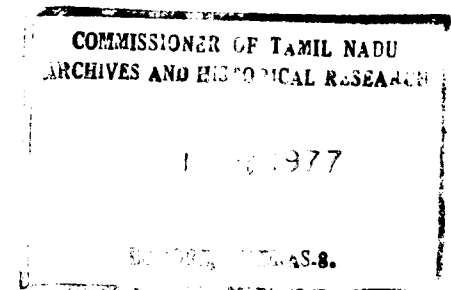


GAZETTEER OF INDIA



PUNJAB

AMRITSAR

PUNJAB DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



AMRITSAR

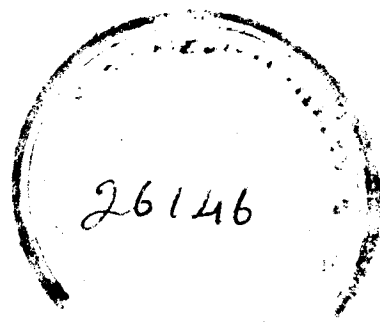
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FOREWORD

A district gazetteer is a repository of authentic information about the past and present of a district and gives a broad picture of its history, geography, administration and socio-economic life. As such it forms an important reference book for administrators, research scholars and general readers.

Historically, socially and economically, Amritsar is one of the most important districts in the State of Punjab. The vast changes that have taken place in the different spheres of life have rendered the last edition of the *Amritsar District Gazetteer*, compiled over three decades back, obsolete in many respects. The present volume, therefore, seeks to bring things up-to-date to the extent possible in a work of this type.

Chandigarh
January 15, 1975

N. KHOSLA
Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Punjab

PREFACE

The present volume of the District Gazetteer is the second in the series of the Punjab District Gazetteers being published under the scheme of Revision of District Gazetteers, jointly sponsored by the Government of India and the State Government. The previous editions of the *Amritsar District Gazetteer* were prepared under the British regime from time to time, detailed below.

The first *Gazetteer of the Amritsar District*, in the old series, was published in 1883-84. It was mainly based on the *Settlement Reports* and a draft *Gazetteer*, compiled between 1870 and 1874 by F. Cunningham, Barrister-at-Law. F. Cunningham's draft *Gazetteer* itself was largely based upon Sir H. Davies' *Settlement Report* of the district written in 1856. The second revised edition of the *District Gazetteer* was prepared by J. A. Grant, Settlement Officer, Amritsar, in 1892-93. The third edition of the *District Gazetteer* was published by H. D. Craik, Settlement Officer, Amritsar, in 1914, in the light of the information and statistics collected at the Census of 1911. The fourth edition of the *District Gazetteer*, the last in the old series, was prepared by A. MacFarquhar, Settlement Officer, Amritsar, who published his *Settlement Report of the Fifth Regular Settlement of the Amritsar District (1936—40)* in 1942. The *District Gazetteer*, which he had also prepared, was withheld from the press, during the war period, under Government instructions. Without incorporating the changes which had taken place since its actual preparation, the manuscript was sent to the press in July 1947 but was printed at Chandigarh after the partition of the country.

Besides the above-mentioned different editions of the main descriptive volume of the *District Gazetteer* in the old series, their statistical tables were prepared in 1904, 1912 and 1933 and published in separate volumes.

Since the compilation of the last edition of the *Amritsar District Gazetteer* in the second half of the third decade of the present century, radical changes have taken place in the political, social and economic life of the people. The achievement of independence by the country in 1947 and the declaration of India as a Sovereign Democratic Republic in 1950 have brought a new social and political consciousness among the people. Some areas of the former Lahore District (Pakistan) were transferred to the Amritsar District on the partition of the country in 1947. The mass migration of the minority population from both sides of the border has changed the social set-up of the region beyond recognition. On the socio-economic side, the implementation of the successive Five-Year Plans have considerably changed the urban and the rural landscape of the district. The impact of all such vast changes and developments, which have

occurred during the last three decades, have been depicted in the present volume, which was compiled during 1969—71 and approved by the Government of India in 1973.

In the preparation of this volume, the State Gazetteers Unit has benefited immensely by the able guidance and encouragement given by the successive Financial Commissioners, Revenue, viz., Shri H. B. Lall, I.A.S., Shri S. S. Grewal, I.A.S., Shri I. C. Puri, I.A.S., and Shri N. Khosla, I.A.S., and also the successive Deputy Secretaries, Revenue, viz., Shri Darshan Kumar, I.A.S., Shri Gurdev Singh Gill, I.A.S., Shri C. D. Khanna, I.A.S., and Shri Pritam Singh Bala.

I am grateful to Dr. M. S. Randhawa, I.C.S., (Retd.), Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, for so kindly supplying some illustrations for this volume, and also for help in book-production and for his many useful suggestions. The layout of illustrations is by Shri N. S. Bisht, Chief Artist (Retd.), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

I take this opportunity of expressing my deep gratitude to Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor (Gazetteers), Department of Culture, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, and to the members of his staff for the painstaking scrutiny of the draft and for the useful suggestions for the overall improvement of the standard and quality of the publication.

My grateful thanks are due to Dr. Kishan Singh Bedi, Retired Joint Director of Agriculture (Research and Education), Punjab, for vetting and editing the draft in respect of its language and contents. His thorough job in this respect merits commendation.

I also thank the various heads of departments and offices in the State, especially the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, and the different officers working under him for extending whole-hearted co-operation in supplying the requisite information and data for the compilation of this volume.

I am thankful to the staff of the State Gazetteers Unit, especially to Shri Baldev Raj Sharma, Editor, to Sarvshri Gurmej Chand Kler, Rajinder Singh Gandhi, Subhash Chander Behal, Rajinder Kumar Gupta and Joginder Singh Bedi, Compilers, and to Sureshar Lal Sahi, Draftsman-cum-Artist, for their commendable contribution to the preparation of this volume.

Thanks are also due to the Controller of Printing and Stationery, Punjab, Chandigarh, and his staff for extending full co-operation in the printing of this volume.

Chandigarh
1st October, 1975

BARKAT RAI CHOPRA
State Editor, Gazetteers, Punjab

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Table to convert old coins into new decimal coins

Old coins		Decimal coins	Old coins		Decimal coins
Annas	Pies	Paise	Annas	Pies	Paise
0	3	2	8	3	52
0	6	3	8	6	53
0	9	5	8	9	55
1	0	6	9	0	56
1	3	8	9	3	58
1	6	9	9	6	59
1	9	11	9	9	61
2	0	12	10	0	62
2	3	14	10	3	64
2	6	16	10	6	66
2	9	17	10	9	67
3	0	19	11	0	69
3	3	20	11	3	70
3	6	22	11	6	72
3	9	23	11	9	73
4	0	25	12	0	75
4	3	27	12	3	77
4	6	28	12	6	78
4	9	30	12	9	80
5	0	31	13	0	81
5	3	33	13	3	83
5	6	34	13	6	84
5	9	36	13	9	86
6	0	37	14	0	87
6	3	39	14	3	89
6	6	41	14	6	91
6	9	42	14	9	92
7	0	44	15	0	94
7	3	45	15	3	95
7	6	47	15	6	97
7	9	48	15	9	98
8	0	50	16	0 (one rupee)	100

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

(i) INTRODUCTORY

(i) **Origin of the Name of the District.**—Amritsar means “the tank of nectar or the tank of immortality” and the district derives its name from the sacred tank in the Amritsar city. The present Golden Temple is surrounded by this tank which was originally a small natural pool and is said to have been visited by Guru Nanak Dev.¹ The site was permanently occupied by the Fourth Guru, Ram Das, who in 1577 obtained more of land in its neighbourhood. The pool soon acquired a reputation for sanctity, and the followers of the Guru migrated to the sacred spot, and there a small town grew up and was known at first as Ramdaspur or Guru-ka-Chak, and later, as the pool was converted into a tank, it came to be known as Amritsar.

(ii) **Location, General Boundaries, Total Area and Population of the District.**—The Amritsar District falls in the Jullundur Division of the Punjab. In shape, it is a trapezium, with its base resting on the River Beas. It forms a part of the tract known as the Bari Doab or the territory lying between the rivers Ravi and Beas. Its western side adjoins Pakistan, partly separated by the River Ravi. The north-eastern side is bounded by the Gurdaspur District, and towards its south-east across the River Beas lie the Kapurthala and Ferozpur districts.

The district is divided into four tahsils or subdivisions, viz, Amritsar to the north-east, Ajnala to the north-west, Patti to the south-west, and Tarn Taran in between Patti and Amritsar. All important places in the district are connected by rail or road.

The total area of the district, as in 1970, was 5,087.91 sq. km.² comprising Tahsil Amritsar 1,432.39 sq. km., Tahsil Ajnala 1,095.02 sq. km., Tahsil Patti 1,045.39 sq. km., and Tahsil Tarn Taran 1,515.11 sq. km. approximately.

¹Gian Singh Giani, Bhai, *Tawarikh Guru Khalsa*, Vol. I, (reprinted Patiala, 1970), pp. 63, 343

²According to the Punjab Government, Revenue Department, Notification No. 564-Rg-I-70/737, dated the 17th March, 1970 (published in the Punjab Government Gazette, Extraordinary, dated the 20th March, 1970), nine villages, viz. Bala Megha, Muthianwala, Jaman Megha, Kamalwala, Nihala Lawara, Dhera Ghara, Tali Ghulam, Bandala and Kaleke Hithar, with a total area of 36.09 sq. km. approximately, of Tahsil Patti, District Amritsar, were transferred to District Ferozpur. This has reduced the area of Tahsil Patti from 1,081.48 sq. km. to 1,045.39 sq. km. approximately, and of District Amritsar from 5,124 sq. km. to 5,087.91 sq. km. approximately.

