Re. 1 in summers and 50 *Paise* in winters are charged from passengers other than officials on duty who pay only for the electricity charges when they stay there. The staff attached to the Dak Bungalow includes one Chowkidar, one *Farrash* and one cook, who is available for cooking to order.

The Pokaran Dak Bungalow built in 1962 is situated near the Railway station. It has 3 double and 2 single rooms, with facilities of electric light and well water. The staying charges are the same as for the Jaisalmer Dak Bungalow. The Dak Bungalow is looked after by a Chowkidar-cum cook.

The eight rest houses for government officials on tour are situated at Lathi, Nachana, Miajlar, Nokh, Khuiyala, Danwar, Sam and Ramgarh. All these, except the Lathi Rest House, opened in 1958, have been recently opened (in 1966). They have one room each without any facilities of light and water. Lathi Rest House has one Chowkidar attached to it and the rest are under the charge of the concerned Patwaris. Nothing is charged for stay in these Rest Houses.

Hotels

With the intensification of development activities in various parts of the district, the town of Jaisalmer has started having a freer flow of visitors demanding better passenger amenities. This has led to the opening of one hotel on modern lines, 'The Moon Light' situated on the main road, opposite the Collectorate. It has three rooms and provides electricity and running water. The charges are about Rs. 3 per day, for a single-seated room.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC SERVICES

The postal services in Jaisalmer district have always been a concern of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department even during British times. Unlike other princely States, no separate State Postal System was under operation in Jaisalmer. The first Imperial Post Office was established at Jaisalmer in 1888 and remained a lone server for the whole State area till after Independence and even later. In times of the Princely Rulers the mail used to be carried by runners to and from Barmer railway station,

the journey upto Jaisalmer taking about 28 hours. In the Bap *Hukumat* in the north east, letters used to be brought only once a week to the Bap village from the Phalodi post office falling in Jodhpur State. Letters to the other parts and the interior of the State were carried only twice a month through a small staff of camel *sawars*, maintained by the *Darbar*. The *Raj-Dak* was despatched by special camel *sawars* twice a month into various parts of the State. This arrangement was found to adequately answer the meagre requirements of the State² and continued till Independence and thereafter till the integration of the State into the Rajasthan Union.

Looking to the grossly meagre postal services, the district was declared as a very backward area prior to 1961, for the purpose of the extension of postal facilities after Independence. This resulted in the opening of a large number of post offices in the area under the new rules providing for enhanced permissible limit of losses of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,500 per post office under the powers of the Head of Rajasthan Circle and the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs for Rajasthan respectively. However, the peculiar geographical and topographical conditions of the district combined with other unfavourable features, like sparse population living in far-flung villages, rarely connected by road or rail, allowed little to be done till 1958-59. During this year one new sub-office at Pokaran, and three new branch post offices were opened. This marked the beginning of a programme of rapid extension of postal facilities in rural areas under the Second Five Year Plan. This process has continued ever since though it had to be kept within the limits set by the not very favourable conditions of the district. The number of post offices during the years 1957-58 to 1967-68 was as follows³. Their names as in 1967-68 are given at Appendix II.

Year	(Number)
	Post Offices
1957-58	8
1958-59	8
1959-60	11
1960-61	11
1961-62	17

1. An Administrative District in Jaisalmer State Bap tahsil is now a part of Bikaner district.
2. *Administration Report of Jaisalmer State*, 1910 11, p. 10.
3. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, yearly volumes* for various years.

Year	Post Offices
1962-63	23
1963-64	23
1964-65	37
1965-66	37
1966-67	39
1967-68	39

The villages lying at far flung distances from each other where the opening of a post office has not been found feasible are served by village postmen attached to the Jaisalmer Post Office and extra-departmental delivery agents attached to various branch offices. Most of these villages get their *dak* at intervals of a week or a fortnight through a beat-system entailing not a matter of course service, but only when there are letters to be delivered. This system has been found to meet the needs of these rural areas adequately since the inhabitants have few outside connections and write and receive letters only occasionally.

The post offices in Jaisalmer district belong to two categories viz., departmental sub-offices manned by departmental staff, and extra departmental post offices, which have extra departmental staff working in them. The accounts of all these offices are centralised at Jodhpur Head Post Office since the district falls under the Jodhpur Divisional Circle. The directional and general administrative supervision over these post offices is exercised by the Inspector of Post Offices, Pokaran. The overall administration is under the Superintendent of Post Offices, Jodhpur Division, Jodhpur.

Telegraphic Services

The first telegraph office to start working in the district was opened on the 8th May, 1940 at Jaisalmer by converting the existing post office at the capital into a combined post and telegraph office. The British Government of India was paid by the Government of Jaisalmer a sum of Rs. 709 As. 5 (Rs. 709.31 paise) for the purpose of meeting the deficit.

Three telegraph offices, one at Pokaran and two at Jaisalmer, are at present serving the district with telegraph facilities.

The present (1968) number of radio receiving licenses issued by the various post offices in the district is as follows :

Commercial	29
Domestic	985
Dealer	6
Concessional	117
Demonstration	2
	<u>1,139</u>

TELEPHONE FACILITIES

There is only one Central Battery type telephone exchange at Jaisalmer which is manually operated by 5 operators and other technical staff and is controlled by the Sub-divisional Officer, Telephones, Jodhpur. It was opened on 28th January, 1956. It is a 70 line capacity exchange, while the actual number of connections provided is 54 (1968)¹. The exchange works for all the 24 hours and attends to the local and trunk traffic of the area. Another exchange at Pokaran has been sanctioned and is expected to be opened by the end of 1969².

There are four Public Call Offices at Pokaran, Sam, Jaisalmer and Nokh.

TRANSPORT CO-OPERATIVES³

There are two passenger transport co-operative societies in the district. These are Rajasthan Motor Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Pokaran, and Jaisalmer Motor Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Jaisalmer. These societies were founded in 1958 and 1959 and have 16 and 12 members respectively. Their respective share capital (1967-68) was Rs. 4,175 and Rs. 1,775 and working capital Rs. 6,687 and Rs. 1,805. While the latter society was not plying any buses, one vehicle was owned by the former. The net income of both these societies during the year 1967-68 was Rs. 1,165 and Rs. 60 respectively after deductions made for expenditure, including operational charges and wages paid to the workers.

1. Source: S.D.O. Telegraphs, Jodhpur Sub-division, Jodhpur.

2. A 50-line exchange has since started working.

3. Source: Statistical Officer, Co-operative Societies, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Motor Vehicles in Jaisalmer District

Year (as on 31st December)	Private cars & Jeeps	Private buses	Motor-cycles and tri-cycles	Contract and taxi carriages	Stage carriers	Public carriers	Private carriers	Tractors	Others	Total
1951 ²	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	6
1957	50	1	3	—	28	40	12	4	2	140
1958	54	1	3	—	30	43	12	4	2	149
1959	54	1	3	1	31	48	17	5	2	126
1960	60	1	3	1	31	48	17	5	2	168
1961	65	1	3	2	33	48	23	6	—	181
1962	71	2	3	2	31	52	23	12	—	196
1963	73	1	2	3	35	50	42	14	7	227
1964	77	1	2	3	35	50	43	17	7	235
1965	85	1	3	3	35	57	46	16	7	253
1966	92	1	4	3	35	63	46	18	21	283
1967	100	1	5	3	35	74	82	20	26	346
1968	109	1	6	3	36	95	143	26	30	449

1. *Statistical Abstract. Rajasthan*, yearly volumes for 1958 and onwards.
2. *Statistical Director of Transport, Rajasthan*, Jaipur.

APPENDIX II

Post Offices in Jaisalmer District

S.No.	Name of Post Office	Year of opening	Category
1	2	3	4
1.	JAISALMER	1888	C.S.O.
1.	Bandha	1963-64	E.D.B.O.
2.	Badologaon	1962-63	—do—
3.	Chandan	1963-64	—do—
4.	Deva	1963-64	—do—
5.	Devikot	1963-64	—do—
6.	Fatchgarh	1959-60	—do—
7.	Khuiyala	1963-64	—do—
8.	Khudi	1961-62	—do—
9.	Mohangarh	1962-63	—do—
10.	Maizlar	1963-64	—do—
11.	Nedai	1963-64	—do—
12.	Ramgarh	1959-60	—do—
13.	Sam	1960-61	—do—
14.	Sangad	1962-63	—do—
2.	JAISALMER CITY	1966-67	T.S.O.
3.	POKARAN	1916-17	D.C.S.O.
1.	Bandeva	1962-63	E.D.B.O.
2.	Barath-ka-Gaon	1961-62	—do—
3.	Barli Alias Bhanyana	1958-59	—do—
4.	Bhansada	1961-62	—do—
5.	Bhekhola	1963-64	—do—
6.	Chhayana	1963-64	—do—
7.	Jhalara	1963-64	—do—
8.	Khetoal	1962-63	—do—
9.	Lathi	1962-63	—do—

1	2	3	4
10.	Lawan	1963-64	—do—
11.	Loharki	1963-64	—do—
12.	Nachana	1958-59	E D B.O.
13.	Rajmathai	1961-62	—do—
14.	Ramdeora	1954-55	—do—
15.	Rataria	1961-62	—do—
16.	Sankra	1962-63	—do—
17.	Ujlan	1958-59	—do—
UNDER OTHER S.O's			
1.	Nokh	1959-60	—do—
2.	Phalsoond	1958-59	—do—
3.	Ghantiyali	1961-62	—do—
4.	Jhinjhiyali	1963-64	—do—
5.	Lakha	1961-62	—do—

The categories are :

D.C.S.O: Departmental Combined Sub-Office
E.D.B.O: Extra Departmental Branch Office.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Occupational classification of the population of the district was not published in the Census Reports prior to 1951, which gave consolidated accounts for all the States of Rajputana. However, a mention about the occupational structure of population of the Jaisalmer State was recorded in the old Gazetteers and travelogues. One such record was made in 1909 in the Gazetteer¹ by Major Erskine, whose observations relate to the position in the opening years of the present century. According to him "Rather more than 36½ per cent of the people returned some form of agriculture as their principal means of subsistence, and a further nine per cent were partially agriculturists. The industrial population amounted to nearly 43½ per cent, the provision of food and drinks giving employment to twenty-four per cent, and the weaving of cotton to about ten per cent, while seven per cent were workers in leather. The commercial classes such as moneylenders, general merchants and shopkeepers formed 6.75 per cent and the professional classes 2.60 per cent." He further adds, "The people generally lead a wandering life, and are by nature hardy and healthy; many of them keep herds of camels, cattle, sheep and goats, and migrate regularly to Sind and Bahawalpur in the cold weather²".

The above account of the occupational distribution of population has undergone little change, since the basic economic conditions of the district remain almost the same even today. The predominantly desert, and for most part, sandy areas of the district with scarcity conditions have little scope for the adoption of agriculture as a principal occupation by the people. Whereas agriculture provides the main source of livelihood for a majority of the population in most other districts of the State and in the country as a whole, animal husbandry and breeding of animals, particularly those who thrive inspite of the arid conditions, is taken up in the

1. Erskine, K.D., *Gazetteer of Jaisalmer State*, p. 21.

2. *ibid.*, p. 21.

district as a major alternative to agriculture, which very often fails in face of the recurring scarcity conditions. Other important occupations like industries, trade etc., which in the more benevolent conditions of other districts, find favour with the inhabitants, have had little following as far as Jaisalmer is concerned.

1951 Census

At the time of 1951 Census 35.6 per cent (36,551 persons) of the total population, comprising land owners, agricultural workers and their dependants, was found to depend on agriculture, directly or indirectly. Out of the non-agricultural category consisting of 64.4 per cent of the total, the largest number (42.9 per cent) depended on Industry i.e. production other than cultivation. This high percentage of industrialists included people deriving their livelihood from cattle-breeding, an occupation which engages a great majority of the population of the district, cattle breeding being categorised as an industry according to Economic Classification Scheme adopted in the 1951 Census. Next to Industry in order of the numerical strength of pursuers were Commerce (12.8 per cent), Other Services and Miscellaneous Sources (8.3 per cent) and Transport (0.4 per cent).

1961 Census

The number of persons engaged in various occupations at the time of 1961 Census, is given in the following table :

	Males	Females	Total	As Percentage of Total popula- tion (1,40,338)	Working popula- tion (68,136)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Cultivators	24,094	10,650	34,744	24.75	50.99
2. Agricultural Labourers	197	153	350	0.25	0.51
3. Mining, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Orchards, and Allied activities	6,569	1,892	8,461	6.03	12.42
4. House hold Industry	12,227	5,997	18,224	12.98	26.74

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-B (i), General Economic Tables, pp. 16-17.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Manufacturing other than House- hold Industry	349	15	364	0.26	0.54	
6. Construction	226	24	250	0.17	0.37	
7. Trade & Commerce	1,306	43	1,349	0.97	1.98	
8. Transport and Communication	322	—	322	0.23	0.47	
9. Other services	3,671	401	4,072	2.91	5.98	
10. Non-workers	28,910	43,292	72,202	51.44	—	
				100.00	100.00	

Adopting a different basis of economic classification in the 1961 Census, the total population was categorised into workers and non-workers. The new system was meant to bring out clearly the socially active group engaged in the production of goods and services as against the passive one, consisting of the dependants and persons pursuing non-economic activities, and otherwise willing and unwilling idlers.

According to 1961 Census, 48.55 per cent of population of Jaisalmer district was categorised as workers as against 47.55 per cent for the whole of Rajasthan. Of the total working population, 50.99 per cent were engaged in cultivation, 0.51 per cent were working as agricultural labourers and 12.42 per cent of workers were engaged in mining, livestock, forestry and allied activities. 27.28 per cent working population was active in the fields of household industry and minor manufacturing. While Trade and Commerce claimed 1.98 per cent of the working population, services connected with construction and transport, storage and communication engaged 0.84 per cent and the rest 5.98 per cent of workers were engaged in other services which, *inter alia*, included persons engaged in water supply and sanitary services, public services (administrative) and activities not adequately described.

Workers in the field of agriculture were engaged in various occupations connected with the production of crops like cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables. The rearing of livestock and animal husbandry activities drew workers both from the household and non-household sectors, Mining

and Quarrying is mainly of stone, including clay, limestone and of non-metallic products found in the district. Manufacturing activities, confined mostly to the cottages, consist of the production of butter and ghee, cotton and wool spinning and weaving by handlooms, and the manufacturing of a few rough type of leather products. Construction workers include those engaged in house building activities and workers on public utility works like roads, wells etc. Traders in Jaisalmer are mostly retail sellers of common products of day-to-day needs since there are no wholesale markets in the district. Transport workers are mostly employed in road transport and services incidental to it while communication engages workers in Post and Telegraph Services and the like. Public Services for administrative activities of Government, quasi-government and other local bodies, employ a large proportion of workers in the field of Other Services. This category also includes personal service-renders in the fields of education, medical and health, religion and welfare, business, and various types of services.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

In spite of the vast area of the district, the economic backwardness and sparseness of population have resulted in limited activities in the field of public administration. However, the recent intensification of developmental activities and prospects of an uplift of the district economy through an intensive use of its resources, have added to the activities of the district authorities and the need for opening of more nuclei of general and development administration.

Like other districts there is a three-tier system of public administration in the district with the Central, State and local authorities working in various spheres. The 1961 Census record of the number of public servants included only the workers in the administrative offices of Central Government, State Government, local bodies like municipalities, Panchayat Samitis, Zila Parishads etc. and in other Government and quasi-Government institutions. No separate note was taken of Government-employed specialists and professional workers like doctors, engineers, teachers or other type of technicians. Also not included in the category of public servants, were numerous other workers related with the activities of these public bodies in such fields as transport, communication, education and public health etc. Such services of public servants were classified under their respective industry-group heads. The following categories of public servants were recorded in the 1961 Industrial Classification tables, for the district¹ :

1. *Census of India 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer District*, p. 78.

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

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	(Number)		
	Males	Females	Total
1. Central Government Employees in its administrative departmental offices	244	1	245
2. State Government Employees in its administrative departmental offices	574	5	579
3. Employees in the administrative departmental offices of local bodies, municipalities and quasi-government organisations	132	22	154
4. Police Department Employees	1,094	1	1,095
Total	2,044	29	2,073

As against this total of 2,073 in 1961 the number of public servants in 1951, was 1,321 divided into 172 police employees, 132 employees of Municipalities, 540 State Government employees and 477 Central Government servants.

The employees of the State and Central Governments, stationed in Jaisalmer district, are entitled to various facilities and amenities under their respective service rules. These include free medical treatment of the employees and their families, freeships and half-freeships to the children of employees getting below Rs. 250 per month as basic salary or, otherwise, non-income tax payers respectively, in Government run educational institutions, residential accommodation, subject to availability, on payment of specified rent and various types of advances such as advances for the purchase of conveyance (according to status), house construction or purchase etc. The State Government has built two type III, eight type IV, seven type V and four type VI quarters for various categories of employees, besides bungalows earmarked for the Collector and District Superintendent of Police at Jaisalmer. Three type V and one type VI quarters at Pokaran and two type VI quarters at Sam have also been built for employees stationed there. These are allotted to the officials mostly according to the length of the period of their stay in the district administration. Besides, the Government also pay dearness allowance to the employees, at varying rates which is linked to the consumers' price index numbers.

A unit of Rajasthan Government (Ministerial) Employees' Association was formed at Jaisalmer in the year 1957, though it started its actual functioning at the district headquarter town only on 4th July, 1964. It has 140 members on its rolls (1968). A membership fee of Rs. 2 per annum is charged besides a nominal entry fee of 25 paise. The main objectives of the Association include an all round development of the personality of its members by organising cultural, academic and other meetings to discuss matters of common and professional interest. A small library and a reading room is also being run for the use of the members and their families. Besides organising all these activities on its own, the unit acts as a district level body for the State Association by acting on the latter's advice on matters of wider concern and forwarding its members' views and resolutions for consideration and appropriate action at the state level meets.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

Teaching and Fine Arts

The district being sparsely populated and lagging behind most other districts even in the basic amenities of life, professional men stay away from the district. There are no institutions of higher learning and technical education in the district. The number of state-run primary and secondary schools increased considerably after the implementation of Five Year Plans. This in its turn has added to the number of school teachers serving in these institutions. In 1961 there were 232 teachers out of which 13 were women. As against this number, in 1951 there were only 37 teachers, 23 males and 14 females. By the end of 1967-68¹, the number of teachers had increased to 503 (including 33 women) with the almost rapid increase in the number of schools since the beginning of Third Five Year Plan period. The majority of working women in the district are employed in the only educational institution for girls at Jaisalmer. Total number of persons employed as artists, writers and related workers is 160 who are mainly in rural areas. Out of these 88 are males and 72 females. Table below gives a break-up of workers in this category² :

Category	Persons	Males	Females
Authors	6	6	—
Painters, decorators and commercial artists	1	1	—

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, 1970, p. 156.

2. *Census of India 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer District*, p. 85.

1	2	3	4
Dancers and related workers	2	—	2
Musicians and related workers	151	81	70
Total	160	88	72

Medical Profession

At the time of 1951 Census there were 131 workers in medical and health services, including 2 doctors, registered as medical practitioners, 98 *vaidyas*, 25 nurses (women) and 6 other employees in the hospitals. As against this the 1961 Census recorded 69 persons as engaged in the medical profession, practising various systems of medicine viz., *unani*, *ayurvedic*, allopathic and homeopathic. 19 of these were categorised as physicians, surgeons and dentists (including 12 *vaidyas*) and the rest 50 workers were either nurses, or pharmacists and other medical and health technicians. 5 of them were women practitioners. The number of Government doctors, private practitioners, lady doctors, practicing chemists and druggists, nurses, lady health visitors, compounders etc. are not separately available from the Census records. 5 of the doctors were, however, degree holders. With the expansion of medical facilities the strength of medical men has considerably increased. Seven doctors, thirteen compounders, one staff nurse, seven mid-wives, one *Dai* and a few workers at lower levels were employed in the allopathic institutions at the end of 1968 in the district. Besides these, there were 20 Government employed *Vaidyas* and 14 *Up-Vaidyas*. Five private *Vaidyas* also practised *ayurvedic* medicine. 20 persons were employed as *anuchars* in Government *ayurvedic aushdhalayas* (dispensaries).

Legal Profession

The extremes of heat and cold, the inhospitable land and the poor results got out of hard labour breed a lassitude and an apathy in the people. They are singularly lacking in ambition and not bothered about amassing riches or power. This attitude of contentment and the absence of any material objects of contention, have restricted the number of legal disputes requiring the service of qualified lawyers. The absence of large towns has acted as another deterrent to growth of the legal profession in the district. However, with people becoming more conscious of their legal rights and the establishment of district courts, the number of lawyers

has increased during the last decade. The 1961 Census recorded 14 persons as belonging to the legal profession. The number includes lawyers, pleaders and *munshis*. Compared to this not a single person had recorded his profession as legal practice in 1951.

Two bar associations exist at Jaisalmer and Pokaran, but they have not been functioning properly. Both of these together claim a membership of fifteen lawyers (1968).

Engineering

Since very few public utility works have been taken up in the district during the last two decades or so, the need for engineering personnel has remained at a minimum. Such personnel have been attached to the two power houses of the Rajasthan State Electricity Board. A few others have been working for the Public Works Departments of the State and Central Governments to plan and supervise the building of roads and other public works. The recently undertaken extension of railway line upto Jaisalmer also engaged Railway engineering staff in the district. The work of drilling tube wells has given employment to a few irrigation department engineers and men. At the time of 1951 Census when most of these works had not been taken up, there was only one person in the engineering profession in the whole of the district, categorised as surveyor. The 1961 Census did not specifically record the number of engineers and other such personnel except for enumerating workers engaged in various technical fields such as construction, electricity, gas, water and sanitary services etc. Thus it is not possible to estimate from these figures the exact number of engineers and technical personnel working at various levels in different branches. However, the total number of persons engaged in construction and maintenance of buildings, roads, bridges and water ways, wells, tube-wells, etc., in 1961 was recorded to be 250, which included 24 females. This did not include 10 persons who reported their profession as Architects, Engineers and Surveyors. The generation and transmission of electricity, water supply and sanitary services etc. employed 18 persons in all. The number of workers in the department of transport and communication was not separately recorded in the Census Reports.

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

The prosperous families employ domestic servants, but it cannot be said to be wide spread. With the persisting backward economic condition of the people of Jaisalmer, the use of domestic services cannot be

expected to go very far. Even the essential services like those of barbers, shoe-makers, tailors etc. are rather sparingly used by the majority of the people of the district. Domestic servants, including cooks, indoor servants, water carriers, grooms, coachmen, motor car drivers and cleaners, numbered 197 (126 women) at the time of the 1951 Census, and 98 at the 1961 Census, 26 of them being women. Full time domestic servants are employed by only a few well-to-do families. The majority of domestic servants, mostly women, work part-time in more than one household. They are paid Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per month apart from certain occasional payments in kind.

Barbers, mostly belonging to the *Nai* community continue to provide their services in the traditional way. A barber may be called for home service. There are barbers who go about offering their services at home. They render service on ceremonial occasions such as marriages. A few modern type hair dressing saloons have been opened at Jaisalmer. The number of barbers was recorded to be 384 at the time of 1951 Census, while in 1961 those who reported hair dressing services as their profession numbered only 106. This was, perhaps, on account of the fact that many of them were attracted to other professions, more respectable and lucrative and had been drawn away from their ancestral calling. The average daily earning of a person in this profession is estimated to be between Rs. 5 and 6. The charges for hair cutting at a saloon range from 70 paise to 75 paise while a visiting barber usually charges 40 paise to 50 paise.

Under modern influences, washermen have been getting more and more popular particularly in urban areas. This profession, including the running of four or five laundry shops at Jaisalmer, continues to be almost completely in the hands of the traditional washermen, the *Dhobi* community. A couple of them are employed by the Border Security Force Battalions stationed at Jaisalmer, on payment of about Rs. 80 p.m. Most of others working independently also are able to get a good living out of their job. The average daily earning of a *Dhobi* at Jaisalmer town is about Rs. 4 to Rs. 5. While an ordinary *dhobi's* charges are 20 to 30 paise per cloth, this rate at a laundry is a little more, 30 to 40 paise.

Tailoring is done mostly by the *Darzi* community in the district. A few persons belonging to the *Daroga* and *Khatri* castes have also taken to tailoring in Jaisalmer and Pokaran. Some of them also work on daily wages of Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 or so with an occasional additional payment in

the form of food etc., to stitch family clothes in bulk for ceremonial occasions. The number of tailors in 1951 was 323 which included 51 women. Tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers numbered 334 (including 23 women) at the time of the 1961 Census. The rates for stitching are little lower at Jaisalmer than at bigger towns. The three male cotton garments most popularly got stitched from tailors are trousers, shirt and bushshirt, the rate charged for these being Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.50, Re. 1.00 to Rs. 1.50 and Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3.50 respectively. The number of shoe makers and leather workers belonging mostly to *Mochi* community was 854 makers of leather articles and 172 other leather workers in 1951. As against this there were 724 shoe makers and repairers and 251 other leather workers in the district at the time of 1961 Census. They are mostly engaged in making rough type of footwear and other common articles.

The menial classes in the district comprise sweepers, *Julahas* and *Mochis*. The sweepers are mostly local *Harijans*, and quite a few are migrants from Phalodi and Jodhpur. A majority of the *Harijan* residents of the two towns have been employed by the two municipalities of Jaisalmer and Pokaran though they simultaneously take up jobs in private houses as well. The *Julahas*, working mostly in the rural areas, practise their traditional vocation of weaving cotton and wool into *Khes* and *Chadars* and garments of daily use. Many of them work for the District Khadi Gramodyog Parishad and Khadi and Village Industries Commission and thereby make a good living. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been helping the *mochis* also by the establishment of leather working centres. All these menial classes have been greatly benefited through the official and non-official efforts at their economic and social emancipation. A couple of separate and clean colonies with amenities like electricity, water supply and schools etc. have recently come up at Jaisalmer. A backward classes hostel is run by the State Social Welfare Department.

Other main non-farming occupations, not described above, are given in the table as Appendix at the end of the Chapter along with the number of persons engaged in them at the time of 1961 Census.

APPENDIX

**Miscellaneous Occupations other than Cultivation in Jaisalmer
District, 1961 Census**

	Total	Males	Females
1. Chemists, Physicists, Geologists, and other Physical Scientists.	2	2	—
2. Biologists, Veterinarians, Agronomists and Related Scientists.	11	11	—
3. Social Scientists and Related workers.	3	3	—
4. Ordained Religious workers.	31	30	1
5. Non-ordained Religious workers.	15	15	—
6. Directors and Managers, Wholesale and Retail trade.	8	8	—
7. Directors, Managers and Working Proprietors, Financial Institutions.	3	3	—
8. Directors, Managers and Working Proprietors, others.	87	82	5
9. Clerical and Related workers.	585	578	7
10. Working Proprietors, Wholesale and Retail Trade.	1,165	1,145	22

1	2	3	4
11. Insurance and Real Estate salesmen, salesmen of Securities and services, and Auctioners	6	6	—
12. Salesmen, Shop Assistants and related workers.	140	69	71
13. Money-lenders (including Indigenous Bankers).	17	17	—
14. Farmers and Farm Managers.	15,202	12,444	2,758
15. Farm Workers.	3,530	3,176	354
16. Loggers and other Forestry Workers.	106	93	13
17. Miners, Quarrymen and Related Workers.	66	40	26
18. Workers in Transport and Communication occupations.	324	324	—
19. Spinners, Weavers, Knitters, Dyers and Related workers.	1,318	508	810
20. Blacksmiths, Hammersmiths and Forgemen.	90	75	15
21. Jewellers, Goldsmiths and Silversmiths.	219	216	3
22. Mechanics & Repairmen except electrical and precision instrument repairmen.	14	14	—
23. Electricians and Related Electrical and Electronics workers.	12	12	—

1	2	3	4
24. Carpenters, Jointers, Cabinet Makers, Coopers and Related workers.	336	317	19
25. Painters and Paper Hangers.	7	1	6
26. Stone Cutters, Stone Carvers and Stone Dressers.	83	83	—
27. Bricklayers, Plasterers, Masons.	39	38	1
28. Well Diggers.	27	21	6
29. Bricklayers, Plasterers and other construction workers, n. e. c.	53	48	5
30. Printers (Textile)	20	19	1
31. Book-Binders.	5	—	5
32. Potters and Related Clay Formers	235	211	24
33. Dairy Workers (Non-Farm)	4,428	705	3,723
34. Bakers, Confectioners, Candy and Sweetmeat makers.	29	29	—
35. Craftsmen and Production Process workers, n.e.c.	60	38	22
36. Oilers and Greasers, Stationery Engines, Motor Vehicles and Related Equipment.	22	21	—
37. Labourers n.e.c.	917	688	229

1. Source : *Census of India, 1961*, vol. XIV, *Rajasthan*, Part II-B (ii), *General Economic Tables*, pp. 169-179.

N. E. C.=Not elsewhere classified.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Jaisalmer district forms part of an area which has suffered both from the thoughtless ravages of man and beast and the stinginess of nature. The soil is coarse and loose and there is no vegetation to bind it. There is no water to sustain it nor enough rain fall to relieve the drought. There is not even enough water to slake the thirst of the scanty population. The climate swings between extremes and the air is dry. There are scanty mineral deposits. The toil of the peasants brings little reward; so very often they take to a nomadic life tending cattle and sheep, taking the flocks to little patches of greenery wherever they can find them. This is the major source of living for a majority of the population. Their economic prosperity may be judged by the far flung villages which they inhabit and the miserable condition of their dwellings which cannot be called houses even by courtesy. The prospects of economic development are as bleak as the desert horizon and unless mighty efforts are made to bring water into the district no plans of economic development will ever succeed.

The economic development of the rest of India and even in the neighbouring districts have had little impact on the life of the Jaisalmerians. The only happy change is that now essential supplies can be obtained from nearby markets. Since integration, the State Government has been endeavouring to extend economic planning to Jaisalmer and a few development projects have been undertaken. The Rajasthan Canal Project with its promise of plentiful water holds out a hope for future prosperity. There is also a possibility of striking oil somewhere in the area and if it happens, Jaisalmer may sprout with oil drillers if not with towering trees. Another source which may bring prosperity to the area is power; if there is enough power to work deep wells, underground water sources can be more fully exploited and the desert turned into a smiling land of greenery.

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

1951 Census

PRINCIPAL MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD—Unlike other districts of Rajasthan, only a minority or 35.6 per cent of the total population directly or indirectly depended on agriculture for their livelihood while non-agricultural occupations accounted for the rest of the 64.4 per cent of the people residing in the district. The corresponding figures for rural units were 38.4 per cent and 61.6 per cent while in the urban unit of Jaisalmer town, agriculture supported only 1.3 per cent of the residents. Excluding persons not directly in touch with land, i.e. non-cultivating owners of land and their dependants (0.7 per cent), the percentage of actual agriculturists and their dependants was 34.9. Of these the majority consisted of cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependants, accounting for 25 per cent of the total population, and 27.1 per cent of the rural population. The next in rank were the cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependants, whose percentage to total and rural population was 9.2 and 9.9 respectively. The cultivating labourers were only 0.7 per cent both of the total and of the rural populations.

The non-agricultural category of occupations included 42.9 per cent of dependants on industry i.e. production other than cultivation. Cattle breeding, which was the occupation of a great majority of residents, was classed as an industry under the Indian Census Economic Classification Scheme and consequently inflated the percentage of 'Industrialists' in the district. Commerce accounted for another 12.8 per cent and occupied the second place in this category. Other services and miscellaneous sources supported 8.3 per cent of the total population. Also included in this category were occupations connected with transport services, which, supporting only 0.4 per cent, may be regarded as insignificant.

The division of non-agricultural occupational category of population for the rural areas was 44.5 per cent of industrialists, 12 per cent traders, 5 per cent supported by other services and miscellaneous sources and only 0.1 per cent depending on transport.

In the area of Jaisalmer town the break-up of agricultural category was 0.9 per cent owner cultivators, 0.7 per cent absentee land-lords and their dependants, and 0.1 per cent each of cultivators not owning any land and cultivating labourers. The majority of non-agriculturists in the urban unit of Jaisalmer—46.9 per cent of the residents—depended on

other services and miscellaneous sources. Industrialists and Traders accounted for 25 per cent and 23.1 per cent respectively. Only 3.2 per cent of the population was supported by Transport services.

The economically inactive persons, comprising mostly those who maintained themselves on their own incomes derived from unproductive sources like pension, stipend, rent, begging etc., numbered 441 (371 men and 70 women) and accounted for 0.4 per cent of the total population in 1951.

1961 Census

Adopting a new basis of classification to determine the livelihood pattern, the 1961 Census classified the occupational distribution of only the working part of the population. In the case of Jaisalmer district, 51.45 per cent of the total population (72,202 persons) was found to be inactive i.e. comprised non-workers. Of these, 62,746 persons resided in the rural areas. Non-workers thus were about half (49.58 per cent) of the total rural population (1,26,692). The corresponding figure for the urban units was 69.3 per cent (9,456 out of 13,646). The worker-non-worker ratio in the case of females was 4:9 as against 5:3 for males i.e. about 69.3 per cent of the female population consisted of non-workers while the percentage for males was only 37.1.

Of the working population, more than half (50.99 per cent or 34,744 persons) were engaged in cultivation. A small part of the total (350 persons or 0.51 per cent) worked as agricultural labourers. The male cultivators were approximately two-and-a-half times the number of females. Amongst agricultural labourers the male-female ratio stood approximately at 4:3. Mining, quarrying, rearing of livestock and allied activities accounted for another 12.42 per cent of the workers, a little more than one-fifth of them being women. All of them, except for 143, resided in the rural areas. Household industry and minor manufacturing activities provided livelihood to 26.74 per cent of the working population, again mostly in rural areas. The male workers in the household industry sector were nearly double the number of female workers. Trade and commercial activities claimed about 1.98 per cent of the workers, almost all of them males. The urban sector had about 55 per cent and the rural the remaining 45 per cent of the workers in this field, the only one where urban workers out-numbered the rural ones. The rest of the working population found employment in manufacturing other than household industry (0.54 per cent), services connected with construction (0.37 per

cent), transport and communication (0.47 per cent), and other services (5.98 per cent).

ECONOMIC STATUS

1951 Census

The livelihood classes in the 1951 Census enumeration were further sub-divided into self-supporting persons and their earning and non-earning dependants, the latter according to their partial or complete dependence. All self-supporting persons ordinarily were economically active with the exception of those who derived their livelihood from un-economic sources like rents, pensions, dividends or charity etc. Amongst the owner-cultivators 39 per cent were self-supporting, 13 per cent earning dependants, and 48 per cent non-earning dependants. Persons engaged in the cultivation of un-owned land consisted of 46 per cent of self-supporters, 12 per cent of earning dependants, and the rest of the 42 per cent of non-earning dependants. Out of the cultivating labourers, 40 per cent were self-supporting, 10 per cent earning dependants and 50 per cent non-earning dependants. The non-cultivating owners of land and agricultural rent receivers consisted of 24 per cent of self-supporters and 13 per cent of earning dependants. The remaining 63 per cent were totally dependant on their supporters.

In Industry, i.e. production other than cultivation, the percentages of self-supporters, earning dependants and non-earning dependants were 34, 10 and 56 respectively, while in the case of Traders, these were 32, 16 and 52 in that order. Among those engaged in the field of Transport, the three categories of self-supporters, earning and non-earning dependants were 27 per cent, 2 per cent and 71 per cent respectively. Persons earning their livelihood from Other Services and Miscellaneous Sources included 41 per cent of self-dependants, 6 per cent earning dependants, and 53 per cent non-earning dependants.

Of the persons engaged in non-agricultural pursuits 0.09 per cent of the industrialists were employers, 0.48 per cent employees and 99.43 per cent independent workers (self-supporting). In Trade and Transport there were no employers. Of those engaged in these services, only 0.3 per cent were employees in trade and 42 per cent in Transport. The rest were independent workers. In the case of Other Services and Miscellaneous Sources 0.06 per cent were working as employers, 46.23 per cent as employees and the rest 53.71 per cent independently.

SECONDARY MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD—In 1951, secondary occupations were followed by 30.2 per cent of owner cultivators to supplement their income. 36 per cent of cultivators tilling unowned land, 25 per cent of cultivating labourers, and 24.8 per cent of the rent receivers adopted subsidiary occupations. All these categories mostly relied for that purpose, on production other than cultivation including cattle and sheep rearing.

Among the non-agricultural occupations 31.4 per cent of Industrialists, 37.7 per cent in Traders and 5.2 per cent of those working principally in the field of Transport took to secondary occupations. The followers of secondary occupations in Other Services and miscellaneous Sources were 19.6 per cent. The most popular secondary occupation among the non-agricultural categories was cultivation of land owned or unowned and Industry i.e., production other than cultivation, which included rearing of livestock.

1961 Census

The scheme of economic classification adopted in 1961 Census dispensed with the concept of direct dependency in each occupational class. The working population was separated from the non-working part of it, to bring out the fact of dependency of the non-workers on the workers. The new concept of dependency in 1961, thus, is not strictly comparable to similar concepts in the earlier census figures. The larger percentage of dependants or non-workers in Jaisalmer district could be attributed partially to the broad based age pyramid, indicating high concentration of population in the lower age group. However, the position was not uniformly true for all parts of the district. According to a socio-economic survey conducted by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, out of the average of 6.06 members per household in the areas of the district which are to be irrigated by the under-progress Rajasthan Canal, 3.3 are earners. These data revealed that females also share the burden of earning a livelihood and about half of the females were family workers.

Industrial classification of workers in the non-household industry, trade, business, profession or service sectors was undertaken in the 1961 Census to determine their economic status as employers, employees, single or family workers. Of the total number of 14,818 persons (12,443 males and 2,375 females) selected for enumeration, only 255 (including 4 females)

were employers. The number of employees was 3,815 (3,641 males and 174 females) while the number of single and family workers was registered as 1,646 (1,454 males and 192 females) and 9,102 (7,097 males and 2,005 females) respectively. Out of a total number of 8,392 persons (6,526 males and 1,866 females) engaged in agriculture, livestock rearing and allied activities, a majority (6,217 males and 1,840 females), were family workers, while the number of employers, all males, was 75 and employees and single workers, mostly males, was 167 and 93 respectively. Most of the employers and family workers were livestock rearers, whereas employees dominated in agriculture. In 'Mining & Quarrying' out of a total of 69 workers classified, 44 were employers, 24 single workers and one was a family worker. In the field of manufacturing, out of the 364 persons thus classified, the number (146) of employees was closely followed by single workers (143) while family workers and employers (63 and 12) accounted for about one-sixth and one-thirtieth of the total, respectively. Most of the employees were in the foodstuffs, textile and miscellaneous manufacturing jobs, while the single and family workers were concentrated in textile manufacturing. In the field of construction, 131 persons (11 females) were employees and 103 (11 females) single workers out of a total 250. The number of employers was 2 and family workers 14.

All the 18 workers in electric, water and sanitary services were employees. In Trade & Commerce, out of 1,349 persons (1,306 males and 43 females), 137 were employers (3 females), 228 employees (6 females), 446 single workers (15 females) and 538 family workers (19 females). In retail trade the number of family workers was the maximum followed by single workers, employees and employers in that order, while in wholesale trade the highest number was of employees followed, in that order, by employers, single workers and family workers. Transport, communications etc. had 275 employees, 12 employers and 34 single workers and 1 family worker. In the personal services sector accounting for 319 persons (273 males and 46 females), 12 (1 female) were employers, 139 (24 females) employees, 108 (4 females) single workers, and 60 (17 females) family workers.