The total population of the district, according to the 1961 Census, was 15,34,916, comprising 8,27,821 males and 7,07,095 females.

(iii) **History of the District as an Administrative Unit and the Changes in Its Component Parts.**—The existence of Amritsar as a district dates from the annexation of the Punjab by the British in 1849. Mr. L. Saunders took charge in April of that year as Deputy Commissioner. As at first formed, the district contained four tahsils, viz. Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ajnala and Rayya (or Narowal). The last, which was separated by the River Ravi from the rest of the Amritsar District, was transferred to the Sialkot District (now in Pakistan) in 1867. At the same time, the Batala Tahsil was added to the Amritsar District from the Gurdaspur District but the arrangement was found to be inconvenient, and was objected to by the people. It was restored to Gurdaspur in 1869. The boundaries of the three remaining tahsils, viz. Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Ajnala, have not always been as they now are. The villages immediately around Atari were included in the Lahore District (Pakistan) up to 1854 when they were added to the Amritsar District during the first regular settlement. The south-east of the present Amritsar Tahsil, corresponding roughly with the Sikh *talukas* of Sathiala and Butala, belonged to Tarn Taran, whereas at the north end of the tahsil there are groups of villages, now in Ajnala and Tarn Taran, which up to 1854 were included in Amritsar. To straighten the tahsil boundaries, which were very straggling and inconvenient and to bring all the Grand Trunk Road below the Amritsar City into the Amritsar Tahsil, various transfers of villages were made, but all before 1854, and since that date the limits of these three tahsils (which formed the Amritsar District up to the partition of the country in 1947) remained substantially the same.

On the partition of 1947, 186 villages, including Patti, of the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District of Pakistan, were transferred to the Amritsar District and formed into a sub-tahsil with headquarters at Patti. Patti became a full-fledged tahsil in June 1949 and a subdivision in 1955.

On August 14, 1952, the following 67 villages or estates of the Tarn Taran Tahsil were transferred to the Patti Tahsil. Out of these, 52 villages (S. Nos. 1—52 below) were transferred back to the Tarn Taran Tahsil four years later on June 25, 1956. In 1962, another village, Kamalpur (S. No. 59 below), was transferred from Patti back to the Tarn Taran Tahsil.

Names of villages/estates transferred from the Tarn Taran Tahsil to the Patti Tahsil on 14th August, 1952

(1) Khara	(23) Chak Sikandar	(45) Sirhali Mandan
(2) Junka	(24) Muse	(46) Chak Sirhali
(3) Ruri Wala	(25) Dobalian	(47) Rania
(4) Dhattal	(26) Maluwai	(48) Zanardar
(5) Nathupura	(27) Nurpur	(49) Dargapur Sharqi
(6) Marhana	(28) Miani	(50) Shakri
(7) Gandiwind	(29) Jhamka	(51) Mahna
(8) Bahamniwala	(30) Sarai Diwana	(52) Gulali Pur
(9) Abboke	(31) Sheikh	(53) Pangota
(10) Mohan Pura	(32) Bhure	(54) Pingari
(11) Dargapur Gharbi	(33) Theh Brahman	(55) Rai Pur Balam
(12) Thatian	(34) Waryah	(56) Nadohar
(13) Kheda	(35) Sohawa	(57) Kot Data
(14) Nathu Chak	(36) Jovinda Kalan	(58) Nathupur Toda
(15) Kairon	(37) Khaba Rajputan	(59) Kamalpur
(16) Lauhka	(38) Nand Pur	(60) Lakhana
(17) Paddri	(39) Jallowala	(61) Bargari
(18) Chhichhrewal	(40) Shahbaz Pur	(62) Jamalpur
(19) Jora	(41) Dial Rajputan	(63) Begey Pur
(20) Gopala	(42) Dodiwar	(64) Bua
(21) Ram Rauni	(43) Sirhali Kalan	(65) Tappa
(22) Koharka	(44) Wan	(66) Tatle
		(67) Karyala

There remained a dispute between India and Pakistan regarding the ownership of the village of Chak Ladheke (Tahsil Tarn Taran) up to January 1960, when it was accepted as a territory of India according to the India-Pakistan Agreement of January 1960.

From 1849 to 1859, the district formed part of the Lahore Division (Pakistan). In the latter year, a new division was formed, with its headquarters at Amritsar and comprising the districts of Sialkot (Pakistan), Amritsar and Gurdaspur. This arrangement continued until November 1884, when the Punjab Divisions were reorganized and the commissionerships were reduced from ten to six. This again threw the Amritsar District into the Lahore Division. On the partition of the country in 1947, the district was included in the Jullundur Division.

(iv) **Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas.**—The district is divided into four tahsils, viz. Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ajnala and Patti, all of which have been formed into subdivisions—Amritsar in 1965, Tarn Taran in 1964, Ajnala in 1962 and Patti in 1955, and are under the administrative control of the respective Subdivisional Officers.

The tahsilwise list of the police stations and police-posts is given in the Chapter 'General Administration' on pages 327—28.

(b) TOPOGRAPHY

Lying between the River Beas to the east and the River Ravi to the west, the Amritsar District, which forms the lower part of the Upper Bari Doab, is one of the interfluvial tracts of the Punjab Plain. The River Beas, which separates the Amritsar District from the Kapurthala District, joins the Satluj River near the point where the four districts of Lahore (Pakistan), Firozpur, Amritsar and Kapurthala meet.

The Punjab Plain is largely flat and featureless and it is formed of the Pleistocene and the sub-recent alluvium deposited by the rivers of the Indo-Gangetic system. As such, the physiography of the Amritsar District is product of alluviation by the Beas and the Ravi rivers. The existing soil is a light reddish-yellow loam, known to the people as *maira*, but it stiffens into *rohi* or clay, in which the surface drainage collects on its way down the *doab* from the hills, and occasionally degenerates into strips of sandy, slightly uneven soil, locally known as *tibba*, bare of trees and apt to be blown into hummocks by the wind. There are no hills within the limits of this district, and nothing of the nature of rock or stone is to be met. The formation is distinctly alluvial. Though apparently of a uniform level, the country falls away to the west from the high right bank of the Beas to the left bank of the Ravi and there is also a gentle slope, of perhaps one foot and a quarter in a kilometre, down the *doab*, which slightly broadens out as the two rivers diverge after issuing from the hills above Gurdaspur. The district is devoid of impressive natural features, except the *dhaya*, as the cliffs forming the high bank of the Beas are called, the sandy ridge running down the *doab*, the scarcely perceptible drainage lines which carry off the surface water, and the perennial stream known in Ajnala as the Sakki.

The Amritsar District is a continuous level plain, unbroken by hills or valleys. It ranges in its elevation from about 200 metres in the north-east to about 175 metres in the south-west. Thus the lie of the land is from north-east to south-west, with a very gentle gradient of one metre in four kilometres. It points out that the district has a flat topography, in general.

However, an interfluvial tract like that of the Amritsar District cannot be homogeneous throughout, as the terrain of the floodplains must differ from that

of the upland plains situated away from the rivers. Indeed one can distinguish the following terrain units in the district on close observation :

- (i) The Upland Plain
- (ii) The Floodplain of the Ravi
- (iii) The Bluff along the Beas
- (iv) The Floodplain of the Satluj

(i) **The Upland Plain.**—Covering about 88 per cent of the total area, the Upland Plain spreads over almost the whole district, except the western half of the Ajnala Tahsil, the eastern margins of the Amritsar and Tarn Taran tahsils, and the southern part of the Patti Tahsil. This plain abruptly rises above the Beas River in the east and slopes very gently towards the Ravi. It possesses a firm base of old alluvium and has an appearance of a vast stretch of level land. There are, of course, a few sporadically distributed sand mounds and clay mounds, with a local relief of only 2 to 6 metres. The city of Amritsar, which is situated in this tract, has an elevation of 192 metres above the mean sea-level.

(ii) **The Floodplain of the Ravi.**—The floodplain of the Ravi occupies the western half of the Ajnala Tahsil and accounts for about 7 per cent of the total area of the district. It is locally known as the *Bet Ravi*. It stretches between the Ravi to the west and its tributary Sakki Nala to the east. Thus it becomes a minor interfluvial tract within the main interfluvial tract of the Upper Bari Doab. The Ravi floodplain is a lowlying and waterlogged tract due to flooding by both the Ravi and the Sakki. Its surface configuration is uneven and, at places, it contains abandoned courses of the river, patches of marshy land and thickly growing grass. This tract is now being developed.

(iii) **The Bluff along the Beas.**—In contrast to the Ravi, which makes a wide floodplain, the Beas does not form any such feature along its course in the Amritsar and Tarn Taran tahsils of the district. Rather it is adjoined by an abruptly rising bluff varying in the height from 6 to 30 metres from the river bed. The origin of this bluff can be ascribed probably to a tectonic uplift which affected the whole of the Indus-Yamuna divide during the Pleistocene Age.