SECONDARY WORK—In 1961, 20,334 persons (15,393 males and 4,941 females), working principally as cultivators, took to subsidiary work to supplement their income, mainly in household industry (19,776 persons) and a few of them in the field of agricultural labour (558 persons). This becomes necessary in a district where agriculture is rarely a reliable

source of livelihood, though it is given the first preference when conditions are favourable. Agricultural labourers adopting cultivation and household industry as secondary occupations numbered 52 (14 females) and 2 respectively. 9,693 household industrialists (7,400 males and 2,293 females) took to cultivation and 131 (39 females) to agricultural labour as secondary vocations.

PRICES

Till recently there has neither been any systematic attempt nor an organized agency for recording the prices of commodities sold in the markets of the district. A record of the prices of a few essential food articles was, however, made in the official publication, *Prices and Wages in India*, showing the average annual prices from about two and half decades starting from the year 1884. Apart from this, the annual *Reports of Administration* of the former princely state of Jaisalmer carried statistical appendices giving the average prices of a few cereals and salt during the harvest months of June and October each year.

Tod¹ wrote more than a century and a half ago, “*Bajra*, in plentiful seasons, sells at one and a half mounds (56 kilograms) for a rupee, but this does not often occur, as they calculate five bad seasons for a good one”. In 1865, the price of *bajra* was a rupee for 8 to 9 seers and ten years later, it fell to 27 seers for a rupee as against an average of 13½ seers for the preceding decade. In the famine years of 1899–1900, the highest prices were for wheat and gram—7 seers for a rupee, *Jowar* 7¼ seers and barley and *bajra* 8 seers for a rupee².

Since the beginning of the present century, attempts were made for developing a closer contact with the outside world, particularly with the neighbouring states and provinces of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Sind and Punjab through the efforts of the Princely Government of Jaisalmer. Commercial links thus developed were meant to help the people of an essentially scarcity infected State and get at least essential supplies of foodgrains etc. Consequently, the prices in Jaisalmer started showing a strong relationship with the conditions of demand and supply for these commodities in the neighbouring areas serving it. The difficulties and high costs of transportation were readily reflected in their prices in the

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, 1909, p. 25.

2. *ibid.*, pp. 25–26.

Jaisalmer markets. Looking to the sensitivity of market conditions the late administration kept a close watch on the prices of essential commodities to check excessive increases. Such action was directed on both the supply and demand fronts. Efforts to keep the supply position easy were made by helping the cultivators increase production to whatever extent possible, as well as by importing and storing large quantities of foodgrains in the State granary. Simultaneously, the adverse effects of the excess demand on prices were checked by resorting to steps like payments in kind to State servants. An almost regular migration of people to the adjoining areas of other states during bad years and off seasons also helped in the direction.

During the first four or five years of the present century the prices, on the whole, fluctuated only a little, though they were gradually shedding off the impact of the famine conditions of the closing years of the last century. By 1905 they had nearly come down to the level of 1895, the year in which difficult supply conditions had first appeared. After that year an upward trend of prices started continuing for the next four or five years. Good *Rabi* crops in 1905 and 1907 brought down the prices of wheat for a short time while the failure of *Kharif bajra* crop helped the continuing trend of rising prices.

The average annual retail prices of foodgrains and salt during the year 1895–1909 are given in Appendix I.

In 1910–11 very little area of land was ploughed for production of the common *Kharif* crops, *Bajra* and *Jowar*, on account of deficiency and uneven distribution of rains. The consequence was a shortage of supply and high prices. The price of rice in Jaisalmer shot up in sympathy with its high price in Sind which was due to a large demand from Gujarat and Kathiawar. Large imports of *Jowar* and gram from Sind in 1912–13 accounted for a fall in the prices of these articles in that year while the prices of wheat and *Bajra* went up due to their comparatively smaller stocks and the failure of seasonal rains. In spite of all these jerks and jolts, the price level of commodities in general was reported to be more or less stationary till the approaching World War cast its shadow on them. By the end of the year 1913–14 prices had started shooting up and were, in most cases, higher by 72 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The general inflationary tendencies were helped by short term factors like meagre production of wheat in that year.

The pressures let loose by the conditions of war continually exerted themselves and the upward trend in the general price level persisted for some more years even after the war came to an end in 1918. Scanty production in 1914-15 and 1915-16 worsened the situation. In the latter year, however, prices compared favourably with those of the preceeding year, partly due to large stocks of most foodgrains obtained through greater imports, but mainly as a result of the arrangements made by the State Government which restrained the artificial inflation of prices by occasional sales of foodgrains from the State granary maintained for use in difficult times. 1917-18 also turned to be a poor year for agricultural production. Higher prices of food stuffs in the adjoining markets aggravated the price situation in Jaisalmer and the tendency continued for another couple of years.

A general slump, starting round about 1921-22, brought down the price-level throughout the country. This trend was particularly helped by an easier supply position on account of better yields in the Jaisalmer fields. There was stability in the prices of most articles of staple food for the next 6-7 years. In 1930-31, a countrywide slump once again hit most prices. The consequent downward trend in prices continued for the next few years.

World War II brought about another trend of rising prices throughout the country to which Jaisalmer markets were no exception. The monthly average (June) prices of major cereals and salt during the years 1910 to 1942 are given in Appendix II at the end of this chapter.

The upward-push in prices has continued ever since, helped by the impact of heavy Governmental expenditure, first as a result of conditions created by the partitioning of the country in 1947 and later on account of developmental plans. The recurrent heavy doses of deficit financing have added to the inflationary tendencies.

Prices in 1951¹ were recorded as 2 seers 2 chhataks of wheat and 3 seers of gram per rupee (approximately 50 paise and 40 paise per kilogram respectively). These were roughly four times the prices of these articles in the pre-War year of 1939. The following table gives the retail monthly average prices of wheat, barley, gram, *Jowar*, *Bajra* and maize,

1. 1951 Census, Rajasthan and Ajmer, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer, Part 1, p. X.

prevailing at the district headquarter town of Jaisalmer during the years 1952-1961:

(Rupees per quintal)						
Year	Wheat	Barley	Gram	<i>Jowar</i>	<i>Bajra</i>	Maize
1952	58.09	—	38.71	50.56	53.72	—
1953	45.39	—	36.04	34.36	42.05	—
1954	42.05	21.36	28.14	22.69	25.74	—
1955	43.33	—	36.92	24.16	27.36	—
1956	39.30	34.04	31.58	30.50	37.21	—
1957	51.36	—	33.25	—	46.27	—
1958	54.31	—	42.41	42.50	44.98	—
1959	58.84	—	42.65	42.20	46.73	34.83
1960	54.25	—	54.06	41.53	46.46	34.83
1961	52.54	—	45.63	39.92	46.43	—

The falling trend in prices noticed during the years 1952-1955 was due to the generally comfortable food-situation experienced through-out the country as a result of a good monsoon and the resultant bumper crops during this period. But there was soon a reversal in this trend raising the prices of almost all the commodities. This rise continued till 1960. Good crops during the years 1960-61 brought the prices down, though for a short period, almost to the level of the beginning of the Second Plan.

The collection of retail prices of foodgrains was discontinued by the Board of Revenue from May, 1962. Farm (harvest) prices of a few important crops grown in the district are now collected by the Agriculture Department under the Intelligence Scheme of Marketing. These prices are the average wholesale rates at which a particular commodity is sold by the producer to the trader at the village site during the harvest period. The farm (harvest) prices of important food and other crops for the years 1958-59 to 1967-68 are given in the following table²:

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volumes from 1958 to 1963. Prices from 1952 to 1956 were presented as Rs. per *maund* and have been converted to Rs. per quintal.
2. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, 1964 to 1968.

(Rupees per quintal)							
Year	Jowar	Bajra	Wheat	Gram	Chillies	Sesamum	Rape & Mustard
1958-59	42.87	48.23	53.58	40.19	321.51	-	-
1959-60	41.42	41.53	54.92	44.53	321.51	133.96	160.75
1960-61	41.53	48.44	58.94	45.55	-	96.45	-
1961-62	40.19	45.55	53.58	42.87	-	96.45	-
1962-63	41.80	43.94	50.24	44.88	-	95.57	-
1963-64	43.53	48.89	71.66	42.86	311.43	101.80	93.77
1964-65	49.08	52.08	71.11	90.13	275.42	-	-
1965-66	63.50	61.00	72.50	75.00	-	220.00	-
1966-67	75.00	79.00	100.00	90.00	-	130.00	-
1967-68	50.00	82.92	100.00	100.00	307.62	150.00	150.00

WAGES

Erskine¹ recorded the following rates of wages prevalent in Jaisalmer State during the opening years of the present century :

Category of worker	Monthly average wages (in British currency)
Ordinary Labourer	Rs. 3 to 4
<i>Syce</i>	Rs. 4
Domestic servant	Rs. 5
Mason or Carpenter	Rs. 10

These wage-rates were found to have remained more or less unchanged during the previous three decades. Labourers were often paid partly or wholly in kind, especially in the case of village artisans, agricultural labourers, domestic servants and housekeepers or *syces* employed by the Jaisalmer *Darbar*. A general dearth of skilled workers was noticed

1. Erskine, K.D., *Gazetteer of Jaisalmer State*, 1909, p. 25.

throughout the State and the only category of skilled labourers, classed as such by virtue of their professions, were weavers, sculptors, carpenters, blacksmiths and the like. Their skill was rewarded by the payment of a slightly higher rate of wages. Uncertain monsoons often created conditions of scarcity of even skilled labourers, since an year of good rains meant that people would get engaged in agricultural operations and not be available for ordinary labour. On the other hand when rains failed completely, large scale migration of population to neighbouring provinces and states would result in an almost similar situation in regard to the availability of labour for casual jobs.

The rates of wages during the next few years after Erskine recorded his observations seem to have gone up. They were generally found to be from one-and-a-half times to twice their previous level in 1910-11 as recorded in the State Administration Report for that year. A *Syce* was paid Rs. 6 per month, and a mason or a carpenter got Rs. 15 as his monthly wages. The wages of a first class or skilled labourer were recorded as Rs. 14 per month while a second class or unskilled worker got Rs. 8.

No further record of wages seems to have been kept after the last observations made in 1910-11. In fact, there being almost no industrial or major agricultural activity in the area, the need for hired labour has scarcely been felt. In stray cases, when a person was called upon to work for another one, the payment made varied widely depending solely upon mutual bargains, there being hardly any standardization of jobs or wages.

Wages have a tendency to move alongside prices, though they invariably lag behind the latter. Wages, therefore, have been going up with the inflationary rise in prices particularly since 1939. At the time of the 1951 Census, the wage rates were found to have gone quite high since these were last recorded¹. The system of payment in kind, partly or wholly, persisted even at that time. The average daily wages paid to the three major categories of workers employed in the district viz. ordinary labourers, domestic servants and mason or carpenters was Re. 1 each to the first two categories and Rs. 3 to 4 to the last one. A skilled worker often received more than this according to his skill.

With the mounting tempo of development, public utility works have been started in the district and, consequently, the employment of

1. 1951 Census, Rajasthan and Ajmer, *District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer*, Part I p. X.

labourers has been on the increase. The extension of the railway line from Pokaran to Jaisalmer has provided work to a large number of people. Famine-relief works have also been employing large numbers (60 thousand persons were employed on these works at the close of 1968¹) affected by the scarcity conditions. The minimum wages of labourers in various scheduled employments have been fixed by the Government under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

STANDARD OF LIVING

Erskine made certain observations about the conditions and the standard of living of the people of Jaisalmer State at the beginning of the present century. According to him, the sparsely populated villages of the State provided a rather desolate appearance. These villages consisted, as a rule, of a few circular huts of brushwood built round a well of brackish water, drinkable only in the cold season. About the diet and dress of the majority of population, he goes on to add, "the staple food of the masses is *bajra* and of well-to-do (few) wheat and barley. Milk (in various forms) enters largely into the diet of the people and tobacco is in general use... Not much liquor is drunk, but a good deal of opium is consumed both as an occasional beverage and by habitues of the drug. Vegetables are scarce, the chief source of supply being the *khejra* tree. As in the desert parts of Jodhpur, during times of scarcity many subsist on the roots and seeds of grass or the fresh bark of the tree just mentioned, while locusts are much prized as an article of diet, both in the fresh and preserved state. In the matter of dress, there is nothing particular to record; the majority are very poor, dress simply and cannot afford ornaments for their women²".

Recurring famines and a chronic condition of scarcity do not appear to have a demoralising effect on the people of the desert. They are sons of a blighted land, but the very fact of their environment has made them hardy. Their habits and pursuits, their customs and traditions and their general upbringing are such that they can face the rigours of the weather and the harshness of nature with a hardihood which would be impossible for the people of the plains. Their vitality is of the earth, their patience rocklike and their power of endurance short of the miraculous. They have lived for centuries past in the most impropitious conditions and have survived them.

1. Source : A report published in the *Hindustan Times* dated December 12, 1968.

2. Erskine, K. D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, p. 22.

Conditions for agricultural production being highly unfavourable, the bulk of the people depend for their subsistence on cattle and sheep rearing. They have to lead a semi-nomadic life to keep going, travelling from place to place in search of food and water for their herds. There are tribes in the desert who live in the open all through the year and could go without water for days together. Their life is simple and bare and their wants are few.

Most villages in the district yet lack even such common community facilities as a post-office, a dispensary, or a school. The extremely poor state of communications has resulted in almost complete isolation of the rural population. Personal contacts with the inhabitants of other villages and even visits to relatives in other villages are rare. Not much could be done to improve communications, which in their turn might have improved their economic conditions. Jaisalmer town could boast of a few amenities in social and community services not found in the other parts of the district.

Things have been gradually changing even in Jaisalmer since the inception of the Five Year Plans. There is an unwearied effort to improve the economic condition of the people. Improved communications and migration from famine stricken areas to places where relief work is provided, have brought these primitive people into contact with their fellow citizens in the neighbouring districts. As a consequence, their age-old indifference to conditions of living is gradually giving way to a desire for a better material life. The improved means of communication have been bringing their isolation to an end.

The scarcity of locally produced food grains has been made up in recent years by making rationed grain available to them. The usual article of staple diet for the rural worker is still bread made of *bajra*. But he can now get wheat and even rice, against ration cards issued by the State Government. The rich, of course, eat wheat and rice. Milk, specially churned milk, locally known as *Khata* or *Rabb* is extensively used as part of the people's diet except in famine years when cattle feed becomes scarce. Tobacco, is used by many and opium by more. Both are imported from outside the district. Spirituous liquors are also consumed as an occasional beverage on social occasions such as Holi. Only with a few it is a habitual drink. Green vegetables are rare in rural areas. A few, particularly peas, *gobhi*, tomatoes and potatoes are imported from Jodhpur to serve the needs of Jaisalmer town. The villagers still eat *Sangris*, the

produce of the *Khejra* tree. Meat does not form a part of the common man's diet. Drinking water is still scarce inspite of the tubewells drilled in the last few years and it has sometimes to be brought over long distances.

EMPLOYMENT

Jaisalmer being a desert, cannot offer any regular employment for cultivators. The people of the district have been cattle breeders for ages. Their attempts at cultivation depend on the vagaries of the monsoon. The employment opportunities are highly restricted owing to the absence of any large scale or small scale organised industry. Under-developed means of transport and communications, the lack of even essential community facilities inhibit the growth of trade or industry. The only manufacturing activities relate to the production of *Khadi* and woollen textile and certain other minor items as a cottage industry. The Jaisalmer Khadi Gramodyog Parishad and the Regional Border Development Office of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission are the two organisations which have helped in creating additional employment opportunities while trying to gainfully utilise the available resources in the district. The former employed 2,187 persons in 1967-68, mainly as weavers, spinners and salesmen. The latter found employment for workers in leather work, processing of cereals and pulses and in other cottage industries, thus adding to their incomes. In addition to these, the development works undertaken under the Plan Programmes and the famine relief works, expansion of community services like schools, hospitals post-offices, roads and rail-lines, have all increased the number of jobs available to the people of the district. However, all the available jobs cannot be filled by local residents and migration from other parts of Rajasthan is unattractive owing to lack of proper housing, poor communications and inadequate water supply etc. The man-power needs of the district, therefore, remain unfulfilled in various vocations, particularly those of teachers, *Gramsewaks* and class IV employees in the Border Security Force battalions though recruitment to the B. S. F. is usually made from the local population. The district has very few employment opportunities for the highly educated and skilled persons such as engineers. The future, however, is not so bleak. The prospects of finding oil and gas in the area and exploiting ground water resources for irrigation through drilling large number of tubewells promise industrial and agricultural development of the district with its consequent multiplication of employment avenues.

No comprehensive survey of the employment market of the district has yet been undertaken. There is no Employment Office in the district

either to undertake such an on-the-spot study. However, the Employment Office at Jodhpur, which concurrently serves Jaisalmer district, has been trying to study certain trends in the field on the basis of quarterly returns of employment received from public as well as private undertakings employing 25 or more persons. This study apparently remains far from being representative, precluding, as it does, any reference to the small private concerns, which, in the case of Jaisalmer district, employ the majority of employment seekers. As such, it cannot be expected to provide a correct indication of the employment trends in the district. The following pattern of employment was reported as on the last day of the year 1967-68¹:

Industrial Classification	(Number)		
	Persons employed on 31st March 1968 Public sector	Private sector	Total
1. Cattle Breeding and Animal Husbandry	138	—	138
2. Manufacturing of <i>Khadi</i> and woollen garments	65	1,566	1,631
3. Electricity (Power House)	43	—	43
4. Banking	16	—	16
5. Public Relations	6	—	6
6. Local Bodies	345	—	345
7. Other Public (Government) Services (including Education, Medical and Health etc.)	3,633	—	3,633
Total	4,246	1,566	5,812

Although considerable unemployment is reported to have been existing in the district, its exact nature has not been found possible to be analysed. The only efforts at estimation of unemployment was made

1. Source : Employment Office, Jodhpur.

during the 1961 Census enumeration¹. The total number of unemployed of 15 years and above was recorded to be 17 in the urban and 9 in the rural areas, all of them being males. In urban areas their division, according to educational level, was 6 illiterates, 9 literates without any academic qualifications and only two had studied upto the primary or junior-basic standard. As for rural areas, out of the 9 persons who were unemployed, 4 were illiterates, one just literate, two studied upto primary or junior-basic and the rest two had qualifications of matriculation and above. Apparently, there is no problem of educated unemployment in the district, since, on the one hand, the percentage of literacy is considerably low, and on the other, any body who somehow manages to get some sort of education leaves the district in search of suitable employment elsewhere, there being no opportunities open for him in the district.

Employment Exchange

It has already been mentioned that no Employment Exchange has ever been opened anywhere in the district. The Employment Exchange at Jodhpur not being very conveniently approachable by either the employers or the aspirants for the jobs offered in the district, is not kept in very close and frequent contact by either. The vacancies notified under the provisions of the Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act and placings done through the Employment Exchange during the years 1963 to 1968 were as follows² :

Year	Vacancies Notified	(Number)
		Persons placed
1963	115	20
1964	159	86
1965	203	64
1966	242	132
1967	170	132
1968	272	224

1. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-B (ii), General Economic Tables*, pp. 652 and 668.

2. Source : Employment Office, Jodhpur.

The above figures reveal that only a small part of the vacancies notified to the Employment Exchange by the employers during 1963-65 were filled. The major reasons mentioned for this were the difficulties of finding suitable persons for the jobs which made employers postpone recruitment as also the general unwillingness of the people to accept the jobs offered. The proportion of placing to notification of vacancies has, however, been going up in recent years.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The concept of planning for economic and social development was introduced to the people of the district for the first time when the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) for the country was launched.

The Rajasthan Plan made a total provision of Rs 64.5 crores for the whole State. No district-wise break-up of allotments for various heads was made. A Community Development Block, however, was opened at Sankara in October 1954. Two Middle Schools and eighteen Primary Schools were opened. Two roadworks were also started during this five year period.

Development plans for various districts formed the base of the Second Plan (1956-61) for the whole State. Besides, the schemes operating in the district which benefitted the district alone, certain headquarter schemes, expenditure on which was incurred for supervision and implementation of schemes throughout the State were also included in the Plan as common-benefit schemes for two or more districts. The total expenditure in Jaisalmer district during the five years (1956-61) was Rs. 60.34 lakhs¹. The per capita expenditure was Rs. 43.72 (on the basis of 1961 Census figures) during this period against all Rajasthan average of Rs. 47.74.

The poor State of transportation facilities in the district justified more than one-fourth of the Plan expenditure on the construction and maintenance of roads. The next highest expenditure, a little less than 25 per cent, was on Community Development and National Extension Service Schemes. Agriculture claimed the third place, in order of the quantum of expenditure (Rs. 8.56 lakhs) for the five year period. The expenditure on soil conservation and forests was Rs. 2.09 lakhs. To relieve the people of the acute problem of drinking water supply, Rs. 6.70

1. *Second Five Year Plan Progress Report, Rajasthan, 1956-61*, p. LXXXII.

lakhs were spent, mainly on the commissioning of the tube-wells for the purpose. The provision of other community services, like housing, medical and health and education were also given their due importance. These, along with water-supply, accounted for 23.66 per cent of the total plan expenditure. The expenditure on Industries and Power was nominal since the district does not have much scope for industrialisation, at any rate in the present circumstances.

The Second Plan went a long way in efforts for the social and economic advancement of the people of the district. The total area under the plough in the district increased nearly ten times till the end of the Second Five Year Plan¹ as compared to the First Year of the First Plan. The production of cereals, of which *Bajra* forms a major part, increased to 31,515 tonnes (31,017 tons) by 1959-60 from only 19,649 tonnes (19,339 tons) in 1950-51. The number of co-operative societies went up to 132, with a membership of 4.91 thousand and a share capital of Rs. 1.53 lakhs. 5 agricultural co-operatives were started for the first time during this period. 153 km. (95 miles) of roads were constructed or improved and a number of additional community facilities like schools, dispensaries etc. made available to the public. Rs. 0.16 lakh were disbursed as loans to low-income earners for the construction of 6 new houses.

The Third Five Year Plan (1961-66²) was more ambitious and had a wider coverage. The total expenditure on the district schemes during the entire plan period was to the tune of Rs. 78.09 lakhs as against Rs. 60.34 lakhs spent during the period of the Second Plan. The per capita expenditure during this period worked out to Rs. 55.78.

The Third Plan period witnessed the beginning and considerable progress in the construction of a rail-road linking of Jaisalmer town to Jodhpur, a development which will have far reaching effects on the economy of the district. 286 km. of roads were constructed during the period bringing the total road length in the district to 898 km. at the end of the Plan³. This works out to 2.30 km. per 100 sq. km. area and 6.41 km. per 1000 population⁴. Community facilities in the form of one high, 2 middle and 102 primary and 50 special schools, two allopathic and seven

1. *Panch Varshiya Yojna Mein Pragati, Zila Jaisalmer* (Folder) p. 4.
2. *Tratiya Pancha Varshiya Yojna Pragati Prativedan, Rajasthan, 1961-66*, pp. 240-241.
3. *ibid.*, p. 290.
4. *ibid.*, p. 290.

Ayurvedic dispensaries, 40 drinking water wells and tube-wells etc. were made available to the people of the district. The water supply scheme for Jaisalmer town was completed in 1964-65 at a total cost of Rs. 11.96 lakhs out of which Rs. 11.03 lakhs were spent during the period of Third Plan¹. Rs. 22 thousand were advanced as loans for the construction of six houses under the low-income group housing scheme during this period². In spite of difficult weather conditions, the overall achievements of the Third Plan were not insignificant.

The physical achievements during 1961-68 through the programmes undertaken at the Panchayat Samiti level are given in the Appendix III at the end of this chapter.

Community Development

Community Development Programme was undertaken in the district in October 1954 by the setting up of Sankara Block in Pokaran. The programme was aimed at securing direct public participation in the development programmes of the area and arousing of mass consciousness about the utility of the Plan schemes. On 2nd of October 1959, the scheme of Community Development Blocks, merged with the new set up of democratic decentralisation, was inaugurated in Rajasthan. The *Panchayati Raj*, as the new scheme was now named, provided for a three-tier organisation of Panchayats at the village-level, Panchayat Samitis at the block level, and Zila Parishad at the district level. This new scheme was introduced in the district on 1st of October, 1964. The three blocks of Jaisalmer, set up in 1959-60, Sam set up in 1962-63 and Sankara set up in 1954-55, were given the new orientation. The three Panchayat Samitis between them cover 1,27,000 of rural population living in 520 villages of the district. A few details about these blocks are given in the following table³:

Block	Month & Year of opening	Stage	Coverage		
			Area (sq km.)	Villages (No.)	Population ('000)
1. Sankara	October '54	Post II	6,475	84	50
2. Jaisalmer	April '59	II	12,173	142	31
3. Sam	October '62	I	21,828	286	46

1. *Tratiya Pancha Varshiya Yojna Pragati Prativedan, Rajasthan, 1961-66*, p. 303.
2. *ibid.*, p. 310.
3. Full details about them are given in Chapter XIV of this volume.

APPENDIX I

Average Annual Retail Prices of Food Grains and Salt
in Jaisalmer State during 1895 to 1909

Year	Prices (Rs. per maund) ¹					
	Rice common	Wheat	Jowar or Cholum	Bajra or Cumbu	Gram or Kadalai	Salt
1885	3.228	3.14	1.746	2.07	2.25	1.788
1886	3.15	3.145	2.248	2.417	2.613	1.563
1887	3.331	4.09	2.424	2.527	3.098	1.555
1888	4.073	3.854	3.142	3.506	4.057	1.839
1889	4.215	3.724	2.93	3.39	3.918	1.905
1890	3.824	4.448	2.543	2.695	3.127	1.907
1891	4.219	4.057	2.606	2.967	3.303	1.905
1892	4.908	4.896	3.289	3.697	3.972	1.905
1893	4.53	3.218	2.063	2.152	2.791	1.905
1894	4.175	2.909	1.791	2.07	2.448	1.905
1895	3.876	3.549	2.513	2.987	2.772	1.905
1896	4.884	4.54	3.633	3.964	3.781	1.905
1897	5.626	5.54	4.171	4.415	5.284	1.905
1898	4.264	3.88	2.978	3.215	3.707	1.905
1899	4.695	4.454	3.35	3.795	4.02	1.905
1900	5.587	4.932	4.036	4.425	5.141	1.905
1901	4.646	4.224	2.729	2.946	4.228	1.905
1902	4.301	3.607	2.815	3.014	3.35	1.905
1903	4.202	3.623	2.418	2.633	3.108	1.905
1904	4.044	3.387	2.281	2.516	2.956	1.905
1905	4.343	4.31	3.07	3.32	3.714	1.905
1906	5.215	4.219	3.177	3.552	3.895	1.905
1907	6.006	3.64	2.738	3.16	3.636	1.905
1908	7.08	4.819	3.565	4.124	3.724	1.905
1909	5.789	4.464	2.614	3.15	2.926	1.905

1. *Prices and Wages in India (Calcutta, 1910)*, pp. 16-17, 26-27, 38-39, 44-45, 62-63 and 84-85.

APPENDIX II

Average Monthly (June) Prices of Major Cereals and Salt in
Jaisalmer State during 1910 to 1942

(Quantities per British Rupee in seers of 80 tolas)

Year	Wheat S. Ch.	Bajra S. Ch.	Jowar S. Ch.	Gram S. Ch.	Rice (Best) S. Ch.	Rice (Common) S. Ch.	Salt S. Ch.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1910	9-3	10-12	13-5	13-5	4-10	7-11	21-0
1911	9-9	12-4	14-14	13-4	4-12	7-15	21-0
1912	6-13	6-15½	7-11½	7-4½	4-9	5-11	20-0 First quality 24-0 Second quality
1913	8-5½	9-14	10-4½	10-0	5-0	6-8	-do-
1914	8-0	8-8½	9-3	8-5	4-6	5-3	-do-
1917	7-0	11-0	12-8	8-0	4-0	6-0	-do-
1918	6-2	5-4	7-0	6-10	2-8	3-6	22-0
1919	3-8	3-0	4-0	5-0	1-12	2-0	22-0
1920	4-4	5-8	5-4	4-8	2-8	2-12	22-0
1921	4-0	4-0	4-8	4-0	3-4	3-0	22-0
1922	4-4	4-12	5-4	4-12	2-8	3-0	22-0
1924	6-8	8-0	8-8	8-0	2-8	3-12	22-0
1925	4-8	8-0	8-0	8-0	2-0	2-8	20-0
1926	6-8	5-12	6-0	6-0	2-8	4-0	20-0
1927	7-0	8-0	8-0	7-4	2-8	4-0	20-0
1928	6-0	6-4	-	7-0	2-8	4-0	20-0
1929	4-12	5-12	6-8	6-0	2-8	4-8	20-0
1930	8-0	8-0	-	7-8	3-12	5-0	20-0
1931	13-0	14-0	-	8-4	4-4	6-0	20-0
1932	12-0	14-4	-	8-8	4-4	6-0	20-0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1933	10-0	13-0	—	9-8	4-8	6-8	20-0
1934	12-0	13-0	—	14-0	4-0	6-0	20-0
1935	11-0	13-0	14-8	14-0	5-0	6-8	20-0
1936	10-0	13-0	16-0	11-0	5-0	8-0	20-0
1937	8-0	10-8	—	10-0	5-0	8-0	20-0
1938	10-0	10-0	12-0	12-0	5-0	8-0	20-0
1939	11-0	11-0	12-0	12-0	5-0	7-0	22-0
1940	9-8	9-8	10-4	8-0	5-0	7-0	20-0
1941	8-8	11-0	13-0	8-0	5-0	7-0	20-0
1942	5-12	6-8	6-8	6-0	2-8	3-0	20-0

S=Seers

Ch= Chhatanks

Source : Reports on the Administration of the Jaisalmer State, 1910-11 to 1941-42.

APPENDIX III

Physical Achievements of Panchayat Samitis in
Jaisalmer district¹

	Unit	1961-62	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
Agricultural Programmes :					
1. Distribution of fertilisers	Quintals	—	131	236	83
2. Distribution of seeds	„	709	1,208	4,189	138
3. Distribution of improved Agricultural Implements	Number	187	35	298	82
4. Agricultural Demos- trations organised	„	35	38	14	20
5. Soil Conservation	Hectares	1,500	1,090	—	1,126
6. Distribution of fruit plants	Number	2,129	295	—	—
7. Breed Cattle Distribution	„	730	313	61	107
8. Improved Breed Poultry distribution	„	16	151	—	—
Irrigation :					
1. Wells dug	„	146	229	—	5
2. Area brought under irrigation	Hectares	7	13	—	—
Co-operation :					
1. New Co-operative Societies	Number	9	3	116	177
2. New membership	„	561	311	4,354	5,858

1. Source : Panchayat & Development Department, Rajasthan, Jaipur.
N.R.—Not reported,

Social Service :

1. Drinking water wells	Hectares	16	—	3	7
2. Libraries, Reading Rooms started	"	36	—	N.R.	N.R.
3. Adults Education Centres	"	128	24	28	74
4. Adults educated	"	48	147	335	527
5. Houses constructed under Rural Housing Scheme	"	—	10	N.R.	N.R.

Transport & Communication :

1. Kucha roads built	km.	8	1.60	22	—
Public co-operation :	Thousand Rs.	63	26	2	2

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**Historical Background**

The Administration of Jaisalmer State during princely regime was carried on under the overall control of the Maharawal, who was the supreme head of the Government. He alone exercised the power of giving life or death to the condemned criminal and with him rested all final and effective decisions. Although the Maharawal was assisted by a council of four members, each member being incharge of some departments, the administration was carried on un-recorded conventions and customary practices. Various reports on the administration of the Jaisalmer State reveal that there were no codified laws in Jaisalmer¹. The spirit and principles of the laws in force in British India were generally followed where they did not materially differ from the local usages and customs of the State. The administration was, therefore, run mostly on conventions.

There was a council of four members headed by a *Dewan* or Prime Minister. All important portfolios were distributed among the members of the council which as a joint body was responsible to the ruler.

Some important departments functioning in the erstwhile Jaisalmer State were Military and Police, Public Works, Medical, Education, Electricity and *Devasthan* (temples).

For purposes of district administration, the State was divided into a number of *Hakumats* (districts), each headed by a *Hakim* (District Officer).² The District Officers exercised executive and judicial powers

1. *The Report on the Administration of the Jaisalmer State*, 1939-40, p. 2.

2. *The Report on the Administration of the Jaisalmer State*, 1941-42 reveals names of the following 18 *Hakumats*, vide page 70 Appendix XXX-A; 1. Jaisalmer Khas, 2. Nagar Kantha, 3. Devikot, 4. Fatehgarh, 5. Lakhan, 6. Mayajlar, 7. Sam khaba, 8. Shahgarh, 9. Khuiala, 10. Ramgarh, 11. Tanot, 12. Kishangarh, 13. Bhuili, 14. Dewa, 15. Lathi-Nachna, 16. Nokh-Ranjitpura, 17. Bap, 18. Sri Mohangarh.

within certain limits over the area included under different *Hakumats*, and functioned under the administrative control of the *Dewan*. This administrative pattern continued without any change upto the integration of the State into Rajasthan, in 1949.

Present Pattern

Some important changes took place in the administrative set-up of this area only after integration. In 1949, almost the entire area covered by the former Jaisalmer State was made a separate district with headquarters at Jaisalmer. The district, included in Jodhpur division, was divided into two sub-divisions—Jaisalmer and Bap, comprising 5 tahsils, Jaisalmer, Ramgarh, Sam, Fatehgarh and Bap.

As a measure of economy and administrative convenience in February 1953, the Jaisalmer district was reduced to the status of a subdivision and made a part of Jodhpur district. This was again raised to the status of a district on 1. 6. 1954 with two sub-divisions and 6 tahsils.¹ In 1954, 76 villages of Jaisalmer were added to the adjoining districts of Jodhpur and Bikaner and from Jodhpur district 64 villages and Pokaran town were added to it. One tahsil, Fatehgarh was abolished on 13.9.1962. Tahsils Ramgarh, Sam and Nachna were reduced to the status of sub-tahsils in 1963. The district is now divided into the following sub-divisions and tahsils :

Name of Sub-Division	Tahsil	Sub-Tahsil
1. Jaisalmer	Jaisalmer	1. Ramgarh 2. Sam
2. Pokaran	Pokaran	1. Nachna H.Q. Nokh

Divisional Commissioner

After integration in 1949, the State of Rajasthan was divided into five divisions with Divisional Commissioners as their heads. Jaisalmer district was included in Jodhpur division. On the abolition of the offices of the Divisional Commissioners in Rajasthan in April 1961, the duties of Divisional Commissioners were transferred to the Collectors of the respective districts. On 21st May, 1964, the office of the Commissioner,

1. Sub-Divisions : 1. Jaisalmer 2. Pokaran.

Tahsils : 1. Jaisalmer, 2. Pokaran, 3. Ramgarh 4. Sam, 5. Nachna, 6. Fatehgarh.

Border Districts, Rajasthan, with headquarters at Jodhpur was established. The same was abolished and the office of the Commissioner, Jodhpur Division, Jodhpur, was created with effect from 18. 9. 1965. It was redesignated as the office of the Commissioner, Border Districts with effect from 7. 5. 1966. In June 1967, the office was redesignated as the office of the Chairman, Regional Transport Authorities and Ex-officio Commissioner, Border Districts. The change came into effect from 1. 7. 1967¹.

The Ex-officio Commissioner has Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner and Ganganagar districts under his jurisdiction and has his headquarters at Jodhpur. The Commissioner maintains supervision over the general working of the Police Department and general law and order in the four border districts, as was done by the Divisional Commissioner before the abolition of the post. The Commissioner is in-charge of the Civil Defence Programme in the border districts. He is assisted by the Advisor, Civil Defence, Rajasthan. The Commissioner also functions as the Programme Advisor to the Government for the planning and implementation of the development activities in all the Panchayat Samitis of Jaisalmer adjacent to the border. In his capacity as Programme Advisor, the Commissioner visits Panchayat Samitis every year in order to acquaint himself with the general development programme of the samitis. He calls quarterly meetings of Regional Officers to discuss matters relating to the various works and development activities in the district. The Commissioner is expected to review the departmental programmes of all the Panchayat Samitis with particular reference to border affairs².

The Commissioner is kept informed on all important problems relating to the border areas by the officers concerned and is responsible for the general supervision over the Revenue Officers including the Collector of Jaisalmer district. He has the power to visit the Collectorate, Sub-Divisional Offices or Tahsils in the district³.

Further, the Commissioner is expected to maintain effective liaison with the military and police authorities in order to check smuggling activities and border infiltration. He has the power to inspect the Rajasthan

1. Source : The office of the Chairman, Regional Transport Authorities and Ex-Officio Commissioner, Border Districts, Rajasthan, Jodhpur.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

Armed Constabulary battalions posted in the district¹. In addition to above duties, the Commissioner conducts meetings of all the Regional Transport Authorities placed under his administrative control. In all such meetings important transport problems are discussed and decisions taken.

Collector

The general administration of the district is entrusted to the Collector with headquarters at Jaisalmer. He is the pivot round which the whole district administration revolves. He is the highest administrative authority in the district. Not only is he at the head of the revenue and police administration of the district, but is the District Development Officer. He is also expected to supervise the work of all the officers of other departments functioning in the district.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS—The Collector is the Chief Executive of the district, and has vast powers. Although the officials of other departments in the districts are under the immediate charge of their respective Heads of Departments, the Collector exercises general supervision in regard to the non-technical work of the district officials. He can also call for the assistance of any officer in the district. The District Collector is expected to inspect all offices in the district and all works undertaken in the district. Co-ordination between various departments through meetings of the District Level Officers, control over local self-governing bodies with powers to intervene if necessary, public relations, execution of Government policies, miscellaneous functions such as rationing and food control and relief measures in times of emergencies like famine, epidemics etc., are all included in the functions and duties of the District Collector. In his executive capacity, the Collector administers the Arms, Motor-vehicles and Explosives Acts.

REVENUE FUNCTIONS—As Collector of land revenue on behalf of the Government, he is responsible for the collection of revenue and other dues relating to land revenue. He has to see that the revenue dues are recovered punctually without coercion and that the collections are properly credited and accounted. The Collector is also responsible for the collection of fees and taxes under various other Acts in respect of irrigation, stamps, etc.

1. The Rajasthan Armed Constabulary has since been replaced by the Border Security Force.

His major revenue duties include the general supervision and control of the Land Records and the staff of the Revenue Department; appointment, promotion, transfer, demotion and punishment etc., of subordinate officials according to the rules of the Government; submission of periodical reports to the Board of Revenue and Government and also hearing of appeals against the decisions of his subordinates in matters connected with land revenue. He supervises the activities of all the Revenue Officers in the district and inspects their offices. For the administration of land revenue, the Collector is assisted by two Sub-Divisional Officers, two Tahsildars and three *Naib-Tahsildars* in the district.

MAGISTERIAL FUNCTION—As a District Magistrate, he is charged with the duty of maintenance of law and order in the district with the help of the Superintendent of Police, according to the powers conferred on him under the Code of Criminal Procedure and numerous special Acts. He keeps control over the Sub-Divisional Magistrates posted in his district and hears appeals against their decisions in criminal matters.

The Superintendent of Police, chief of the district police organisation, is expected to work in close association with the Collector in order to maintain effective law and order situation. For this, the Superintendent of Police keeps him posted with all available information about the law and order situation in the district. For effective maintenance of law and order, the District Magistrate convenes meetings of Magistrates and Police Officers periodically when the law and order situation is reviewed and matters of mutual interest discussed and decided on.

TREASURY AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONS—There is a District Treasury in Jaisalmer to account for all financial transactions of the Government in the district. The Collector is responsible for the due accounting of all money received and paid and the timely submission of all returns due from the District Treasury, but he takes no part in the day to day business of the Treasury. The Treasury Officer, who functions under the administrative control of the Collector, attends to all Treasury transactions in the district. The Collector is jointly responsible with the Treasury Officer for the safe custody of cash etc., and other property deposited with the Treasury.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COLLECTOR REGARDING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—Under the Five Year Plans, planning and development activities have assumed great importance and the Collector has been made

directly responsible for its execution within the district. The present three tier system of Democratic Decentralisation has brought the Collector in to very close association of the execution of development schemes.

Being the District Development Officer, the Collector is required to attend meetings of the Zila Parishad with a view to co-ordinating the work between the local bodies and the executive officers. He takes part in the deliberations of the Parishad but does not enjoy the right to vote. As the District Development Officer he is assisted in his work connected with developmental schemes by the Deputy District Development Officer who is also ex-officio Secretary of the Zila Parishad. The Collector serves as a link between the Government and the Zila Parishad. He has to ensure that the amounts advanced to the local bodies for development purposes, have been utilised properly and that the working of these institutions is smooth and orderly. In all developmental activities the Collector may be said to play a vital and controlling part.

ELECTION FUNCTIONS—The Collector is also the District Electoral Officer. He is responsible for preparation, revision and publication of the electoral rolls of the district, and all correspondence relating to elections in the district is conducted by him. In this respect he is subordinate to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State, but he organises the whole machinery in the district at the time of general elections. Under Town Municipal Act, 1959, the Collector appoints Returning Officers for conducting municipal elections in the district. He is also responsible for conducting the Panchayat Elections in the district and election petitions arising out of these are filed with him.

OTHER FUNCTIONS—Besides the above mentioned functions, the Collector has to attend to certain important responsibilities in regard to border security work. A Civil Defence Unit functions directly under the supervision of the Collector. The Collector Jaisalmer, is responsible for successful execution and overall supervision of relief measures undertaken in the district on account of frequent nay almost continuous famine conditions.

The Collector is incharge of the civil supplies in his district. He makes arrangements for the procurement and distribution of foodgrains and other commodities according to Government orders. He is responsible for the opening and proper functioning of the fair price shops in the district. In discharge of this responsibility he is assisted by a subordinate officer designated as the District Supplies Officer.

For administrative purposes the work of the Collectorate is divided between the following ten sections: Panchayat, Revenue Demand, Establishment, Judicial, Revenue Accounts, Transport, General Administration, Accounts and Audit and Secret. The clerical staff consists of an office superintendent, one stenographer, one revenue accountant, one *sadar Kanungo* (revenue inspector), one assistant *sadar Kanungo*, three relieving patwaris, 12 upper division clerks and 12 lower division clerks.

Directly subordinate to the Collector in the vertical line of administration, are the Sub-Divisional Officers stationed at Jaisalmer and Pokaran. Each Sub-Divisional Officer performs revenue, magisterial and executive functions in his own jurisdiction. He holds in him, within his jurisdiction, the same type of functions and responsibilities as the Collector. The Sub-Divisional Officers work in close association with the Collector and relieve his burden of work to a considerable extent.

Jaisalmer Sub-Division

Jaisalmer Sub-Division formed in 1949, comprises the tahsil of Jaisalmer. It is divided into five revenue circles and 25 *Patwar Halkas*, a list of which is given in chapter on Revenue Administration. The office work is divided into the following four sections: Reader's Section, Judicial and Criminal, Revenue and Accounts, and Establishment. The office staff included a reader and a few clerks. Under the Sub-Divisional Officer, there are a Tahsildar and two *Naib-Tahsildars*. The Tahsildar is responsible for the collection of land revenue, *Taccavi*, cesses and other Government dues in his tahsil. He supervises the land records work in his tahsil and sees that the patwaris and inspectors carry out their duties properly. The Tahsildar is also the Sub-Treasury Officer and is incharge of Sub-Treasury at tahsil headquarters. He exercises Second Class Magisterial powers. The Tahsildar is assisted by two *Naib-Tahsildars* stationed at Ramgarh and Sam. *Naib-Tahsildars* supervise the work of Office *Kanungo*, inspectors and patwaris. They supervise the work of collection of land revenue and other Government dues. The *Naib-Tahsildars* have been invested with Third Class Magisterial powers. However, the main task of Tahsildars and *Naib-Tahsildars* is to assist the Sub-Divisional Officer in revenue matters.

Pokaran Sub-Division

Pokaran Sub-Division, created in 1954, is divided into 3 revenue circles and 20 *Patwar Halkas*. The work of the Sub-Divisional Office is

divided among the following six sections : Reader's Section, Judicial and Criminal, Accounts and Establishment, Revenue Case work, Revenue Correspondence and Miscellaneous. Among the office staff are a reader, 3 revenue inspectors, one office *Kanungo*, 23 patwaris and a few clerks. The Sub-Divisional Officer, in discharge of his official duties is assisted by one Tahsildar and two *Naib*-Tahsildars whose functions have already been enumerated.

The following officers are covered in the horizontal line of administration¹ :

1. Superintendent of Police, Jaisalmer.
2. Munsif Magistrate, Jaisalmer.
3. Additional District Animal Husbandry Officer, Jaisalmer.
4. Superintendent, Sheep and Wool, Jaisalmer.
5. Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department, Jaisalmer.
6. Assistant Engineer, Tube Well Sub-Division, Jaisalmer.
7. Assistant Engineer, Rajasthan State Electricity Board, Jaisalmer.
8. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jaisalmer.
9. Incharge/Medical Officer, Jawahar Hospital, Jaisalmer.
10. Medical Officer, Incharge, Mobile Dispensary, Jaisalmer.
11. Medical Officer, Incharge, Mobile Dispensary, Pokaran.
12. Social Welfare Officer, Jaisalmer.
13. Statistical Assistant, Jaisalmer.
14. Commandant, 1st Battalion, Rajasthan Armed Constabulary, Jaisalmer.
15. Public Relations Officer, Jaisalmer.
16. Land Acquisition Officer, Jaisalmer.
17. Project Officer, Jaisalmer.
18. Executive Engineer, Project, Public Works Department, No. 7, Jaisalmer.
19. Executive Engineer, Project, Public Works Department, No. 8, Jaisalmer.
20. Executive Engineer, Project, Public Works Department, No. 9, Jaisalmer.

¹ Source : Collectorate, Jaisalmer.

21. Vikas Adhikari, Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer.
22. Vikas Adhikari, Panchayat Samiti, Sam, H.Q. Jaisalmer.
23. Vikas Adhikari, Panchayat Samiti, Sankara, H.Q. Pokaran.

The Superintendent of Police occupies an important place in the horizontal line of administration. He works in close collaboration with the Collector in maintenance of law and order. The administrative set-up and functioning of the Police Department is dealt with in the chapter Law and Order and Justice.

As for Judicial matters, there is a *Munsif* Magistrate's court in the district. Appeals against the decisions of this court are made to the District and Sessions Judge, Jodhpur. The Judicial set-up of the district is given in detail in the chapter Law and Order and Justice.

All the District Level Officers meet once a month at the district headquarters under the chairmanship of the Collector to discuss the policies and work programmes, and to thrash out difficulties and impediments, if any. They draw plans for future action. The Collector as the District Development Officer convenes these meetings and discusses work programmes of the local bodies formed under the Panchayati Raj set-up. These meetings help in smooth and efficient performance of the district administrative machinery. District Level Officers function as colleagues of the Collector in the implementation of a commonly approved programme.

Besides the above, a number of important offices and institutions of the Central Government are also located at Jaisalmer such as the office of the Sub-Post Master, Locust Warning Office, Central Intelligence Office, Central Excise Inspector, Incharge Telephone Exchange, Executive Engineer (Central Public Works Department), Executive Engineer (Northern Railway, Pokaran), Field Publicity Office and Regional Border Khadi Commission. There is a branch office of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur in Jaisalmer.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Historical Aspect

No records are available relating to the land revenue administration of Jaisalmer for the early period. It is, therefore, difficult to ascertain exactly what system of land revenue existed in the State. It may be presumed that land revenue must have been realised according to ancient principles ordained by Manu at one-sixth of the gross produce. It is confirmed by the practice prevalent during the mediaeval and modern periods.¹

In mediaeval times Jaisalmer was a dependancy of the Delhi rulers. During the Mughal period Jaisalmer and Pokaran (Sub-Divisions) were the *Mahals* in the Bikaner Sarkar of Ajmer *Subah*.² The total revenue from Bikaner *Sarkar* as given in the *Ain-i-Akbari* was 4,750,000 *dams*.³ During this period, land revenue in both the Jagir and *Khalsa* areas, was usually paid in kind amounting to a seventh or an eighth of the produce.

The oldest available written account of the system of land revenue realisation in the district during the 19th century is by C. K. M. Walter in his Gazetteer of Jaisalmer State published in 1877. According to Walter if wheat or gram was ever grown, the Durbar realised from the cultivators from one-fourth to one-sixth of the produce. The land revenue was usually paid in kind. When *Bajra*, *Moth* and *Til* etc., were produced the share of the State varied from one-seventh to one-eighth of the produce. There were several methods by which the value and the share of the

produce was realised by Durbar. The most prevalent system was that of *kankunt* under which the value of the standing crop was estimated and shares of the Durbar and cultivators were determined. Allied to this system was that of *Karikunti*, under which the value of the crop was calculated after it was cut, but before the grain was threshed. The other system was *Latai* under which the value of the crop and Durbar's share of the outturn was estimated after the crop had been threshed out.

Except for a few observations of his own, Erskine in his Gazetteer has largely testified to the system detailed earlier by Walter.¹ He has mentioned a tax called *Halota* under which land revenue in a few places was paid in cash at Rs. 2.00 (local currency) for as much land as could be cultivated with a pair of bullocks. According to Erskine, one more system in vogue was *kangar-kunta* under which revenue was determined on the basis of condition of the bare standing stalks.

In addition to the portion payable to the State, the cultivator had to settle the demands of certain court officials i.e., *Kanwaria* (watch-man over the crops appointed by the State), *Kamdar* (keeper of the State granary), and the water carrier of the ruler. These demands collectively amounted to about one-half of what was realised by the State as its share from the cultivators.

Land Tenures

Broadly speaking, the whole area was divided into *Khalsa* and jagir lands. While in the *Khalsa* area the Durbar retained all its proprietary rights in the land dealt directly with the *ryots* or cultivators, in the Jagir area proprietary rights were transferred temporarily or permanently to some individual subject.

Jagirdars had to serve the ruler when called upon, and present him with a horse on certain occasions such as installation and marriage. Some Jagirdars paid a succession tax called *Neota* on their succeeding to their estates. Except in case of the Rao of Bikampur, no annual tribute was paid. In most cases, Jagirdars held their estates in perpetuity. This tenure was called *Bassi*. Even in this kind of tenure the ruler reserved his right to deprive the Jagirdars of their estates for contumacy of any grave offence. For holding *Bassi* tenure it was not customary to get a

1. Tod, James, *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, Vol. II, Humphrey Millford, Oxford University Press, 1920, p. 1249.

2. Jarrett, H. S. and Sarkar, J. N. (Ed.), Abul Fazl-i-Allami, *Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol. II, 1949, p. 287.

3. *ibid*,

1. Erskine, K. D., *The Western Rajputana States and the Bikaner Agency Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 35.

fresh title deed or *patta* issued on the death of a Jagirdar. The eldest son of a deceased automatically succeeded his father. However, certain villages were held on title deed or *patta* and as a reward for services rendered to the ruler. This tenure was known as *patta* or a title deed. The holders of such estates paid nothing to the ruler, but were liable for service to the Durbar and retained their estates at his pleasure. Their estates could also be resumed on certain serious charges. At times, villages were given for a life-time by the Durbar.

Khalsa land was held according to a variety of tenures. The chief ones are enumerated below:

BHUM—*Bhum* land was held by the *Bhumias* who had to perform certain duties such as protecting the villages, chasing criminals, providing the escort for carriers of government funds and protecting officials on tour. When called upon to perform services for the Durbar, *Bhumias* received payment for them. A tax from Rupees 1.25 to Rupees 1.50 was levied on each holder of a *Bhum* tenure.

SASAN—Charitable grants to *Charans*, *Bhats* and *Shamis* etc., were called *Sasan* and held rent free in perpetuity. The ruler had no jurisdiction over these villages, and if a person committing a crime fled to any one of them for shelter, he found sanctuary.

In the Jagir areas the cultivators were required to pay Rs. 2 as rent to Jagirdars for as much land as they could cultivate with one pair of bullocks in one place. This rule was not applicable to Rajputs or people belonging to the fighting classes engaged as cultivators in Jagir areas. They were allowed to till the land rent free but they had to perform services for the Jagirdars on the occasion of deaths or marriages in the landlord's family. Such tenants had to pay *Neota* or fees consisting of cash, camel, horse or bullocks according to their means. There were no Jagirdars in the former Jaisalmer State.

The total area of land held under different grants varied considerably from decade to decade due to the process of escheat and the bestowal of fresh grants. However, land held according to the *Basi* and *Sasan* grants never lapsed to the Durbar.

Although Jaisalmer was one of the oldest princely states of Rajputana no attempt at modernising administration in general and revenue administration in particular was ever made. Consequently, revenue

administration continued to function on settled traditional lines. Hardly any reform worth mentioning was carried on during the period 1900 to 1949. Further, the vast sandy tract under the State jurisdiction does not appear to have needed a revenue settlement on a modern and scientific basis. So settlement operations were never undertaken in Jaisalmer State. The system of land revenue collections from the earliest times up to the first Summary Settlement in 1955 on modern lines was extremely primitive. There were no well defined rules and laws relating to land revenue.

In 1909-10, the system of paying certain *Lags* or dues over and above the state share both in kind and cash to the revenue collecting staff and others was given up¹. This abolition of *Lags* brought an end to harassment of the cultivators. Land revenue, as a rule, continued to be realised in kind².

First Settlement of Jaisalmer District, 1955 (excluding Pokaran Tahsil)

Before the formation of Rajasthan, no settlement had ever been conducted and the lands had not even been scientifically surveyed.³ The rate of assessment was nearly one-sixth of the outturn of *kharif* and one-fifth of that of *Rabi* crops. The cultivators in this area enjoyed occupancy rights in the soil recognised by the State on certain conditions. Land Revenue administration was in the hands of local educated officials, who were well acquainted with the work as well as the local conditions and customary rights of the cultivators⁴.

The first Summary Settlement Operations were started on November 11, 1955 by the Collector-cum-Settlement Officer, Jaisalmer. The tract under report was the area of Jaisalmer district excluding tahsil Pokaran in which cadastral survey operations were conducted separately.⁵ The area under settlement came to 33,726 sq. km. (13,022 sq. miles).

The individual area of the five tahsils under settlement was as follows⁶:

1. *The Administration Report of Jaisalmer State*, 1909-10.

2. *ibid.*, 1940-41.

3. Source: Office of the Settlement Commissioner and Ex-officio Director, Consolidation of Holdings, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

4. *The Administration Report of Jaisalmer State*, 1940-41.

5. Source: Office of the Settlement Officer, Jodhpur.

6. —do—

Tahsil Jaisalmer	7,770 sq. km. (3,000 sq. miles)
Tahsil Ramgarh	7,252 sq. km. (2,800 sq. miles)
Tahsil Sam	10,619 sq. km. (4,100 sq. miles)
Tahsil Fatehgarh	4,199 sq. km. (1,622 sq. miles)
Tahsil Nachna	3,884 sq. km. (1,500 sq. miles)

The area taken up for Summary Settlement in Jaisalmer covered 446 villages of which 230 were *khalsa* villages, 184 Jagir or non-*khalsa* and 32 *Mushtarka* (comprising both *Jagir* and *khalsa* land). Since the entire area was never surveyed before nor was any record of rights prepared or settlement operations conducted previously, the Summary Settlement may be regarded as a landmark in the history of revenue administration of Jaisalmer¹.

Obviously, Summary Settlement operations could not be as comprehensive as cadastral survey operations are supposed to be. During the course of this settlement no survey was conducted and no measurements taken. Soil classification was done on the basis of natural physical variations and figuration. Although village maps were not prepared, a record of rights was made².

The main tenures in the non-*khalsa* area were of Jagirdars, *Khatedars* and *Ghair-khatedars*. Among the Jagirdars there were further distinctions of Jagir proper, *Sasan*, *Bhomi-chara*, *Muafi* and *Pasyata* etc. There were no tenants of *Khud-Kasht*. In the *Khalsa* villages, there existed two kinds of tenure holders, *Khatedars* and *Ghair-Khatedars*.

SOIL CLASSIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT CIRCLES—Since Jaisalmer was a desert area as a whole, cultivation was very scanty and sparse. Only where natural depressions were found and water collected, *Rabi* cultivation was possible. Such places were called *khadeen* and are still called as such. On the basis of this peculiar situation still extant, only two soil classes, namely *Bajria* and *Khadeen* were made. In addition to these, soil was classified as *Chahi* and *Nehri*, where a few wells or irrigational facilities respectively existed. However, all the classes did not obtain in all the circles³.

1. Source : Office of the Settlement Officer, Jodhpur.

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid.*

The following soil classes and assessment circles were proposed and accepted under the Summary Settlement operations¹.

Tahsils	Assessment Circles	Soil Classes
1. Jaisalmer	<i>Magra I</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Khadeen</i> 3. <i>Chahi</i>
	<i>Magra II</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Khadeen</i>
	<i>Thal</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Khadeen</i>
2. Fatehgarh	<i>Magra</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Khadeen</i> 3. <i>Chahi</i>
	<i>Thal</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Khadeen</i>
3. Sam	<i>Magra</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Khadeen</i> 3. <i>Chahi</i>
	<i>Thal I</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Khadeen</i>
	<i>Thal II</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i>
4. Ramgarh	<i>Magra</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Khadeen</i> 3. <i>Chahi</i>
	<i>Thal</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i>
5. Nachna	<i>Magra</i>	1. <i>Bajria</i> 2. <i>Chahi</i>

RENT RATES—For the evolution of rates, a uniform system was followed in the five tahsils of Jaisalmer. The rates that were evolved were on the units of *Hal*, namely $5\frac{3}{4}$ *bighas* of the *Gantri* chain of 132 ft. Since the area under settlement was backward and cultivation was only nominal, the rates were kept very low. These are as follows for all tahsils².

1. Source: Office of the Settlement Officer, Jodhpur.

2. *ibid.*

Soil Class	Jaisalmer			Fatehgarh		Sam			Ramgarh		Nachna
	Magra I	Thal II	Thal	Magra	Thal	Magra	Thal I	Thal II	Magra	Thal	Tal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Chahi	20.00	-	-	10.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	20.00
Nehri	-	-	-	-	-	1.50	-	-	-	-	-
						1.25					
						2.75					
Khadeen	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.25	1.25	1.50	-	-	1.50	-	-
Bajria	0.50	0.20	0.12	0.20	0.15	0.50	-	0.10	0.50	0.10	0.16

The total proposed demand for these tahsils determined under the Summary Settlement was as under:¹

S. No.	Tahsil	Proposed demand (Rs.)
1.	Jaisalmer	70,545
2.	Fatehgarh	21,683
3.	Sam	12,101
4.	Ramgarh	6,338
5.	Nachna	8,606

Tahsil Magra (Kolayat) included in this tract at one time was later transferred to Bikaner district in 1954. Details about Summary Settlement of Magra (Kolayat) tahsil, therefore, have not been included. For the term of this settlement it was decided that until a regular settlement was done and rent rates proposed, the Summary Settlement would remain in force with effect from 1957.

Second Settlement of Jaisalmer district (excluding Tahsil Pokaran)

The Second Settlement which is still under progress in this district was started in September 1962 and the final report and Government approval thereon is awaited. The area covered under this settlement comprises

1. Source : Office of the Settlement Officer, Jodhpur.

tahsils Jaisalmer, Nachna, Ramgarh, Fatehgarh and Sam.¹ The soil of the area under settlement has been classified into *Chahi*, *Nehri*, *Khadeen I*, *Khadeen II*, *Barani I*, *Barani II* and *Banjad* etc. The rates evolved were based on the units of *Hal* namely $5\frac{1}{2}$ bighas of the chain of 132 ft. Rates were proposed on the basis of produce estimate method.

Settlement of Pokaran Tahsil, 1955

The area under tahsil Pokaran was added to Jaisalmer district in 1954. Settlement operations of this tahsil were undertaken in two instalments. In the first stage settlement of 50 non-*khalsa* villages was undertaken in October 1953 and sanction of the State Government on its rent rate report was issued in December 1955. Under this, the term of the settlement was fixed for the succeeding 20 years. Another settlement of 35 residual villages included in tahsil Pokaran was started in November 1953 and necessary sanction to its rent rate report by the State Government was issued in December 1957. The term of settlement for this tract was fixed for 18 years.

SETTLEMENT OF 50 NON-KHALSA VILLAGES—Prior to this settlement the area under consideration was never surveyed. Villages placed under this tract were sparsely populated. The limits of the tahsil Pokaran were so irregular that it was not possible to measure and arrive at a correct estimate about its extent. The important tenures prevalent at that time were *Jagir*, *Sasan*, *Bhomichara* and *Mustarka*. These villages covered an area of 3,124.7 sq.km. or 1206.60 sq. miles. The following table gives the details of villages tenurewise and the area thereof:¹

S.No.	Name of tenure	Number of villages	Area in	
			sq. miles	sq. km.
1.	<i>Jagir</i>	26	647.82	1677.7
2.	<i>Sasan</i>	12	132.77	343.8
3.	<i>Bhomichara</i>	10	368.38	954.0
4.	<i>Mustarka</i> (Jagir <i>Sasan</i>)	2	57.63	149.2
	Total:	50	1206.60	3124.7

1. Source; Office of the Settlement Officer, Jodhpur.

Pokaran tahsil at that time comprised 85 villages. Seventeen villages of former Shergarh tahsil and eighteen villages of erstwhile Jaisalmer State were included in this tahsil. These 34 villages were not included in the present settlement. Only 50 villages included in the tahsil out of Phalodi tahsil of Jodhpur district formed the area of the present settlement. The survey was done with the *Gantri* chain of 132 ft. This was the standard chain here.

SOIL CLASSES AND ASSESSMENT CIRCLES—The soil was mainly classified into *Chahi*, *Kachhar*, *Khadeen* and *Barani*. Three assessment circles were evolved viz., *Thal*, *Magra*, and *Tharda* for purposes of rent rates.

Rent rates were worked out by the produce estimate method. Accordingly, the following rent rates for various classes in each assessment circle were proposed and accepted:¹

S.No.	Soil Class	(Rupees/Annas/Pies).		
		Assessment Circles		
		<i>Thal</i>	<i>Magra</i>	<i>Tharda</i>
1.	Dry in <i>Jao</i>	-/4/-	-/4/-	-/4/-
2.	Fallow in <i>Jao</i>	-/2/-	-/2/-	-/2/-
3.	<i>Kachhar</i> I	1/4/-	1/4/-	1/4/-
4.	<i>Khadeen</i> I	-/7/-	-/7/-	-/7/-
5.	<i>Khadeen</i> II	-/3/6	-/3/6	-/3/6
6.	<i>Barani</i> I+	-/3/-	-/2/-	-/1/6
7.	„ I	-/2/3	-/1/6	-/1/
8.	„ II	-/1/9	-/1/-	-/-/9
9.	„ III	-/1/3	-/-/9	-/-/6
10.	„ IV	-/-/9	-/-/6	-/-/3
11.	<i>Chahi</i> <i>Alif</i>	4/-/-	4/-/-	4/-/-
12.	<i>Chahi</i> I	3/4/-	3/4/-	3/4/-
13.	„ II	2/8/-	2/8/-	2/8/-
14.	„ III	1/14/-	1/14/-	1/14/-
15.	„ IV	1/6/-	1/6/-	1/6/-
16.	„ V	1/-/-	1/-/-	1/-/-

1. Source: Office of the Settlement Officer, Jodhpur.

Settlement of 35 residual villages

The survey started in November 1955. Tahsil Pokaran was newly created in 1954. It consisted of 85 villages with an area of 2081 sq. miles or 5390 sq. km. 85 villages of the following tahsils were transferred to the new tahsil :

1. Tahsil Phalodi	50 villages
2. Tahsil Shergarh	17 villages
3. Tahsil Jaisalmer	18 villages
Total :	85 villages

Out of these villages, 50 villages transferred from Phalodi were already settled for 20 years. The rest of the 35 villages had an area of 2,364 sq. kms. or 874.24 sq. miles. The main tenures in the non-*khalsa* area were of *Khud-kasht* and *Khatedari*. Some of the *Khud-kasht* area had tenants also. In the *khalsa* area only two villages were included. Jagirdars themselves were *khatedars*. Some of them had their *khud-kasht* also. The length of the chain for measurement was kept as 132 ft.

ASSESSMENT AND SOIL CLASSIFICATION—The whole of the area was divided into three assessment circles, *Thal I*, *Tharda* and *Thal II*. There were only three soil classes, viz., *Chahi*, *Khadeen* and *Barani*. Soil classes were further sub-divided and *Barani I* was regarded as standard soil of 16 annas to judge the relative value of other soil classes.

RENT RATES—The circle rent rates of *Barani* soils were worked out by the produce estimate method. Fresh rates for *Chahi* and *Khadeen* soils were not evolved. Application of rent rates for *Chahi* and *Khadeen* soils sanctioned for 50 villages of Pokaran tahsil settled earlier was sanctioned for this area also. The rent rates were as follows¹ :

Soil Classes	(Rupees)		
	35 villages of Tahsil Pokaran		
	Circles		
	<i>Thal I</i>	<i>Thal II</i>	<i>Tharda</i>
<i>Chahi A</i>	—	—	—
<i>Chahi I</i>	—	—	3.25
<i>Chahi II</i>	—	—	2.50

1. Source : Office of the Settlement Officer, Jodhpur.

1	2	3	4
<i>Chahi</i> III	—	—	1.90
<i>Chahi</i> IV	—	—	1.40
<i>Chahi</i> V	—	—	1.00
<i>Khadeen</i> I	0.45	—	0.45
<i>Khadeen</i> II	0.20	—	0.20
<i>Barani</i> A	—	—	—
<i>Barani</i> I	0.14	0.06	0.08
<i>Barani</i> II	0.10	0.05	0.06
<i>Barani</i> III	0.20	0.03	0.04
<i>Barani</i> IV	0.05	0.15	0.02

The total demand proposed for 35 villages was Rs. 46,611. The term of settlement was fixed for 18 years from 1957 to keep in conformity with the settlement of another 50 villages of the same tahsil which was for 20 years with effect from 1955.

Second Settlement

The Second Settlement of tahsil Pokaran commenced in December 1966, which is still under progress and the final report is awaited. However, the soil of the area has been classified into *Chahi*, *Barani*, *Uptada*, *Kachahar* and *Khadeen* etc. These soils have been further sub-divided into a number of grades. The rates evolved are based on the units of *Hal* namely $5\frac{3}{4}$ *bighas* of the chain measuring 132 ft., and have been proposed on the basis of produce estimate method.

LAND REFORMS

At the time of implementation of the Rajasthan Land Reforms and Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1954, the number of *Khalsa*, *Mushtarka* and Jagir villages in each tahsil was as follows :

Name of tahsil	Total No. of villages	<i>Khalsa</i> villages	<i>Mushtarka</i> villages	Jagir villages
Jaisalmer	386	202	25	159
Pokaran	126	35	2	89

With the implementation of the Rajasthan Land Reforms and Resumption of Jagirs (Amendment) Act, 1954, Jagir villages were abolished and Jagirdars were paid compensation in various forms under the Act. After abolition of the Jagirdari system statutory rights were conferred on the tenants of Jagir villages. The amount of compensation paid to Jagirdars is shown below¹ :

Year	Total No. of Jagirs resumed	Compensation paid in Rupees			
		Interim compensation	In Bonds	In cash	Total of Bonds and cash
1954-55 to 1965-66	7,246	13,666	8,06,050	43,499	8,49,549

Bhoodan Movement

The Bhoodan Movement initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave aims at distributing agricultural land received as donation to landless labourers. In order to facilitate the movement, also called as *Bhoodan Yajna*, and to provide for the constitution of a Bhoodan Yajna Board, the donation of land to such a Board and the distribution of land received in donation to landless cultivators or for community purposes, the Rajasthan Bhoodan Yajna Act, 1954, came into force from 7th August, 1954.

The Rajasthan Bhoodan Yajna Board was constituted in 1954 to manage and supervise the Act of 1954. People could donate land for distribution to the landless. A landless person was defined as one holding no land or holding land less than 4 standard acres. The land collected was distributed to the landless persons at a general meeting of the villagers.

Till July 1968, 1,210 hectares of land was received in donation by the Rajasthan Bhoodan Yajna Board in Jaisalmer district out of which 121 hectares of land has since been distributed among 16 landless labourers. Donation of 60 hectares of land was withdrawn by the donors. 1029 hectares of land still remains to be distributed among landless labourers or for community purposes and matters ancillary thereto.

Consolidation of land holdings

Consolidation of holdings has never been undertaken in this area. Owing to agricultural backwardness and vastness of this sandy tract, fragmentation of land holdings has not posed a serious problem.

1. Source : Office of the Collector, Jaisalmer.

Agricultural labour

Since the district is backward in agriculture use of agricultural labour is very limited. Only those people who do not possess cattle or a plough can be termed as landless labourers. Moreover, this category of labour is not organised. Such labourers are employed by the cultivators to till their land. Upto 1947, agricultural labourer was paid Re. 1/- in cash as daily wages. This was supplemented by a little grain at the time of harvesting. Labourers are now (1968) paid both in cash and kind. The rate of payment at present is Rs. 3 to Rs. 3.50 per day with a daily meal slightly varying from tahsil to tahsil in the area. In 1961 Census the number of landless labourers was 350 (197 males and 153 females) including dependents.

Revenue Collection Agency

Before the abolition of the *lambardari* system from October 15, 1963, land revenue was collected by the *lambardars* and deposited in the treasury. Now the Patwari has been made responsible for collection of land revenue from the area (*Patwar Halka*) placed under his control. Guide lines for this work have been laid down in the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act, 1956. The Patwari being the basic revenue official receives assistance from a *Patel* (village headman) and other village functionaries. The main duties of the Patwari are: (1) to maintain the village accounts relating to demand, collection and arrears of land revenue etc. and the record of rights and all other revenue forms prescribed by the Government (2) inspect crops and boundary marks and prepare agricultural statistics and (3) write village books and other accounts, and do clerical works.

The work of the Patwari is supervised by a Land Revenue Inspector, the Tahsildar and the Sub-Divisional Officer. The office *Kanungo* looks after the work at the tahsil level. The *Sadar Kanungo* is the head of the land records section in the Collectorate. The District Revenue Accountant keeps all records pertaining to land revenue demand and collection.

The role of the Collector who is incharge of the land revenue administration in the district, and his sub-ordinates viz., Sub-Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars has been described in detail in the chapter, General Administration.

Revenue units

The number of Inspection Circles or *girdawar* and *Patwar Halkas* and their actual locations are given at Appendix I.

The following is the statement of institution and disposal of revenue cases in the district for the last nine years¹ :

(Number)					
Year	Previous balance	Instituted during the years	Total	Disposed during the year	Balance
1959-60	200	1,317	1,517	610	907
1960-61	916	1,062	1,978	756	1,222
1961-62	1,131	2,187	3,318	1,158	2,160
1962-63	2,160	11,735	13,895	5,462	8,433
1963-64	2,654	1,122	3,776	1,424	2,352
1964-65	55	18	73	7	66
1965-66	2,264	1,873	4,137	3,411	726
1966-67	725	2,660	3,385	2,073	1,312
1967-68	1,312	3,274	4,586	2,526	2,060

The above figures show that the revenue case work is gradually on an increase during the last eight years.

Income from Land Revenue

The following table shows the demand and collection of land revenue in the district in recent years²:

(Rs. in lakhs)				
Year	Demand (Arrears & Current)	Collection during the year	Remission/suspension during the year	Balance at the end of the years
1	2	3	4	5
1959-60	11.50	1.40	7.63	2.47
1960-61	11.85	0.41	—	11.44
1961-62	13.68	3.29	—	10.39

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, 1961 onwards.*
2. *ibid.*

1	2	3	4	5
1962-63	13.31	1.03	11.10	1.18
1963-64	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1964-65	13.95	0.70	12.94	0.31
1965-66	16.07	4.04	11.59	0.45
1966-67	16.33	0.07	—	16.26

A large amount of land revenue was either remitted or collection suspended owing to recurring famine and drought in the area.

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE

Past sources

Besides the land revenue, a number of taxes were levied by the former State of Jaisalmer. In the beginning of the 20th century other sources of income were customs, court fees, weighment tax, grazing tax on foreign cattle, house tax or *Salana lag*, salt duty, opium duty, excise and sale proceeds from bones and hides. Over and above these items, a few peculiar taxes or *lags*, namely *Desara lag* (temple tax), *Madarsa lag* or school tax, *Netra* or marriage presents from land owners, state employees and others were levied and realised by the State¹. The taxation system in the former Jaisalmer State was never on a scientific basis and no attempts were made to reform it. Only a few new sources of income such as duty on electricity, duty on match boxes, motor tax and licence fee for driving were later introduced in the State. At the time of integration of the State in 1949, some of the important taxes were customs, judicial fee, salt, excise, and grazing tax on foreign cattle etc. Besides the regular items of revenue, the State levied and realised some extraordinary taxes to meet the expenses of marriages of princes and princesses called *Netra* or marriage presents, *Tilara* or succession presents from each village.

Present sources

The administration of other sources of revenue, Central as well as State, is given below :

STATE SOURCES

STATE EXCISE—The following statement shows the income earned

1. Report on the Administration of the Jaisalmer State, 1904-05.
N.A.=Not available.

by the Excise Department for the last eight years. The income from State Excise gradually increased during this period¹.

(Rupees in thousand)	
Year	Amount
1960-61	26
1961-62	34
1962-63	30
1963-64	59
1964-65	78
1965-66	N.R.
1966-67	170
1967-68	201

COMMERCIAL TAXES—At present the Assistant Commercial Taxes Officer stationed at Jaisalmer deals with the realisation of Sales Tax, Rajasthan Passenger & Goods Tax, Entertainment Tax etc., imposed by the State Government from time to time. Out of all these taxes, Rajasthan Passenger and Goods Tax brings in a considerable amount of money to the State exchequer. In 1967-68, Rs. 2,87,668 were collected in the district from this tax.

There is no check post functioning in the district Jaisalmer.

The following statement shows the revenue obtained through the Department of Commercial Taxes from 1963-64 to 1967-68²:

(Rs. in thousand)			
Year	Entertainment Tax	Rajasthan Passenger and Goods Tax	Sales Tax
1963-64	4	105	80
1964-65	6	155	113
1965-66	3	143	77
1966-67	4	185	125
1967-68	7	288	176

N.R.=Not reported.

1. Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, 1962 onwards.
2. Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, 1965 onwards.

The above table shows that collection of revenue from all the items is gradually though slightly on an increase.

STAMPS—The Superintendent of Stamps, Rajasthan, controls the supply and sale of stamps in the State. In each district the Collector is the administrative head and holds general charge of the stamps department. The actual work is done by the stamp *karkun* under the supervision of the District Treasury Officer who is responsible for the maintenance of the stock of stamps, their distribution to tahsil depots and stamp vendors for sale to the public. In Jaisalmer, only one stamp vendor has been appointed by the Collector at the district headquarters.

The commission authorised to the stamp vendor on sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps has been fixed as follows :

Judicial	Rs. 1.55 per cent
Non-Judicial	Rs. 3.10 per cent

The yearwise figures of the sale of non-judicial and judicial stamps for the year 1960-61 to 1967-68 are given below:¹

Year	(Rupees)	
	Non-Judicial	Judicial
1960-61	15,882	7,264
1961-62	14,070	7,180
1962-63	16,436	10,472
1963-64	22,525	9,803
1964-65	19,253	9,168
1965-66	20,439	13,155
1966-67	29,034	8,894
1967-68	33,516	10,418

TRANSPORT REVENUE—At the district level the State Transport Department is represented by a Transport Sub-Inspector who is responsible for the registration of motor vehicles and the timely realization of taxes. He regularly tours to check if the transport rules and regulations are being

1. Source: The Office of the Treasury Officer, Jaisalmer.

observed by motor operators. The Collector in the district functions as the Registration Authority also.

The following table reveals the number of motor vehicles registered and the income derived from that source during the period 1955-56 to 1965-66¹ :

Year	No. of vehicles registered	Income from registration (Rs.)
1955-56	4	80
1956-57	10	92
1957-58	6	112
1958-59	12	229
1959-60	13	144
1960-61	12	144
1961-62	14	314
1962-63	13	148
1963-64	31	750
1964-65	15	201
1965-66	23	543

CENTRAL SOURCES

CUSTOMS—There is a preventive post of the Customs Department functioning in the district under the administrative control of the Assistant Collector, Customs Division, Jodhpur. From 1961-62 to 1967-68 an amount of Rs. 19,394 was collected as central revenue by this office.

INCOME TAX—For Income Tax purposes the district is included under the jurisdiction of the Income Tax Office, Jodhpur established in 1950. For administrative purpose, Income Tax Officers of B and E wards, Jodhpur are looking after the district.

Revenue collection figures on account of Income Tax, and Wealth Tax for the year 1966-67 and 1967-68 are given below²:

Year	Income Tax	Wealth Tax
1966-67	1,57,725	27,476
1967-68	2,05,942	38,796

1. Source: Collectorate, Jaisalmer.

2. Source: Office of the Treasury Officer, Jaisalmer.

APPENDIX I

List of Inspection Circles and Patwar Halkas, Jaisalmer¹

Sub-Division	Tahsil	Name of Inspection Circle	Name of <i>Patwar Halka</i>
1	2	3	4
1. Jaisalmer	Jaisalmer	1. Jaisalmer	1. Jaisalmer 2. Bhoo 3. Chandhan 4. Roopsi
		2. Mohangarh	1. Mohangarh 2. Kanodh 3. Nehdai 4. Deva
		3. Fatehgarh	1. Fatehgarh 2. Devikot 3. Rama 4. Deora 5. Lakha
	Sub-tahsil Ramgarh	4. Ramgarh	1. Ramgarh 2. Khuiyala 3. Langwala 4. Kishangarh 5. Tejpal
	Sub-tahsil Sam	5. Sam	1. Sam 2. Detha 3. Khuhri 4. Loonar 5. Miyazlar 6. Harnau 7. Shahgarh

1. Source: Collectorate, Jaisalmer.

1	2	3	4
2. Pokaran	Pokaran	6. Pokaran	1. Pokaran 2. Kelawa 3. Ram Deora 4. Loharki 5. Lathi 6. Chok 7. Sankra
		7. Bhaniyana	1. Bhaniyana 2. Madwa 3. Dantala 4. Ratdiya 5. Balar 6. Rajmathai 7. Bhesra 8. Phal Soond
	Sub-tahsil Nokh H.Q. (Nachna)	8. Nokh	1. Nokh 2. Tawariwala 3. Bharewala 4. Askanda 5. Nachna

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

INCIDENCE OF CRIME

The following table reveals the incidence of some of the important crimes in the district during recent years¹:

	(Number)								
Crime	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Dacoity	2	2	4	2	1	6	6	2	2
Robbery	4	5	15	16	10	13	17	6	7
Murder	3	3	9	5	5	4	6	5	2
Riot	—	4	5	—	4	3	10	5	5
Burglary	11	15	13	20	19	21	20	28	26
Cattle theft	31	18	20	44	33	63	47	38	45
Other theft	12	11	11	15	18	17	26	22	37
Miscellaneous									
I.P.C. Cases	62	36	45	46	62	100	73	76	73
Total	125	94	122	148	152	227	205	182	197

The important crimes reported in the Jaisalmer district are cattle theft, other theft, burglary and robbery. The table given above shows that the number of crimes has been gradually on the decrease for the last three years. During these years less number of crimes were reported than in 1965. During this period burglary, riots and other theft increased while the number of cases of robbery, dacoity and cattle theft was on the decrease. The trend towards increase in minor crimes can be attributed to a number of reasons.