(iv) **The Floodplain of the Satluj.**—Nevertheless, the Beas does not make a floodplain in the Patti Tahsil after its confluence with the River Satluj at Harike, wherefrom the Beas loses its individual entity and the river is known as the Satluj. Therefore, the floodplain in the Patti Tahsil may be called the floodplain of the Satluj. It covers about 4 per cent of the area of the district. The physiographic characteristics of this tract are similar to those of the floodplain of the Ravi in the Ajnala Tahsil. It also used to be flooded annually before the construction of a barrage on the Satluj at Harike for feeding the newly constructed Rajasthan Canal. At present, this tract is almost free from floods and is

being reclaimed for agriculture, especially for the settlement of the landless Scheduled Castes population.

In brief, the physical build-up of the district is typical of an interfluvial tract. It is constituted by the main body of an upland plain with the floodplain of the Ravi to its west and that of the Satluj to its south and a steep bluff rising above the bed of the Beas River in its east.

(c) THE RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

(i) **Main Rivers and Tributaries.**—The Beas and the Ravi are the two master streams of the district. The former forms its border with the Kapurthala District of the Punjab State and the latter separates it from Pakistan. Both the rivers originate near the Rohtang Pass in the Kulu District and traverse through the Himachal Pradesh and the Gurdaspur District before entering the Amritsar District. In consonance with the slope of the land, both of them flow in the north-east and south-west direction.

The Beas touches the Amritsar District in the vicinity of the village of Sheron. It is adjoined by an abruptly rising bluff to its right throughout its course in the Amritsar and Tarn Taran tahsils. It is joined by the River Satluj at Harike in the Patti Tahsil.

The Ravi enters the district near the village of Ghoneywala and it moves into Pakistan beyond the village of Ranian. In contrast to the Beas, this river makes a wide floodplain in the Amritsar District. This floodplain has been highly susceptible to floods, causing heavy damage to human settlements, crops and the livestock. The construction of an embankment along the river has, however, reduced the frequency and intensity of floods. The main significance of the Ravi lies in its being the border between India and Pakistan.

The eastern limit of the floodplain of the Ravi corresponds with the Sakki Nala, which is a tributary of the Ravi and flows parallel to it before meeting it near the village of Kakkar in the Amritsar District. This *nala* is the continuation of the Kiran Nala which originates from the Chhamb (marshy lands) lying to the south-west of the Pathankot town in the Gurdaspur District. The course of the *nala* is characteristically sinuous. It floods during the rainy season and this factor has been partly responsible for keeping the western part of the Ajnala Tahsil isolated from the rest of the district till recently. Ajnala is situated on the left bank of this *nala*. A diversion for the *nala* near the village of Shahpur has been constructed. It would secure the outfall of the Sakki Nala 96 km upstream of its present outfall and this would save 741 sq. km. of the land around Ajnala from damage owing to floods.

As in case of other rivers of the Punjab, the discharges of the Beas and the Ravi are subject to wide fluctuations from season to season and from year to

year. These rivers contain a trickle of water during the dry winter. With the approach of the summer, snow melts in the source areas of these rivers and their water-level begins to rise. These rivers swell during the rainy season.

In addition to the Beas and the Ravi and the Sakki Nala, another major source of water in the district is available from the various branches and distributaries of the Upper Bari Doab Canal which runs through the district. The canal had started operating in 1860. Its four main branches passing through the district include from east to west the Sobraon Branch, the Kasur Branch Lower, the Main Branch and the Lahore Branch. It is primarily through this canal that about 90 per cent of the cultivated land in the Amritsar District receives irrigation. Canal irrigation is particularly indispensable in the Tarn Taran and Patti tahsils, where the underground water is usually brackish and is unfit for well or tube-well irrigation.

However, the extensive canal irrigation, which has been there for more than a century, has caused serious waterlogging conditions. It seems that the Amritsar District is just floating on its subsurface water, which comes up to a metre or two from the surface during the rainy season. Even in the driest month of June, the water-table is only 1.5 to 3 metres below the surface. The widespread waterlogging has given rise to *kallar* (concentration of harmful salts) over extensive areas and some cultivable land has been lost to agriculture. Various measures are being adopted to tackle this problem: the existing Patti and Kasur drains have been deepened and some new drains have been constructed to facilitate the run-off of the underground water. Wherever possible, canal irrigation is being replaced by tube-well irrigation so as to reduce the quantity of underground water and eucalyptus trees are being planted, particularly along the canals, roads and railway lines, so as to soak the extra subsurface water. These measures have already started giving good results.

Thus, the water resources of the Amritsar District are varied. The district is bordered by two perennial streams on two sides; it contains a dense network of canals, and its subsurface water reservoir is close to the surface. The underground water is, however, brackish in parts of the Patti and Tarn Taran tahsils. This brackishness discourages its use both for irrigation and drinking.

The three rivers which touch the district, viz. the Beas, Ravi and Satluj, and also the Sakki Nala, are described below in greater detail:

River Beas.—The Beas River rises north of the Kulu Valley, and passing through the Kangra District (Himachal Pradesh), and between Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur districts, enters the sandy valley which divides the Amritsar District from the Kapurthala District. Here, its bank on the right, i.e., the Amritsar side, is an abrupt cliff, the upper stratum of which is hard clay mixed with *kankar* (lime concretions) and the lower usually, though not always, is fine river sand. At

the foot of this cliff, between it and the cold-weather bed of the river, lies a strip of alluvial land, which at some points is as much as three kilometres broad. At other points, the cold-weather stream flows close under the cliffs and in the southern part of the district its set towards Amritsar entails some loss of cultivation and damage to residential sites. At some places, there are embayments caused by the river which cuts into the high cliff consisting of the alluvial deposit of soil. The left bank, on the other hand, is uniformly low, and on the Kapurthala side there is a stretch of moist alluvial land running back for several kilometres into the interior, which is fertile, well-wooded and liable to inundation. There is a tradition that over a century and a quarter ago, the river ran on the site of the village of Mira in the Kapurthala territory, eleven kilometres from its present course, and the depression is still clearly traceable and is now part of the West Bein. In this district, whatever cultivation there is in the valley is carried on between the foot of the cliff and the normal cold-weather stream, or in the embayments caused by the erosion of the cliff. Back from the river, the influence of the cliffs persists for considerable distances in some places, because gullies make cultivation impossible and even spoil the fertility of the hinterland by accelerating the run-off of rain-water before it has time to soak in the soil and benefit it.

River Ravi.—The Ravi is a river of a different character. The high bank of the Beas affords a measure of security to cultivation in some part of almost every low riverine estate. The rudiments of a *dhaya* or high bank appear on the left bank of the Sakki Nala in its last 16-kilometre length but this is a long way from the present river and does nothing to mitigate the defencelessness of the villages between the two streams. The villages on the Amritsar side of the river have no protection and the sixty estates officially recognized as liable to river action do not exhaust the limit of the liability to trouble, if there is really a high flood in the river. Every effort is, however, made to ensure that damage to human life and to works of public utility does not occur. The tendency of the river to swallow up the cultivated lands and damage the crops is checked by constructing suitable protective works at vulnerable points, as the situation warrants. In this way, the frequency of the floods is reduced. The Ravi carries rather more fertilizing silt than the Beas (which from the comparative clearness of its water is sometimes called *nili* or blue *dhaar*) and where this silt is thrown up, bumper crops of wheat can be raised. But cultivation in the river-bed is always precarious.

River Satluj.—The Satluj rises from the Mansrover Lake in the Himalayas and flows westwards, entering through the Kinnaur and Mahasu districts of Himachal Pradesh and, after traversing this region, enters the Punjab near Bhakra (Hoshiarpur District). Meandering its course along Nangal, Anandpur Sahib and Kiratpur, it enters the plains at Ropar. From Ropar, the river takes its course due westwards, demarcating the boundaries of the Ropar and Hoshiar-

pur districts, and the Jullundur and Ludhiana districts. From its confluence with the river Beas at Harike (in the Patti Tahsil), it takes the south-west course, forming the external boundary of the Firozpur District with the Jullundur and Amritsar districts. The Satluj was notorious for its floods during the monsoon season, but its capacity to do this mischief has been checked with the construction of the Bhakra Dam and the canals taking off its waters.

Sakki Nala.—The only other perennial stream found in the district is the Sakki Nala. The Sakki begins as the Kiran Nala in the Gurdaspur District where some irrigation is done from an inundation canal taken out of it. This canal tails into the Ajnala Tahsil in Ramdas. In the Amritsar District, the *nala* has the appearance of a narrow river whose left bank is generally higher than the right bank. Winter discharges are low, but the considerable summer stream is further augmented by unwanted canal water sent down the Aliwal Escape from the Main Branch Upper of the Upper Bari Doab Canal. The stream ends its independent existence where it joins the Ravi at Kakkar. The sinuous course of the Sakki Nala has not only done much to isolate the Sailab and Hithar Circles from the rest of the tahsil and from the markets, but has also stood in the way of the extension of regular canal irrigation to this tract. The stream is sluggish and the erosion of the banks is almost unknown. Damage is done by floods, however, to the spring crops sown on the shelving land sloping down to the edges of the banks, and by spills into depressions leading from the Sakki towards the Ravi. The Sakki is also called *Ajal Nala*, meaning the stream of death on account of the considerable damage to life and property it causes during the rainy season. A small canal has been taken out from it for irrigation in the Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts.