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volume, 1961 and onwards.

In the first place the geographical position of this district helps the offenders in eluding the police. Jaisalmer is a border district having a long international border with Pakistan. It is easy for the criminals to commit crime in Jaisalmer and escape capture by crossing the border. Secondly, conditions are made difficult for the police by inadequate means of communication and transport. Thirdly, famine, which is more or less a regular feature of the district forces the poor, the unemployed and the scarcity affected people to take recourse to offences like smuggling, cattle lifting and robbery etc. Fourthly, a good number of people residing on the border somehow or other maintain regular communication with their fellow travellers on the other side of the border. Their criminal and anti-national activities are carried on with impunity because of the vast sandy terrain of Jaisalmer and absence of good means of communications and transport.

The table given below gives the details of property stolen and its recovery by the police¹:

Year	Property stolen during the year (Rs.)	Property recovered during the year (Rs.)	Percentage of recovery to property stolen
1960	3,89,315	3,42,791	88.1
1961	29,931	14,343	47.9
1962	64,805	34,965	53.9
1963	1,39,773	51,545	36.9
1964	36,934	23,742	64.3
1965	2,71,639	1,96,744	72.4
1966	2,02,790	93,050	45.9
1967	1,11,498	62,069	55.7
1968	1,57,308	1,24,694	79.3

Since Jaisalmer is a border district, cases of border offences and cattle theft are also reported. It is difficult to reveal the extent of the problem of smuggling as the border with Pakistan is long and many cases inevitably escape detection. The number of border offences and

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volumes, 1961 and onwards.

cases of cattle theft during the seven years from 1962 to 1968 are given below¹:

Year	Border offences	Cattle theft
1962	12	31
1963	13	58
1964	10	51
1965	35	80
1966	22	73
1967	14	39
1968	15	13

The above figures show an upward trend in crime except during the last two years.

ORGANISATION OF POLICE FORCE

Historical background

The former Jaisalmer State, because of meagre financial resources could not maintain an efficient department of police on modern lines. The protection of the State boundaries was entrusted to an infantry consisting of 651 men. It was observed by Major C.K.M. Walter in 1877 that this small force looked after the protection of law and order of the whole State². It was chiefly armed with the ordinary matchlock gun, sword, shield, and country spear, but had no regular drill or field training. The infantry was, however, very efficient and well suited to the local conditions of Jaisalmer. A good number of them were mounted on camels, the animal most commonly used as transport in the desert.

According to Erskine, there was no separate provision for a police force in the State³. A small army of all ranks performed police duties also. The police and military were not differentiated. The military was

1. Source: Office of the Superintendent of Police, Jaisalmer.
2. Major Walter, C. K. M., *Gazetteer, Marwar and Jaisalmer* (1877), p. 123.
3. Erskine, K. D., *Rajputana Gazetteers, The Western Rajputana States Residency and the Bikaner Residency*, Vol. III-A (1909), p. 35.

often required to perform the duties of the police and the police of the military, and both did other civil duties when required. The infantry in the town guarded the records, treasury, the *Darbar* palaces, and the citadel gates. The Cavalry did police work and also other civil work when required. In *Hakumats* (Administrative Districts) also they did combined duties. The military was under the control of three officers, two members of the council and different *Hakims* in the *Hakumats*. The cost was, therefore, distributed under three heads viz., Military, *Dakaiti* suppressions and *Hakumats*. The limited resources of the State did not permit the creation of a separate police force although the State had a large area and there were only a few to perform police duties.

The police posted in different *Hakumats* worked under the supervision of *Hakims* who performed both executive and police duties.

The following figures reveal that the strength of the State troops varied slightly from time to time but did not increase appreciably till 1940¹.

Year	Total strength of the State troops
1901-1902	372
1909-1910	346
1919-1920	392
1939-1940	548

In 1945 a separate Police Department was established for the first time in Jaisalmer. After the formation of Rajasthan in 1949, the Police administration of the district was placed under the Jodhpur range controlled by a Deputy Inspector General of Police, stationed at Jodhpur. The Superintendent of Police with headquarters at Jaisalmer was given charge of the Police Administration in the district. He was assisted by one Deputy Superintendent of Police and two Circle Inspectors. The Deputy Superintendent of Police and one Circle Inspector were stationed at Jaisalmer while one Circle Inspector was given charge of Pokaran circle which included the area covered by the then Pokaran and Nachna tahsils. In 1950, the district was divided into two police circles viz., Bap and

1. *Administration Reports of Jaisalmer State*, for various years.

Jaisalmer. Police circles were further sub-divided into six police stations and 15 police out-posts. The set up was as follows :

Police Circles	Police Stations	Out-posts
1. Bap	1. Mohangarh	1. Bap
	2. Nokha	2. Nachna 3. Rajitpura
2. Jaisalmer	3. Binjorai	4. Devikot 5. Lakha
		6. Dewa 7. Jaisalmer 8. Lathi
		9. Buili 10. Khulla 11. Kishangarh 12. Tanot
		13. Kasba 14. Miazlar 15. Shahgarh
	5. Ramgarh	
	6. Sam	

The total strength of the police force in the district was one Superintendent of Police, one Deputy Superintendent of Police, three Circle Inspectors, eight Sub-Inspectors, fifty head constables and two hundred and forty constables.

Present set up

Subject to the orders of the Government and the Inspector General of Police in their respective spheres of authority, the direction and regulation of the police throughout the district is vested in the Superintendent as the executive head of the force in the district. He has full control over the force under him including arms, drill, discipline and other matters of an executive nature. He functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jodhpur Range. He also works in close association and under general control of the District Magistrate. The police force in the district consists of two categories viz., Armed and Civil. The former goes into operation when dacoities and robberies are committed or a breach of peace is apprehended. The total strength of the

police force, both civil and armed, in 1968 included one Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent, three inspectors, 21 sub-inspectors, two assistant sub-inspectors, 75 head constables and 455 constables. The strength of the armed police (1968) consisted of one inspector (reserve), one reserve sub-inspector, 29 head constables and 126 constables. The staff of the civil police (1968) included one circle inspector, one prosecuting inspector, 20 sub-inspectors, 2 prosecuting sub-inspectors, 46 head constables and 329 constables.

The district for purposes of protection has been divided into two circles, namely, Jaisalmer and Pokaran. Jaisalmer circle comprises five police stations and Pokaran circle four police stations. Altogether there are 9 police stations and 19 out-posts in the district. The distribution of police circles, police stations and out-posts is as follows :¹

Circles	Police Stations	Out-posts
1. Jaisalmer	1. Jaisalmer	1. Jaisalmer Town 2. Deva
		3. Miajlar 4. Shahgarh 5. Khaba
	2. Sam	6. Khuijala 7. Tanot 8. Kishangarh 9. Buily (located at village Sadhana)
		10. Lakha 11. Devikot
	3. Ramgarh	
	4. Sangad	
	5. Mohangarh	
2. Pokaran	6. Pokaran	12. Pokaran Town 13. Lathi 14. Ramdeora 15. Chhayan 16. Bhaniyana
		17. Balad
	7. Phalsoond	18. Sanawara 19. Nokh
	8. Sankara	
	9. Nachna	

1. Source : Office of the Superintendent of Police, Jaisalmer.

Traffic Police

The Traffic Police in Jaisalmer district consists of one head constable and four constables who function under the control of the Superintendent of Police. Their main responsibility is to direct and control traffic according to Traffic Rules. This contingent of traffic police forms part of the civil police sanctioned for the district.

Challani Guard

There are two challani guards, one at Jaisalmer and the other at Pokaran. They escort under trials to and from the judicial courts. The staff at each guard consists of one head constable and a few constables.

Central Bureau of Investigation (Special Police Establishment Division), Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Personnel, Government of India.

The office at Jaipur is headed by a Superintendent whose jurisdiction extends over the whole of Rajasthan. There is no separate staff for Jaisalmer. Cases of Jaisalmer district are taken up by the staff posted at Jaipur. The establishment mainly deals with cases of bribery and corruption against the employees of Central Government. The Imports and Export Act, 1947; the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947; the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Defence of India Act, 1962, also fall under their purview.

Anti-corruption Organisation

An Anti-corruption organisation was established in Rajasthan in 1955. At the time of its inception it consisted of a few officers and subordinate staff. It was raised to the status of a full fledged department in 1957, and a common out post of Anti-corruption department covering the districts of Jaisalmer, Barmer, Sirohi, Jalor and Jodhpur was stationed at Jodhpur. The out post functions under a Deputy Superintendent of Police, who is assisted by one head constable, three constables and the necessary office staff. The Deputy Superintendent works under the supervision of an Additional Inspector General of Police, Anti-corruption headquartered at Jaipur. Between 1957-67, as many as 69 complaints were registered from Jaisalmer district. Out of these, 66 enquiries were completed. During this period six government servants were either convicted by the Courts or punished departmentally on charges of corruption. There are seven departmental enquiries against government servants pending with the various

departments for taking departmental action while one case is pending in court.

Border Security Force

Since Jaisalmer is a border district and a dacoit infested area even now, the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary had always been stationed in the district. However, no particular Rajasthan Armed Constabulary battalion was permanently located at Jaisalmer owing to inter-changeability in location according to administrative convenience and requirements. At least two battalions of the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary had always been posted in the district. In 1967 two battalions viz., the first and fourth were located in preventing border raids from neighbouring Pakistan and checking smuggling cases on the border. In 1968 the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary was replaced into Border Security Force and placed under the command of Deputy Inspector General, Police, Border Security Force, Jodhpur. Presently (1968) two battalions are posted in the district.

Civil Defence Unit

In 1962, at the time of Chinese aggression, when civil defence measures were introduced, a unit was established under the control of the District Magistrate. Training courses in civil defence were organised for the local people. Again in 1965-66, civil defence measures were activated after the out-break of hostilities between India and Pakistan. Accordingly training in the field of Fire-fighting, Rescue Operations, First-aid, Black-out and Warden services etc., was imparted to a number of government employees and citizens. Training to Home Guards was given by the staff of the Superintendent of Police, Jaisalmer. In addition, a control room and a Report Centre was set up in the Collectorate. These arrangements for Civil Defence and Home Guards were helpful in boosting the morale of the district population. Trained personnel were posted for keeping a watch over all the vulnerable places in the district.

RAILWAY POLICE

In the erstwhile Jaisalmer State, in the absence of railways there was no railway police. With the inclusion of Pokaran tahsil (formerly included in Jodhpur State) in Jaisalmer, Railway Police was posted in the district. Even then provision of a separate Railway Police Station in the area was not made because the railway tract was very small. Subsequently Jaisalmer was categorised as a circle for purposes of Railway Police. This circle was put under the charge of the Superintendent of Railway Police,

Rajasthan Circle, with headquarters at Ajmer. The following table gives the number of crimes handled by the Railway Police during 1959-68 :¹

Year	Theft in running train	Theft at station	Theft in goods yard	Misc. crimes	Total crimes
1959	1	1	1	—	3
1960	1	1	—	1	3
1961	1	1	—	—	2
1962	—	—	—	—	—
1963	1	—	—	—	1
1964	—	1	—	—	1
1965	—	—	—	—	—
1966	—	2	—	—	2
1967	3	1	—	1	5
1968	4	1	—	2	7
Total :	11	8	1	4	24

The distribution of these crimes station-wise is given in Appendix I.

JAIL ADMINISTRATION

Sub-Jail, Jaisalmer

According to the *Gazetteer of Jaisalmer*, by C.K.M. Walter, there was no regular Jail at Jaisalmer.² Prisoners were confined in the fort or in such places as the authorities chose to place them. Undertrials and convicts used to be kept in *Khodas* or wooden frames with holes in which the legs of the convicts were placed apart and made secure with pegs thrust in. This was a cruel but peculiar system of torture of keeping the inmates safe. It was also customary to let prisoners on bail even after convictions. Convicts were asked to do manual labour either in gardens maintained by the State or in other specified public places. Prisoners were confined in insanitary cells in the basement of the fort.

1. Source : Office of the Superintendent, Railway Police, Rajasthan, Ajmer.

2. Major Walter, C.K.M., *Gazetteer, Marwar and Mallani and Jeysulmere* (1877), p. 123.

A Jail on modern lines was first opened towards the close of the 19th century. An old building in the fort, although not originally meant for a prison, was altered and improved upon from time to time making it fairly comfortable as a jail. It was well ventilated and had accommodation for 88 persons. In 1894, the annual maintenance cost came to Rs. 2,500.

Besides the Jail in the capital, there were 15 to 17 Lock-ups which were constructed from time to time from 1900 to 1949 at the head quarters of each of the *Hakumats* or Districts. The Central Jail was under the supervision of the Judge, *Sadar Adalat* and District Lock-ups were placed under the supervision of the respective *Hakims* (District Officials). The sanitary arrangements were looked after by the Chief Medical Officer of the then Jaisalmer State who also attended on cases of illness in the Jail.

After the integration of Jaisalmer in Rajasthan in 1949, the inhuman system of keeping prisoners in *Khodas* was discontinued. The Jaisalmer Jail at the district headquarters was re-organised and it was accorded the status of a District Jail D Class. In 1954, it was made a sub-jail (third class) in which category it still functions. In 1966 the staff of Jaisalmer Sub-Jail consisted of an Assistant Jailor, one head warder and six warders. The Jail building located in the fort at Jaisalmer can accommodate 30 prisoners at a time. Female prisoners are housed in a separate ward of the Jail. Only undertrials and those sentenced upto one month's imprisonment are housed in the sub-jail. Those convicted for longer terms of imprisonment are sent to the District Jail Jodhpur. The Sub-Jail has been placed under the supervision of the District Magistrate and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jaisalmer. Prison discipline is maintained in accordance with the Jail regulations and orders issued by the Inspector General of Prisons, Rajasthan, Jaipur. No instance of disorderly behaviour by the prisoners has been reported in recent years.

WELFARE OF PRISONERS—Medical services to the prisoners are rendered by a part-time doctor and a compounder who visit the Sub-Jail at regular intervals. Newspapers are supplied for the use of literate prisoners. Cinema shows exhibiting feature films are arranged by the Public Relations Officer, Jaisalmer. There is no provision for vocational training to the inmates.

The Jail population year-wise of prisoners for the years 1960 to 1968 is given below :

Year	All types of prisoners admitted during the year (No)	Daily average population
1960	66	11
1961	58	13
1962	66	13
1963	84	21
1964	63	7
1965	102	12
1966	116	16
1967	112	17
1968	178	17

Sub-Jail Pokaran

Pokaran Sub-Jail was established in 1957 and categorised as a class III sub-jail from the day of its functioning. Only undertrials and those sentenced upto one month imprisonment are kept in this sub-jail. Those sentenced for longer terms of imprisonment are sent to Jodhpur Central Jail. In 1966, the staff of the Jail consisted of an Assistant Jailor, a head-warder and six warders. The Assistant Jailor functions directly under the control of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pokaran.

The Sub-Jail is housed in the premises of the court of Pokaran. It can accommodate ten males and five females at a time. Female prisoners are housed in a separate ward of the Jail. The Jail can comfortably accommodate the prisoners. Prison discipline is maintained in accordance with the regulations of the Jail and instructions issued by the Inspector General of Prisons, Rajasthan. Prisoners are reported to be well behaved and no instance of disorderly behaviour has been reported in recent years.

1. Source : Office of the Inspector General, Prisons, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

WELFARE OF PRISONERS—Medical facilities have been provided to the prisoners through the services of a part-time doctor and a compounder who attends to the inmates at regular intervals. Relatives are permitted to visit the prisoners according to rules. A board of visitors is also constituted from time to time by the State Government which makes periodical visits. It carries complaints to the concerned authorities and also suggests remedies for reformation. No facilities for vocational training or cottage industry are available in this sub-jail.

The Jail population year-wise together with daily average population of prisoners for the years 1960 to 1968, is detailed below¹:

Year	All types of prisoners admitted during the year	Daily average population
1960	61	6
1961	54	4.50
1962	27	3
1963	64	3
1964	91	6
1965	71	6.6
1966	63	6
1967	74	5
1968	77	8

JUDICIARY

Historical sketch

In the erstwhile Jaisalmer State a judicial system on modern lines was never introduced. There was neither any written law nor any system of properly constituted courts of justice. Major C.K.M. Walter in his *Gazetteer of Marwar and Mallani and Jeysulmere* in 1877, describes the method of justice dispensed in this tract. He says, "There was only one civil court at Jeysulmere. Criminal cases were disposed of by the *Dewan* or Prime Minister at the capital and in the interior by the *Hakims* or head of the district. Final appeals were referred to the Maharawal (Ruler of the State) who alone had the power of the life and death".

1. Source : Office of the Inspector General, Prisons, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Between the years 1900-1910 some reforms in the judicial system were effected. The lowest courts were those of *Hakims* who combined in them the executive and judicial powers. Appeals against the decisions of these courts were made to *Sadar Adalat* in both civil and criminal matters. Above the *Sadar Adalat* was the court of the Prime Minister who heard appeals against the decisions of all subordinate courts. In later years the Prime Ministers' court came to be called the Chief Court or *Mahakma Khas* and became the highest judicial court in the state.

Besides, there functioned a system of Panchayats in the state. A Panchayat usually consisted of three or more members appointed by the concerned parties. Appeals against their decisions could be made to the *Hakims* and *Sadar Adalat*.

The above set up continued upto 1940 when a Sessions Court and a Chief Civil Court were also established. The Sessions Court and the Chief Civil Court were empowered to hear appeals against the decisions of the *Sadar Adalat*. This Judicial pattern continued till the integration of the State in 1949, when the administrative units were reorganised and the State became a district.

After the formation of Rajasthan, some important changes were brought about in the judicial set up of the district. A court presided by one Civil and Additional Sessions Judge was located at Jaisalmer town. Two courts of *Munsifs* at Jaisalmer and Bap were also established. Due to the merger of Jaisalmer district into Jodhpur in February, 1953 as a measure of administrative economy, these courts were abolished and in their places a court of Assistant Civil and Sessions Judge was established. The Assistant Civil and Sessions Judge's Court continued to function upto 1957. This was then the only court of Civil jurisdiction in the area. In 1957, the status of this court was raised to that of a Civil Judge's Court. In 1960, this too was abolished and a *Munsifs* court which still functions, was established.

The territorial jurisdiction of the Munsif's court now extends over the entire area covered by the district. The *Munsif* Magistrate is empowered to hear cases, both civil and criminal. His pecuniary jurisdiction in civil cases extends upto the valuation of Rs. 5,000. He exercises powers of a judge Small Causes Court upto the valuation of Rs. 100. He also exercises powers of Debt Relief Court upto the valuation of Rs. 5,000. The Munsif Magistrate functions under the control of the District and Sessions Judge, Jodhpur.

The subordinate staff attached to the court consists of a clerk and a few class four employees.

A statement showing institution and disposal of criminal cases in the district during the years 1958-59 to 1967-68 appears in Appendix II.

So far as the criminal and revenue courts are concerned the Collector Jaisalmer as District Magistrate is subordinate in criminal matters to the District and Sessions Judge, Jodhpur, but is at the apex of the district revenue courts. Below the District Magistrate in both criminal and revenue matters are the Sub-Divisional Magistrate/Officers at Jaisalmer and Pokaran. Both the officers enjoy first class magisterial powers. Below the Sub-Divisional Magistrates/Officers are the courts of tahsildars who are vested with second class or third class magisterial powers.

Legal Profession

There are two Bar Associations in the district at Jaisalmer and Pokaran but they are neither well organised nor active. The Jaisalmer Bar Association was established in 1954 with an initial membership of eight legal practitioners. In 1966, the membership was ten.

The Bar Association at Pokaran was established in 1954. In 1968 it had five legal practitioners on its roll.

Nyaya Panchayats

As a result of Democratic Decentralisation in Rajasthan in 1959, Nyaya Panchayats have been established. There are 17 Nyaya Panchayats functioning in the district. They are vested with certain judicial powers, both civil and criminal. They can try minor civil and criminal cases. Civil suits upto Rs. 250 in valuation can be tried by them. The constitution, powers and functions of Nyaya Panchayats, have been described in the chapter on Local Self-Government.

APPENDIX I

Statement of crimes which include theft in running trains, theft at stations, at goods yards and miscellaneous crimes (1959-68)¹

(No.)											
Name of station	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	Total
Ashapura Gomat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bithai	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jaisalmer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
M. Khura	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pokaran	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	3	3	13
Ramdeora	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4
Total :	3	3	2	—	1	1	—	2	5	7	24

APPENDIX II

Criminal Cases in Jaisalmer District ²

(No.)					
Year	Previous Balance	Instituted during the year	Total	Disposed of during the year	Balance
1958-59	81	385	466	350	116
1959-60	116	250	366	253	113
1960-61	149	383	532	345	107
1961-62	160	320	480	305	175
1962-63	175	1,143	1,318	822	496
1963-64	158	418	576	412	164
1964-65	164	515	679	487	192
1965-66	226	481	707	474	233
1966-67	233	445	678	419	259
1967-68	259	627	886	380	506

1. Source : Office of the Superintendent, Railway Police, Ajmer.
2. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volumes, 1960 and onwards.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

In this chapter are described other departments functioning in the district which have not been dealt with in other chapters.

STATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Public Works Department

The office of the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads which was set up in the district in 1956, is headed by an Assistant Engineer. His office is located at Jaisalmer. He is under the administrative control of the Executive Engineer, West Division, Jodhpur. There are three overseers, one work charge *mistri*, a few mates and other subordinate office staff working under him. This department looks after the construction and maintenance of government buildings and roads in the district. Some of the more important construction works undertaken in the recent years are office buildings of Police Stations, office and residential buildings of Police Lines at Jaisalmer, Dak Bungalows at Jaisalmer and Pokaran, and office buildings of tahsil headquarters.

Construction work of godowns and residential quarters at Jetha and Chandhan, where tube-wells have been drilled was completed in 1966-67. Since the establishment of this office nearly 193 km. and 257 km. of bituminised and gravelled roads respectively have been constructed. In 1968, a water reservoir at Chandhan was also constructed for Animal Husbandry Department.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, No. 7

This office, set up in 1966 with headquarters at Pokaran, is responsible for constructing border roads and buildings. The office is headed by an Executive Engineer who is assisted by four Assistant Engineers, two overseers and other office staff. It comes under the Jodhpur Project Circle and is controlled by the Superintending Engineer (Projects), Jodhpur.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, No. 8

This is another office established in 1966 to gear up the construction work of roads. It is headed by an Executive Engineer stationed at Jaisalmer. He functions under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Projects, Jodhpur. Besides the Executive Engineer, the staff of this office consists of four Assistant Engineers, 16 Engineering Subordinates, one Junior draftsman, two computers and other ministerial staff.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, No. 9

This office headed by an Executive Engineer, is responsible for construction of roads in Jaisalmer. It was started and stationed at Jaisalmer in 1966 under the control of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Projects, Jodhpur. The strength of the staff of this Project Division consists of one Assistant Engineer, two Junior Engineers, four overseers and a few technical subordinate staff.

Public Health Engineering Department

In 1961, the Public Health Engineering Department of Rajasthan was entrusted with the task of controlling the drinking water supply scheme of Jaisalmer town. The office of the Assistant Engineer, Tube-well Sub-Division, Public Health Engineering Department was established in 1965 at Jaisalmer to execute water supply scheme of Jaisalmer. The office was also entrusted with the task of execution of civil works and installation of machinery for tube-wells in the district. The water supply scheme for Jaisalmer town was completed in 1964-65. The expenditure incurred on commissioning Jaisalmer Water Supply Scheme was Rs. 11.96 lakhs.

This office is in the charge of an Assistant Engineer who is assisted by four Engineering Subordinates and some ministerial staff. The immediate controlling authority is the Executive Engineer, Tube Well Division-I Jodhpur, who, in turn, functions under the Superintending Engineer, Planning (Health), Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Office of the Rajasthan State Electricity Board, Jaisalmer

A Junior Engineer assisted by one foreman, one fitter and a few field workers represents the State Electricity Board at Jaisalmer. He is responsible for the regular supply and distribution of electricity for domestic,

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

industrial and water works purposes of Jaisalmer town. The Junior Engineer functions under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Jodhpur Circle, Jodhpur.

The revenue collected on account of electricity charges during the period 1964 to 1966 by the office of the Junior Engineer was as under:

1964-65	Rs. 1,03,654
1965-66	Rs. 1,36,281

Agriculture Department

Since the district is in the arid zone of Rajasthan, there is very little scope for agricultural development. No separate district level office of the Agriculture Department has been set up in the area. The district falls under the jurisdiction of the District Agriculture Officer, Jodhpur. One agriculture assistant, one farm manager, four tractor drivers and a few manual labourers work at the Government Agriculture Farm, Jetha. This staff forms part of the strength of the staff of district agriculture office.

The various activities of the Agriculture Department in the district have already been described in detail in chapter on Agriculture and Irrigation.

District Animal Husbandry Office

The Animal Husbandry Department at the district level is under the District Animal Husbandry Officer with his headquarters at Jaisalmer. His controlling officer is the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Jodhpur Range, Bikaner. He, in his turn, is controlled by the Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

The district is provided with three veterinary hospitals at Jaisalmer, Pokaran and Ramgarh, one up-graded veterinary dispensary at Bhaniyana, one veterinary dispensary for Border Security Force Camels, one dispensary at Nachana and one Mobile Veterinary Unit with headquarters at Jaisalmer. Each Veterinary Hospital/Dispensary is put in the charge of a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. One compounder and one stock man are also provided in a hospital. Mobile Veterinary Unit functions under the charge of a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. There are six stockmen attached to this unit.

The district office undertakes manifold activities in order to improve the breed of livestock. Some preventive measures for checking animal diseases are undertaken from time to time. The department gives loans and advances money for opening Cattle Breeding Farms, Dairy Farming, Poultry Farms etc. Technical assistance to the field staff of Panchayat Samitis and livestock farmers in the district is provided by the department¹.

Forest Department

Since the district is a desert area and there is no forest worth the name, no separate unit of the Forest Department has been set up. The district is looked after by the Divisional Forest Officer, stationed at Jodhpur. The staff sanctioned for Jaisalmer district consists of one forester and five forest guards. They are responsible for forest conservancy, raising nurseries, road side plantation, supply of plants to villagers and management of forest area which is practically non-existent in the district.

The department has fenced 607 hectares of grazing land and Karah Jor Paddocks during the year 1968. One nursery is maintained near Chandhan village which covers an area of 1.2 hectares. Road side plantations carried along Pokaran-Jaisalmer road could not succeed because of severe frost and drought conditions.

District Sheep and Wool Department

The office, set up in 1953 and located at the district headquarters, is headed by a District Sheep and Wool Officer who works under the administrative control of the Director, Sheep and Wool Department, Rajasthan, Jaipur. The district officer is assisted by one Assistant District Sheep and Wool Officer, one accounts clerk, two lower division clerks, one driver and two class four employees. Among the field staff are included 14 Extension Officers/Supervisors, 28 stock assistants, eight master shearers, eight camel sowars, 28 shepherds, and fourteen clerks.

The district office maintains extension-cum-shearing centres, one each of Lathi and Bhaniyana.

The main object of the department is to improve breeding of sheep flocks. It undertakes regular research and training programmes. The

1. For other details of work done by this office see chapter on Agriculture and Irrigation.

detailed description of the various activities carried on by the department is available in the chapter Agriculture and Irrigation.

Co-operative Department

The Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies stationed at Jaisalmer represents the Co-operative Department at the district level. He works under the administrative control of the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Jaipur. The Assistant Registrar is assisted in discharge of his official responsibilities by a few inspectors both executive and audit, a few assistant inspectors, some village level workers and the usual complement of ministerial staff. The details of administrative set up and strength of the staff has already been covered in the chapter, Banking Trade and Commerce.

The administration of all the co-operative institutions in this district is being controlled and co-ordinated by the Assistant Registrar under the Rajasthan Co-operative Act, 1965. He is responsible for the registration, organisation, cancellation of co-operative societies, inspection of and enquiries into the affairs of the co-operative societies. He is also empowered to deal with the arbitration, suppression, imposition of surcharge, and the liquidation cases of the co-operative societies. The Assistant Registrar recovers loans advanced to co-operative societies and controls the activities of money-lenders in accordance with the provisions of the Rajasthan Money Lenders Act, 1963. He functions as Registrar to Money Lenders. His over-all responsibility is to promote the idea of co-operation and to bring within its fold as many families in the area as possible for the general good of the people.

The Assistant Registrar also exercises operational control over the credit facilities extended by the Rural Co-operative Bank in the area. As a district level officer, he attends the meetings of Panchayat Samitis and the Zila Parishad. He tours the entire district regularly in order to implement the policies of the Co-operative Department. A detailed account of co-operative societies and their activities is given elsewhere.

Labour Department

A Labour Inspector stationed at Jodhpur is in charge of the district in addition to his other duties. He functions under the control of the Assistant Regional Labour Commissioner, Jodhpur. The Inspector is

responsible for enforcing in the district labour laws applicable to Rajasthan. Besides this, he functions as a conciliation officer for this area as and when he is required to conciliate industrial disputes, if any.

For purposes of workmen's compensation the Regional Assistant Labour Commissioner, Jodhpur holds the court of Workmen's Compensation Commissioner for Jaisalmer district. He also exercises his jurisdiction over the area through the Labour Inspector under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, and the Motor Transport Workers' Act, 1961.

Irrigation Department

There is no separate establishment of the Irrigation Department in Jaisalmer district and it falls under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Engineer, Irrigation Sub-Division, Jodhpur. The Assistant Engineer, conducts survey of original works, executes and repairs existing works. He also carries out restoration and repairs to tanks or *Khadcons* in the area. There are no other irrigation projects in the area.

Social Welfare Department

Prior to 1966, when a District Social Welfare Office was set up in Jaisalmer district, the District Social Welfare Officer, Barmer, used to be incharge of Jaisalmer district also. The District Probation-cum-Social Welfare Officer, stationed at Jaisalmer heads district office and functions under the administrative control of the Director, Social Welfare Department, Rajasthan, Jaipur. The district officer works for the uplift and advancement of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes through the social welfare projects undertaken from time to time. He looks into the grievances and complaints of the backward classes and tries to remove them by bringing them to the notice of various government departments and non-official agencies. The Department runs five backward classes hostels in the district, four of them for Scheduled Castes and one for Scheduled Tribes. The various activities and achievements of the Social Welfare Department are detailed in the chapter, Other Social Services.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Field Publicity Office

This office has been started in the district to give publicity to the developmental activities under the Five Year Plans. It maintains co-ordi-

nation between the State and Central Government information agencies. During the period 1966-67 and 1967-68, it also organised public meetings (628), discussions groups (628), Seminars (16), Symposia (16), Dramas (52), Film shows (635), cultural programmes, folk songs and dances etc., to enlighten the people about the developmental activities and social welfare measures of the Government. In addition to these activities, this office provides entertainment to military personnel posted on the border through feature films, dramas and puppet shows etc.

The staff of this office consists of a Field Publicity Officer, one Publicity Officer, one Project operator and a few clerks. The unit functions under the administrative control of the Regional Officer, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India, Jaipur.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Division No. 1

This office, which started functioning at Jaisalmer in 1967, was headed by an Executive Engineer who functioned under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Jodhpur, Central Circle, Central Public Works Department, Jodhpur. The Executive Engineer was assisted in his work by four Assistant Engineers and the usual office complement. This office was responsible for the construction of buildings for the Central Government Departments. In 1968, this division was amalgamated with Central Division, Jodhpur.

Central Excise Department

There is no regular unit or establishment in Jaisalmer for Central Excise purposes. The Administration of Central Excise in the district is done by the Superintendent Central Excise, Jodhpur. His enforcement staff visits the area and collects excise duty levied by the Government.

Office of the Incharge, Regional Border Development Office, Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Established under the *Khadi* and Village Industries Commission Act 1956, the *Khadi* and Village Industries Commission, a semi-official body of the Government of India, maintains a Regional Border Development office at the district headquarters. The Regional Office is headed by an officer-in-charge and manned by one Assistant Superintendent, one Economic Investigator, one Assistant Area Organiser, one Secretary, Fibre

and a few office clerks. Among the technical staff are included a tanner and a fibre supervisor. This office provides gainful employment opportunities to un-employed and under-employed people by introducing *Khadi* and Village Industries Schemes, thus enabling the harnessing of local resources and utilisation of idle manpower of border area. It also helps in sustaining the morale of the masses by creating a sense of community consciousness.

The activities of this office are detailed in the chapter, Industries.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

HISTORY OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Before 1939, there were no separate bodies like Municipal Boards to look after the urban areas in the former Jaisalmer State. The water supply and sanitation in the capital was arranged by the local officials of the State. They were responsible to ensure regular drinking water supply from wells and to see that water was not contaminated. The accurate registration of births and deaths was supervised by the *Mahkama Khas* (Secretariat). The first municipal institution was established in Jaisalmer in 1941.¹ It remained the only municipality till 1955 when, as a measure of administrative convenience, Pokaran, a town in Jodhpur district was transferred to Jaisalmer district. Formerly Pokaran was a town in the then Jodhpur State and it was placed under the jurisdiction of Jodhpur district after integration in 1949. In Pokaran, prior to the year 1933, there were no regular sanitary arrangements or other civic amenities provided by a municipality. In 1934-35, the Pokaran *Thikana* was authorised by the Jodhpur State to levy and realise a tax at the rate of six pies per maund on all the goods imported into this town.² The receipts of this tax were utilised by the *Thikana* for sanitation purposes. In 1934-35, the *Thakur* of Pokaran constituted a Municipal Board at his own initiative pending approval by the Jodhpur State. The constitution of the Municipal Board at Pokaran by the *Thikana* was, however, recognised by the former Jodhpur Government in 1945.³

MUNICIPAL BOARDS

Jaisalmer Municipal Board

A Municipal Board at Jaisalmer was established in 1941. It started with 14 official and non-official members, all nominated, with the *Dewan*

1. Source : Office of the Municipal Board, Jaisalmer.
2. Source : Office of the Municipal Board, Pokaran.
3. *ibid.*

(Chief Minister) of the State as the President. There was no Municipal law to regulate the affairs of the newly constituted body. The administrative orders regulated its affairs. In the beginning the municipality was entrusted with the responsibility of supervision and control of sanitation and street lighting in the municipal area.

In 1948, after Independence, the municipality was re-organised by the then State Government. The town of Jaisalmer was divided into nine wards. Each ward was to be represented in the municipality by an elected member. The municipality consisted of eleven members, nine elected and two nominated. The executive work was carried on by the Secretary who was a paid employee of the municipality. Since there were no municipal laws, the powers of the President and Secretary remained undefined. Now, according to the Rajasthan Town Municipal Act 1959, the municipalities are under the administrative control of the Director, Local Bodies, Rajasthan.

PRESENT ORGANISATION—There are twelve municipal councillors, ten elected and two women co-opted by the elected members. The town is divided into nine wards of which one is a double member ward, a seat being reserved for a member belonging to Scheduled Castes. Elections to the Municipal Board are held on the basis of adult franchise. Voting is by secret ballot.

According to the Municipal Act, 1959, the term of office of the members is three years which can be extended by the State Government by a notification. Elections to the present Municipal Board were last held in the year 1966.

The staff of the Municipal Board consists of an Executive Officer, an assistant revenue inspector, an assistant sanitary inspector, a draftsman-cum-surveyor, two *nakedars* four *sub-nakedars* and four *naka* guards (gate keepers). There is, in addition, the necessary complement of ministerial and class IV staff. A part-time legal advisor is also employed by the municipality.

The various activities of the Municipal Board are described below :

LIGHTING—There are 434 electric light points in the town. These are fitted with 40 watt bulbs. The expenditure on lighting is borne by the Municipality. The lighting staff of the committee consists of an electric

lineman and a few helpers. An amount of Rs. 0.88 lakh has been spent on electric installations during the last ten years. In the year 1967-68, an amount of Rs. 13,390 was incurred on lighting arrangements in the town.

WATER SUPPLY—A water-works has been constructed at Dabla by the State Government by drilling a tube well. There are 45 public hydrants at important places. Dabla tube well project and attached water works which supply drinking water to Jaisalmer town are being run by the State Government. The Municipal Board has paid Rs. 21,654 as charges for water supply during the last four years. Formerly, the problem of drinking water was very acute in the town but with the construction of Dabla water works, it has been solved to a considerable extent. A water hut in the town is run by the municipality. In 1967-68 an amount of Rs. 3,426 was spent as water charges paid to the Water Works Department at the rate of Rs. 0.34 paise per thousand litres of water consumed.

SANITATION—The Municipal Board has one tractor and a few carts for carting off the sullage from the town. The staff employed for sanitation consists of 36 sweepers. The public urinals, public and private latrines are cleaned by the sweepers. They are paid by the municipality for cleaning the public latrines and urinals and by individuals for their work in private houses. The municipal roads and lanes are also swept everyday.

CONSTRUCTION—Construction and maintenance of roads running through the town is under the charge of the municipality. The main street is paved with stone slabs. One road starting from Devchandreswar Temple to Talaria and 1,470 ft. in length has recently been constructed for easy and quick running of vehicles. The building in which the municipality is presently housed was constructed in 1962 out of its own fund. Rs. 33,000 were spent on its construction. A number of other important buildings are under construction in the town by the Public Works Department of the State Government.

The *Nazul* land available within the municipal limits is sold at approved rates by the *Nazul* Land Committee. The survey and planning of *Nazul* land is under progress. Plots of land for constructing residential houses are also auctioned by the municipality to the public. In the year 1967-68, an amount of Rs. 20,548 was received through sale of *Nazul* land.

LATRINES—The Municipal Board has constructed latrines and urinals for public use at many places in the town. These are regularly cleaned by the sanitation staff of the committee.

DRAINAGE—A proper drainage system does not exist in the town. Recently some new drains have been constructed and old ones repaired. But water hardly flows out as the system is clogged and dilapidated, with the result that the dirty water stagnates and fills the air with stink.

OTHER ACTIVITIES—The Board maintains a Park in the city known as Nehru Balodyan.

Deaths and births are also registered by the Municipal Board. These are reported to the office of the Municipal Board by sweepers as ward *jamadars*.

During epidemics the municipality works in co-ordination with the medical and health authorities of the State in the prevention and cure of diseases.

The municipality is also responsible for protecting the water of Gadisar tank near the city, which is used for drinking water purposes, from contamination.

The municipality has earmarked a place out side the town for cremation and tanning the dead animals.

Arrangements for lighting the *Harijan* (sweepers) colony have been made out of the funds received from the Social Welfare Department for the purpose.

TAXES—The Board levies octroi duty on the import of a variety of goods. The current list of taxable goods includes commodities which are broadly classified as edible including grains, sugar, oils, condiments, spices, confectionary, butter and *ghee* etc., inflammable articles like kerosene, coal, fuel, wood, petrol; construction material, chemicals, medicine, toilet articles, perfumery, textiles, rubber goods, metal and metallic goods, machinery, crockery and intoxicants etc. Octroi duty is the largest single source of income to the municipality. Other important sources of income are taxes on house and land.