(ii) Natural Drainage and Artificial Drains

Amritsar Tahsil.—In the Amritsar Tahsil, east of the Kasur Branch of the Upper Bari Doab Canal, drainage causes no concern. The Patti Rohi often evades the eye in its sandy course southwards and does no appreciable damage. A parallel depression nearer the river has in the past been known by the same name. The Riarki Vang is, strictly speaking, a creek of the river and not a drainage at all. Only the last 8 km of its course to the river is distinct and, throughout this length, the creek runs in a broad deep bed, the banks of which have much the same appearance as the *dhaya*. Erosion on the sides of this creek has caused greater loss of cultivated land in the tahsil than the river. A short artificial drain runs from the Riarki Vang to the river in Buddha Theh but has never been used to divert water. Drainage does not become an important problem until the Kasur Nala is reached well west of the Kasur Branch. Known in this tahsil as the Hansli, the *nala* follows a well-defined course from the point where it enters the tahsil from Batala until it passes out into Tarn Taran. On its margins, the soil is stiff and often *kalrathi*

(salt-infested) and its presence is a handicap to villages whose lands are divided by its passage. Surplus water from the area between the *nala* and the Main Branch of the Upper Bari Doab Canal is led into the Hansli north of the Grand Trunk Road by the Makhanwindi and Valla drains. South of the road, the drainage is defective in the basin of the Sultanwind Drain, otherwise known as the Mandiala Rohi, where there is much of inferior land. West of the main Branch of the canal, the drainage has always been a matter of serious concern. In the northern part of this tract, surface water collects at many places in the form of *chhambs* or lakes for which the least destructive outlets have to be found. The Hudiara Drain, starting from the Majitha Fort, was made the central feature of the scheme. Its natural bed was deepened and trained and, since 1927, it has been notified under section 55 of the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act. From this tahsil, it passes on through the Ajnala and Tarn Taran tahsils to the Lahore District of Pakistan, collecting the dregs of the city sewage from the Ganda Nala on its way. Sixteen kilometres north of the Amritsar city, close to the Gurdaspur road, the Gumtala Drain begins to carry away the surface water of the north-western part of the tract and, after being joined by the Verka and Tung Dhab drains just north of the city, turns west and ultimately joins the Hudiara Drain in the Ajnala Tahsil. Though not intended to cope with extraordinary conditions, this drainage system improved matters. North of the Lahore Branch, the Vadala Viram *chhamb* covers sixty-five acres. An attempt has been made without much success to drain it towards the west. Two short drains—the Ghosal and Tarpai—pour surplus water in the same neighbourhood into the Lahore Branch. The trouble here is saturation rather than the surface drainage. The canal carrying a considerable volume of water runs above the level of the surrounding country and there is every evidence of waterlogging. The same is true to some extent of the northern reaches of the Main Branch above the point where it crosses the Gurdaspur metalled road. This tahsil does not show such progressive deterioration as is evident in Tarn Taran. Improvements in drainage have apparently retarded the advance of *kallar* and, apart from the elimination of local defects in drainage, the primary object of the remedial measures must be the reclamation of the land which is still capable of cultivation.

Tarn Taran and Patti Tahsils.—The Hudiara Drain enters the Tarn Taran Tahsil at Lahorimal, and leaves it at Rajatal. It now runs in a deep and well-defined bed, for an artificial channel has been cut for it. It follows the line of natural drainage from the flats near Majitha in the Amritsar Tahsil. In to the drain, other artificial drains from the north and east of the Amritsar city are led, before it reaches this tahsil, where it is swollen by the waters of the Atari and Padhiar drains and by the Amritsar Ganda Nala, which carries away the city's sewage and deposits so much of it, as is not sold on the way, into the

Hudiara Drain. Farther east is a nameless drain entering the tahsil at Thathgarh, and leaving it at Naushehra Dhala. From Kasel southwards, it is now aligned in an artificial channel notified in 1930, as the Kasel-Padhana Drain, which ultimately as the Deo-Padhana Drain joins the Hudiara Drain at Deo. This connected series of drains serve its purpose sufficiently well and would be even more efficient but for the local practice of putting obstructions in the channels to secure irrigation when any other source of water is not available. The utility of the Kasel-Padhana Drain would be increased by the side-drains from Leian and Gehri. To the east of the Main Branch Lower comes the drainage known as the Mandiala Rohi or the Sultanwind Drain. Satisfactory drainage of its basin would involve considerable expenditure, but a good deal has been done by relatively cheap projects to remedy the more obvious faults. Still farther east come the Kasur Nala and the Patti Rohi. The former flows at places in a well-defined channel, and elsewhere it is scarcely noticeable owing to cultivation in its bed, the soil of which is generally hard and clayey. The Patti Rohi is, for the greater part of its course, shallow and indistinct, with undulating sandy soil on its margins. Drainage does not do any great damage, and digging has not been necessary except in the estates of Chambal, Jatta and Jovinda Kalan, where an artificial channel carries the water.

Ajnala Tahsil.—The surface drainage of the Ajnala Tahsil finds its natural outlet in the Sakki Nala but is obstructed by the Lahore Branch of the Upper Bari Doab Canal and its subsidiary channels. Water in the confined area to the left of the Branch now finds its way by various routes into the Hudiara Drain. On the right bank of the canal, the Lashkri Nangal-Bagga Drain collects water from the area north of the Mananwala Distributary, siphons it under the distributary and carries it along to the Mahalanwala Pond (*chhamb*) whence the reinforced stream is carried under the arterial road past the Bagga to the Sakki Nala at Saurian. This drain does its work efficiently enough, provided it is regularly cleared and maintained.

(iii) **Underground Water Resources.**—The entire area in the district is underlain by quaternary alluvium comprising fine to coarse sand, silt and clay, with intercalations of pebbles and *kankar*. Bore holes drilled down to a depth of about 100 metres have encountered 70–90 per cent of sand.

Groundwater occurs both under confined and unconfined conditions. The depth to reach water in the area ranges from about 1 to 20 metres below the land surfaces. The water-table is generally deep towards the high banks of the Beas and the Satluj. However, in the vicinity of the canal-irrigated area and also in the floodplains of the Beas and the Satluj, the water-table is very shallow. In many parts of the canal-irrigated areas, waterlogged conditions prevail. Land salinization is also observed in areas affected with waterlogging.

Groundwater is tapped by open wells, dug-cum-bore wells, and tube-wells. Open wells yield small to moderate quantities of water. Shallow tube-wells constructed up to a depth of 35 metres yield 700 to 2,000 litres of water per minute, depending on the capacity of the pumping-sets. Some of these tube-wells are of cavity type, whereas in others the indigenous strainer, which consist of iron or bamboo strips laid over the iron rings of 7—10 cm diameter and closely wrapped by ordinary coir rope, has been used. This type of construction is quite effective and economical. Deep tube-wells constructed up to depths of 65 to 105 metres below the land surface yield copious supplies of water. Some such tube-wells have been found to yield over 4,000 litres of water per minute for drawdowns of less than 5 metres. A pump test conducted on a 86.86-metre-deep tube-well at Dera Radhasoami, Beas, indicated that the specific capacity of the tube-well was 757 litres of water per minute per metre. The transmissibility of the sand which forms the water-bearing zone is of the order of 1,410 cubic metres per day per metre.

The groundwater available in the greater part of the district is generally fresh but hard, except in the southern part of the district where it is of inferior quality, being saline to bitter.

Hydrogeological studies carried out in the district in 1968 by the Geological Survey of India have indicated the possibilities of a large-scale development of groundwater through heavy-duty tube-wells in most parts of the district.

(d) GEOLOGY

(i) **Geological Formation.**—The whole of the Amritsar District is composed of the recent deposits known collectively as the Indo-Gangetic alluvium, which consists of the alluvial sand, clay and loam. Apart from the clay used for brick-making, the concretionary form of calcium carbonate, known as *kankar*, is found in beds generally at a slight depth below the surface at the upper margin of the impermeable subsoil, from where it is excavated to form material for road-making. The method of its formation is as follows :

A portion of rather porous soil, consisting of a mixture of lime, sand and clay, is infiltrated with water retained in it by an impermeable bottom. The carbonate of lime is deposited throughout this porous mass, and cements its particles till it becomes of stony hardness. Its deposition no doubt takes place along the outer surface, as each former minute crystal deposited acts as a nucleus for further depositions. The formation is often seen in an incomplete state, nodules of soil having become only partially hardened. The process is essentially one of segregation from the soil itself. The essential condition of its existence is the presence of carbonate of lime or its ready production by ordinary decomposition in the soil. In soils

and subsoils which supply little lime, there may be efflorescences without the formation of *kankar*, as in those consisting of clay and siliceous sand. On the other hand, in marly soils, in which there may be little or no production of alkaline salts, *kankar* may form without any efflorescence. In a district where stone road metal is not procurable, unless imported, the presence of this *kankar* has considerable importance. It is also used for lime-making. The best *kankar* beds are found in Ajnala on the left bank of the Sakki from Karyal downwards, and between Kaler and Vadala Bhattewad. Good *kankar* is also found to the right and left of the Grand Trunk Road near Jandiala Guru and at Varpal. In Tarn Taran, it occurs at Bala Chak and Gohlwar.

Soils.—The soils of the Punjab plains belong to the typical alluvium of the Indo-Gangetic plains. The majority of the soils are loamy or sandy loam consisting of a soil crust of varying depth. Hardly any profile characteristics are observed; soluble salts are present in considerable amounts. The lower layer consists of *kankar* nodules. The soils have generally an alkaline reaction and are adequately supplied with phosphorus and potash, but are deficient in organic matter and nitrogen.