The annual tax yield for the last five years is shown below¹:

Year	Income from taxes(Rs.)
1963-64	59,450
1964-65	68,674
1965-66	63,404
1966-67	1,12,431
1967-68	1,57,891

FINANCIAL POSITION—A statement showing the income and expenditure of the Municipal Board for the period 1955-56 to 1967-68 is given in Appendix I.

The growth in the functions of the Municipal Board since the passing of the Town Municipalities Act in 1959 is reflected in the increased income and expenditure.

In order to give some idea of general pattern of income and expenditure of the municipality, some details about the estimated income and proposed expenditure during the year 1967-68 are given in Appendix II.

ACHIEVEMENTS—In the absence of well defined powers and duties the Municipal Board had very limited functions to discharge in the earlier period of its establishment. Later and particularly since 1959, there has been a considerable increase in the scope of activities of the municipality and it has been able to undertake various development activities, like those mentioned above. The financial position of the municipality has been sound till now and it is almost possible for it to meet the expenditure out of its own resources.

Municipal Board, Pokaran

In 1945, the Board consisted of ten nominated members, out of whom five members were nominated by the *Thikana* and the rest by the Jodhpur State. The *Thikana* also nominated the President of the Board. This system was in force till 1947 when an elected member took over

1. Source: Office of the Municipal Board, Jaisalmer.

as President of the Board. In 1951, elections were introduced for the first time and eight members were elected on the basis of adult franchise. The Board was placed under the provisions of Rajasthan Town Municipal Act, 1951. The jurisdiction of the board was defined by the State Government in 1955. The main functions of the board at that time were to keep the town neat and clean, and to provide street lighting.

PRESENT ORGANISATION—The town is divided into eight single member and one double member wards with a seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the later. The Board has twelve members out of whom ten are elected and two co-opted. The last municipal elections were held in 1963. The Municipal Board at present functions under the provisions of the Rajasthan Town Municipalities Act, 1959, and its jurisdiction and limitations have been defined under the Rajasthan Municipal Boards' Validating Act, 1956.

The Municipal Board has various sections, details of which are as follows:

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTS—This section consists of one Secretary, one head clerk-cum-accountant, one cashier, one accounts clerk and two class iv employees.

REVENUE AND TAX COLLECTION—This section comprises three tax collectors, five *naib-nakadars* and four *Chowkidars* or gate-keepers at the octroi post.

EDUCATION—The staff of this section consists of three teachers who work on the staff of Harijan School run by the Municipal Board. In 1967-68, Rs. 4,758 were spent by the Board on education.

PUBLIC WORKS—The section is staffed by one gardner, one watchman of cattle pond and one peon.

SANITATION—The section comprises one sanitation supervisor and 20 sweepers (12 males and 8 females).

The main functions of the Board at present are:

SANITATION—There is no underground drainage system in the town. Although the town is quite old, it has recently been provided with a water works. Hence the construction of drains on a large scale has become necessary. There are three bullock carts and five hand trollies which

are utilised for collection and removal of refuse from the streets of the town. There is no provision to prepare compost out of the refuse collected. In all 20 sweepers are employed to clean the streets. They are also provided with phenyl and other disinfectants for use in municipal drains.

LIGHTING—The Municipal Board does not own a power-house but provides street lighting by obtaining electricity from the Rajasthan State Electricity Board. The Municipality has provided 15 fluorescent tubes and three lamps in the main market and 184 electric lamps and brackets for street lighting at a cost of Rs. 9,000 per annum. Kerosene lamps and lanterns have also been provided in those localities where electricity has not yet been made available.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS—Construction and maintenance of roads in the town is the responsibility of the Municipality. Other public utility works done by the Municipality are the Municipal Board building, one coaltar road from Pokaran Railway Station to Pokaran, one metalled road running from the Municipal Octroi Post to Bhawani Pole, one primary school building and a reading room.

The *Nazul* land available in the municipal limits is sold at fixed rates by the *Nazul* Land Committee. Disposal of *Nazul* land is done according to the rules framed by the Local Self-Government Department of the State Government. Proceeds from the sale of such land are received by the municipality and are spent on development projects.

EDUCATION—The Municipality has opened one primary school for Harijans in 1966-67 with three teachers. Education to Harijan children (90 in 1967-68) in this school is imparted free of charge. In 1967-68, the Municipality spent Rs. 4,758 on primary education.

WATER SUPPLY—A water works constructed by the State Government has recently (April, 1968) been commissioned in Pokaran. Presently drinking water is supplied to the people by the water works and through a pumping set owned and run by the Municipality. There are 15 public hydrants at different places in the town. The Municipal Board pays water charges to the State Government Water Works at the rate of 33 paise per 1,000 litres of water consumed. People obtain drinking water also from wells which are chlorinated by the Municipality. The Municipal Board, Pokaran owns a beautiful water tank named Salam Sagar whose water is used for human consumption and for animals. In the year 1953-54, an amount of Rs. 36,000 was spent by the municipality on its repair and renovation.

MISCELLANEOUS—The municipality also maintains a children's park which is looked after by one gardner. To develop reading habits among the masses the municipality runs a reading room which subscribes to five daily news papers, 3 weeklies, 2 fortnightlies and 11 monthly magazines. A cattle fair in the name of Shri Hari Singh Rathore is organised annually by the Municipality. In 1967-68, the Municipal Board received Rs. 5,661 as income from cattle fair. In 1962-63, a public club building was constructed by the Municipal Board.

SOURCES OF INCOME—The most important source of income for the municipality is octroi duty on the import of a variety of goods. Other sources of income are as follows :

1. House tax and tax on municipal land.
2. Fees from enforcement of by-laws.
3. Income from municipal property.
4. Licence fees and fines.
5. Income from sale of land.

A statement given in Appendix III shows the total income and ex-penditure of the Municipal Board for the last six years. The pattern of income and expenditure of the Municipality has been given in Appendix IV.

PANCHAYATS

While in the urban area two municipalities looked after municipal affairs, there were no local self-governing institutions in rural areas. During the princely rule no Panchayats were formed. At some places the people voluntarily formed some panchayats in villages which decided some petty civil cases according to customary law. Ordinarily the village headman presided over their sittings.

Panchayats for the first time at the village level, and the Tahsil Panchayats at the tahsil level, were established under the provisions of Rajasthan Panchayat Act, 1953. The Panchayats performed various municipal functions relating to sanitation and public health, rural water supply, public utility works and voluntary labour works. After the advent of the community development programmes these panchayats were utilised as agencies for implementing development works at the village level.

With the coming into force of the Rajasthan Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad Act 1959 through which the scheme of the Democratic Decentralisation was introduced in the State, Panchayat Samiti at the block level and Zila Parishad at the district level were constituted, and the tahsil Panchayats were abolished. However, the old village panchayats continued to exist when the new scheme was introduced. In December, 1960 the Panchayat set up was completely re-organised and there are now (1967-68) 95 Panchayats grouped into three Panchayat Samitis.¹

Organisation

At present, every village or a group of villages in the district having a population between 1,500 to 2,000 forms a Panchayat. The number of Panchas also varies in each Panchayat from eight to fifteen according to population. The elections to the Panchayats are held on the basis of adult franchise and by secret ballot. The term of Panchayats is five years but the State Government can extend it for a period not exceeding three years through a notification, if circumstances warrant.² The area of Panchayat is divided into wards equal in number to the number of panchas fixed by the state for the Panchayat.

Functionaries

SARPANCH—Sarpanch is the chairman and executive authority of the Panchayat, and the head of the team of Panchas. He is elected by the entire electorate of the Panchayat. He convenes the meetings of the Panchayat and presides over them and is responsible for the safe custody of cash. Besides, he receives money, makes payments as authorised by the Panchayat and prepares budget of the Panchayat to be submitted for approval of the Panchayat Samiti. He arranges and supervises the work in the Panchayat area.

SECRETARY—Every Panchayat in the area appoints a Secretary to attend to the ministerial work. He also performs the duties assigned to him and executes orders passed by the Sarpanch.

VILLAGE LEVEL WORKER OR GRAM SEWAK—His primary function is in the fields of agriculture and animal husbandry. However, most of his time is devoted to the development of agriculture in the area. In some of the Panchayats the village level worker is required to act as the ex-officio Secretary of the Panchayat.

1. Names and number of Panchayats is given in Appendix V.
2. The term of Panchayats before 1971 was three years.

VILLAGE TEACHER—Primary education in rural areas is now under the control of local bodies. The village teacher functions under their administrative control and is responsible for imparting education in the village and helps the village community in intellectual pursuits, if any.

PATWARI—Although the *Patwari* is an official of the Revenue Department at the village level, his services are often required for successfully carrying out developmental activities at the village level.

Functions of the Panchayats

The functions of the Panchayats are village development, municipal and administrative. Panchayats prepare plans for increased agricultural production of individual families. They help in organising the village community for economic, social, cultural and educational betterment. After the introduction of Panchayati Raj system under the Democratic Decentralisation scheme in 1959, the main emphasis is laid on agricultural development.

Village Council (*Gram Sabha*)

An interesting innovation under the new set up of Panchayati Raj since 1959 is the organisation of *Gram Sabha* meetings. It consists of the entire electorate of the Panchayat area. The Panchayats convene the meetings of the *Gram Sabha* at least twice a year. In these meetings development programmes of concerning area, plans and estimates of the works to be undertaken thereto are explained. The views of the people are ascertained and necessary changes, if any, are made in the programmes. Besides explaining the new plans, the progress of the work done in the proceeding 6 months is reviewed and reasons of delay in completion of works are also explained.

Financial Resources and Budget

The panchayats can levy taxes such as vehicle tax, tax on buildings, commercial crops, pilgrim tax, tax for arranging the supply of drinking water and octroi. In addition, they get income from fees and fines imposed on the owners of impounded cattle, fines for disregard of administrative orders of the Panchayats, grazing charges, irrigation fees for water given from the Panchayat tanks, proceeds from sale of *abadi* lands etc. The most important source of income of the Panchayats is the grant from the State Government.

The Panchayats have powers to frame their own budgets for the approval of their Panchayat Samitis. They have also freedom to plan their expenditure within their resources.

The Panchayat Samiti-wise distribution of the Panchayats is given in Appendix V.

Panchayat Samitis

There are three Panchayat Samitis in the district, namely, Jaisalmer, Sam and Sankara. The headquarters of the Panchayat Samitis Sam and Sankara are at Jaisalmer and Pokaran respectively. A Panchayat Samiti consists of four kinds of members viz., elected, co-opted, ex-officio and associate members.

The term of office of a Panchayat Samiti is three years but the State Government by a notification can extend this term by a year in one instance¹.

FUNCTIONS—The Rajasthan Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad Act, 1959 devolves on Panchayat Samitis the entire charge of all developmental works within its area, the most important being the activities related to agriculture, primary education, local communication, sanitation, public health, medical relief, local amenities and similar subjects. The functions of a Panchayat Samiti have not been categorised as obligatory or discretionary. The Panchayat Samitis are expected to perform all these functions according to their financial resources and needs of the community, keeping in view the priorities assigned to the various programmes by the State.

STANDING COMMITTEES—The scheme of Panchayati Raj envisages that the Panchayat Samiti shall not work through individuals but collectively. With this end in view, constitution of at least three standing committees is obligatory to carry out the entire business of the samiti². These are :

1. Committee for production programme.
2. Committee for social service and social amenities programme.
3. Committee for finance, taxes and administration.

1. In 1971, the term of a Panchayat Samiti has been fixed for five years which can be extended by four years with aggregate.
2. In 1971, constitution of at least four standing committees has been made obligatory.

If necessary, the Panchayat Samiti can also have more than four committees. The number of members in each standing committee has been limited to seven. If there is any other suitable person whose experience can be utilised by the committee, that person can be co-opted as a member of the standing committee if he resides in the block. The standing committees have functioned effectively and have provided a safe-guard against the hegemony of the individual.

RESOURCES—Resources of income of Panchayat Samitis consist of some taxes authorised by the State Government, grants from various government departments, grant-in-aid by the government and loans advanced by the State. The budget of a Panchayat Samiti is framed by itself in consultation with the Zila Parishad.

ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE—The major expenses of the Panchayat Samitis, beside the developmental activities, are repayment of loans contracted by it, the salaries and allowances of its employees, allowances to members and other necessary expenditure.

Functionaries of Panchayat Samiti

(a) **PRADHAN**—The Pradhan (Chairman) is elected by the members of Panchayat Samitis and all the members of the Panchayats in the Panchayat Samiti area. He is the head of the Panchayat Samiti and exercises administrative control over the Vikas Adhikari and other members of the staff in relation to implementation of decisions and resolutions of the Panchayat Samiti and its Standing Committees. He is expected to promote initiative and enthusiasm in the Panchayats. The Pradhan provides guidance in the formulation of the plans and production programmes. He also tries to promote the growth of co-operation and voluntary organisations in the area. His primary duty is to convene and preside over the meetings of the Samiti.

(b) **VIKAS ADHIKARI**—The chief executive officer is designated as Vikas Adhikari who is also the head of the office of the Panchayat Samiti and exercises administrative control over the entire staff. He co-ordinates the activities of the various extension workers viz., Extension officers, Gram Sewaks, teachers etc. Obviously the Vikas Adhikari functions as the captain of the team. The Vikas Adhikari is responsible to carry out the directions of the Panchayat Samiti and, at the same time, to see that the government policy is implemented and rules and regulations are complied with.

Other important functionaries who assist in the work of the Panchayat Samitis are the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operative and Education Extension Officers, Overseers, Forest Rangers etc., who implement the policies of the Panchayat Samitis in their respective fields and also offer technical advice.

A brief account of Panchayat Samitis in Jaisalmer district is as follows :

PANCHAYAT SAMITI, JAISALMER—It consists of 30 Gram Panchayats. The names and the number of villages in each Panchayat are given in the Appendix V.

Among the members of the Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer are included all the Sarpanchas of the Panchayats in the area, co-opted members, associate members and ex-officio members according to the rules framed by the State Government. There are three standing committees in the Samiti, namely, Administration Committee, Production Committee and Finance and Taxation Committee. These committees plan and formulate policies for their respective spheres of activity.

The staff of the Samiti comprises the Vikas Adhikari, one Agriculture Extension Officer, one Co-operative Extension Officer, one Progress Assistant (the post has since been abolished), one overseer, one vaccinator, ten village level workers, three stockmen, four upper division clerks, three lower division clerks, eleven camel sawars, one driver and four class IV servants.

Some of the achievements of this Panchayat Samiti are given in Appendix VI.

The following table shows the income and expenditure of Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer for the years 1961-62 to 1967-68 :¹

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1961-62	5,10,679	2,17,409
1962-63	4,42,027	4,19,785
1963-64	5,75,782	2,26,880
1964-65	4,78,794	3,29,197
1965-66	5,14,712	4,90,527
1966-67	3,88,003	6,10,937
1967-68	2,94,153	3,42,522

1. Source : Office of the Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI, SAM, HEADQUARTERS AT JAISALMER—It consists of 41 Gram Panchayats. The names and the number of villages in each Panchayat are given in the Appendix V.

In area and population this Panchayat Samiti is the biggest in the district. It has 53 members headed by Pradhan and Up-pradhan. The latter functions in the absence of the Pradhan. Among the members are included two co-opted members, two associate members and one member of the Legislative Assembly. The Samiti functions through some standing committees, important being (i) administration, taxation and finance committee, (ii) agriculture, animal husbandry and cottage industries committee, (iii) education committee and (iv) social welfare committee. These committees are responsible for planning and formulation of policies in their own demarcated spheres of activity.

The staff of the Samiti consists of one Vikas Adhikari, one Extension Officer, Agriculture; one Extension Officer, Animal Husbandry; one Extension Officer, Co-operative; two Extension Officers, education; one overseer; 10 gram sewaks, two stockmen, 110 teachers, one vaccinator, one cinema operator, one medical officer, one health inspector, one compounder, four mid-wives, one driver, three upper division clerks, five lower division clerks and few office peons.

Some of the important physical targets achieved by the Panchayat Samiti during the last few years are detailed in Appendix VII.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI, SANKRA, HEADQUARTERS AT POKARAN—There are 24 Gram Panchayats and four Nyaya Panchayats in this Panchayat Samiti. The name and number of villages in each Panchayat are given in the Appendix V.

Headed by a Pradhan, the Samiti consists of 31 members. Among its members are included co-opted, associated, ex-officio and elected members. There are five standing committees through which the policies of the Samiti are implemented. Important committees are (i) finance and administration, (ii) social welfare, (iii) production, (iv) education and (v) small scale industries.

The Staff of the Samiti consists of one Vikas Adhikari-cum-Animal Husbandry Extension Officer, two Education Extension Officers, one overseer, 10 village level workers, 109 teachers, one vaccinator, one cinema operator, two stockmen, three upper division clerks, four lower division clerks, one driver, ten camel sowars and five class four employees.

Some of the important achievements and functions of the Panchayat Samiti are given in Appendix VIII

The following table shows the income and expenditure of the Panchayat Samiti during the years 1961-62 to 1965-66.¹

Year	(Rs.)	
	Income	Expenditure
1961-62	4,87,315	3,89,063
1962-63	3,11,758	3,12,629
1963-64	3,90,239	2,43,831
1964-65	1,47,783	8,42,936
1965-66	1,50,404	2,64,501

Nyaya Panchayats

With the enforcement of the Rajasthan Panchayat Act, 1953, Nyaya Panchayats were constituted in the district in accordance with Chapter IV of the Act. Judicial powers have now been taken away from the Gram Panchayats so that they may concentrate on development works. For each group of five to seven panchayats separate Nyaya Panchayats are empowered to try certain minor criminal offences (specifically mentioned in the schedule attached to the Act) and to impose fines not exceeding Rs. 50. In case of non-payment of fines, the matter is brought to the notice of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate who makes recovery as if it was a fine imposed by him. In civil cases, these Panchayats have jurisdiction for the trial of certain suits not exceeding Rs. 500 in value. In such cases, if there is difficulty in executing a decree, report is sent to the Munsif or Civil Judge having jurisdiction who executes them as if these were passed by his own court.

The number and names of the Nyaya Panchayats in the district are given in Appendix IX.

1. Source : Office of the Panchayat Samiti, Sankara.

ZILA PARISHAD

The Jaisalmer Zila Parishad was constituted on 2nd October, 1959 under the scheme of Democratic Decentralisation in Rajasthan.

Following are the members of the Zila Parishad:

(a) Ex-officio members

- (i) The Pradhan of all Panchayat Samitis in the district.

(b) Co-opted members (residents of the district)

- (i) Two women, if no woman is a member of the Zila Parishad or one whether there is such a member under (a) above.
- (ii) One member from the Scheduled Castes if no such person is a member under (a) above.
- (iii) One member from the Scheduled Tribes if the population of the Scheduled Tribes is more than five per cent of the population of the district and no such person is a member under (a) above.

(c) Associate members

- (i) The President of the Central Co-operative Bank in the district.
- (ii) The Chairman of the district Co-operative Union.
- (iii) Members of Parliament.
- (iv) Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Associate members and co-opted members have the right to speak but they do not have the right to vote. Members of the Zila Parishad are co-opted by ex-officio members through secret ballot. All members of the Zila Parishad elect from among themselves the Pramukh who acts as Chairman. The term of the members of the Zila Parishad, like the Panchayat Samiti, is three years. The Secretary of the Parishad is an officer belonging to the State Services.

Functions

The Zila Parishad has not been assigned any executive functions. Its main responsibility is to supervise and co-ordinate the work of the various Panchayat Samitis in the district to maintain liaison between the

State Government on the one hand, and Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis on the other, and to prepare a district plan on the basis of the plans of the Panchayat Samitis.

The term of office of the Zila Parishad is three years, but the State Government may, by notification, extend the term from time to time by a period not exceeding one year in one instance.

Committees

Constitution of the following four standing committees by the Zila Parishad is obligatory and that of fifth is optional.

1. Planning and finance
2. Production programmes
3. Social amenities
4. Welfare of weaker sections of the society
5. Financial Resources and staff.

Each of these committees comprises five to seven members who hold quarterly meetings in an year and advise the general body for their respective spheres of activity.

Finance

The Zila Parishad has its own fund which consists of the money received from the State for meeting its establishment charges and allowances to its members, donations or contributions received from the Panchayat Samitis or from the public in any form. However, it has no field of taxation assigned to it. The Zila Parishad submits its budget to the State Government for approval.

Staff

The staff of the Zila Parishad consists of a Secretary who is also Deputy District Development Officer, and three office clerks and two class four employees. The ministerial staff is appointed by the Zila Parishad from the services of the Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad.

The Zila Parishad is headed by an elected Pramukh who functions as head of the team of non-officials working in Panchayati Raj Institutions in the district. His main responsibility is to develop healthy conventions in the working of Panchayati Raj institutions and to foster good relations between officials and non-officials at different levels in the district. He ensures that progress of production programme is in accordance with the broad policies laid down by the State Government. He also inspects planning and execution of various work programmes in Panchayat Samitis in detail to make a report to the Zila Parishad.

APPENDIX I

Statement of income and expenditure of Jaisalmer Municipal Board¹

(Rs.)		
Year	Income	Expenditure
1955-56	65,434	57,134
1956-57	50,090	59,272
1957-58	85,675	85,675
1958-59	1,06,523	1,06,523
1959-60	78,505	57,617
1960-61	91,267	1,17,326
1961-62	77,976	82,285
1962-63	1,34,302	1,34,302
1963-64	1,24,293	1,23,053
1964-65	1,17,257	1,16,485
1965-66	1,24,550	1,23,190
1966-67	1,25,870	1,24,695
1967-68	2,37,503	2,37,503

1. Source : Office of the Municipal Board, Jaisalmer.

APPENDIX II

Detailed Statement of estimated income and proposed expenditure of Jaisalmer Municipal Board for the year 1967-68¹

(Rs.)	
Heads of Income	Income (1967-68)
1. Octroi	1,08,500
2. House and land tax and income from property etc.	3,250
3. Income under different by-laws	3,050
4. Sale of land	54,000
5. Auction proceeds and copy fees etc.	2,750
6. Subsidies	4,000
7. Miscellaneous income	61,953
Total :	2,37,503
Heads of Expenditure	Expenditure (1967-68)
1. General Administration	20,393
2. Tax Administration	14,308
3. Public Health and Sanitation	42,470
4. Lighting	13,390
5. Water charges	10,682
6. Cattle pond	300
7. Reading room	1,300
8. Recreation and festivals etc.	900
9. Public safety	1,000
10. Education	300
11. Public Works (Repairs)	2,200
12. Construction and Development	1,19,500
13. Purchase of property and material	2,150
14. Loans and Assistance	1,000
15. Miscellaneous	7,610
Total :	2,37,503

1. Source : Office of the Municipal Board, Jaisalmer.

APPENDIX III

Statement of income and expenditure of Municipal Board, Pokaran
for the period 1962-63 to 1967-68¹

(Rs.)

Year	Income	Expenditure
1962-63	45,094	49,600
1963-64	59,549	61,857
1964-65	56,547	57,756
1965-66	63,818	59,160
1966-67	93,194	78,308
1967-68	1,03,072	88,827

1. Source : Office of the Municipal Board, Pokaran.

APPENDIX IV

Detailed statement of the income and expenditure of the Municipal
Board, Pokaran¹

(Rs.)

Heads of Income	Income (1967-68)
1. House and land Tax	1,855
2. Octroi	89,295
3. Income from property etc.	798
4. Sale of lands	1,229
5. Licence fee etc.	5,735
6. Income under different by-laws	1,978
7. Subsidies	300
8. Miscellaneous income	1,882
Total :	1,03,072
Heads of Expenditure	Expenditure (1967-68)
1. General Administration	13,971
2. Tax Administration	13,603
3. Public Utility and Health	24,741
4. Lighting	5,753
5. Water charges	1,593
6. Cattle pond	348
7. Library and Reading room	586
8. Maintenance of Public Park	2,390
9. Recreation and festivals etc.	7,906
10. Education	4,758
11. Public works (repairs)	712
12. Construction and development	8,911
13. Purchase of property	700
14. Miscellaneous	2,855
Total :	88,827

1. Source : Office of the Municipal Board, Pokaran.

APPENDIX V

Statement of names of Panchayats and number of villages in a Panchayat area under the Panchayat Samitis of Jaisalmer district¹

Name of Panchayat Samiti	Name of Panchayat	Number of villages in Panchayat area
1	2	3
1. Jaisalmer	1. Deva	5
	2. Nehdai	4
	3. Sultana	3
	4. Poswar	2
	5. Katodi	5
	6. Bhadasar	3
	7. Roopsi	9
	8. Dabla	10
	9. Badoda Gaon	5
	10. Amarsagar	9
	11. Mohangarh	3
	12. Balana	4
	13. Bahala	1
	14. Chandhan	10
	15. Sodha Kanwar	2
	16. Sojiya Khara	4
	17. Kanodh	9
	18. Hamera	5
	19. Bhoo	7
	20. Pithla	6
	21. Nokh	4
	22. Chinno	2
	23. Askanda	4
	24. Away	2
	25. Nachna	1

1. Source : Panchayat and Development Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

1	2	3
	26. Panche-ka-Tala	3
	27. Satyaya	3
	28. Kharakhu	5
	29. Kheruwala	9
	30. Bharewala	11
2. Sankra	1. Loharki	5
	2. Chhayana	3
	3. Khetolai	5
	4. Lathi	5
	5. Shakra	2
	6. Nedan	4
	7. Chok	6
	8. Bhesra	3
	9. Rajgarh	5
	10. Raj Mathai	1
	11. Luna Kalan	4
	12. Bhikhorai Jooni	4
	13. Badhewa	2
	14. Dantala	3
	15. Phal Soond	1
	16. Ratdiya	2
	17. Barat-ka-Gaon	5
	18. Gudi Champawata Jhawara	2
	19. Maniyama	2
	20. Medwa	3
	21. Ujla	3
	22. Ram Deora	7
	23. Kelawa	4
	24. Lawa	13
3. Sam	1. Sam	11
	2. Kanoi	4
	3. Damodara	4
	4. Bida	5
	5. Loonar	10
	6. Detha	6
	7. Khuhri	4

1	2	3
	8. Bhersiwala	4
	9. Myajlar	2
	10. Karda (H.Q. Pochhina)	4
	11. Tejrawa	3
	12. Sato	2
	13. Shahgarh	41
	14. Harnav	55
	15. Fatehgarh (H.Q. Rama)	7
	16. Sangad	4
	17. Dangri	5
	18. Kapuriya	5
	19. Rewri	6
	20. Lakha (H. Q. Mandai)	2
	21. Jhanjhinyali	4
	22. Tejmalta	2
	23. Modha	4
	24. Baiya	4
	25. Kodha	3
	26. Adwala	6
	27. Chhatangarh	4
	28. Chelak	4
	29. Deora	2
	30. Kotri	6
	31. Narsingh-ki-Dhani	4
	32. Devikot	11
	33. Mulana	2
	34. Rasla	7
	35. Ramgarh	22
	36. Sonoo	3
	37. Reghwa	4
	38. Tejpal	18
	39. Khuyala	2
	40. Bandha	3
	41. Haboar	2

APPENDIX VI

Physical achievements of Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer¹
(1961-62 to 1967-68)

S. No.	Item	Unit	1961- 62	62- 63	63- 64	64- 65	65- 66	66- 67	67- 68
1.	People's Participation	'000 Rs.	13	38	10	32	5	1	2
2.	Fertilisers distributed	Quintals	-	-	56	12	337	232	80
3.	Improved seed distributed	„	221	4	111	537	1613	3894	86
4.	Agricultural implements distributed	Number	18	11	58	115	28	43	20
5.	Agricultural Demonstrations	„	22	8	9	13	17	10	5
6.	Medh Bandi	Hectares	41	143	45	66	115	-	-
7.	Fruit Plants distributed	Number	-	34	28	5	200	-	-
8.	Improved Breeds of Animals distributed	„	82	1	-	12	312	52	103
9.	Improved Poultry distributed	„	13	-	35	175	101	-	-
10.	Irrigation Wells constructed	„	95	-	1	-	-	-	-
11.	Area brought under irrigation	Hectares	5	89	194	1	-	-	-
12.	New Co-operative Societies organised	Number	3	19	5	1	1	66	61

1. Source : Development Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13. Membership of Co-operative societies	Number	76	273	93	27	88	1552	1475	
14. Drinking water wells constructed	„	4	3	4	—	—	—	—	1
15. Libraries/Reading rooms opened	„	35	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
16. Women's Associations organised	„	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
17. Adult Education Centres working	„	16	7	29	8	13	—	—	—
18. Adults made literate	„	—	139	54	78	147	—	—	—
19. Youth clubs started	„	5	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
20. Houses constructed under Village Housing Scheme	„	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
21. <i>Kachcha</i> Road constructed	Kms.	8	—	5	103	—	12	—	—

APPENDIX VII

Physical achievements of Panchayat Samiti, Sam¹
(1961-62 to 1967-68)

S. No.	Item	Unit	1961-62	62-63	63-64	64-65	65-66	66-67	67-68
1.	People's Participation	000 Rs.	14	48	31	17	6	1	—
2.	Fertilisers distributed	Quintals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Improved seed distributed	„	950	322	543	877	182	191	37
4.	Agricultural implements distributed	Number	—	60	223	104	—	—	10
5.	Agricultural Demonstrations	„	—	—	24	—	—	—	5
6.	Medh Bandi	Hectares	1900	500	4000	4000	—	—	—
7.	Fruit Plants distributed	Number	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Improved Breed of Animals distributed	„	211	6	—	28	1	—	—
9.	Improved Poultry distributed	„	3	—	46	—	50	—	—
10.	Irrigation Wells constructed	„	45	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Area brought under irrigation	Hectares	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	New Co-operative Societies organised	Number	3	1	7	11	2	34	34

1. Source : Development Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13. Membership of Co-operative societies	Number	115	30	198	381	223	1267	1307	
14. Drinking water wells constructed	„	12	10	1	1	-	-	-	
15. Libraries/Reading rooms opened	„	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	
16. Women's Associations organised	„	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
17. Adult Education Centres working	„	12	11	19	35	11	-	-	
18. Adults made literate	„	48	-	-	54	-	55	-	
19. Youth clubs started	„	5	1	1	1	-	-	-	
20. Houses constructed under Village Housing Scheme	„	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
21. Kachcha Road constructed	Kms.	-	-	3	3	8	-	-	

APPENDIX VIII

Physical achievements of Panchayat Samiti, Sankra¹
(1961-62 to 1967-68)

S. No.	Item	Unit	1961-62	62-63	63-64	64-65	65-66	66-67	67-68
1. People's Participation	'000 Rs.		36	38	56	11	15	-	-
2. Fertilisers distributed	Quintals		-	-	-	17	14	4	3
3. Improved seed distributed	„		133	48	94	224	1443	104	15
4. Agricultural implements distributed	Number		169	129	152	6	7	255	52
5. Agricultural Demonstrations	„		13	2	-	39	21	4	10
6. Medh Bandi	Hectares		616	527	1022	547	2579	-	-
7. Fruit Plants distributed	Number		2029	-	-	-	95	-	-
8. Improved Breed of Animals distributed	„		437	33	-	6	-	9	3
9. Improved Poultry distributed	„		-	-	48	66	-	-	-
10. Irrigation Wells constructed	„		6	6	10	16	39	-	5
11. Area brought under irrigation	Hectares		2	86	4	4	34	-	-
12. New Co-operative Societies organised	Number		3	1	5	-	-	82	82

1. Source : Development Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur,

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13. Membership of Co-operative Societies	Number	370	102	116	-	-	3087	3076	
14. Drinking water wells constructed	„	-	-	-	5	-	3	6	
15. Libraries/Reading rooms opened	„	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16. Women's Associations organised	„	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	
17. Adult Education Centres working	„	100	103	-	6	-	28	74	
18. Adults made literate	„	-	2	-	1	1	280	527	
19. Youth clubs started	„	-	110	-	30	-	-	-	
20. Houses constructed under village Housing Scheme	„	-	15	7	19	10	-	-	
21. <i>Kachcha</i> Road constructed	Kms.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

APPENDIX IX

Nyaya Panchayats in Jaisalmer district¹

Name of Panchayat Samiti	Name of Nyaya Panchayat
Jaisalmer	1. Mohangarh 2. Chandhan 3. Deva 4. Amarsagar 5. Nedoi 6. Nokh
Sankra	1. Ujla 2. Ramdeora 3. Phalsoond 4. Sankra
Sam	1. Sam 2. Ramgarh 3. Myajlar 4. Devikot 5. Khoiyala 6. Jhinjhnyali 7. Chelak

1. Source : Office of the Zila Parishad, Jaisalmer.

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There is not much to write about education in Jaisalmer district for the period upto the beginning of this century. K.E.M. Walter, the then political agent and author of the Gazetteer of Jaisalmer State writing in 1877 said that there were no records to tell us about educational institutions in the former State in earlier times. Education was imparted by religious institutions run by priests who derived their income from temples, trusts and philanthropists. The *Jatis* or Jain priests regarded as the custodians of *Upasaras* (monasteries) need special mention as they made Jaisalmer a seat of Jain learning and held classes in their monasteries. The Hindu priests did the same for Hindu boys. In 1877, there was only one institution in the capital where elementary knowledge was imparted by *Jatis*.

The local institutions were mainly patronised by the business community. They were content if their boys got some knowledge of Hindi and arithmetic particularly the latter to help them in business. Readings from sacred books formed an important part of instructions in these religious schools. The period of schooling in these educational institutions usually extended over five years. There were no girls' schools.

Upto the beginning of 20th century, there was no regular and well-organised system of education. According to Erskine upto about 1890, the only schools in the State were of the indigenous type, the teachers being mostly *Jatis* or Jain priests, these institutions have held their own, and are still much respected. In 1890, three schools were opened by the *Darbar*, two at the capital (in one of which an attempt was made to teach some English but not continued) and the third at Bap. They were never popular and the number of students on the rolls of all the three institutions in 1901 was only about seventy. Things improved

gradually though the number of schools remained at three. The teaching of English was resumed at the capital, and the staff was generally more efficient. The number on the rolls at the end of October 1906 was 180 as compared to 91 on the 31st March, 1904 and 183 on the 31st March, 1905 and the daily average attendance was 47 in 1903-04, 112 in 1904-05 and 107 during 1905-06. The schools were all for boys, and no fees were charged anywhere. The expenditure on education (1905-06) was about Rs. 1,100 a year, and was met from a small tax on *bajra*, *jowar* and *ghee* brought into Jaisalmer town¹.

The progress in education during the times of princely rule was not impressive. Nonetheless it was evolutionary. The State opened primary schools in which the number of the students steadily increased. One primary school at Jaisalmer town was raised to a middle school and subsequently to a High School in 1934. Five single-teacher schools were opened in 1948 at Lathi, Myajlar, Ramgarh, Nokh and Nachna.² Women's education was utterly neglected in the State. The first girls' school was opened as late as 1948 at Jaisalmer.³

After the merger of the former Jaisalmer State in Rajasthan in 1949, educational facilities were substantially expanded. Primary and Middle Schools were opened at several places. By 1951, the number of schools in the district rose to 26, primary schools being 24, middle and high school one each.⁴ There was also a solitary girls' middle school at the district headquarters. There were no private or Government aided schools in the district.

GENERAL EDUCATION

The number of schools being very small, need for a separate administrative unit for the education department was, perhaps, never felt in the former Jaisalmer State. After Independence the number of the schools increased, and in 1955, the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools was established at Jaisalmer. A Sub-Deputy Inspector of Schools was also posted at Pokaran to assist the Deputy Inspector of Schools.

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteer, The Western Rajputana States and the Bikaner Agency*, Vol. III-A, p. 36.
2. *Census 1951, Rajasthan and Ajmer, District Census Handbook Jaisalmer, Part I*, p. XV.
3. *ibid.*
4. *ibid.*, p. xviii.

The Deputy Inspector of Schools functioned under the administrative control of the Inspector of Schools, Jodhpur. A full-fledged Inspectorate of Schools was established in the district in 1961 but this lasted only till 1963, when the post of Inspector of Schools, Jaisalmer was abolished as a measure of economy and the district was placed under the administrative control of the Inspector of Schools, Jodhpur.

In 1959, as a result of introduction of the scheme of Democratic Decentralisation certain far reaching changes in the administration of the schools located in the rural areas were brought about. All the primary schools in the rural areas were transferred to the Panchayat Samitis. The post of Sub-Deputy Inspector was abolished and was replaced by Education Extension Officer, who supervised the working of primary schools placed under the Panchayat Samitis. However, the Panchayat Samitis could take technical advice from the Inspector of Schools, Jodhpur. This arrangement continued till 1966 when the State Government decided to take over administration of primary education from Panchayat Samitis of border areas in Rajasthan. Hence, primary schools under the control of Panchayat Samitis, Sam and Jaisalmer were re-transferred to the State Education Department and the Inspector of Schools, Jodhpur was again empowered to function as Education Officer of Jaisalmer. However, primary schools of Panchayat Samiti, Sankara continue to be administered by the Samiti.

In October 1967, a Senior Deputy Inspector of Schools was appointed in the district. In discharge of his official responsibilities as a District Education Officer he is assisted by four Sub-Deputy Inspectors of Schools, one office assistant, one accounts clerk, eight lower division clerks and four class iv employees. The Senior Deputy Inspector of Schools inspects Secondary Schools, Middle Schools and Primary Schools of the area. Higher Secondary Schools are under the direct control of the Inspector of Schools, Jodhpur. The Senior Deputy Inspector functions under the administrative control of the Inspector of Schools, Jodhpur.

The only Girls' Secondary School at Jaisalmer is placed under the control of the Deputy Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Jodhpur.

As a result of the Five Year Plans started in 1951, significant headway has been made in the field of education. New schools have been opened and existing upgraded. Among the improvements in education may be mentioned, a craft-oriented school course adopting a three years course

for higher secondary education, opening of new girls' school and introduction of co-education. The go-school campaign is intended to bring large numbers to schools. To encourage education in schools, the State Government provides a variety of scholarships, freeships, study loans and such other financial aid. Girls studying in Government educational institutions are exempt from paying tuition fee.

Pre-Primary Schools

There are not many educational institutions in the district in which pre-primary education is imparted. The only such institution is the Gandhi Bal Mandir (a middle school) at Jaisalmer having a pre-primary section where education is imparted on the Montessori system. Some details of this school are given in succeeding pages under the description of middle schools.

Primary Schools

In 1951, there were 24 primary schools in the district.¹ This number rose to 51 in 1956-57 and 121 in 1961-62. In 1967-68, there were 205 primary schools. The total number of teachers employed in the primary schools during 1967-68 was 332 while the number of students was 7,220 (6,054 boys and 1,166 girls).² The distribution of the primary schools in each Panchayat Samiti during 1967-68 was as follows :

	Number
1. Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer	54
2. „ „ Sam	79
3. „ „ Sankra	72

Middle Schools

The number of middle schools rose from one in 1951 to five in 1956-57.³ In 1961-62, they increased to 13.⁴ In 1967-68, the number of middle schools was 12.⁵ The number of students and teachers also increased with the increase in the number of schools. In 1961-62, there were 1,582 pupils (1,257 boys and 325 girls) and 110 teachers in all the middle schools in the district.⁶ In 1967-68, there were 1,731 students (1,630 boys

1. *Census 1951, Rajasthan and Ajmer, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer, Part I, 1956, p. xviii*
2. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, 1970, pp. 151-56 (provisional figures).*
3. *ibid.*, 1958, p. 141.
4. *ibid.*, 1963, p. 167.
5. *ibid.*, 1970, p. 151 (provisional figures).
6. *ibid.*, 1963, pp. 168-171.

and 101 girls) and 99 teachers in all the middle schools in the district.¹

GANDHI BAL MANDIR (MIDDLE SCHOOL)—The solitary private educational institution in the whole of the district is a middle school, known as Gandhi Bal Mandir, Jaisalmer. It is recognised by the State Government and receives aid from it. It was opened as a primary school in 1955 by Bal Vikas Mandal, a voluntary social service organisation of Jaisalmer, and raised to middle standard in July 1968. It is a co-educational centre where education is imparted on the Montessori system. The total number of students, both boys and girls during the year 1967-68 was 293 out of whom 109 were girls. There were nine teachers on the staff of the school in 1967-68.

Secondary Schools

There are two government secondary schools, one at Bhaniyana and the other a girls' secondary school at Jaisalmer.

GOVERNMENT GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL, JAISALMER—It was started as a girls' secondary school in 1966 at the district headquarters. It is housed in a government building having 15 rooms. Besides, there is a small play ground.

The school offers courses in optional subjects in humanities only besides teaching in all compulsory subjects.

GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL, BHANIYANA—It was established as a primary school in 1951, raised to a middle school in 1960 and to a secondary school in 1961. The school building was constructed by the Panchayat Samiti of the area with 50 per cent aid from the Government. The school prepares students, both boys and girls for secondary examination in arts and science subjects. The school library had about 1,935 books on various subjects.

In 1967-68, the total number of students attending secondary schools was 271 (178 boys and 23 girls)²

Higher Secondary School

There are two Higher Secondary Schools in the district, one at Jaisalmer, and the other at Pokaran. These schools provide teaching of selected subjects in Arts, Science and Commerce faculties.

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, 1970, pp. 153-156 (provisional figures).

2. *ibid.*, p. 153 (provisional figures).

GOVERNMENT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, JAISALMER—This is the premier educational institution and the oldest in the district. It was started as a primary school in 1890, raised to a Middle school in 1905 and to a High school in 1939. It was then recognised upto the High school standard by the Central Board of Secondary Education, Ajmer, and was called Shri Darbar Colvin High School. After integration in 1949, the High School was placed under the administrative control of the Education Department of Rajasthan and affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan. In 1960, the High School was raised to a Higher Secondary School.

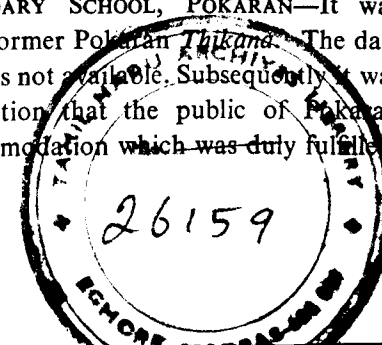
The school has its own building constructed by the Jaisalmer Durbar. It consists of 24 class rooms, one small assembly hall and three laboratory rooms for science subjects and a crafts room. The only play ground is too small. The accommodation being inadequate, the government has recently (1967-68) added two more rooms to the building.

The school has a library of 6,510 books and subscribes to important daily newspapers in English and Hindi, weeklies and a few fortnightly and monthly magazines.

The school offers courses in optional subjects both in humanities and science. It is divided into middle and secondary sections. The middle section covers classes from 6th to 8th standard. It may be pointed out that there is no Girls' Higher Secondary School in the district. The girls whose number is small, receive their education in the same school as boys. Facilities for extra-curricular activities are also available in the school. Students engage themselves in a variety of activities like National Cadet Corps, scouting and camping.

The school has no hostel attached to it. It lays special emphasis on punctuality and character building and functions under the School Complex Scheme. Administratively it is controlled by the Inspector of Schools, Jodhpur. The School Complex Scheme is run by the Education Department to develop some schools at district headquarters into model schools.

GOVERNMENT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, POKARAN—It was established as a primary school by the former Pokaran *Thikana*. The date of its establishment as a primary school is not available. Subsequently it was raised to a Middle school on the condition that the public of Pokaran provided money for extension of accommodation which was duly fulfilled.



The school building, owned by the Government, consists of six class rooms and 2 medium size halls mostly constructed from donated money. No play ground is attached to the school. The school library contains a good number of books on various subjects.

The school prepares boys for Higher Secondary Examination in humanities only. It publishes a magazine once a year.

In 1967-68, the total number of students studying in Higher Secondary Schools was 1141 (boys 1115 and girls 26)¹. There were 61 (50 male and 11 female) teachers employed in all the Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools in Jaisalmer district.²

Other Institutions

There is neither a college nor a technical or professional institution in the area.³ Students keen on getting higher professional education go to the neighbouring districts of Jodhpur and Barmer for the purpose.

Oriental Schools

The only oriental institution in the area is Government Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Jaisalmer. It was started in 1955 by the State Department of Sanskrit Education. It was raised to the Middle standard in 1956 and to High School standard in 1958. The school is run in a rented building having 18 rooms. It has a small library containing 545 books. Important daily Hindi newspapers and a few magazines of different periodicity are also subscribed for the library.

One troop of 24 cubs of boy scouts was raised in 1962. It meets twice a week for organising activities such as social services and camp fires.

The school offers courses in optional subjects in humanities. However, Sanskrit is the main subject taught.

This institution provides for learning of Sanskrit from the infant classes to High School standard. The total number of scholars and teachers during the 1967-68 session was 261 and eight respectively.

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, 197', p. 153 (Provisional figures).

2. *ibid.*, p. 155.

3. A Government College has since been established at Jaisalmer in 1970-71. It is affiliated to the University of Rajasthan and provides degree courses in Arts and Commerce. In 1970-71, there were 20 students and 8 lecturers in the college.

LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

According to the Census of 1951, only 4.13 per cent of the population was literate, the literacy for males being 6.74 per cent and for females 0.98 per cent¹. According to the 1961 Census, the literacy percentage increased to 8.11². Among males and females the percentage of literacy was 13.04 and 1.96 respectively. Although there was substantial increase in literacy in the district both among men and women during the years, percentage of literacy was below the State average of 15.21 and much below the all India average of 23.7. The percentage of literacy has increased by 3.98 compared to the figures in 1951. The percentage for males and females has increased by 6.30 and 0.98 respectively.

As for educational achievement the number of those who had passed the Middle School Examination was 168 (men 158 and women 10) in 1951, Matriculates 113 (men 110 and women 3); Intermediates 5 (all males), and graduates 59 in Arts and Science (56 men and 3 women). There were only four (men) post-graduates in the district. Trained teachers numbered only ten (men). Those having degree in Engineering and Agriculture numbered four (men) and those in Law and Medicine only two (men).³

According to the Census of 1961, the figures for educational statistics in all areas (Rural and Urban) were as follows:⁴

	Males	Females	Total
1. Literate without educational level	8,970	1,165	10,135
2. Primary or Junior Basic	537	36	573
3. Matriculation and above	649	26	675

The Census of 1961, further classified the following educational levels in urban areas only :⁵

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volumes, 1958 and 1962.
2. In 1971, the percentage of literacy was 13.09 (provisional figures).
3. *Census 1951, Rajasthan & Ajmer, District Census Handbook Jaisalmer*, Pt. I, pp. 72-73.
4. *Census of India, 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook Jaisalmer District*, p. 144.
5. *ibid.*, p. 145.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Technical diploma not equal to degree	1	—	1
2. University degree or post-graduate degree (other than technical)	23	1	24
3. Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	10	5	15
4. Engineering	1	1	2
5. Medicine	7	—	7
6. Agriculture	3	—	3
7. Teaching	9	—	9
8. Others	22	—	22

EDUCATION OF GIRLS

Female education always remained neglected during the princely rule and as stated earlier there was no separate school for girls. Only a few girls received education in boys' schools.

The first girls' school, Shri Kanya Pathshala which was a primary school, was opened in 1949 at the district headquarters. It was raised to secondary standard in 1966. Besides, two primary schools for girls at Jaisalmer and Pokaran were opened in 1966.

The State Government has undertaken special measures to promote the female education during the last decade. In order to promote enrolment of girls in schools, free text books are distributed among the girls and no tuition fee is charged from them after admission. Other facilities such as scholarships and study loans are given to encourage girls' education. But inspite of all this, girls' education is still undeveloped. This may be attributed to the backwardness and general desolate conditions of the area.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

In order to promote the idea of literacy among adults, the Education Department (Social Education Unit) started adult education centres in Jaisalmer. In 1955-56, there were five of them in the district. Four were for men at Sangar, Ramgarh, Phalsund and Lathi. The remaining

one centre was for women at Jaisalmer. In these centres reading, writing and recitation is taught to the adults and tests are held periodically to examine their achievements.

Adult education programme in the district is administered by a Social Education Inspector functioning under the administrative control of the Deputy Director, Social Education, Rajasthan, Bikaner.

With the introduction of Democratic Decentralisation in Rajasthan in 1959, Social Education activities were transferred to the Panchayat Samitis of the area. Presently (1968) activities connected with the development of social education are organised by the Panchayat Samitis in the area while technical assistance, when required, is given by the Department of Education (Social Education Unit) Rajasthan.

The Education Department (Social Education Unit) has also set up a district library in Jaisalmer town details of which are given in the latter part of this chapter. The number of Adult Education Centres and the beneficiaries between 1960-61 and 1967-68 were as below in the three Panchayat Samitis :

Year	Panchayat Samiti Sam		Panchayat Samiti Sankara		Panchayat Samiti Jaisalmer	
	No. of centres	Adults educated	No. of centres	Adults educated	No. of centres	Adults educated
1960-61	19	134	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1961-62	23	211	„	„	„	„
1962-63	34	340	„	„	7	458
1963-64	53	193	„	„	27	353
1964-65	17	149	25	572	54	1,013
1965-66	17	155	Nil	Nil	41	457
1966-67	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1967-68	Nil	Nil	28	77	Nil	Nil

Under the programme of Social Education, educational and cultural films were also exhibited in the villages which were witnessed by over 25,500 persons during the years 1964-65 to 1967-68. In this period 17 youth clubs and 12 women's clubs were also opened in the villages. 15

camps were organised by the department to train 1,009 village level workers and 227 village *kakis* (aunts) in social service and village up-lift.

EDUCATION OF BACKWARD CLASSES

A number of facilities are provided by the State Government for the promotion of education among the backward classes. Although the number of backward classes students is still small, they are admitted in all the educational institutions of the district. Scholarships to deserving students of these sections of the community are provided through the Social Welfare Department.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS (N.C.C.)

One Junior Division of N.C.C. (Army wing) was raised in 1957 in the Government Higher Secondary School, in Jaisalmer with a strength of 50 cadets under the command of one officer to infuse a sense of discipline among students and promote qualities of leadership among them. The cadet strength of this troop was subsequently raised from 50 to 100 in 1966. In July 1966 another troop consisting of 100 cadets and one N.C.C. officer was started in the same school. In the same year one more troop was raised in the Government Secondary School, Bhaniyana. This troop which consisted of 100 cadets and one officer in 1967 was distributed at two places viz., Government Secondary School, Bhaniyana and Government Higher Secondary School, Pokaran with a strength of 50 cadets and one N.C.C. officer at each place. The strength of the National Cadet Corps in the district during the years 1961-62 to 1967-68 was as follows :

		(No.)
Year	Junior Division (Boys)	
1961-62	50	
1962-63	50	
1963-64	50	
1964-65	50	
1965-66	50	
1966-67	300	
1967-68	300	

The organisation is directly under the control of the 3rd Rajasthan Battalion, National Cadet Corps, Jodhpur.

SCOUTS AND GUIDES

THE BHARAT SCOUTS AND GUIDES ASSOCIATION, JAISALMER—There is only one local unit of Rajasthan State Bharat Scouts and Guides established in 1959 in the district and active since then. The office of this unit is located at the Government Higher Secondary School, Jaisalmer. The number of groups under the local unit in 1968 (December) was as follows :

Pack	12	Cubs	288
Troop	15	Scouts	480
Crew	1	Rower	12
Flock	1	Guides	32
Company	1	Flocks	24
Total	30	Total	836

The activities of the local unit include patrol leaders training camps; one night camp; rallies of different groups: social service at local fairs; hiking etc. In 1968, four Social Service Camps, two at Ramdeora and one each at Bada Bag and Beshakhi were organised by the local unit. Besides, one Patrol Leaders Training Camp, one Five Night Camp and one One Night Camp were also organised. The activities of the local unit are controlled and directed by the Divisional Office of the Bharat Scouts and Guides with headquarters at Jodhpur.

CULTURE

Literary activity in the district was confined to Jain temples and such other places. Old manuscripts stored in *Gyan Bhandars* of Jain temples were brought to light during the first years of the 20th century.

Like most former princely states of Rajasthan, Jaisalmer had folk lore and bardic literature. Local poets composed poems depicting the cultural and social heritage of the area. Some authors composed stories on local themes which are still popular. Among them one story, *Mumal and Mahendra* is very popular not only in the district but throughout Rajasthan. In the literature of Jaisalmer are generally found feelings of local culture and social behaviour along with the hazards of desert life. The poets and authors of Jaisalmer also wrote on patriotism, love and romanticism.

Among Rajasthani paintings the Jaisalmer school never achieved distinction. The paintings available in the area are known for simplicity of approach and colour combination. There is no organised or regular collection of paintings available in Jaisalmer. A few paintings are available with local citizens.

Even after the formation of Rajasthan, literary and cultural activities in the area have not received much impetus. There is almost a complete lack of higher cultural activity although a few societies have been functioning in the area for the promotion of literature and fine arts.

The rural areas, however, have their own folk literature.

Literary Societies

The most prominent of the literary societies of the district is a local unit of the Anant Kumar Sahitya Parishad, Jodhpur, which is affiliated to Rajasthan Sahitya Academy. It was founded in 1957 by some of the young social and cultural workers of the district. Its main aim is to promote interest in literature and local culture. It arranges *Kavi Sammelans* (assemblies of poets), symposiums, literary competitions and collection of local literature. It also celebrates the birth anniversaries of distinguished national leaders, Hindi and Sanskrit poets, and authors of high literary standing. During the year 1967-68, three *Kavi Sammelans* were organised by the Parishad. It organises symposiums twice a month and also when a literary figure arrives in the town to participate in its deliberations. For the last decade, it has been the only forum for all kinds of literary activity.

GYAN MANDIR—Another literary-cum-cultural and social organisation is Gyan Mandir. It was founded in 1961 at Pokaran by the late Shri Jai Narain Vyas, a former Chief Minister of Rajasthan. Its main aim is to promote social, economic and political life of its members. In addition, it undertakes numerous literary activities. Firstly, it manages a reading room at Pokaran which subscribes to five prominent daily newspapers and 16 periodical magazines. Some of the newspapers and magazines are donated by the Pokaran Municipal Board. It also arranges *Kavi Sammelans*, symposiums, cultural shows and celebrations of anniversaries of birthday of national leaders, Independence Day and Republic Day. Office bearers of this organisation consist of a President, a Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and eleven members on the

executive committee. The main source of income of this society is contributions from public from time to time.

TARUN LEKHAK SANGH (YOUNG WRITERS' ASSOCIATION), JAISALMER—This too has been contributing towards the literary and academic life of the town. It was established in 1964 in order to promote and foster literary activity in the town.¹ Its membership is open to all those who have some interest in academic pursuits. The office bearers of this association are, the President, Secretary and Treasurer and a few members on the executive committee. This association arranges *Kavi Sammelans* and symposiums and celebrates the Teachers Day, the Republic Day, Independence Day and Childrens Day. Besides, efforts are afoot to collect local literature and art of the area and present them in their right perspective to outsiders.

Gyan Bhandars of Jaisalmer

The cultural heritage in the form of collection of ancient books in various *Gyan Bhandars* (store of knowledge or library) in different Jain temples situated in the fort of Jaisalmer is worth mentioning. It was Colonel James Tod, the celebrated author of *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, who first drew the attention of both the Europeans and the Indians to the existence of these old libraries at Jaisalmer.² Dr. Buhler and Dr. Jacobi also examined and copied out certain important manuscripts of these *Bhandars*. Although these rare treasures of ancient knowledge were neglected, they survived the devastations of Mohammedan attack on Rajputana during the medieval period. Colonel James Tod presented a few manuscripts to the Royal Asiatic Society which threw new light on the history of ancient India.

The *Gyan Bhandars* of Jaisalmer and *Granthas* (books) contained therein are regarded to be the oldest in India. This very fact of the antiquity of this rare collection has been drawing the attention of many learned scholars in India and abroad for the last one century. It is said that when Alaudin Khilji attacked Gujarat, these books were removed from the ancient towns of Patam, Alhanpur and Khambat and placed in the Jain temples of Jaisalmer. Since then these old works remained concealed from public eye, uncared for and in disarray.

1. Since March 1970, the name of the organisation has been changed as Semant Lekhak Sangh. However, the organisation and objectives of the association remain the same.

2. Source : Office of the Rajasthan Prachya Prathisthan, Jodhpur.

In 1905, Shri Ram Krishna Bhandarkar, a scholar of repute at the instance of Bombay Government visited Jaisalmer to study the old collection of books of Rajputana. During his course of research, he found ten big libraries in Jain temples full of manuscripts lying helter skelter. Shri Bhandarkar discovered some works dating back to *Vikram Samvat* 924 (867 A.D.). He did some preliminary work to arrange them and yet much remained to be done. Then Dr. Chimam Lal Dalal, a reputed scholar of Baroda, visited Jaisalmer to study these rare manuscripts. Dr. Dalal of the Baroda Institute of Oriental Research was a pioneer in preparing and publishing a list of all the manuscripts largely written on palm leaves.

Also notable Jain saints, Muni Shri Jinviyaiji and Late Shri Punya Vijaiji took to compilation, classification, publication and scientific arrangement of these books of remote antiquity. At their initiative, micro-films of these manuscripts were prepared. In 1959, the Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur, started preparing photostat copies and publication of some the manuscripts. Photostat copies of nearly 336 old works have since been prepared. A number of valuable and rare manuscripts stored in the *Gyan Bhandars* have been published.

Manuscripts and palm leaf books treasured in the *Jain Gyan Bhandars* are mostly written in Prakrit, Magadhi, Sanskrit, Aprabhamsa and Braj dialects. Some of them were written or copied out in *Samvat* 1117 (or 1060 A.D.) of the *Vikram* era. In all, there are 426 books written on palm leaf and 2,257 manuscripts on paper. The collection contains books dealing with the Jain, Vedic and Buddhist literature, Jurisprudence, Economics, Public Finance, Astronomy, Philosophy and principles of Criticism. Besides, there are 36 illustrated books containing the finest specimens of old paintings. Some of the important books are *Bhagwati Sootra*, *Naishadha Charitra*, *Mahakavya Nagananda* (drama), *Anargha Raghava*, (drama), *Veni Simhar*, *Vasavadatta*, *Bhagvad Gita*, *Bhashya*, *Pantanjali Yoga Darshan*, *Kautilya's Arthashastra*, *Srinagara Manjari* etc.

The Jaisalmer fort, studded with beautiful Jain temples, possesses the following libraries (*Gyan Bhandar*) :

1. Jina Bhadra Suri Gyan Bhandar
2. Bada Upasara ,,
3. Dungeerseeji ,,
4. Tharushah ,,
5. Khartaracharyagachya
6. Tapagachya ,,
7. Lokagachya ,,

Jina Bhadra Suri *Gyan Bhandar* housed in Shri Sambhu Nath Jain temple, is the oldest and richest collection of books, carried to Jaisalmer in *Vikram Samvat* 1500 (or 1443 A.D.) by Acharya Jina Bhadra Suri from the ancient towns of Khambhat (Cambay), Alhanpur and Patan in order to preserve them from Muslim devastation.

Libraries

There is only one library in the district which is the District Library, Jaisalmer. It was opened in 1960 by the Department of Social Education of the Government of Rajasthan. It contains 3,728 (1967-68) books on all subjects. The library also subscribes to a number of periodicals and newspapers in English and Hindi. There are 130 (1967-68) members of the library. No membership fee is charged from its members, only caution money of Rs. 5 is deposited by the members to the librarian. The annual expenditure incurred was Rs. 1,384 in 1967-68. Out of this amount Rs. 307 were spent on the purchase of books. Since this is the only library in the district a good number of people come daily to borrow or deposit books. The daily average of subscribers and readers visiting the District Library during the year 1967-68 was 35 and 65 respectively. The library building was constructed in 1960 out of the donation collected by the public of Jaisalmer. Situated near the Collectorate, the building has a big hall and two rooms. Books are placed either in almirahas or on open shelves. A librarian appointed by the Education Department (Social Education Unit) looks after the District Library. This library plays an important role in the promotion of reading habits in the town.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

EARLY HISTORY

During the former times, diseases were often attributed to a variety of supernatural forces, the wrath of gods, the work of demons, malefactive influences exerted by the stars on human lives or malicious acts of magic and witchcraft. The cure was sought through prayers and sacrifices, exorcism through *mantras*, charms and spells. Religion was closely associated with healing and the priest was not infrequently also the medicine man. Jaisalmer was not different from other parts of the country in attributing certain epidemics like smallpox, measles, chickenpox to feminine dieties. The names given to the first two were *Barimata* and *Chotimata*. No medicines were given during the period of illness and many patients suffered deformities, some losing their eyesight. In Jaisalmer as in other parts of western Rajasthan, the people were ignorant, superstitious and impervious to modern methods of treatment. Probably they never even heard of them.

The early surgery was known as bloodletting through leeches (*Jhonk lagana*) or horn shaped tubes (*Seengi lagana*). The latter was resorted to in case of rheumatic and other swellings. A few scratches would be made with a sharp instrument on the swollen spot and a horn with a hole at the other end applied on the scratched surface. Then the surgeon would suck out the air and seal the tubes. The vacuum would suck out some blood. Another very common remedy, used even today, was scorching the place of pain (*Dap lagana*).

In spite of the facilities offered by the extension of modern medicines, people living in remote rural areas still resort to the ancient ways of surgery and the itinerant barber-surgeons, sometimes in preference to a qualified doctor.

The other systems in use were the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine. Both were quite popular from old times. The *Vaidyas*, mostly

hereditary Hindu physicians, practise Ayurvedic system of medicine. The remedies used by them are herbal or oxides of metals (*Bhasmas*). The Unani system came later and has been the monopoly of *Hakims*. The prescribing chemists have also existed along with *Vaidyas* and *Hakims* and are called *Attars*.

The first modern dispensary in the district was opened at Jaisalmer in 1892 by the then State Government. 3,857 patients received treatment in this dispensary in the very first year (1892)¹, their daily average being 60. This dispensary was converted into a hospital in 1895-96 by providing six beds for indoor patients. A dispensary at Pokaran, then forming a part of Jodhpur State, was started by the *Thakur* of Pokaran in the early years of the century. Besides treatment of outdoor patients, facilities for minor operations were also provided in this dispensary. A spacious new building, now occupied by the Jaisalmer hospital, was completed in 1942. The construction of another building for housing a dispensary at Bap was started by the State Government before the transfer of power in 1947. But the working of this dispensary did not start before Jaisalmer became a part of Rajasthan in 1949. Bap was later transferred to the Jodhpur district in 1954.

When Jaisalmer State was integrated into Rajasthan, it had only two allopathic medical institutions for the whole population. The doctors serving in these institutions also looked after public health and sanitation in the State besides providing medical care. The small-pox eradication work was done by the Vaccinators attached to the Jaisalmer Hospital.

GENERAL STANDARD OF HEALTH

Vital Statistics

The registration of births and deaths in the areas comprising the former State of Jaisalmer was started in the year 1893. A special establishment for the purpose supervised by the *Mahkama Khas* was doing this work quite efficiently at Jaisalmer town. During the years 1902-05 the birth and death rates for the area comprising Jaisalmer State were recorded as 18 and 15 per mile respectively.² For the capital town of Jaisalmer, these figures were 40 and 30 respectively for these years.³ The latter figures

1. Erskine, K. D., *Rajputana Gazetteers* Vol. III-B, p. 18. (*Statistical Table* No. III).

2. *ibid.*, Vol. III-A, 1909, p. 19.

3. *ibid.*

seemed more reliable, since the procedure for the collection of figures in rural areas done through the village revenue agency was often not very reliable. The recorded birth and death rates per thousand population were 9.93 and 9.01 respectively in 1937-38 and 10.03 and 9.15 respectively in 1938-39.¹

At present the recording of the figures of births and deaths in urban areas is being done by the two municipalities of Jaisalmer and Pokaran in their respective jurisdictional areas. It started in Jaisalmer on 17th of September 1949, and on 2nd of January 1953, in Pokaran. A special order of the Government of Rajasthan issued on 25th September, 1954 makes it obligatory for all municipalities to make proper arrangements for the recording and collection of data relating to births and deaths for submission to the State Health Department. The recording of births and deaths in respect of urban areas is thus expected to be more reliable. It is done through the sanitation staff of the two municipalities. The entries of birth are later put to check by vaccinators who tour the district.

The following table gives the yearly figures of total births and deaths in Jaisalmer town (registered with the Municipal Committee of the town) for the years 1956 to 1968.²

(Number)		
Year	Births	Deaths
1956	74	81
1957	197	99
1958	260	141
1959	167	64
1960	109	46
1961	156	81
1962	192	61
1963	164	81
1964	173	79
1965	205	75
1966	200	96
1967	309	94
1968	346	118

1. *Report on the Administration of the Jaisalmer State*, 1938-39, p. 47.

2. Source : Office of the Administrative Officer, Municipal Committee, Jaisalmer.

In the Census year 1961, the population of Jaisalmer town was 8,362. The birth and death rates for that year (on the basis of above figures of births and deaths) work out to 18.67 and 9.69 per 1000 respectively, thus giving a net growth rate of 8.98, which appears to be quite an under-estimate. The plausible reason is that reporting and registration of both births and deaths being voluntary, many cases might not be reported for registration.

Important Causes of Mortality

The important causes of registered deaths during the nine years 1960-68 were as follows¹ :

(Number)									
	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Smallpox	6	6	-	36	15	1	-	-	-
Fever (Malaria and others)	72	72	54	25	62	40	48	73	96
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	3	3	2	8	4	2	12	8	9
Injuries and suicides	3	3	7	3	8	3	5	22	5
Respiratory diseases	12	12	16	17	24	22	21	32	31
Other causes	7	7	11	37	6	22	35	24	23

It transpires from the above figures that the fatal effects of Malarial and other fevers had been on the decline during recent years except the last two years. Only 44.5 per cent of the registered deaths were caused by these in 1965 as against about 70 per cent in 1960. Stomach diseases like dysentery and diarrhoea, and injuries and suicides claimed negligible victims in most years except 1967. Similarly smallpox has not been causing many deaths and it was completely eradicated during the last three years, as far as the registered figures are concerned. Respiratory diseases appear to be on the increase claiming more lives every year. The percentage of registered deaths from this disease increased from 11.6 in 1960 to about 20 in 1968. Other miscellaneous causes of death also claimed more lives in 1968 (13 per cent) than in 1960 (6.7 per cent).

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, yearly volumes from 1961 to 1968.

Longevity

A sample survey of 10,074 persons conducted during the 1951 Census enumeration showed that the maximum percentage (33.30) of the population was in the age-group 0-14 years, indicating a rapid growth of population. 32.29 per cent of the population was in the age-group 15-34 years, and 24.93 per cent between 35 and 54 years. Only 9.48 per cent of the people survived after 55. The low percentage of persons over 55 years indicated the low expectancy of life.

During the 1961 Census the following division of the total population was recorded :

Age-group	Population	Percentage
0-14	58,418	41.62
15-34	47,924	34.15
35-54	24,974	17.80
55 and above	8,968	6.39
Age not stated	54	0.04
ALL AGES	140,338	100.00

The above statistics indicate a fall in the expectancy of life in the higher age groups. It may have been due to depressed economic conditions as well as poor medical facilities during the decade 1951-1961. However, with the extension of medical facilities and other essential social services, the health standards have definitely improved and the general consciousness about their need has increased.

Common Diseases

The dry climate of the district is generally helpful in keeping the incidence of major epidemical diseases low. As observed by Adams,¹ the germs of cholera and plague have never been able to survive the hardships of the desert. Malaria, with the exception of mild type of such fevers, has also been rare. Smallpox too was found to be equally rare. Cholera was unknown till December 1899, when it broke out and claimed some three to four thousand victims within a period of about ten months before finally

1. Adams, A., *The Western Rajputana States, A Medico-Topographical and General Account of Marwar, Sirohi, Jaisalmer*, 1900, p. 27.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

disappearing. The acute conditions of famine during this period must have helped the epidemic.

The people of this region suffer mostly from skin diseases, trachoma and gastro-enteritis and other stomach ailments. These are easily explained. Lack of water prevents cleanliness and the people are so poor that some of them do not have a change of clothing. They wear the same set till it is torn and tattered. The perspiration almost cakes on the body and clothes, causing dermatitis, eczema, and secondary infections like skin lesions and even ulcers. The flying sand and dust causes trachoma. The poor and unbalanced diet causes various stomach diseases. Dysentery, a tropical disease, is almost universal. The poor nutrition and extremes of climate cause respiratory and chest complaints such as Bronchitis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Bronchial Asthma. Cases of sun stroke are not uncommon during the hot months.

The following table shows the number of patients treated for the common diseases at various hospitals and dispensaries of the district during the years 1967 and 1968¹ :

Diseases	(Number)	
	1967	1968
1. Dysentery	1,707	103
2. Avitaminosis and Deficiency states (Others)	732	2,870
3. Trachoma	183	177
4. Inflammatory diseases of the eye	2,509	2,176
5. Otitis Media and Mastoiditis	1,474	1,080
6. Other Media and Mastoiditis	1,993	1,825
7. Upper Respiratory Infections (Acute)	3,445	3,295
8. Teeth and Gum diseases	1,444	1,182
9. Other Digestive diseases	4,468	3,723
10. Acute Bronchitis	1,711	1,479
11. Skin and Musculoskeletal system diseases	3,832	432
12. Rheumatism, Muscular and other	1,438	1,008

1. Source : Office of the District Medical & Health Officer, Jodhpur.

Infirmities

The table given below shows the number of persons afflicted by infirmities, namely deaf-mutism, insanity, blindness and corrosive leprosy in the various age-groups at the time of 1951 Census¹ :

Age-group	Blind		Deaf-Mute		Insane		Leper		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1-4	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2
5-9	1	2	1	2	3	1	—	—	5	5
10-14	12	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	17	2
15-24	2	2	5	2	4	1	—	—	11	5
25-34	11	4	1	2	5	1	1	—	18	7
35-44	12	3	2	2	2	2	—	—	16	7
45-54	10	14	2	1	1	2	—	—	13	17
55-64	24	21	—	1	—	1	—	—	24	23
65-74	9	8	—	—	—	2	—	—	9	10
75 & over	10	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	12	9
Total	91	66	16	10	18	10	1	1	126	87

The total number of infirm persons in the district in 1951 was 213 (126 males and 87 females). This worked out to be about 2 infirm persons per thousand population. Blindness was the most common infirmity, the number of persons affected by it being 157 or 1.5 per thousand. A positive correlation was discernible between blindness and advancing age of both males and females. The total number of blind in the age group 55 and over was 81 or 51.61 per cent of the total blind persons of the district. The affliction of the other infirmities taken together was less than 0.4 per thousand.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARIES

In 1967-68, there were in all 11 government Allopathic institutions, 3 hospitals, 5 dispensaries and 3 Primary Health Centres, in the district.² In the absence of a separate District Medical Officer, the administrative control of medical and health activities and institutions is concurrently exercised by the District Medical and Health Officer, Jodhpur. The following is the categorywise list of government medical institutions :

1. 1951 Census, Rajasthan and Ajmer, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer, Part I, pp. 77-79,
2. This includes B. S. F./R. A. C. institutions also which are not described in the write-up.

Hospitals :

(1) Jawahar Hospital, Jaisalmer

No. of beds

20

Dispensaries:

(1) Police Line Dispensary, Jaisalmer

(2) Mobile Dispensary, Jaisalmer

(3) Oil and Natural Gas Dispensary, Jaisalmer

(4) Govt. Dispensary, Bhaniyana

(5) Jail Dispensary, Jaisalmer

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Primary Health Centres :**Sub-Centres**

(1) Pokaran

Khetolai
Bhaniyana
Phalsoond

6

(2) Nachna

Mohangarh
Nehdai
Nokh

6

(3) Sangarh

—

—

Family Planning Clinics :

1. Nachna Primary Health Centre

2. Pokaran Primary Health Centre

3. Jaisalmer—Mobile Unit

—

—

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Anti-Rabic Centre

1. Jawahar Hospital, Jaisalmer

Free medical aid is available in all these institutions. The number of patients treated—both indoor and out-door in these institutions taken together during the years 1963 to 1968 is given in the following table¹ :

(Number)

Year	Indoor patients			Mode of discharge		Percentage of death to total indoor patients	Out door patients
	Treated	Cured	Relieved	Discharged otherwise	Died		
1963	411	314	58	41	4	—	49,520
1964	499	328	47	102	—	—	52,403
1965	518	392	147	72	5	1.0	42,933
1966	434	217	107	45	6	1.4	47,278
1967	646	489	98	35	10	1.5	46,591
1968	684	357	257	40	5	0.7	45,422

1. Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan, yearly volumes for the years 1964 to 1968.

Jawahar Hospital, Jaisalmer

As stated earlier, this hospital was opened in 1892 as a State maintained dispensary and converted into a hospital by the provision of 6 beds for indoor patients in 1895-96. By 1909, the yearly average number of patients treated in the hospital had reached about 47,000 including about 250 surgical cases. The daily average attendance of in-patients and out-patients was recorded as 3 and 61 respectively¹. The hospital was then being maintained at an yearly cost of about Rs. 2,300.

The hospital is now located in a well-constructed building, built in 1941 outside Amar Sagar Piroli, near the Collectorate. It is equipped with 20 beds (12 for males and 8 for females) in the separately provided male and female wards. Ten extra beds are available for emergency use. There is an X-Ray machine, and arrangements exist for surgery and ordinary pathological tests. The number of out-door and in-door patients treated in the hospital during 1968 was 11,260 and 426, the daily average being 56.8 and 9.3 respectively. The number of minor and major operations performed was 247 and 39 respectively.

Anti-rabic treatment is done in the Anti-Rabic Centre attached to the hospital. Family Planning advice is made available and contraceptives distributed and sterilisation operations are performed in the Family Planning Centre of the hospital.

The Medical Officer in charge of the hospital is a Civil Assistant Surgeon Class I. One post of a lady doctor is sanctioned. The other staff attached includes 3 compounders, one nurse, one mid-wife and four attendants. Staff quarters of doctors, compounders and class IV servants have been constructed in the hospital compound.

Police Lines Dispensary, Jaisalmer

This dispensary was opened in the year 1960 and is run under the charge of a Grade III compounder, who is assisted by one *Farash*. Patients treated in the dispensary numbered 5,548 in 1968, the daily average being 15.

Mobile Dispensary, Jaisalmer

This is the only Mobile Health Van Dispensary working in the district since 13th May 1962. It provides medical aid to the rural areas where there are inadequate permanent arrangements for medical care or

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, 1909. p.36.

none at all. The dispensary has its headquarters in the premises of Jawahar Hospital. One Civil Assistant Surgeon heads this unit. He works with the assistance of two compounders (one each of Class II and Class III), and a class IV servant, and a driver and a cleaner for the vehicle.

Government Dispensary, Bhaniyana

This is the only rural dispensary in the district. It was established as an Aid Post on 17th June 1961, with a compounder grade III as incharge, but was raised to its present status the very next year (1962) with a First Grade Compounder heading it. The present sanctioned strength (1968) of the staff is one Medical Officer, one compounder Grade II, one compounder Grade III, one mid-wife, and two class IV servants. It is situated in Panchayat Bhawan on the Pokaran-Phalsoond Road at a distance of about 35.2 km. (22 miles) from Pokaran. The dispensary has also a Family Planning Centre, besides a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre attached to it. 8,019 patients received treatment in the dispensary in 1968, their daily average being 40.

Jaisalmer Dispensary, Jaisalmer is being attended by a compounder from Jawahar Hospital and Oil and Natural Gas Dispensary has not been functioning temporarily.

Primary Health Centres

Three Primary Health Centres have been functioning in the district at Pokaran, Nachna and Sangad. Sangad Centre has started functioning recently (August 1968).

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, POKARAN—This centre is located at Pokaran in a building constructed on the Primary Health Centre pattern. It caters to the needs of Sankara Panchayat Samiti area through its three sub-centres in Khetolai, Phalsoond and Bhaniyana villages. It was established in 1957, by the conversion of a small dispensary working at Pokaran town. The staff attached to the Centre is one Civil Assistant Surgeon, two compounders, one Health and Sanitary Inspector, one Lady Health Visitor, four *dais* and midwives, two vaccinators, one driver and seven class IV servants.

The present building, built partly with the help of donations, has separate male and female wards with 2 beds each, a maternity room having 2 beds, an X-Ray room besides the doctor's room and a staff room for the Health Inspector, a Vaccination Centre and T.A.B. Centre. Facilities for X-Ray, stool, urine and blood examinations are available. Equipment for minor operations and conducting labour cases has also been provided.

The Centre's staff looks to the sanitation and health needs in its area and provides medical facilities to the people besides giving family planning advice and distributing contraceptives. The number of outdoor and indoor patients treated in 1968 was 13,948 and 202 respectively. The respective daily average of patients treated came to 77 and 6. 440 minor operations were performed during the year.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE, NACHINA—This Primary Health Centre started functioning in November 1960 in a room of the Panchayat Bhawan. It was shifted to its own newly constructed building in February, 1967, when its systematic functioning started. 3,602 outdoor patients were treated at the centre in 1968. Sub-centres of this Primary Health Centre are to start functioning at Mohangarh, Nehdai and Nokh as soon as living and housing facilities are provided by the Panchayat Samiti. The sanctioned staff attached consists of one C.A.S. as incharge, three compounders, one sanitary inspector, one *dai*, four midwives and two class IV servants. The centre has a provision for four indoor patients.

Private Hospitals and Practitioners

There are no private allopathic hospitals or nursing homes anywhere in the district except a private dispensary at Jaisalmer town, run by Dr. Motilal Bhatia who practices medicine besides running a chemist shop.

Special Units

The following special units are functioning in the district attached to various medical institutions :

ANTI-RABIC CENTRE—An Anti-Rabic Centre is attached to Jawahar Hospital, Jaisalmer since 28th October, 1964.

Family Planning

A District Family Planning Bureau was opened at Jaisalmer in August 1967, simultaneously with other districts of the State, with the dual object of educating the general masses about the need and utility of family planning through proper and organised propaganda as well as to co-ordinate the efforts at providing necessary facilities to the willing males and females for the purpose. The Bureau is headed by one District Family Planning Officer. His staff in the district includes one doctor incharge of Mobile Unit, one District Education & Publicity Officer, one health assistant, one staff nurse and other technical and non-technical workers. Three rural family planning centres are attached to the three Primary Health Centres, and one urban unit to Jawahar Hospital, Jaisalmer.

The family planning work done in the district during 1967-68 includes 76 vasectomy operations performed and 93 loop insertions made. 2,794 condoms, 30 jelly tubes and 822 foam tablets were distributed. In Family Planning Camps organised in rural areas, 17 vasectomy operations were performed and 18 loops inserted.

District Health Office

District Health Officer, Jodhpur, concurrently looks after Jaisalmer controlling the district staff consisting of one Sanitation Inspector and three vaccinators. The Sanitary Inspector enforces the Drugs Act and issues food licences. He works for checking communicable diseases.