Geologically, the alluvium is divided into *khadar*, i.e., the newer alluvium of sandy, generally light-coloured and of a less concretionary composition; and *Bhangar*, i.e., the older alluvium of a more clayey composition, generally of dark appearance and full of *kankar*. The soils differ in consistency from drift sand to loam and from fine silt to stiff clay. A few occasional pebble beds are also present. The formations and hard-pans at certain levels in the soil profile through the binding of soil grains by the infiltrating silica or calcareous matter, forming an impervious layer, is often observed in these alluvial soils. Layers of *kankar* in the Indo-Gangetic alluvium of the district are also observed.

Saline and Alkaline Soils.—In the alluvial plains, without any underground drainage, the salts become concentrated. Capillary action during summer brings them to the surface where they form a white efflorescent crust called *kallar*.

The reclamation of *kallar* is one of the major problems in the Punjab plains. The downward movement of salts is very much less than the upward movement, with the result that salts accumulate in high concentrations at or near the surface. These saline soils slowly deteriorate into alkali-rich soils. The sodium salts enter the clay complex and form sodium clay by the displacement of calcium. The only method of improving these soils is either by the addition of calcium salts or by making use of the reserve calcium already present in the soil. Recent studies have revealed that the *kallar* soils

are both saline and sodic, having been developed in areas subject to flooding and impeded drainage. Calcium carbonate is usually present in the profiles as a hard calcium layer, and the water-table is within six feet (1.8 metres).

Saltpetre.—Amritsar is an important saltpetre-producing district of the Punjab, but the production has been on the decrease since the end of the Second World War (1939—45) owing to the lack of market in competition with the imported Chile saltpetre which costs less.

(ii) **Seismicity.**—Seismically, Amritsar and its neighbourhood are situated in a region which is liable to slight to moderate damage due to earthquakes. Although no major epicentral tract has been located near Amritsar, a number of earthquakes originating in the Hindukush, the Himalayan boundary fault zone and the Karakoram regions are occasionally experienced at Amritsar with slight to moderate intensity.

The records show that the maximum seismic intensity experienced at Amritsar was VII on the modified Mercalli scale-1931 during the Kangra earthquake of 4th April, 1905. Considering the location of Amritsar and its geological features, the maximum intensity VII M.M. is not likely to be exceeded.

In order that civil engineering structures at Amritsar may not suffer damage or consequently result in the loss of life owing to earthquakes, the structures may be provided with the earthquake factor. For ordinary structures, the following factors have been recommended in the Indian Standards Institution Code, "Criteria for the Earthquake-Resistant Design of Structures":

Type of foundations	hard	medium	soft
Earthquake factor	.04g	.05g	.06g

For important structures, the earthquake factor has to be suitably increased.

(e) FLORA (Botany)

The flora of the district is of varied character and is typical of a tract well suited for the growth of vegetation. The soil is fairly rich and deep and the spring-level is high enough for the roots to absorb adequate moisture. Moreover, there is rainfall of moderate amount and fair certainty. These favourable conditions enable trees to grow luxuriantly. *Shisham* (*Dalbergia sissoo*) and *kikar* (*Acacia arabica*) are the main timber-trees and are very much liked for their hard wood, which is used for making furniture and agricultural implements. *Jaman* (*Eugenia jambolana*) and mango (*Mangifera indica*) are planted in many places on account of the value of their fruit and dense shade. *Pipal* (*Ficus religiosa*) and *borh* (*Ficus bengalensis*)

which are the favourite and sacred trees of the Hindus are much in evidence on wells and near shrines, both in the towns and villages. Other trees which have received special attention are some varieties of mulberry, such as *shahtut* (*Morus alba*) and *tut* (*Morus laevigata*); *ber* (*Zizyphus jujuba*); *dhrek* or Persian lilac (*Melia azadirachta*); *siris* (*Albizzia lebbek*), a quick-growing tree; and *vilyati kikar* (*Acacia farnesiana*) with fragrant flowers. A few plants of economic importance, such as *sohanjana* (*Moringa pterygosperma*), the flowers and long pods of which are used for making pickles; *kachnar* (*Bauhinia variegata*), whose flowers have a culinary use; and *lasura* (*Cordia myxa*), the fruits of which are pickled, are found around wells and in gardens. Besides the above trees, which are cultivated for special purposes, there are many others found in parks, gardens, etc. Eucalyptus has taken to the soil very well. It was originally introduced for its strong aromatic leaves and flowers which have medicinal properties, and occupies a prominent place. *Toon* (*Cedrela toona*) is a fine large shade-tree. *Simbal* or silk-cotton-tree (*Bombax malabaricum*) is a huge tree and many have been grown in different places. Some graceful evergreen trees, like *arjan* (*Terminalia arjuna*), *bahera* (*Terminalia belerica*), *sukhchain* (*Pongamia glabra*), *maulsari* (*Mimusop elengi*) and *amaltas* or Indian laburnum (*Cassia fistula*) have also been planted in several orchards.

Amritsar provides excellent conditions for intensive cultivation of various kinds of economic plants which give a handsome return from small areas. One of these is *sucha gulab* (*Rosa damascena*), the flowers of which are candied and also used for distilling *ark* and *iter*. *Motia* (*Jasminum sambac*), *chambeli* (*Jasminum grandiflorum*) and *bed mushak* (*Salix caprea*) are of similar commercial value.

The old arboreal vegetation of the waste places consists of *jand* (*Prosopis spicigera*), *karil* (*Capparis aphylla*), whose berries are collected for pickling, and *dhak* or *chichara* (*Butea frondosa*), whose flowers are used as a dye and the leaves are stitched for making *doonas* or containers for sweetmeats, etc. Along the Ravi and other moist places, there are found *sar* (*Saccharum sara*), *kans* (*Saccharum spontaneum*), *pilchi* (*Tamarix dioica*) and *kundar* (*Typha angustata*), which are used for making ropes, baskets, thatch and mats.

Among the grasses, *baru* (*Sorghum halepense*) and *dab* (*Eragrostis cynosuroides*) are very troublesome and make cultivation of the soil difficult. Grasses useful for fodder are *khabbal* (*Cynodon dactylon*) and *madhana* (*Eleusine aegyptica*). *Palwan* (*Andropogon pertusus*) and *chimbar* (*Eleusine flagellifera*) which come up in profusion after rains, although of poor quality, are used by poor people for feeding cattle.

The large weeds which infest uncultivated tracts are *ak* or milk-plant (*Calotropis procera*), *arind* (*Ricinus communis*), *dhatu* (*Datura fastuosa*) and *thor* (*Opuntia dillenii*). Other noxious weeds and those which appear in crops are *pohli* or thistle (*Carthamus oxyacantha*), *bhukat* or *piazi* (*Asphodelus fistulosis*), *shial kanta* (*Argemone mexicana*), *bhakhra* (*Tribulus terrestris*), *kandyari* (*Solanum xanthocarpum*) and *dhang* (*Cannabis sativa*).

In ponds and other large bodies of water, there are found, either in wild condition or specially grown, several aquatic plants which are useful in various ways. *Sanghara* or water-nut (*Trapa dispinosa*) is cultivated for its fruit which is roasted, and on removing the skin, the kernel, which is rich in carbohydrate, is eaten. The shoots of the *kanwal* or *bhen* (*Nelumbium speciosum*) are relished as a vegetable. *Kundar* or *bater* (*Typha angustata*) grows wild on the banks of canals, rivers, ponds and lakes. Its long and thick leaves are used for making mats.

The fertile soil and ample water-supply of the district provide very favourable conditions for growing fruits. The chief fruit is *nashpati* or pear (*Pyrus communis*). Other successful fruits are the peach or *aru* (*Prunus persica*), the plum or *alucha* (*Prunus communis*), and various citrus fruits such as *malta* (*Citrus aurantium var sinensis*), *sangtra* (*Citrus surantium*) and lemon (*Citrus medica*). Banana (*Musa sapientum*) was once grown largely but was discarded, as its quality was poor compared with that of the fruits from Calcutta and Bombay. *Falsa* (*Grewia asiatica*) is very remunerative for its high yield of small blue berries which are eaten or made into syrup. Loquat (*Eryobotrya japonica*) is also fairly common and successful. Litchi (*Litchi chinensis*), although not fully adapted to the climate, has been grown with special care and is yielding fruit. Mangoes (*Mangifera indica*) of fairly good quality are also found. The cultivation of grapes of different varieties has also been introduced.