Indigenous System of Medicine

Ayurvedic medicines made from herbs have been and continue to be very popular with the masses, even after the extension of the facilities of allopathic treatment. *Vaidyas* have been hereditary medical practitioners since times immemorial, though in Jaisalmer the system received state patronage only after the formation of Rajasthan and the establishment of a separate Ayurvedic Department to popularize this system. It was in 1956 that the first Government Ayurvedic Dispensary was opened in the district at Phalsoond.

The following table records the growth of Ayurvedic Dispensaries and patients treated in them.

Year	(Number)	
	Dispensaries ¹ (all C class)	Patients treated ²
1956-57	7	66,160
1957-58	7	59,682
1958-59	8	61,719
1959-60	10	84,546
1960-61	13	1,33,406
1961-62	15	1,54,185
1962-63	15	1,31,555
1963-64	18	1,55,868
1964-65	20	1,62,420
1965-66	20	1,86,380
1966-67	20	1,12,108
1967-68	20	1,10,638

1. *Statistical Abstract, Rajasthan*, volumes for the years 1958 to 1968.

2. Source : Directorate of Ayurved, Ajmer.

Thus by the end of the year 1967-68, 20 Government *Ayurvedic Aushadhalayas* were working in the district. They were all 'C' class *Aushadhalayas*, each under the charge of a qualified *Vaidya*. Bigger *Aushadhalayas* have an *Up-Vaidya* or Compounder also attached to them.

Some details about these *Aushadhalayas* are given in the following table¹ :

S. No.	Place where located	Year of opening	Class	Average daily attendance of patients	Staff			Total
					Vaidya	Up-Vaidya	Class IV employee	
1. Jaisalmer		1960	C	53	1	1	1	3
						(Dhatri)		
2. Phalsoond		1956	C	17	1	1	1	3
3. Raj Mathai		1956	C	10	1	—	1	2
4. Ramgarh		1957	C	7	1	1	1	3
5. Shakra		1958	C	6	1	—	1	2
6. Nachna		1956	C	8	1	1	1	3
7. Pokaran		1961	C	38	1	1	1	3
8. Sangad		1956	C	11	1	—	1	2
9. Ramdeora		1960	C	14	1	1	1	3
10. Sam		1957	C	7	1	1	1	3
11. Bhaniyana		1960	C	18	1	1	1	3
12. Fatehgarh		1961	C	17	1	—	1	2
13. Badodagaon		1961	C	14	1	1	1	3
14. Nokh		1960	C	7	1	1	1	3
15. Jhinhinyali		1962	C	18	1	1	1	3
16. Myajlar		1964	C	10	1	1	1	3
17. Mohangarh		1964	C	15	1	1	1	3
18. Kheeya		1964	C	4	1	1	1	3
19. Badha		1965	C	9	1	—	1	2
20. Askandar		1965	C	8	1	—	1	2

1. Source : Directorate of Ayurved, Rajasthan, Ajmer.

Besides the above Government run *Aushadhalayas*, a number of private *Ayurvedic* institutions are working in all parts of the district.

No *Unani* dispensary has been established anywhere in the district.

Summary of Medical facilities

To sum up, the district has rather an inadequate number of allopathic institutions from the point of view of the area to be served. The present (1968) number of doctors serving the district is only seven i.e. one doctor for over 23,000 of population. The number of beds provided for in-patients in all the institutions is 46 or 3 beds per 10,000 of population. There are no public health and medical research or training centres. The allopathic medical institutions have provided facilities to an ever increasing number of the inhabitants of the district particularly in far flung rural areas.

The twenty Government *Ayurvedic* dispensaries well-spread over all parts of the district, however, improve the general picture. A significant increase in the number of dispensaries and the patients who received treatment through these institutions point to the fact of the system of *Ayurved* getting popular with the people. The medical facilities are undoubtedly, very inadequate inspite of them.

Dispensing Chemists

There are 7 shops of dispensing chemists in the whole of the district area. Three of them are at Jaisalmer, another three at Pokaran and only one in the rural area at Nokh.

SANITATION

Drainage

The need for artificial drainage system has hardly been felt in the district. The site of Jaisalmer town is high and it helps the natural drainage of most parts of it. No significant arrangements for organised sanitation have been made in Pokaran town area either. However, a few hand or he-buffalo-driven carts and a tractor-trolley at Jaisalmer have been provided by the town municipalities to remove sullage from the streets. A few temporary structures to serve as public latrines have been constructed in Jaisalmer town. The sparsely populated rural areas do not need any artificial sanitary arrangements.

Water-supply

Pipe water supply in the district is confined to Jaisalmer and Pokaran towns only. The scheme presently operating in Jaisalmer was

taken up in 1963. It was completed in 1966. The total expenditure sanctioned was Rs. 12.70 lakhs while the actual expenditure has come to Rs. 11.96 lakhs.¹

Before the present arrangements were completed a skelton water supply scheme had been operating for Jaisalmer town since 1948. The source of water supply then was Jaisloo well situated in the Jaisalmer fort. A 5 H.P. pumping set with a discharge capacity of 3,182 litres (700 gallons) per hour had been installed. The water was stored in a masonry reservoir of a capacity of 2,18,206 litres (48,000 gallons) and supplied to the public through stand posts. The daily supply from Jaisloo was limited to 36,367 litres (8,000 gallons). An additional 18,183 litres (4,000 gallons) of water was supplied every day from Mahajansar well, by direct boosting in the pipe lines. The total daily supply, thus, was to the tune of 54,550 (12,000 gallons). This water supply scheme was administered by the then Electrical and Mechanical Department of Jodhpur State. The public at large, however, met its demand from Gharsisar Tank situated on the outskirts of the town.

In the year 1959, the Gharsisar tank was left with little water due to failure of rains and consequently a Rs. 85 thousand Emergency Water Supply Scheme was framed and sanctioned immediately by the State Public Health Department. The scheme provided for the installation of one more submersible pump at Jaisloo well and nearly 5,029 metres (16,500 ft.) of pipe lines of 19 to 76 millimetres ($\frac{3}{4}$ " to 3") sizes. But the brackishness of Jaisloo well water precluded its use for other than washing and bathing purposes. The difficult position created thus led to the decision to chalk out the present scheme.

With this scheme now in operation, the sources of water-supply are two tube-wells with a discharge capacity of 109,103 litres (24,000 gallons) per hour at Dabla, a village 14.4 km. (9 miles) away from Jaisalmer on Jaisalmer-Barmer road. A third tube-well is provided to be commissioned as and when the need arises². The water is pumped from the tube-wells and as such does not require to be filtered. Chlorination is, however, done for sterilization. The total storing capacity of the plant at the head works is 4.5 lakh litres (1 lakh gallons) of water stored in an under-ground

1. *Tratiya Panchvarshiya Yojna Pragati Prativedan*, 1961-66, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Rajasthan, p. 302.

2. The Third Tube-well has since been commissioned, increasing the daily water supply to 3 lakh gallons.

tank. Three storage tanks with 2,27,298 litres or 50,000 gallons (a break pressure reservoir), 2,72,758 litres or 60,000 gallons (old service reservoir) and 90,919 litres or 20,000 gallons (R.C.C. reservoir) capacities have been constructed at Jaisalmer. Water from Dabla is first stored in the first tank and then pumped to the other two service reservoirs situated in the Jaisalmer fort. The power to run the plant is supplied from the Jaisalmer Power House through High-transmission lines.

The water-supply to the consumers is released from the water works for three hours daily between 7 A.M. and 10 A.M. This has been found to adequately meet the consumption requirements of the town, estimated at about 4.5 lakh litres (1 lakh gallons) a day. The cart filling hydrant supply is from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. A total of 619 metered water supply connections were given till the end of 1967-68. The street taps then numbered 24. The charges of water consumption have been fixed at Re. 0.68 per 1,000 litres.

The water works is operated by the Jaisalmer tube-wells sub-division of the Public Health Engineering Department of the Government of Rajasthan.

A similar scheme for Pokaran town was prepared and completed in April 1968. It is operating through one reinforced cement concrete overhead tank with a capacity of 4.5 lakh litres (1 lakh gallon) and a pumping set of 36,000 litres (8,000 gallons) discharging capacity at Sarang Baw well alongwith pipe lines varying from 51 to 203 m.m. (2" to 8") size. The cost of this scheme has come to Rs. 1.5 lakhs. The number of street taps in Pokaran town was 15 in 1968.

Besides the above two urban schemes, water supply scheme for Lathi village (estimated cost Rs. 22,000) has been sanctioned and is under way¹.

The commissioning of tube-wells at various sites in the district has also helped solve the most dire need for drinking water of the people of their respective areas.² Pumping sets are fitted at the sites of these tube wells to enable the villagers to carry water for drinking.

SPECIAL SCHEMES

Anti-Malarial Measures

Jaisalmer district was not selected for inclusion in the Malaria Control Programme since the impact of the epidemic is not very severe in

1. Another scheme viz. Kalau-Bhinyana has since been commissioned to benefit 15 villages.
2. Details about tube-wells are given in chapter IV of this volume.

the district. However, the area was taken direct in the attack phase under the Eradication Programme introduced in the district in the year 1959. The Medical Officers of the Malaria Eradication Programme units at Barmer and Jodhpur are the controlling authorities of the operations and the personnel engaged for the purpose in the Jaisalmer and Pokaran tahsil areas respectively. The District staff in the two sub-units at Jaisalmer and Pokaran includes two Senior Malaria Inspectors, two Malaria Inspectors, 10 surveillance inspectors, 40 surveillance workers, one superior field worker, 4 field workers, two drivers and two cleaners. Besides surveillance checking, spraying and fortnightly visits to each house in their respective areas by the surveillance staff, the remedial measures undertaken during the positive period of the disease included mass blood surveys by the collection of blood-smears and focal sprays. Intensive Ba-Mass surveys are also conducted by Surveillance Inspectors to detect all cases of malarial attacks. During 1966-67 and 1967-68 two rounds of D.D.T. spraying were undertaken in both towns and 307 and 239 villages respectively. The extent of success achieved through the programme is indicated by the fact that during 1966, out of a total of 4,447 slides of blood samples collected, not a single positive malarial trace was detected. In 1966-67 and 1967-68 11,259 and 7,318 slides collected revealed only 12 and 5 positive cases respectively. The yearly expenditure on the programme came to Rs. 86,910 during 1967-68.

National Smallpox Eradication Programme

The National Programme for smallpox eradication was initiated in the district in 1963. The programme was carried out under the supervision of District Health Officer, Jodhpur. The number of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations performed during the years 1963 to 1968 were as follows¹ :

(Number)		
Year	Primary vaccinations performed	Re-vaccinations performed
1963	9,234	11,862
1964	19,539	46,586
1965	3,791	13,632
1966	1,272	4,947
1967	1,895	3,655
1968	17,486	9,270

1. Source : District Health Office, Jodhpur.

The expenditure on the programme came to Rs. 73,580 during 1967-68. Five vaccinators are working in the district.

Vaccination

Vaccination against Cholera was started in Jaisalmer State in the year 1890,¹ though it was confined to the population residing near the capital town of Jaisalmer and its adjoining villages, due to the difficulties of approach to the remote parts of the State.

Vaccination continued to be performed during princely State times. The number of persons successfully vaccinated stood at 11 per thousand of population in 1905-06.²

B.C.G. VACCINATION—B.C.G. vaccination by the teams of the Mass B.C.G. Campaign was started in Jaisalmer district in the year 1956 when the First Round of the B.C.G. Vaccinations was done on a campaign basis. The scheme was planned at the level of Supervising Medical Officer's headquarters at Jaipur and a team of 30 vaccinators was posted in the field to cover the whole area of the district. The second round covering all the tahsil areas was undertaken in 1961 by 18 technicians. The following were the figures of cases tested, vaccinated and re-examined during the two rounds :

(Number)				
Year	Round	Tested	Vaccinated	Read i.e. Re-examined after Tuberculin Test
1956	I	8,188	2,245	4,892
1961	II	3,962	1,750	2,937

To have better co-ordination, the programme of B.C.G. Vaccination has now been integrated with T.B. Clinics in each district. But since no T.B. Clinic has yet been opened in Jaisalmer district, this is still being done on the old pattern and the vaccinators are posted at Jawahar Hospital, Jaisalmer and Primary Health Centre, Pokaran to attend to the work in the three Panchayat Samiti areas.

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteer*, Vol. III—A, p. 36.

2. *ibid.*, vol. III—B, p.19.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

LABOUR WELFARE

There are no large or organized small scale industries in the district, and hence no industrial labour force. However, two small transport concerns working in Pokaran Sub-division are covered under the provisions of various labour laws made applicable in the State. But their number and the strength of the labour force employed has not been found to justify any state activity for their welfare, on any scale whatever. The State looks after the enforcement of the statutory provisions of the laws through the agency of the Labour inspectorate, Jodhpur. A list of Central and State labour laws enforced in the state has been given in the Appendix I.

No Labour Welfare Centre is being run by the State Labour Department anywhere in the district.

PROHIBITION

From times immemorial, opium had been an item of traditional use in Jaisalmer district both as an occasional beverage and by habitues of the drug.¹ In the year 1959, a ban was imposed on the consumption of *Ganja*. The old addicts, however, received opium on ration cards issued by the Excise Inspector on medical prescription. The people have now taken to the use of poppy heads as a substitute. There is no restriction on drinking except in public places. There were 4 licensed shops selling country liquor, and three shops selling *Bhang* in the year 1967-68.

The following table shows the extent of consumption of country liquor and *Bhang* in the district during the seven years, from 1961-62 to 1967-68² :

1. Erskine, K.D., *Rajputana Gazetteers*, Vol. III-A, p. 22.
2. Source : Office of the District Excise Officer, Jodhpur.

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Year	Country Liquor (L.P. litres)	<i>Bhang</i> (Kg.)	Opium (Kg.)
1961-62	11,781	354	3.732
1962-63	16,082	355	1.091
1963-64	20,054	310	0.336
1964-65	22,769	295	0.144
1965-66	20,665	350	0.184
1966-67	27,010	267	0.164
1967-68	27,066	429	0.117

The use of *Bhang* remained almost steady during these years while the use of liquor has gone upto a certain extent. Though there is free sale of liquor through the licenced shops, illicit distillation is resorted to in the interior areas away from these shops. But it is mostly for private consumption and consequently not on a large scale. There is no distillery in the district. 4,500 kg. of poppy heads were sold through 3 licenced shops in the year 1967-68.

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND TRIBES

The total populations of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the district at the time of 1961 Census enumeration was 18,939 and 4,566 respectively. The following communities of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes were found to have been residing in the district.¹

Scheduled Castes :	Number
1. Bargi, Vargi or Birgi	2
2. Bhangi	222
3. Chamar, Bhambhi, Jatav, Jatia, Mochi, Raidass, Raigar or Ramdasia	3,682
4. Dheda	218
5. Dome	38
6. Garo, Garura or Gurda	567

1. *Census of India 1961, Rajasthan, District Census Handbook, Jaisalmer District*, pp. 168 and 170.

	Number
7. Gavaria	93
8. Kalbelia	1
9. Khatik	60
10. Koli or Kori	1
11. Megh or Meghwal	13,941
12. Thori or Nayak	99
13. Unclassified	15
Total	18,939
Scheduled Tribes :	
1. Bhil	4,556
2. Mina	10
Total	4,566

Apparently, the most numerous of the scheduled caste persons in the district are Meghwals. A majority of them (96 per cent) reside in the rural areas and are mostly engaged in cultivation or household industries like leather work, shoe-making, leather tanning as also in wool spinning and preparation of blankets. People living in remote border areas breed herds of sheep, goats and cattle.

Welfare Activities

Welfare activities for the backward and under-privileged communities is the main function of the State Social Welfare Department. A Probation-cum-Social Welfare Officer stationed at Jaisalmer since 1st July 1967, assisted by ministerial staff is in overall charge of social welfare and probation work in the district including the welfare of the jail convicts and ex-convicts. Prior to that, a separate District Welfare Officer looked after these activities in the district. He is directly controlled by the Director of Social Welfare Department for the State. The activities of the Department are directed towards the removal of social disabilities afflicting this section and helping their all-round development. This is tried to be achieved by the provision of special educational and other facilities like free boarding and lodging in hostels run for these classes and scholarships to students, besides safeguarding their interests and privileges granted under the country's constitution and statutory laws. Financial assistance

is also provided to such members of these communities as are in need of help to rehabilitate themselves in various fields like agriculture, cottage and small scale industries etc. In Jaisalmer, Rs. 12,000 were granted as subsidies through the Panchayat Samitis for the purchase of cattle, Rs. 4,000 for digging new wells and tanks and repairs to old ones and Rs. 17,000 for other purposes like house building, cottage industries etc. in 1967-68, besides the provisions made for industrial training in a Leather-cum-Production Centre established at Pokaran since 1966 under the Denotified Tribes Scheme. After the completion of training in leather work at this centre, the successful trainees (they numbered 13 in 1967-68) are provided with leather sewing machines and other accessories to enable them to take to the manufacture of leather products and earn a decent living.

The number of children belonging to scheduled classes and scheduled tribes studying in various schools of the district has been steadily going up during recent years. The position during 1964-65 and 1967-68 was as follows :

Schools	(Number)							
	Scheduled Castes				Scheduled Tribes			
	1964-65		1967-68		1964-65		1967-68	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1. Higher Secondary	26	—	399	6	10	—	65	—
2. Junior Secondary	5	—	61	4	—	—	124	13
3. Middle	109	1	806	37	5	2	134	10
4. Primary and Junior Basic	973	43	4,449	888	188	35	421	32
Total	1,113	44	5,715	935	203	37	744	55

Scholarships and grants for books etc. are disbursed to deserving students belonging to these classes through Panchayat Samitis and the District Inspectorate of Education. Freeships and other concessions are also granted and seats in schools reserved for them. During 1964-65 and 1967-68 scholarships to 252 and 371 students amounting to Rs. 1,799 and Rs. 21,426 respectively were sanctioned. The details of old age and disability pensions (monthly) and legal aid granted during the years 1964-65 to 1967-68 are shown in the following table :

Year	Old Age Pensions		Disability Pensions		Legal Aid	
	No. of persons	Amount (Rs.)	No. of persons	Amount (Rs.)	No. of persons	Amount (Rs.)
1964-65	6	120	—	—	—	—
1965-66	29	558	—	—	2	40
1966-67	26	497	7	140	2	40
1967-68	10	200	10	200	4	80

HOSTELS—The Department runs five backward classes hostels, four of them for scheduled castes and one for scheduled tribes. The first scheduled castes hostel at Jaisalmer was started in July 1961. Scheduled castes hostels at Ramgarh, Pokaran and Nachna which were being run by the Rajasthan Harijan Sevak Sangh Bhilwara, since July 1964, and scheduled tribes hostel at Jaisalmer, run by Adim Jati Sevak Sangh, Jaipur, since August 1963, were taken over by the Department in July 1965. The number of inmates in these hostels at the beginning of the academic-session 1967-68 was as follows :

Hostel	No. of Inmates
1. Scheduled Castes Hostel, Jaisalmer	65
2. Scheduled Castes Hostel, Ramgarh	30
3. Scheduled Castes Hostel, Pokaran	30
4. Scheduled Castes Hostel, Nachna	30
5. Scheduled Tribes Hostel, Jaisalmer	30
Total	185

The inmates of these hostels are provided with free boarding and lodging. Besides payment of expenses for their education and other facilities like special coaching conducive to their fuller physical and mental development is liberally made available. Rs. 27,252 on the running of the four scheduled classes hostels and Rs. 9,329 on scheduled tribes hostel were spent in 1967-68.

HOUSING—Five separate colonies have been constructed in the district for the rehabilitation of Scheduled castes and tribes people. They are :

1. Roopsi Consisting of 17 houses of Scheduled Tribes people (Bhils)
2. Parewar or Kabir Basi having 27 houses of Scheduled Castes (Meghwal) people.
3. Ujlan with 6 houses of Scheduled Caste families (Meghwals)
4. Ganeshpura with 20 houses of Gadia Lohars
5. Ramdeora a Harijan colony of 20 houses

Subsidies for building houses are given to the needy section of these classes. Rs. 20,250 were granted for the construction of 44 houses of the first two colonies at the rate of Rs. 750 for each house during the years 1960-63. Two Meghwals at Nokh and another six at Ujlan received Rs.1,250 and Rs. 3,000 respectively in 1963-64 and 1962-63 as subsidies for the construction of houses. Four scheduled tribe persons were granted Rs. 3,000 each in 1962-63 for construction of houses at Ramgarh, Rewri and Randhi. All these subsidies were distributed through the respective Panchayat Samitis.

Other activities of Social Welfare Department in district include propaganda to remove social evils and superstitions. During 1967-68, the Department made a total grant of Rs. 34,000 to the Panchayat Samitis in the district, who in turn made grants to the deserving persons belonging to these classes. The details of these grants are given in the following table¹ :

Panchayat	(Rupees)				
	Scheduled Tribe	Scheduled castes	Backward Classes Schemes		
	Irrigation	Drinking water wells	Purchase of Animals	Tanks for storing rain water	Total
1. Jaisalmer	1,000	2,000	6,000	8,000	17,000
2. Sam	—	—	6,000	10,000	16,000
3. Sankhra	1,000	—	—	—	1,000
Total	2,000	2,000	12,000	18,000	34,000

Source : District Probation-cum-Social Welfare Office, Jaisalmer.

Charitable Endowments

There is only one trust in the district viz. Shri Jaisalmer Laudarvapur Parshavnath Jain Shevtamber Trust, Jaisalmer. It was formed on 5th April 1961, to provide unified management of Jain temple in the district and to arrange for comfortable stay of Jain pilgrims. It runs two *dharmshalas* Mahavir Bhawan and Jain Bhawan at Jaisalmer, and has built six rooms at Lodorva, providing all possible amenities. The temples under the charge of this trust are situated at Jaisalmer, Lodrava, and Pokaran. The trust has 21 elected members, one-third of this number retiring every three years.

There are two State government managed temples in the district viz. Girdharilalji's Temple and Bankibehariji's Temple, on which an expenditure of Rs. 8,732 is incurred every year. The administrative control is exercised by the State Devasthan Department. Besides these two, another 43 temples in the district are provided with an annual State grant of Rs. 1,171.

APPENDIX I**Central and State Acts relating to Labour Welfare****A. Central Acts**

- (a) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
- (b) Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
- (c) Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926
- (d) Minimum Wages Act, 1948
- (e) Indian Factories Act, 1948
- (f) Indian Boilers Act, 1923
- (g) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923
- (h) Employees State Insurance Act, 1936
- (i) Payment of Wages Act, 1936
- (j) Working Journalists (Conditions of Service & Misc. Provisions) Act, 1955
- (k) Employment of Children Act, 1936
- (l) Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952
- (m) Employers Liability Act, 1938
- (n) Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933
- (o) Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961

B. Rajasthan State Acts

- (a) Industrial Disputes (Rajasthan Amendment) Act, 1958
- (b) Rajasthan Shops & Commercial Establishments Act, 1958
- (c) Rajasthan Maternity Benefit Act, 1953

C. Rajasthan State Rules

- (a) Rajasthan Factories Rules, 1951
- (b) Rajasthan Workmen's Compensation (Unclaimed Deposits) Rules, 1959
- (c) Rajasthan Minimum Wages Rules, 1959

- (d) Rajasthan Boilers Rules, 1951
- (e) Rajasthan Industrial Disputes Rules, 1958
- (f) Rajasthan Payment of Wages Rules, 1951
- (g) Rajasthan Shops & Commercial Establishment Rules, 1958
- (h) Rajasthan Trade Union Regulations, 1959
- (i) Rajasthan Employees Insurance Court Rules, 1955
- (j) Rajasthan Maternity Benefit Rules, 1955
- (k) Rajasthan Economiser Rules, 1954
- (l) Rajasthan Silicosis Rules
- (m) Rajasthan Motor Transport Workers Rules, 1962
- (n) The Welfare Officer (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules 1952
- (o) Rajasthan Boilers' Attendance Rules, 1951
- (p) Rajasthan Workmens' Compensation (Cost and Fee) Rules, 1955

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES

The people of Jaisalmer even though they live in a remote, isolated part of the country usually un-affected by political movements from outside, did not lag behind in associating themselves with the freedom movement. Political consciousness came to Jaisalmer in 1921, when the Non-Co-operation Movement was started. Till 1952, there was no system of popular representation or adult franchise in the area. It was only after 1952 that the district was represented at both the union and state legislatures. The political movements after 1952 were largely related to the General Elections¹, details of which are given below :

First General Elections, 1952

LOK SABHA—In the first general elections held in 1952, Jaisalmer district was represented in the *Lok Sabha* (House of People) by one member elected through the Jodhpur Parliamentary Constituency. This constituency comprised the entire area of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer districts. The total number of voters in the constituency was 4,02,871 and 1,77,850 (44.06 per cent) valid votes were cast. The number of candidates who filed their nominations was eight but only two contested the election, six having withdrawn. The seat was won by the independent candidate who polled a total of 1,30,833 valid votes (78.6 per cent). The other candidate, a Congress Party nominee, secured 38,017 valid votes (21.4 per cent) of the total valid votes polled.

VIDHAN SABHA (Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly)—In the first general elections as also in the subsequent three general elections held in the area, the district was represented by a single-member assembly

1. The data for the first four general elections has been adopted from various reports published by the Election Commission on the 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967 elections.

constituency of Jaisalmer comprising the entire area of the district, barring a few minor territorial adjustments with the neighbouring district of Jodhpur effected before the 1962 and 1967 general elections.

In 1952, out of an electorate of 54,246 in the Assembly Constituency, the valid votes polled were 15,025 or 27.69 per cent of the total votes. Out of eight nominated for the seat, five contested the election and three withdrew their candidature. The independent candidate who secured a total of 12,671 (84.3 per cent) valid votes was declared elected. The other three independents polled 863 (5.9 per cent), 217 (1.4 per cent) and 697 (4.6 per cent) and the fourth, a Congress Party nominee, secured 577 (3.8 per cent) votes.

Second General Elections, 1957

LOK SABHA—In the second general elections held in 1957, Jaisalmer district was included in the Barmer Parliamentary Constituency which comprised the entire area of Barmer and Jaisalmer districts including tahsil Phalodi, Shergarh and a few villages of tahsil Osian of the Jodhpur district. Out of an electorate of 4,06,094 in the constituency, the number of valid votes polled was 1,31,018 or 32.2 per cent of total votes. The number of candidates who filed their nominations was four, out of them three were independent candidates and one a Congress candidate. Only two candidates ultimately contested the election, the remaining two independent candidates having withdrawn their candidature. The independent who polled a total of 79,317 (60.5 per cent) valid votes was declared elected. The defeated candidate of the Congress party secured 51,701 (39.5 per cent) valid votes.

VIDHAN SABHA—In 1957, the constituency had an electorate of 60,380. The number of valid votes polled was 20,783 (34.4 per cent of the total votes). In all, five candidates filed their nominations but only two contested the election. The independent candidate who won the election secured a total of 17,666 votes (85.0 per cent). The defeated candidate belonging to the Congress Party polled 3,115 valid votes (15.0 per cent).

Third General Elections, 1962

LOK SABHA—In the third general elections held in the year 1962, the district was included in the Parliamentary Constituency of Barmer. It comprised eight Assembly Constituencies viz. Siwana, Pachpadra, Barmer, Gudamalani, Chohtan, Jaisalmer, Shergarh and Phalodi, i.e., the whole of Jaisalmer and a part of Barmer district. Out of a total electorate of

5,17,490; 1,93,451 or 38 per cent valid votes were cast as against 32.3 per cent valid votes polled during the 1957 elections. Three candidates contested the election. The seat was won by the nominee of the Ram Rajya Parishad, who secured 1,00,395 votes (51.89 per cent). The remaining contestants, one from the Congress Party and the other an Independent, secured 82,684 (42.75 per cent) and 10,372 (5.36 per cent) votes respectively.

VIDHAN SABHA—In 1962, the total electorate numbered 77,484, out of which 27,893 (32.32 per cent) valid votes were polled. Five candidates contested the seat. The Congress party candidate, who polled 16,157 (57.93 per cent) votes won the seat. The other candidates, one from the Ram Rajya Parishad, two Independents and one belonging to the Praja Socialist Party secured 8,648 (30.99 per cent), 1,252 (4.52 per cent), 1,146 (4.11 per cent) and 682 (2.45 per cent) valid votes respectively.

Fourth General Elections, 1967

LOK SABHA—In the fourth general elections held in the year 1967, one member elected through the Parliamentary Constituency of Barmer, represented the district in the Lok Sabha. In the area covered by the 1967 Barmer Parliamentary Constituency, the Assembly Constituency of Phalodi (included in 1962) was excluded and instead a new Assembly Constituency of Sheo was added. The total electorate in the constituency was 5,26,696 out of which 2,16,740 valid votes or 41.15 per cent were cast. The seat was won by the Congress party nominee who polled 1,18,410 valid votes or 54.63 per cent of the total valid votes cast. The other two candidates, a Swatantra Party nominee and an Independent secured 38,477 (40.82 per cent) and 9,853 (4.55 per cent) valid votes respectively. No bye-elections for the Parliamentary seat were held in the district.

VIDHAN SABHA—The total number of electors on rolls at the time of the 1967 general elections for the Assembly Constituency was 69,817. Six candidates in all filed their nominations. Out of them one withdrew and five contested the election. A total of 22,617 valid votes (32.68 per cent) of the total were cast. The nominee of the Swatantra Party who polled 11,897 valid votes (52.14 per cent) won the seat. The remaining four candidates, one from the Congress party, two independents and one from the Praja Socialist Party polled 9,188 (40.27 per cent), 573 (2.25 per cent), 463 (1.98 per cent) and 766 (3.36 per cent) valid votes respectively. No bye-elections for the Vidhan Sabha seat were held in the district.

Analysis of election results (Lok Sabha)

The results of the last four general elections to the *Lok Sabha* reveal that independents won the elections twice in 1952 and 1957. Only the Congress Party could put up its candidates in the field during all the four elections but had to wait till 1967 to win the seat. The Ram Rajya Parishad which secured the seat in 1962, did not contest the election in 1967.

The Swatantra Party entered the election fray for the first time in 1967, recording an impressive percentage of total valid votes. The following statistical table reveals the election results of different political parties:

Year of election	No. of seats	Contesting parties	Candidates		Percentage of valid votes polled
			Conte- stants	Elected	
1952	1	Congress	1	—	21.4
		Independent	1	1	78.6
1957	1	Congress	1	—	39.5
		Independent	1	1	60.5
1962	1	Congress	1	—	42.75
		Ram Rajya Parishad	1	1	51.89
		Independent	1	—	5.36
1967	1	Congress	1	1	54.63
		Swatantra	1	—	40.82
		Independent	1	—	4.55

A Survey of Election Results (Legislative Assembly)

The result of polling for the Legislative Assembly elections indicates a few interesting facts about the changing political trends in the area. During the first two general elections to the State Legislative Assembly, the seats were captured by the independents. In the third general elections, the seat was won by the Congress party. In the fourth general elections, the Congress Party lost the seat to the Swatantra party which contested for the first time. The Praja Socialist Party contested unsuccessfully during the third and fourth general elections.

The following table gives a consolidated account of the various elections to the Legislative Assembly:

Year of election	No. of seats	Contesting parties	Candidates		Percentage of votes polled
			Conte- stants	Elected	
1952	1	Congress	1	—	3.8
		Independent	4	1	96.2
1957	1	Congress	1	—	15.0
		Independent	1	1	85.0
1962	1	Congress	1	1	57.93
		Ram Rajya Parishad	1	—	30.99
		Praja Socialist Party	1	—	2.45
		Independents	2	—	8.63
		Congress	1	—	40.27
1967	1	Swatantra Party	1	1	52.14
		Praja Socialist Party	1	—	4.23
		Independents	2	—	3.36

POLITICAL PARTIES

The major political parties functioning in the district are the Indian National Congress, the Swatantra Party, the Praja Socialist Party and the Jan Sangh, affiliated to their state political units.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS—The party claimed 2,050 primary members and 49 active members on its roll in 1966. District Congress Committee consists of a President, a Secretary and 13 members of the executive committee. The District Congress Party had contested all the four General Elections, Panchayat elections and Municipal elections. It could only capture a Legislative Assembly seat in 1962 which was lost in the 1967 general elections. Since Jaisalmer district is deprived of a developed communication and transport system, party offices in the interior have not been opened. Political activities are guided by the District Office with headquarters at Jaisalmer town.

Other political parties do not maintain district offices, as such details about their organisation in the district are not available.

Newspapers

No daily newspaper or periodical is published within the district. At present, newspapers, journals and magazines of general importance from out side are subscribed for throughout the district. Newspapers, obtained from outside, have a circulation in the district mostly at places like Jaisalmer and Pokaran where Government offices and educational institutions are located.

The names, place of publication and language of important national dailies read at Jaisalmer in 1968 are given below:¹

S. No.	Name	Place of publication	Language
1.	<i>Times of India</i>	Delhi	English
2.	<i>Hindustan Times</i>	"	"
3.	<i>Indian Express</i>	"	"
4.	<i>Hindustan</i>	"	Hindi
5.	<i>Nav Bharat Times</i>	"	"
6.	<i>Veer Arjun</i>	"	"

Among the local papers published in Rajasthan and circulated in the district, prominent are *Rashtradoot* (Hindi), and *Rajasthan Patrika* (Hindi).

Weekly papers which had circulation (1968) in the district were *Screen* (English), *Illustrated Weekly* (English), *Organizer* (English), *Blitz* (English), *Panchjanya* (Hindi), *Saptahik Hindustan* (Hindi), *Dharmyug* (Hindi), *Dinman* (Hindi), *Filmfare* (English), *Madhuri* (Hindi) and *Praja Sewak* (Hindi).

Among the popular monthly and fortnightly magazines are *Parag* (Hindi), *Sarita* (Hindi), *Sarika* (Hindi), *Navneet* (Hindi) and *Caravan* (English).

Besides, a number of other periodicals and journals also find a good number of readers. Since their exact circulation figures are not available due to daily variations, only the names are given as follows:¹

1. Source : Office of the District Public Relations Officer, Jaisalmer.

S. No.	Name	Place of publication	Language
1.	<i>Femina</i>	Bombay	English
2.	<i>Madhuri</i>	"	Hindi
3.	<i>Akash Vani</i>	New Delhi	"
4.	<i>Arun</i>	Muradabad	"
5.	<i>Reader's Digest</i>	Bombay	English
6.	<i>Mirror</i>	"	"
7.	<i>Sathi</i>	Muradabad	Hindi
8.	<i>Sushma</i>	New Delhi	"
9.	<i>Chandamama</i>	Madras	"
10.	<i>Bal-Bharti</i>	New Delhi	"
11.	<i>Science Today</i>	Bombay	English
12.	<i>Vigyan Lok</i>	Agra	Hindi
13.	<i>Kishore Bharti</i>	Allahabad	"
14.	<i>Niharika</i>	Delhi	"
15.	<i>Balak</i>	Patna	"
16.	<i>Picture Post</i>	Madras	English
17.	<i>Kadambni</i>	New Delhi	Hindi
18.	<i>Shakti Putra</i>	Delhi	"
19.	<i>Rajasthan Vikas</i>	Jaipur	"
20.	<i>Panchayat Marg</i>	Jaipur	"
21.	<i>Kalyan</i>	Gorakhpur	"

PRINTING PRESSES

Laxmi Printing Press located at the district headquarters is the only printing press available in the district. Established in 1968, it is equipped with one cutting and two printing machines. It is run single handed by a Compositor-cum-machine man.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS**Indian Red Cross Society**

The district branch of the Indian Red Cross Society functions under the Chairmanship of the Collector, Jaisalmer and a district committee consisting of a few members and one Honorary Secretary. In 1966, it undertook a number of activities to provide relief to the famine stricken people of Jaisalmer. It has distributed medicines, milk powder, vitamins and dietary supplements. These articles were supplied to the people through the district authorities. A small amount of money was also made available for purchase of cooking utensils etc., to the people living in transit camps.

Zila Dalit Varg Sangh

The present organisation was established in 1950 at Jaisalmer by the name of Harijan Sudhar Mandal. Shri Atma Ram Garg, a prominent social worker of Jaisalmer was its founder. In 1952, the organisation was renamed as Harijan Pargenit Jati Sangh. In 1954, this organisation was merged with the All Rajasthan Dalit Varg Sangh. Thereafter it came to be known as Zila Dalit Varg Sangh.

The Zila Dalit Varg Sangh is the only voluntary body in the district which works for economic uplift and social welfare of the Harijans living in the district. It primarily stands for eradication of untouchability. Certain educational facilities such as scholarship and residential accommodation in hostels to Scheduled Castes students are also provided by this organisation.

The organisation also claims to have improved the social and economic conditions of the people, particularly Harijans and other members of the working class in the district.

The Steering Committee is composed of the District President and an executive committee of 21 members. This organisation is affiliated to the Pradesh Dalit Varg Sangh at the State level and Bharatiya Dalit Varg Sangh at the all-India level.

Shri Ram Deo Anna Kshetra

This philanthropic organisation was established in the district at Ram Deora in 1925 by the late Swami Samalpuri. It was started with the object of providing free food to the poor people visiting Ram Deora temple. Subsequently, care of the diseased and disabled people coming to Ram Deora was also adopted as an activity of this organisation. It has specially cared to provide medical treatment to lepers, a usually neglected section of the society.

In 1952, this organisation was registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1850. The organisation receives a handsome amount of donations from the members of Anana Kshetra. Some money is also collected at the time of the annual Ram Deora fair. In 1952, the total income from donations was recorded as Rs 20,671. The office bearers of this organisation are the President, a Vice-President, the Secretary, Cashier, an Inspector and members of the Executive Committee. Funds to be used for charitable purposes are collected by its sub-branches working at Ajmer and Ahmedabad.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer, the headquarters of the district and once the capital of a princely state, is located in 26° 55' north latitude and 70° 55' east longitude. It is nearly 285 kilometres (178 miles) from Jodhpur by road and 300 km. by rail. This town had so far no rail link but it has been connected in 1968 by a direct rail line from Pokaran. The town was founded by Rao Jaisa or Jaisal. According to the 1901 census, the population of this town was 7,137 which rose to 8,362 in 1961. The town is situated at the southern end of a low range of hills and is surrounded by a stone-wall about five kilometres (three miles) in circuit, three to five metres (ten to fifteen feet) high, two to three metres (five to seven feet) thick, and strengthened by bastions and corner towers. Within this wall, towards the south, there is the fort, about 76 metres (250 feet) above the surrounding country, founded by Rawal Jaisal. To one entering the town at dusk, the purple rays of the setting sun present a memorable sight of ethereal beauty. This town is no exception to the saying that every rock in Rajasthan throbs with glorious memories of valour and beauty.

The two main entrances to the town, the Gharsisar Gate on the east and the Amarsar or Amarsagar Gate on the west, are connected by a metalled and paved road. This road is the principal thoroughfare and fairly wide at places some of which are used as market-places. The other streets are narrow. Water is obtained from the Gharsisar tank located at a short distance south-east of the gate of the same name. The tank is said to have been constructed by Rawal Gharsimha or Ghatsi. A tube-well, installed at Dabla village near Jaisalmer supplies drinking water to the inhabitants of the town. Before this well was commissioned, the people had to face many odds in obtaining drinking water. Water from other wells is also utilised for drinking purposes. There is also an old well in the fort which is now in disuse.

The fort is approachable through four successive gates known as the Akhai Pol, Ganesh Pol, Buta Pol and Hawa Pol. The palaces of the ruler built atop the main entrance form an imposing pile crowned by a huge umbrella of metal, mounted on a stone shaft, a solid symbol of dignity of which the Bhuti chiefs were justly proud. But the interior is ill-arranged and space is frittered away in numerous small apartments.