(f) FAUNA (Zoology)

Game of all kinds are scarce in the district. An occasional *nilgai* and *chinkara* can still be found in the long grass in the river-bed on the border of Kapurthala. A few black bucks wander about the *barani* area from Gaggar-bhana to Chohla and, with the spread of cultivation and canal irrigation, it is rather remarkable that they have not disappeared altogether. A few wild hogs are still to be found in the bed of the Beas. They hide in the thick grass in the Kapurthala District during the day and only pay night visits to this district. Hares are fairly numerous and it is a common sight to see parties of youths hunting them especially after the *rabi* crops are cut. Wild geese and ducks of various kinds are to be found near and in the Beas and the Ravi in large flocks during the winter. The geese come in during the night and feed

on the young wheat plants. If there are good autumn and winter rains, ducks may still be found in fair numbers in the *chhambs* in the Ajnala and Tarn Taran tahsils. Black partridges are found near the river-beds and in the central part of the Tarn Taran Tahsil, but they are few and far between. Grey partridges are more widespread, but they also are very few. A few snipe are found at Jastarwal in the Ajnala Tahsil and in pools in the Beas bet. The common crane is common in the early winter but the demoiselle crane is hardly ever seen. The black curlew is to be met with inland, and the more wary jackcurlew on the sandy stretches of the Beas valley. Quail come in, as elsewhere, in April and September, whereas sandgrouse of the two common varieties may always be seen on the *moth* stuble of the Jandiala sand ridge, and on the sandier parts of the Ajnala Uthar near Chamiari. Green pigeons frequent the *pipal* trees and canal plantations but not in large numbers. The blue rock-pigeon is much commoner, and there are many in the cliffs overlooking the Beas. The Punjab Wild Birds and Wild Animals Protection Act, 1933, has had the effect, if not of increasing game, at least of calling a halt to their further depletion. The only venomous snakes which are met with are the cobra, the karait, the Russell's viper and the small keel-scaled viper (*Echis carinata*). Of these, the echis is commonest and perhaps the karait is next in abundance. The *kallar* wastes of Ajnala are notorious for harbouring venomous snakes. The canal contains many fresh-water snakes but they are all harmless. Jackals are common everywhere.

(g) CLIMATE

(i) Climatic Divisions and Seasons and Their Durations

The climate of this district is characterized by general dryness, except during the brief south-west monsoon season, a hot summer and a bracing winter. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season is from November to March. The period from April to June is the hot season. The south-west monsoon season is from about the beginning of July to the first week of September. The succeeding period lasting till the beginning of November is the post-monsoon or transition period.

(ii) Temperature and Humidity

Temperature.—There is a meteorological observatory in the district at Amritsar and the records of this observatory may be taken as representative of the meteorological conditions prevailing in the district, in general. From about the end of March, temperatures increase steadily till June, which is the hottest month, with the mean daily maximum temperature at 40.5°C (104.9°F) and the mean daily minimum at 25.3°C (77.5°F). The heat during the summer is intense and the hot dust-laden winds which blow during the afternoons add to the discomfort. With the onset of the monsoon in the district by about the

end of June or in the beginning of July, there is an appreciable drop in the day temperature. The nights are, however, as warm during the monsoon season as in summer and, owing to the increased moisture in the air, the weather is often oppressive. After the withdrawal of the monsoon early in September, whereas the day temperatures remain as in the monsoon season, nights become progressively cool. From October, there is a rapid drop in temperature. January is generally the coldest month, with the mean daily maximum temperature of 18.9°C (66.0°F) and the mean daily minimum at 4.7°C (40.5°F). During the cold season, the district is affected by cold waves in the wake of the passing western disturbances and the minimum temperature occasionally drops by a degree or two below the freezing-point of water. Frosts are common during the cold season.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Amritsar was 46.7°C (116.1°F) on June 11, 1953. The lowest minimum was 2.8°C (27.0°F) on December 25, 1950.

Humidity.—Relative humidity is generally high in the mornings, exceeding 70 per cent, except during the summer season when it is less than 50 per cent. The humidity is comparatively low in the afternoons. The driest part of the year is the summer season when the relative humidity in the afternoons is about 25 per cent or less.

Table I gives the normals of temperature and relative humidity during the different months of the year in the Amritsar District :

TABLE I
Normals of temperature and relative humidity
(AMRITSAR)

Month	Mean daily maximum tempera- ture °C	Mean daily minimum tempera- ture °C	Highest maximum ever recorded		Lowest minimum ever recorded		Relative humidity Hours (Indian Standard Time)	
			°C	Date	°C	Date	0830	1730
							Per cent	Per cent
January	18.9	4.7	25.0	1952 January 24	-1.7	1955 January 1	91	61
February	22.1	6.3	32.2	1953 February 28	-0.6	1958 February 10	85	45
March	27.3	11.4	35.6	1953 March 25	3.9	1954 March 5	73	40
April	34.3	16.2	43.3	1958 April 27	6.9	1960 April 10	49	23
May	39.4	21.8	46.1	1954 May 31	12.9	1960 May 7	39	19
June	40.5	25.3	46.7	1953 June 11	15.6	1958 June 1	47	26
July	35.5	25.9	45.6	1954 July 1	20.6	1955 July 20	76	57
August	34.2	25.5	40.0	1954 August 4	19.3	1957 August 8	82	65
September	34.4	23.4	40.6	1949 September 13	17.2	1953 September 17	77	53
October	32.0	16.6	38.3	1951 October 6	8.3	1953 October 31	74	45
November	26.5	8.3	32.2	1952 November 1	-0.6	1949 November 24	78	45
December	21.2	4.5	27.7	1958 December 3	-2.8	1950 December 25	86	54
Annual	30.5	15.8					71	44

(iii) Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the district are available for 7 stations for periods ranging from 66 to 98 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district, as a whole, are given in Tables 2 and 3. The average annual rainfall in the district is 541.9 mm (21.33"). The rainfall in the district increases generally from the south-west towards the north-east and varies from 435.5 mm (17.14") at Khara to 591.7 mm (23.29") at Rayya. About 74 per cent of the annual normal rainfall in the district is received during the period from June to September and as much as about 18 per cent of the annual rainfall occurs during the period from December to February. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is large. In the 50-year period from 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall amounting to 184 per cent of the normal occurred in 1917, whereas the very next year was one with the lowest annual rainfall, which was 54 per cent of the normal. In this 50-year period, the annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 13 years, with two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurring twice. Considering the annual rainfall at the individual stations, two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred 6 times at Khara and 4 times at Amritsar. Three such consecutive years also occurred once each at 4 out of the 7 stations. Even 4 consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once at Tarn Taran. It will be seen from Table 3 that the annual rainfall in the district was between 400 and 700 mm (15.75" and 27.56") in 33 years out of 50.

On an average, there are 30 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 24 at Khara to 34 at Rayya.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 457.2 mm (18") at Khara on October 5, 1955.

TABLE NO. 2

Normals and extremes of rainfall in the Amritsar District

TABLE 2
Normals and extremes of rainfall in the Amritsar District

Station	Number of years of data	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
AMRITSAR											
Bhuchar	.. 50 (a)	27.2	25.7	25.9	17.0	9.7	34.8	157.5	154.2	70.4	7.9
	(b)	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.3	1.1	2.1	6.2	6.0	2.7	0.5
Khara	.. 50 (a)	24.9	24.1	22.9	12.2	8.4	23.4	122.2	118.4	54.1	9.7
	(b)	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.7	5.8	5.3	2.2	0.4
Tarn Taran	.. 50 (a)	30.5	26.7	28.2	15.0	11.7	30.7	153.7	149.9	71.9	12.2
	(b)	2.1	2.5	2.3	1.5	1.4	2.3	7.1	6.2	3.1	0.6
Rayya	.. 50 (a)	35.6	34.5	29.7	15.2	14.5	34.8	169.9	151.4	76.5	10.2
	(b)	2.5	2.7	2.1	1.5	1.2	2.8	8.1	7.2	3.4	0.6
Amritsar	.. 50 (a)	30.0	28.2	27.9	15.5	10.4	40.1	161.5	148.6	71.9	9.9
	(b)	2.3	2.4	2.4	1.5	1.3	2.8	7.2	7.2	3.5	0.7
Ajnala	.. 50 (a)	30.2	27.4	30.2	17.5	14.5	39.9	161.0	149.9	74.4	7.9
	(b)	2.4	2.6	2.5	1.6	1.3	2.7	7.4	7.5	3.2	0.6
Begcy	.. 40 (a)	26.2	28.2	30.0	17.0	12.5	39.1	146.1	138.7	75.7	7.9
	(b)	1.7	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.0	2.1	5.5	5.3	2.6	0.5
Amritsar (District)	.. (a)	29.2	27.8	27.8	15.6	11.7	34.7	153.1	144.4	70.7	9.4
	(b)	2.1	2.4	2.1	1.4	1.2	2.4	6.8	6.4	3.0	0.6

Station	Number of years of data	November	December	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as % of normal and year*	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal and year*	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours **	
							Amount (mm)	Date
Bhuchar	.. 50 (a)	3.6	12.9	546.8	184 (1908)	30 (1921)	235.2	1894 June 19
	(b)	0.2	1.0	27.0				
Khara	.. 50 (a)	2.3	12.9	435.5	223 (1917)	35 (1905)	457.2	1955 October 5
	(b)	0.2	1.0	24.2				
Tarn Taran	.. 50 (a)	3.3	16.0	549.8	214 (1917)	38 (1932)	258.3	1894 June 19
	(b)	0.3	1.1	30.5				
Rayya	.. 50 (a)	3.1	16.3	591.7	198 (1917)	26 (1902)	367.0	1955 October 5
	(b)	0.3	1.2	33.6				
Amritsar	.. 50 (a)	3.1	16.0	563.1	180 (1908)	50 (1922)	396.2	1881 July 10
	(b)	0.3	1.3	32.9				
Ajnala	.. 50 (a)	3.3	13.7	569.9	161 (1950)	39 (1902)	198.1	1888 August 23
	(b)	0.3	1.0	33.1				
Begcy	.. 40 (a)	4.3	11.9	537.6	172 (1917)	44 (1918)	271.8	1904 August 7
	(b)	0.3	0.8	25.3				
Amritsar (District)	.. (a)	3.3	14.2	541.9	184 (1917)	54 (1918)		
	(b)	0.3	1.1	29.8				

(a) Normal rainfall in mm
(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more)
* Years given in brackets
** Based on all available data up to 1961

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TABLE 3

Frequency of annual rainfall in the Amritsar District
(Data 1901—1950)

Range in mm	Number of years	Range in mm	Number of years
201—300	1	601—700	9
301—400	8	701—800	5
401—500	11	801—900	2
501—600	13	901—1,000	1

(iv) Atmospheric Pressure and Winds

Cloudiness.—The skies are generally partly to heavily clouded and occasionally overcast during the monsoon season and for brief spells of a day or two in association with the passing western disturbances during the cold season. During the rest of the year, the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds.—Winds are generally light, with some strengthening in the summer and early part of the monsoon season. In the post-monsoon and cold season, winds are light and variable in direction in the mornings and mostly from the west or north-west in the afternoons. In April and May, winds are mainly from directions between north-west and north-east in the mornings and between west and north-east in the afternoons. By June, the easterlies and south-easterlies also blow and, in the south-west, monsoon season winds are more commonly from the directions between north-east and south-east.