Within the fort are four Vaishnava temples and eight Jain temples. Of the Vaishnava temples, one is said to have been built in the 12th century by Rawal Jaisal and is called Adi-Narayan's or Tikamji's temple, while another, known as Laxmi Nathji's temple ascribed to Rawal Lakhan, is remarkable for its gold and silver plated shutters. The Jain temples, especially those dedicated to Parshvanath have exquisite carvings. The tradition goes that one or two of them are 1400 years old, but this is extremely improbable as the town and fort were not founded at that time. It is believed that the oldest, dedicated to Parshvanath, was built about 1332 A.D. by one Jai Singh Cholasah.

The Parshvanath's temple contains a collection called *Gyan-Bhandar* (or store of knowledge) of old books in Prakrit and Sanskrit. Quite a considerable number of them are written in fine hand on the *Bhoj Patras* or palm leaves. These writings are the products of fine calligraphists. It is said that these manuscripts were brought to Jaisalmer from Patan and other places in Gujarat to save them from extinction at the hands of the Muslim zealots. They deal with various subjects viz., religion, literature, astronomy, philosophy, indigenous medicinal system etc. Most of them have been categorised, classified and some of them have been microfilmed.

In addition to the above collection, the *Jina Bhadra-Suri Gyan Bhandar* has an invaluable collection of palm leaf and paper manuscripts, a few of which belong to the early twelfth century. The best preserved and largest of the manuscripts, written in black ink is 0.9 metre (38.5 inch) long. Besides the Jain religious texts and manuscripts on various systems of Indian philosophy, celebrated works of poetry, rhetoric and drama have been preserved. A commentary on Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, though in fragments, is among the valuable documents.

Other important Jain temples in the fort are dedicated to Sambhavanath, Shitalnath, Shantinath, Ashtapad, Rishabhdev, Mahavir Swami and Chandraprabh Swami. Besides these temples, Gaj Mandir near Gharsisar and Adishwar temple at Amarsagar are also places of great attraction.

The fort, the town wall and all big houses in the town are built of the yellow limestone. Seen from a distance the town looks a spreading monotony of sombre yellow, with no other colour to relieve the eye. At first sight it would be hard to distinguish the flat-topped hill from the flat-roofed buildings. But on closer inspection it would be seen that immense labour has been expended on the architectural decorations of most of the houses, the fronts being ornamented with richly carved balconies and lattices. One of the finest buildings is the house of the ill-famed *Diwan* Salim Singh, who devastated the country about a hundred and fifty years ago with his cruelty and extortions. It is a six storeyed building with elaborate ornamentation, especially on the top storey. Another beautiful building, the Patwa's *haveli* (mansion), deserves all praise for its old architectural beauty and the pieces of *jali* architecture (lattices or work of perforated pattern).

The town possesses postal, telegraphic and telephonic facilities. Besides being the headquarters of the district, the offices of the Public Relations Officer, Locust Warning Organisation, Sheep and Wool Centre, Tahsil, Superintendent of Police, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Department and the Court of Munsif Magistrate also exist. A branch of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur also serves the public. There is a Higher Secondary School¹ for boys and a Secondary School for girls. Besides these schools, there are three primary schools in the town including the one in the fort. Two hospitals, one of which belongs to the State Government and the other maintained by the Border Security Force, are available in the town. There is also a dispensary in the Police Lines. The government also maintains an *Ayurvedic Aushadhalaya*. The *Dharamshala* and the dak bungalow are the usual places where the outsiders visiting the town can stay. The latter is maintained by the Public Works Department of the State Government and is meant primarily for the government officials coming to the town on tours but private individuals are also permitted to stay if accommodation is available.

There is a public park inside the town maintained by the municipality. A district library is also maintained by the Education Department of the Government of Rajasthan. There is only one cinema house called the Marudhar Talkies, in the town.

Jaisalmer has been famous for yellow marble stone. Woollen blankets and carpets made of camel hair, have also been the traditional

1. A College was also established in the town in 1970-71 by the State Government.

industries of the area. It was a famous business centre and a halting place for the rich caravans passing through this place in good old days.

There are three gardens in this desert area, making it appear as an oasis. These are known as *Badu Bagh*, *Amar Sagar* and *Mool Sagar*. *Badu Bagh*, a few kilometres from the town, possesses a grove of mango trees which is a rare sight in this area. There are some royal cenotaphs in this garden. Besides the garden, there stands a *bundh* called *Jait Bundh*, the construction of which was begun by Maharawal Jait Singh and completed by his son Lunkaran. The remaining two gardens, *Amar Sagar* and *Mool Sagar* have been named after their builders i.e. Rawal Amar Singh and Mulraj respectively. These are full of fruit trees and flowering plants. Some buildings with exquisite carvings are enclosed by these gardens. All these places of picturesque beauty, so rare in a desert, are connected by fair weather roads.

Lodorva

Lodorva situated at a distance of 16 kilometres north-west of Jaisalmer town was formerly called Lodravapur after the Lodra Rajputs who ruled in this area before they were ousted by the Bhatīs under their leader Deoraj. Lodorva enjoyed the privilege of being the capital of the Bhatī rulers for sometime. Mahmud Ghazni, on his way to Somnath during the 11th century, had attacked Ludrava (or modern Lodorva). It was defended by a strong citadel and a body of brave soldiers, but was finally captured¹. Muhammad Ghori too, while advancing against Gujarat, had captured Lodorva to protect his rear and put it in the hands of Jaisal, his friendly chief². Thus Bhoja was the last Bhatī ruler of Lodorva because Rawal Jaisal, soon after his accession to power transferred his capital to Jaisalmer³. The ruins and remnants of the place testify to its prosperity in the past. The most important remnant is the temple dedicated to Jain *Tirthankar*, Parshvanath and belongs to the *Shvetambar* sect of the Jains. The icon of Parshvanath is protected by a *Sahasranaga*, a serpent having one thousand hoods. It contains, among various carvings and idols, a piece of sculptured *Kalpavriksha*, a celestial tree regarded to be bestower of all the desired things to the devotees. The temple is remarkably well preserved and maintained, and is a delight to sculptors and artists. The carvings of the *torana* tell their own story of excellence and perfection.

1, *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. V, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Bombay (1957), p. 19.

2, *ibid.*, p. 52.

3. *ibid.*

Not far from Lodorva are situated some ruins, said to be the remnants of the palace of Mumal, the heroine of the Mumal-Mahendra romance. The story goes that Mahendra, a prince of Amarkot had fallen in love with Mumal, who was known far and wide for her beauty, and used to visit her every night from Amarkot on a camel. He, however, became victim of a misunderstanding and stopped his visits. Mumal, not knowing the reason of this sudden distraction, went to Amarkot to see him but was informed, falsely, that Mahendra was dead. She could not stand the shock and died instantaneously.

Nokh

Nokh is a village with a population of 1,519 (842 males and 677 females) according to the 1961 census. It is the headquarters of a sub-tahsil of Pokaran tahsil and has a middle school, a post office, with a public call office and an *ayurvedic aushadhalaya*. It has a *gram panchayat* which is under the jurisdiction of the Panchayat Samiti, Jaisalmer.

Pokaran

The town of Pokaran is situated between latitude 26° 55' and longitude 71° 55', 106 kilometres (by rail) east of Jaisalmer town.

It enjoys the status of being the second town in the district and has a population of 5,284 (1961 census). It formed a part of Jodhpur district prior to 1954, when it was transferred alongwith certain other villages to Jaisalmer district. It is a railway station and the headquarters of the sub-division of the same name.

Besides the sub-divisional headquarters, there are a number of offices located in the town viz., the Office of the Assistant Engineer, Rajasthan State Electricity Board; the Executive Engineer (Project Division), Public Works Department; a Primary Health Centre; a Veterinary Hospital; the Block Development Office; Locust Warning Office and the Inspector of the Malaria Eradication Programme. There is one Higher Secondary School in the town. The town has electricity, a branch of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, a post office and a public call office. The town municipality looks after the sanitation and other civic amenities. The town has protected water supply.

There is a dak bungalow maintained by the Public Works Department of the State Government. People can stay in the *Dharamshala* as well.

The town possesses an old temple of Charbhujā belonging to the 18th century and a mosque. In the north-west of Pokaran there are some ruins and old victory towers.

The fort, though a small one, is well-built and strong in appearance. About 3 kilometres away are the ruins of Satalmer, a village founded by Satal, the son of Rao Jodha, about the end of the fifteenth century. It was razed to the ground during Maldeo's time to find enough material for the Pokaran fort. A conspicuous Jain temple still stands to mark the site of Satalmer village.

Ramdeora

About 13 kilometres from Pokaran is the village of Ramdeora. It is a railway station and lies on the Jodhpur-Pokaran route. Buses also ply daily between Jodhpur and Ramdeora. There exists no written record about the origin of the village but there is a legend which says that Ramdeoiji, established himself at this place and took *Samadhi* here in 1458 A. D. During the existence of the erstwhile Jodhpur State this village was granted in *Jagir* to the temple of Ramdeoiji and included in the Phalodi paragana of the State. But after the formation of Rajasthan in 1949, it was included in Phalodi tahsil and later, alongwith other villages it was transferred to Pokaran tahsil of Jaisalmer district.

Ramdeoiji, also known as Ram Shah Pir, is worshipped by Hindus and Muslims alike. Ramsar tank, supposed to have been constructed by Ramdeoiji himself, is near the temple to the south-west of the village. Ramdeoiji has been hailed as an incarnation of Lord Krishna with manifest signs of Dwarikadheesh. He became renowned as a saint in Marwar and his fame spread far and wide. It is said that five *Pirs* from Mecca arrived to test his powers. They were offered food and milk by Ramdeoiji, who seeing they were without utensils, brought their pots from Mecca by his supernatural power. Convinced of his miraculous powers, the *Pirs* paid their homage to Ramdeoiji. Ever since he has been worshipped as Ram Shah Pir by the Muslims¹.

Ramdeoiji believed in equality of all human beings irrespective of their caste, class or creed. Devoted to the poor and down-trodden, he helped them by granting them their wishes by his mystical powers. It is said that Ramdeoiji buried himself alive. This is probably the reason why his followers bury their dead.

Around the *Samadhi* of Ramdeoiji there stands a magnificent temple constructed by Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner in 1931. Rice, *Churma*, coconuts and wooden horses (in the form of toys) are the

1. Source : *Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part VII-B, Fairs and Festivals*, pp. 81-84.

articles offered to Ramdeoiji by his followers. They have established an organisation called *Ramdeo Anna Khsetra* which has been entitled to collect food for free distribution to beggars and *Sadhus* who assemble on the occasion of the fair. This fair is held every year from *Bhadon Sudi 2* to *Bhadon Sudi 11*. Of the cash collections nearly 25 per cent is kept in reserve and the rest is distributed among the Tomar Rajputs (descendants of the saint). There are 13 *dharmashalas* with a total of 150 rooms to accommodate 2000 to 3000 pilgrims.

Ramgarh

Ramgarh, 66 kilometres (forty-one miles) from Jaisalmer, is the headquarters of sub-tahsil and has a population of 1,577. Besides a primary school for girls, there is a middle school for boys. An *ayurvedic* dispensary is run here under the control of a *Vaidya*. There is also a rest-house at this place.

This sub-tahsil is famous for the biggest sand dunes in the district.

Sam

Sam is a village and headquarters of a sub-tahsil. It has a small number of old places of historical importance falling in the jurisdiction of the Sam Panchayat Samiti. Khabha village about 29 km. (18 miles) from Jaisalmer possesses an old stone wall. At village Rasla, there is a temple called Degaraiaji ka Mandir. Usually a fair is held here in the month of *Bhadrapada*. This sub-tahsil is also known for the big sand dunes in the district.

Tanot

Tanot, nearly 120 kilometres (75 miles) north-west of Jaisalmer, has a proud record of being the oldest known capital of the erstwhile Jaisalmer rulers. It is said that Maharaja Kehar had constructed a fort here and established it as his capital. Tanot (or Tanukot) remained the capital till it was shifted to Lodorva by Rawal Devraj in early ninth century. Some ascribe the name of the place to Rawal Tanno, one of the rulers of the erstwhile State, while others to a goddess named Tanno Devi, the family deity of the Bhati rulers of Jaisalmer. Usually a fair is held here in the bright half of the month of *Bhadrapada* when people congregate at the temple of Tanno Devi to offer their homage.

Hardly at a distance of 9 kilometres before Tanot, there stands a famous temple called Ghantiyaliji ka Mandir hailed for its beautiful surroundings and fine idols.

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GLOSSARY

<i>Abadi land</i>	Land for residential purposes
<i>Agarbattis</i>	Perfumed sticks used as incense
<i>Arhatiyas</i>	Commission agents
<i>Arti</i>	A performance during worship consisting largely of waving lighted lamp or camphor before the object of worship
<i>Ayurvedic Aushadhalaya</i>	A dispensary or hospital treating according to the Ayurvedic system of medicine
<i>Banjar</i>	Uncultivable
<i>Banjara</i>	Peripatetic trader
<i>Bhang</i>	An intoxicant, <i>Cannabis Indica</i>
<i>Bismillah</i>	Literally, beginning. The ceremony marking the beginning of a child's education among Muslims
<i>Brahmacharya</i>	Bachelorhood; the first quarter of the traditional four phases of a man's life among Hindus
<i>Bundh</i>	A dam
<i>Chadar</i>	Bedsheet
<i>Chowkidars</i>	Gate-keepers
<i>Churma</i>	A preparation from crumbled bread or bread-crumbs mixed with ghee and sugar or gur
<i>Dai</i>	Midwife
<i>Dak</i>	Mail
<i>Dakaiti</i>	A dacoity, banditry

<i>Dam</i>	Name of the currency during mediaeval period
<i>Darbar</i>	Same as durbar
<i>Darzi</i>	Tailor
<i>Desi</i>	Indigenous
<i>Dewan</i>	The Prime Minister
<i>Dharmashaia</i>	An inn built out of philanthropy
<i>Dhani</i>	A small village
<i>Dhobi</i>	Washerman
<i>Diwan</i>	A Minister
<i>Farrash</i>	Sweeper
<i>Gaddi</i>	Throne
<i>Galicha</i>	Carpet
<i>Ganja</i>	An intoxicant
<i>Ganthe</i>	A ceremony in Muslim marriage
<i>Ghatti</i>	Hand operated grinding wheel
<i>Girdawar</i>	A Revenue official
<i>Gobhi</i>	Cauliflower
<i>Gram Devta</i>	Village deity
<i>Gram Sabha</i>	Village Council
<i>Gur</i>	Raw sugar
<i>Hakim</i>	Highest administrative official in a <i>Hakumat</i>
<i>Hakumat</i>	A district or an administrative division in the erstwhile Princely States of Rajasthan
<i>Hartal</i>	Strike
<i>Ijab and Kabool</i>	A ceremony in Muslim marriage signifying offer and acceptance

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<i>Jat</i>	A personal rank of a <i>Mansabdar</i>	<i>Mistri</i>	Mechanic
<i>Jhumpa</i>	A desert hut, usually circular	<i>Mochi</i>	Cobbler
<i>Johad</i>	Pond	<i>Munshi</i>	Assistant to legal practitioner
<i>Jullaha</i>	Weaver	<i>Naib</i>	Deputy
<i>Kakri</i>	Cucumber	<i>Namda</i>	Felt
<i>Kambal</i>	Blanket	<i>Nazar</i>	A present or offering to a superior
<i>Kankar</i>	Broken stone	<i>Nuzarana</i>	A present or gift; also sum paid by revenue assigners to the State in recognition of their grants
<i>Karkun</i>	A revenue official		
<i>Kazi</i>	The Muslim priest	<i>Nazul land</i>	Land held by the State for local improvement
<i>Khadeen</i>	A sort of dam where rain water accumulates	<i>Palang</i>	Bed
<i>Khadi</i>	Handspun and hand woven cloth	<i>Pargana</i>	A revenue sub-division
<i>Khalsa</i>	Land directly managed by the State	<i>Patwar Halka</i>	A territorial unit of revenue administration; jurisdiction of a Patwari
<i>Khes</i>	Thick cloth used as a wrap	<i>Phera</i>	The ceremony of going round the nuptial fire in a Hindu marriage
<i>Kund</i>	Small tank for storing water	<i>Pir</i>	A Muslim priest
<i>Lambardar</i>	A Revenue official	<i>Rebari</i>	A camel breeder
<i>Lok Devta</i>	Popular deity	<i>Sadar Adalat</i>	Chief Court
<i>Mahakma Khas</i>	Government Secretariat during princely times	<i>Samadhi</i>	Trance; intense meditation
<i>Mahal</i>	A territorial sub-division of Mughal administration roughly corresponding to a tahsil	<i>Sarkar</i>	Sub-division of a <i>subah</i> during the Mughal times; government
<i>Mali</i>	Gardener	<i>Shitala</i>	Goddess of small-pox
<i>Mansabdar</i>	One who held a <i>mansab</i> or a rank in the official hierarchy in the Mughal administration	<i>Shradha</i>	A propitiatory rite for the deceased among Hindus
<i>Matira</i>	Musk melon	<i>Sirdars</i>	Nobles, Chieftains
<i>Mehar</i>	An amount fixed at the time of marriage among Muslims to be paid to the bride by the bridegroom	<i>Satyagraha</i>	A creed of Gandhian Philosophy
		<i>Subah</i>	An administrative division of territory during the Mughal period
		<i>Taccavi</i>	State loans to agriculturists

<i>Thakur</i>	A feudatory chief
<i>Thikana</i>	Estate of a feudatory chief
<i>Tirthankars</i>	The twenty-four leading religious perceptors of Jainism, the last of them being Lord Mahavir
<i>Torana</i>	An arch
<i>Upnayan</i>	The ceremony of giving sacred thread
<i>Vaidya</i>	Practitioner of Ayurvedic system of medicine

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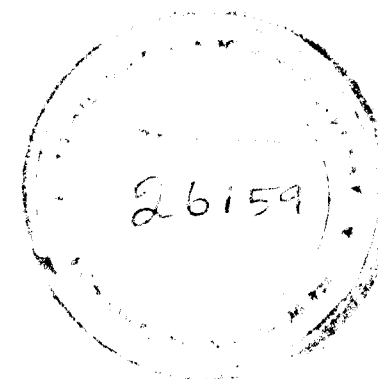
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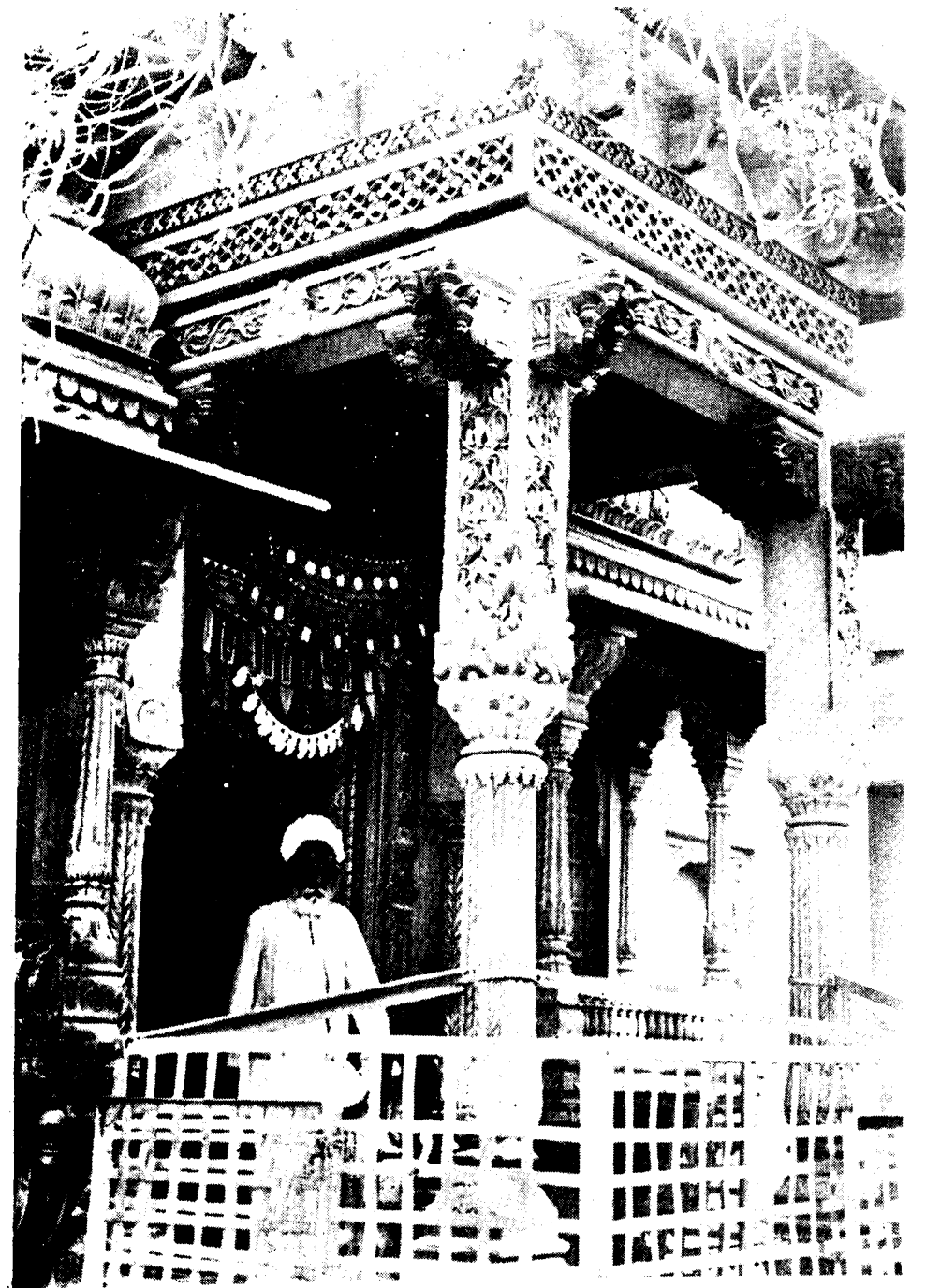
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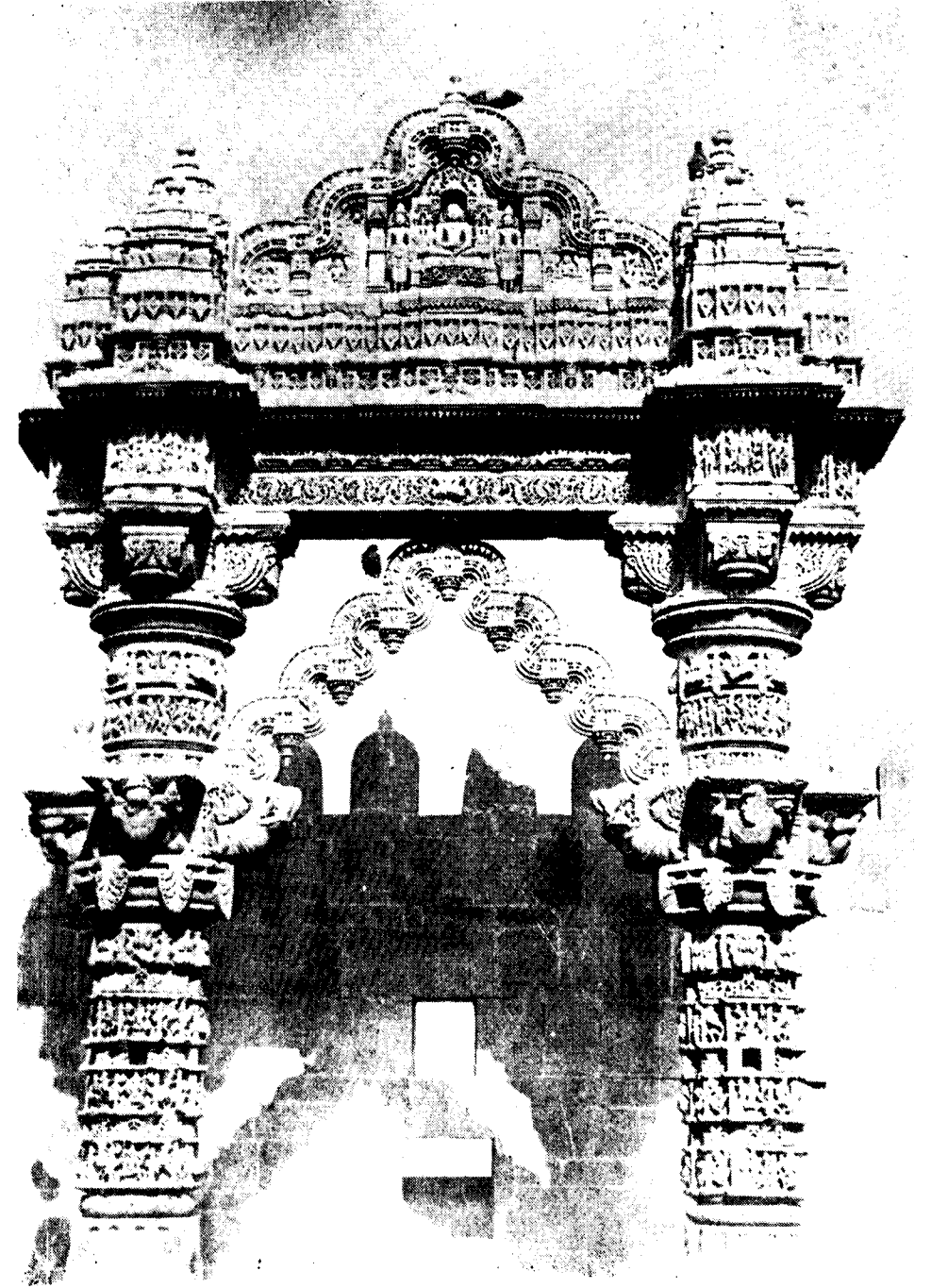


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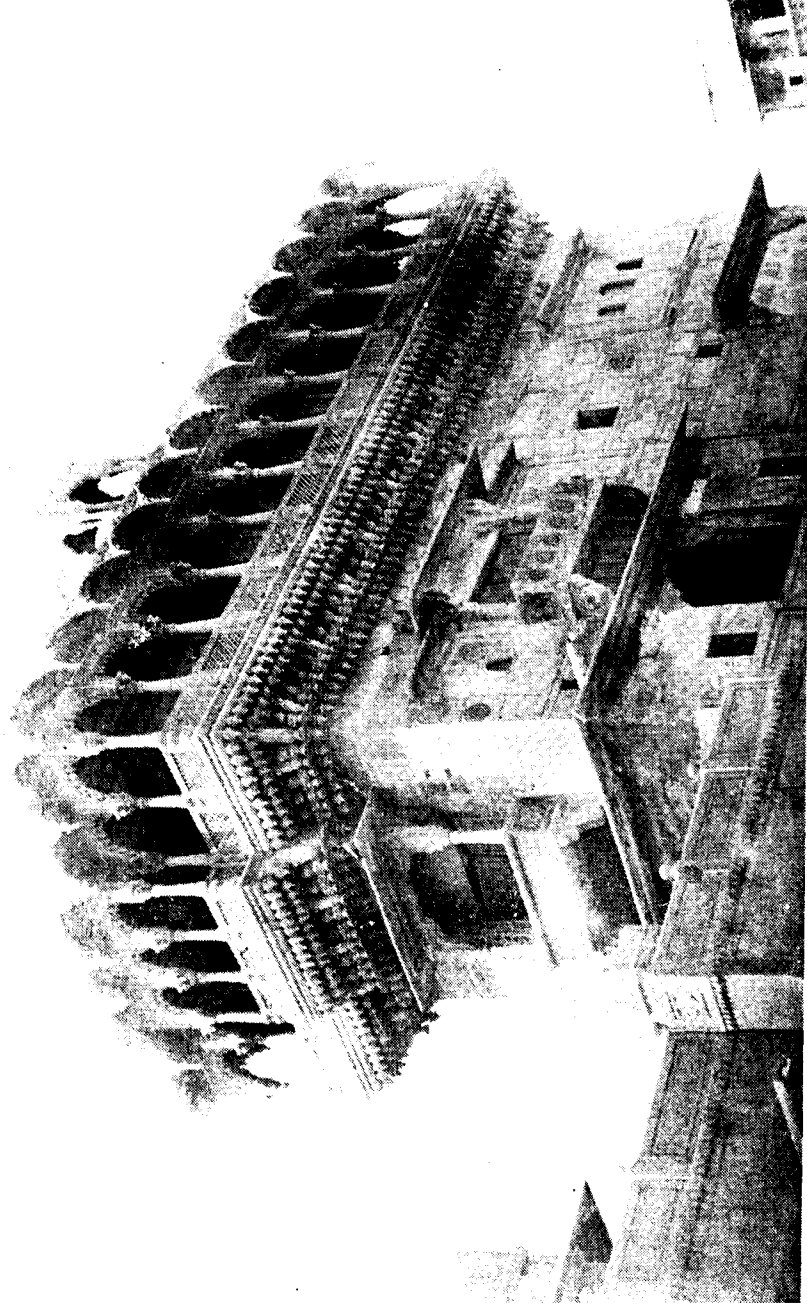
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Entrance to the *Samadhi* of Baba Ram Dev, Ram Deora



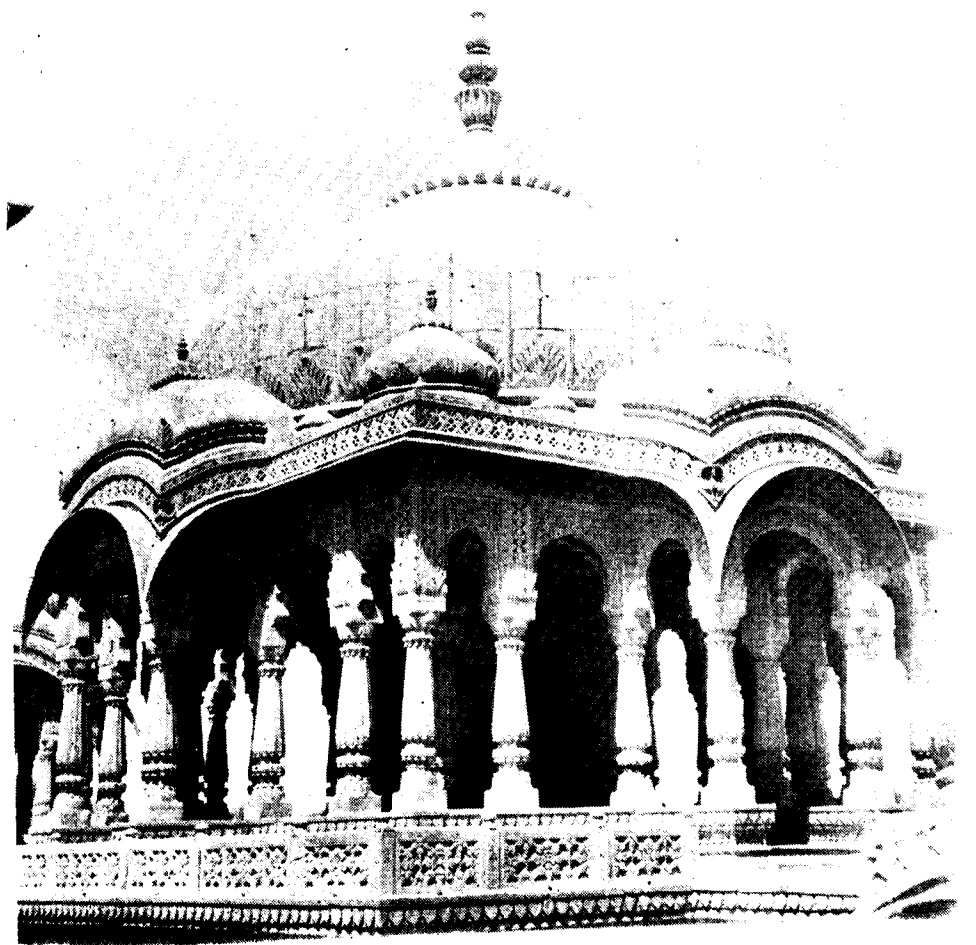
Toran of the Jain Temple, Lodorva



Salim Singh Ki Haveli, Jaisalmer



The Fort, Jaisalmer



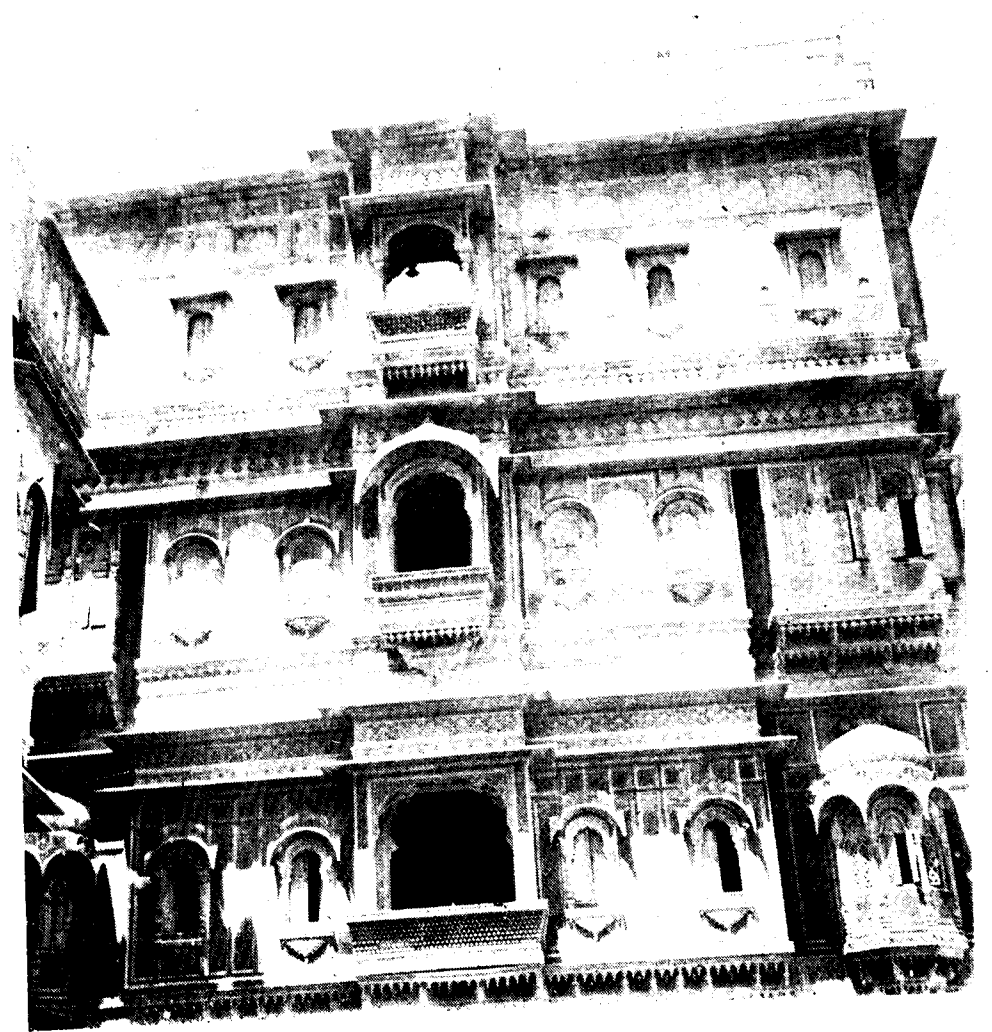
Cenotaph in Bara Bagh, at a short distance from Jaisalmer



Scene at a Tank Near Jaisalmer



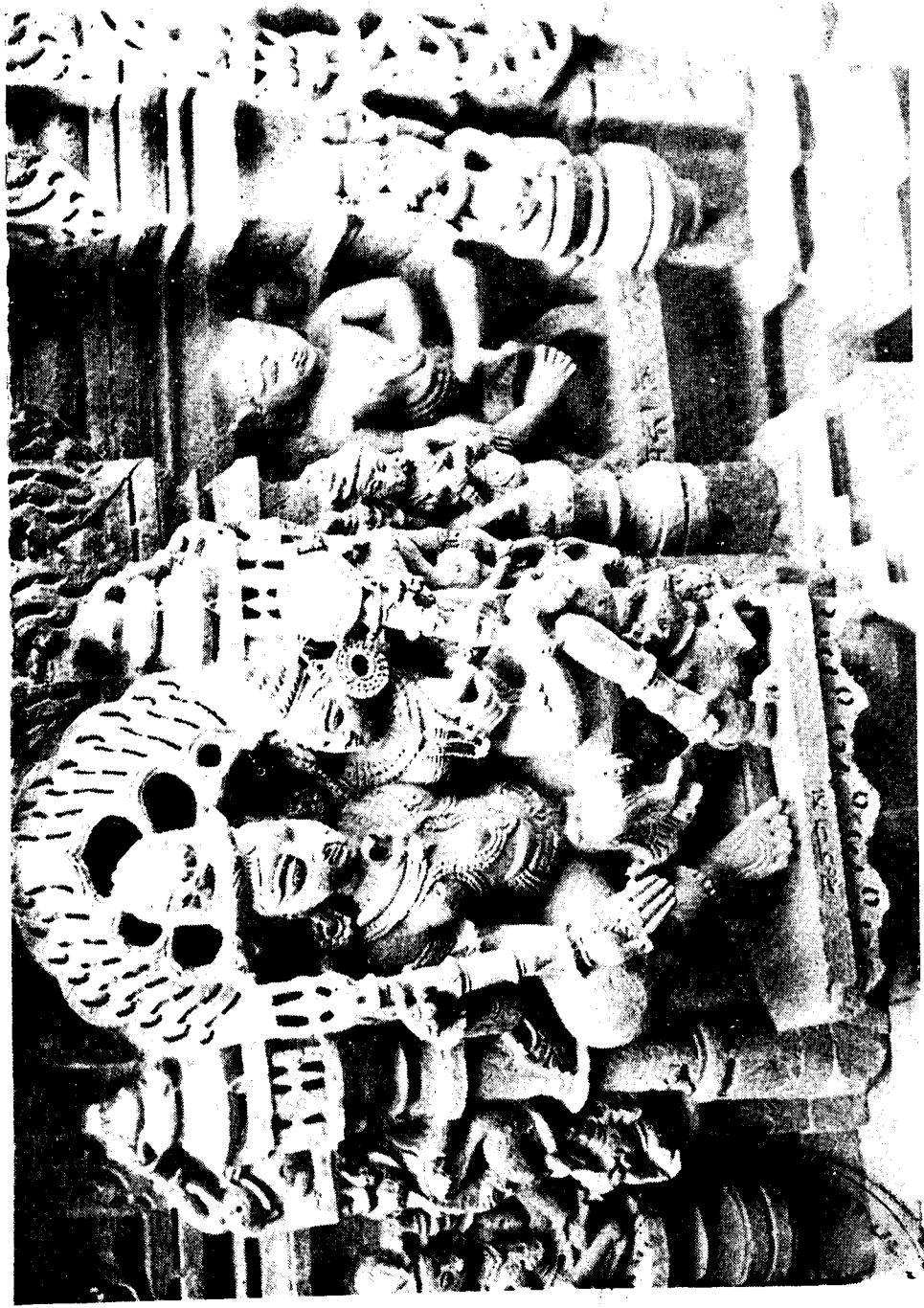
Camel and a Sand Dune



Patuon ki Haveli, Jaisalmer



Guns on the Fort, Pokaran



A Panel from Jain Temple in Jaisalmer Fort