Special Weather Phenomena.—The western disturbances affect the weather over the district during the cold season, causing widespread rain and gusty winds. Duststorms and thunderstorms occur in the summer season. Occasional fogs occur in the cold season.

Tables 4 and 5 give the mean wind speed and the special weather phenomena respectively for Amritsar:

TABLE 4

Mean wind speed in Kilometre/hour
(Amritsar)

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
6.7	7.9	9.2	9.6	11.5	11.6	10.9	8.8	7.1	6.3	5.2	5.4	8.4

TABLE 5

Special weather phenomena
(Amritsar)

Mean number of days with	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Thunder	1.9	1.9	4.0	4.6	4.2	6.2	8.5	9.2	4.2	1.9	0.8	0.7	48.1
Hail	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Dust-storm	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.9	2.7	4.6	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	10.0
Squall	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.0	3.2
Fog	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7	1.5

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

(a) Early History

Special interest in the history of this portion of the Punjab, the fertile central *doabs*, commences with the rise of the Sikh religion and power. There is no mention of any important city or seat of Government having existed in what is now the Amritsar District during the early period of history. Presumably all through the early period, the area remained under the Lahore rulers, a purely agricultural tract, peopled by the progenitors of the Jats, the peasant proprietors of today.¹

(b) Muhammadan Supremacy

After the final overthrow of the Shahi Kingdom in 1008, then ruled by Anangpal, son of Jaipal, Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni launched a series of predatory invasions of the Punjab. From that time, until the final overthrow of the Muhammadan supremacy, the Amritsar District was attached to the *Suba* or Province of Lahore. The district lies on the road usually taken by the invading Muhammadan armies, and was liable to be plundered and devastated at each incursion, but, as it does not appear to have then contained cities famous for their wealth, it is possible that it may have been looted and laid waste to a less extent than the adjoining territories, the invaders preferring to push on to Sirhind and Delhi after leaving Lahore. This may partly account for the comparative absence of the extensive mounds or *thehs*, marking the sites of deserted villages, which are so often found in districts to the west of Amritsar.²

(c) Rise of the Sikhs

I. THE SIKH GURUS

From the eleventh century to the end of the fifteenth century, there is little to call for special notice in the history of this part of the Punjab. It was shortly after the middle of the fifteenth century in 1469 that Guru Nanak Dev, the first Guru, the founder of the Sikh religion, was born at the village of Talwandi (now Nankana Sahib in the Sheikhupura District of Pakistan). His father is said to have been a village accountant (*Patwari*) of the Khatri caste. Nanak Dev himself early took to the life of a devotee, and travelled over most of India, but his history is in no way specially connected with that of the Amritsar District. He died at Kartarpur (now in the Sialkot District in Pakistan) in 1539, leaving behind him the writings which contain the exposition of the faith of the Sikhs (literally, disciples) and a numerous band of disciples.

¹Amritsar District Gazetteer, 1947, p. 18

²Ibid., p. 19

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He does not appear to have claimed for himself any special divinity. Guru Nanak Dev's reforms were in their immediate effect religious and moral only. His name is perhaps more closely associated with Vairawal and Ramdas than with other villages in District Amritsar. From the former came several of his disciples, and the temple at Ramdas was founded by Baba Buddha, one of his immediate followers³.

The second Guru, Angad Dev, was the most trusted disciple of Nanak Dev, on whose death he was acknowledged as the teacher of the new faith. He continued to stay until his death in 1552 at Khadur Sahib, a large village to the east of Tarn Taran, where there are a temple and a tank sacred to his memory, supported by a *jagir* from the Government. Little is known of his ministry and, on his death, his mantle passed on to Guru Amar Das, one of the most devoted of his followers.⁴

Guru Amar Das is chiefly remembered for having alienated his disciples from the Udasi sect founded by Sri Chand, the elder son of Guru Nanak Dev. Up to the present time, the Udasis are ascetics, pure and simple. The name of Guru Amar Das is associated with the village of Govindwal⁵, close to Khadur Sahib in the Tarn Taran Tahsil, where he lived and died in 1574. At the place, there is a baoli or the artesian well connected with the ground level by a flight of steps, which is its special feature.⁶

Guru Amar Das was succeeded in 1574 by his son-in-law, Guru Ram Das, the fourth Guru, who founded the City of Amritsar. The site was marked by a small natural pool. On the margin of the pool, Guru Ram Das erected himself a hut. Soon afterwards, in 1577, he obtained a grant of the site, together with 500 *bighas* of land, from Emperor Akbar⁷, on the payment of Rs 700 Akbari to the *zamindars* of Tung who owned the land. The pool soon acquired

³Amritsar District Gazetteer, 1947, pp. 19-20

⁴Ibid., p.20

⁵Ibid., p.20

⁶Ibid., p.20

Guru Amar Das founded the village of Govindwal on the Beas in 1546 under the direction⁸ of Guru Angad Dev

"The site of the village really belonged to one Govinda Khatri of the Marwaha caste, and he had tried to found a village there, but the site was said to be haunted, and the few daring settlers had been driven away by robbers and dacoits. The spiritual power of the Guru laid the ghost and deterred the robbers, and a flourishing village soon grew up." (G.C. Narang, *Transformation of Sikhism*, pp. 55-56)

"The *baoli* or well with steps" is a fine structure and has altogether 84 steps leading to the surface of the water. Eighty-four represents the traditional *chaurasi* or the series of 84 hundred thousand lives through which the soul has to pass again and again until it attains salvation. The belief among some Sikhs is that bathing and reciting the whole of Japji at each of the steps releases them from the bonds of transmigration. The place is still visited by crowds of people, twice a year, on the Hindu New Year's Day and the death anniversary of Guru Amar Das when large fairs are held and the poor are fed in thousands". (G.C. Narang, *Transformation of Sikhism*, p. 56)

⁷The land had hitherto been owned by a mixed community of Sayads, Sheikhs and Ranghars. The tomb of Sayad Fattah Shah, a former owner of the site, is still extant outside the Fort of Govindgarh to the west. (*Amritsar District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, p. 61, footnote)

a reputation for sanctity, and consequent upon the followers of the Guru migrating to the spot, a small town gradually grew up, known, at first, as Ramdasapur or Guru-Ka-Chak. The pool improved and, formed into a tank, acquired the name of Amritsar, "the tank of nectar or the tank of immortality," the present city deriving its name from it.⁸

Next came Guru Arjan Dev. He is said to have made Amritsar the headquarters of his pontificate. He completed the digging of the tank, and a new town began to grow up around the sacred pool. In the centre of the tank, he built the Hari Mandir, the foundation stone of which was got laid from the Muslim divine, Mian Mir of Lahore. In 1590, he built another temple with a tank at Tarn Taran. Guru Arjan Dev was an administrator *par excellence*. His predecessors had been content to move about the country with a small band of disciples preaching the doctrines of Guru Nanak Dev and teaching social service. Guru Arjan Dev collected and arranged the writings of the earlier Gurus, introduced a system of customary offerings by his adherents, and appointed agents (*masands*) to collect the offerings wherever his followers were to be found. Whereas the former Gurus had been content to be devotees, Guru Arjan Dev, according to Cunningham, who quotes what he states to be the ordinary Sikh accounts, encouraged his disciples to visit foreign countries and combine business with religion. We now begin to hear of horse-keeping and banking, carpentry and embroidery among the Sikhs. The Guru was himself a man of fame and wealth, and his influence extended over Hindus and Muslims to such an extent that he incurred the wrath of Emperor Jahangir, who saw in him a man of dangerous ambition. Hearing a report that the Guru had shown sympathy towards Prince Khusru who had rebelled against him, Jahangir ordered him to be thrown into prison and, according to the account given in *Tuzak-i-Jahangiri*, the Guru's death was caused directly by the orders of the Emperor in 1606.⁹

With the exception of the period of his confinement in the Gwalior fort, Guru Hargobind remained at Amritsar from his succession in 1606 up

⁸Ibid., pp. 9, 61

⁹The relevant passage from *Tuzak-i-Jahangiri*, reproduced below, will be of interest : "At Goindwal, situated on the river Beas, there lived a Hindu named Arjun in the garb of saints and holy men. He had attracted many Hindus and even some ignorant and low-class Mussalmans and had ensnared them to follow the practices of his cult. He had been loudly blowing the trumpet of his saintliness and spiritual leadership. He was known as 'Guru' and people from all sides resorted to him and made declarations of faith in him. This 'shop' of his had been running briskly since three or four generations. I had been wishing for a long time either to abolish this emporium of falsehood or convert him to Islam till Khusru happened to pass this way. The foolish prince thought of attaching himself to his cortege. He repaired to the Guru's residence and had an interview with him. The Guru discussed some old cases with him and with his finger put on the forehead of the prince a saffron mark which is called 'Tilak' by the Hindus and is considered an auspicious omen. This incident was reported to me. I was already fully aware of the Guru's false cult. I ordered him to be arrested and made over his household and family to Murtaza Khan. I confiscated all his property and issued orders that he should be imprisoned, tortured and executed". (*Tuzak-i-Jahangiri*, p. 35; Nawal Kishore Press, Lucknow)

to the battle of Amritsar in 1628. During this period, he got constructed the Akal Takht, the Lohgarh fort and a wall around Amritsar.

Guru Tegh Bahadur had not much to do with Amritsar proper, probably on account of the undue importance and independence assumed by the *masands*, the local ministrants appointed for the collection of offerings. The *masands* of Amritsar were said to have become so overbearing as not to allow Guru Tegh Bahadur to visit the Hari Mandir. Perhaps their temerity prompted by the objectionable practices, indulged in by the local *masands*, had earned the Guru's condemnation that those belonging to Amritsar were actually *Andarsarias*—people with charred minds.

Like Guru Tegh Bahadur, his son, Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth and last of the Gurus, could not maintain active contact with Amritsar on account of the religio-political role assumed by him. His life-long exertions to fulfil the twofold mission—to avenge the death of his father and to rid the people of the bigotry and tyranny of the Muslim rule—had obliged him to confine his activities to the comparatively inaccessible area along the Shiwalik mountains. To facilitate his military campaigns and afford him a safer place, he had made Anandpur Sahib, the newly founded fortified town, his headquarters. It was, therefore, neither feasible nor desirable to visit Amritsar, situated at a considerable distance from his new abode at Anandpur Sahib. Hemmed in between the hostile hill rajas and the mounting Mughal military pressure, Guru Gobind Singh remained too heavily preoccupied with the organization of the Khalsa and the military campaigns to have any direct dealings with the Darbar Sahib at Amritsar.

II. Situation after the Death of the Tenth Guru.—While at Nanded (in Maharashtra), Guru Gobind Singh deputed Bairagi Madho Das to the Punjab to avenge the death of his sons. Madho Das, as Banda, became the Guru's chosen disciple, round whom the Sikhs again gathered. Banda established himself in the Gurdaspur District and for a time held his own against the Muhammadan forces, but was finally overcome by Abdul Samad Khan, the Governor of Lahore, and, being taken prisoner, was tortured and put to death at Delhi in 1716.¹⁰

¹⁰Amritsar District Gazetteer, 1947, pp. 22-23

The situation of the Sikhs at the death of Banda is thus summed up by Cunningham : "After the death of Banda an active persecution was kept up against the Sikhs, whose losses in battle had been great and depressing. All who could be seized had to suffer death, or to renounce their faith¹¹. A price, indeed, was put upon their heads, and so vigorously were the measures of prudence, or of vengeance, followed up, that many conformed to Hinduism; others abandoned the outward signs of their belief, and the more sincere had to seek a refuge among the recesses of the hills, or in the woods to the south of the Satluj, scarcely again heard of in history for the period of a generation.

"Thus, at the end of two centuries, had the Sikh faith become established as a prevailing sentiment and guiding principle to work its way in the world. Nanak disengaged his little society of worshippers from Hindu idolatry and Muhammadan superstition, and placed them free on a broad basis of religious and moral purity; Amar Das preserved the infant community from declining into a sect of quietists or ascetics; Arjun gave his increasing followers a written rule of conduct and a civil organization; Hargobind added the use of arms and a military system; and Gobind Singh bestowed upon them a distinct political existence, and inspired them with the desire of being socially free and nationally independent."¹²

¹¹"Thousands of faithful Sikhs must have fallen during the maelstrom" but a few executions, "which owing to the peculiar and high position and great piety of the victims aroused the greatest indignation, deserve a particular mention :

"The foremost of these victims was Mani Singh. He was an old Sikh who had sat at the feet of Guru Govind Singh himself. He had been sent to Amritsar by the widow of the Guru to settle the disputes raging between the followers of Banda and the Tatwa Khalsa or the original and staunch followers of Govind. He was a well-read man and being of a retiring and peaceful disposition he had settled down in Amritsar and while the storm of persecution was raging all around, he passed his days in Amritsar as a pious Hindu whom no one suspected or reported as having anything to do with the rebellious Sikhs. He looked after the temple and in 1738, two years before its desecration, Mani Singh, who was held in great esteem by the Hakim of Amritsar, applied for leave to hold the Diwali fair in Amritsar. The matter, being rather serious, was referred to the Governor of Lahore. Permission was ultimately granted on the condition that Mani Singh should pay Rs. 5,000 into the State treasury after the fair. Mani Singh issued invitations to the whole body of Khalsa and the Sikhs started towards Amritsar in large numbers. The Governor of Lahore, however, sent a detachment of troops to Amritsar under the pretext of keeping order during the coming fair. The Sikhs were frightened by this suspicious move of the authorities and turned back. The fair was never held and the sum of Rs. 5,000 which Mani Singh was expected to pay out of the offerings that the Sikhs would have made at the temple was not paid. Mani Singh was arrested and taken to Lahore. He was asked to pay the money or embrace Islam. The latter proposal was rejected with scorn. The admirers of Mani Singh raised the 5,000 rupees but it was too late. The sentence of death had already been passed and Mani Singh was consequently put to death, his body being slowly cut to pieces at each joint.

"The next important victim. . . . was Taru Singh. He was a Jat by caste and a native of Poola (Phula, tahsil Patti) in the Manjha tract. He was young man of twenty-five and lived with his sister and widowed mother, earning his livelihood by tilling the bit of land his father had left him. He had great reputation for piety and was a devoted follower of the Khalsa. He was always heard repeating the verses of the Granth whether engaged in ploughing his field or watering his crops. His mother and sister also were models of virtue and piety and made their living by grinding their neighbours' corn. The family lived a simple and austere life and spent all their little savings in the help of their brethren whom the iron hand of the Nazim of Lahore had driven into forests and deserts. This was considered treason and it was not long before Taru Singh was betrayed by one Har Bhagat Niranjani of Jandiala. The offender was arrested and taken to Lahore. There he was put to death after severe tortures." (G.C. Narang, *Transformation of Sikhism*, pp. 86-89).

¹²J.D. Cunningham, *A History of the Sikhs*, p. 60

III. Invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali

In 1737, Baji Rao, the Maratha leader, appeared in arms before Delhi, and two years later came the invasion of the Punjab by Nadir Shah. The difficulties of their hereditary enemies were the Sikhs' opportunity and, collecting in small bands, they plundered the stragglers of the Persian army and the wealthy inhabitants of the larger towns. But they had no recognized leader, and when the invaders had retired, the Sikhs were easily subdued by Zakariya Khan, the Viceroy of Lahore. But now they began to visit Amritsar openly instead of in secrecy and disguise to make their devotions at the sacred temple. Nadir Shah was assassinated in 1747, and his place was taken by Ahmad Shah Abdali, who in the same year entered the Punjab at the head of an army and put to flight the new Governor of Lahore, Shah Nawaz Khan. But he got no farther than Sirhind and was forced to retire, and Mir Manu assumed the viceroyalty at Lahore. The Sikhs who had thrown up a fort at Amritsar, which they called Ram Rauni, at once began to give him trouble. But they were suppressed without difficulty and their fort was taken. Then followed another invasion by Ahmad Shah, which was again the signal for a rising of the Sikhs, who possessed themselves of the country round Amritsar only to be defeated again by Adina Beg, who was acting under the orders of Mir Manu, the viceroy of Lahore. At that time, the Sikh leaders were coming into prominence. Among them, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia and Jassa Singh Ramgarhia, restored the Ram Rauni at Amritsar. It was, however, again demolished by Prince Timur, son of Ahmad Shah Abdali, who dispersed the insurgent Sikhs, levelled the buildings to the ground and threw the debris into the sacred tank. This last insult inspired the Sikhs to fresh exertions, and gathering under Jassa Singh Ahluwalia they attacked Lahore and took it. The Muhammadans called in the aid of the Marathas, the Afghan garrisons left by Ahmad Shah was driven out, and the Sikhs evacuated Lahore. A period of anarchy followed, leading to the return of Ahmad Shah and the extinction of the Maratha power in northern India at Panipat in 1761. Lahore remained in the possession of the Muslims, but the central authority at Delhi suffered rapid decline. The provincial authorities found it increasingly difficult to deal with the Sikhs who continued in revolt against religious intolerance and political tyranny. Some successes were gained by the Sikhs and the army of the Khalsa assembled at Amritsar and again performed their ablutions at the sacred pool. But a disaster, greater than any they had experienced since the overthrow of Banda, was at hand. Ahmad Shah returned to the support of his lieutenants, and in 1762, overtaking the Sikhs near Ludhiana, utterly defeated them in an action which is still referred to as the *Bara Ghalughara* or the great holocaust. On his way back, Ahmad Shah passed through Amritsar, where he razed the restored temple and polluted the sacred pool with the slaughter of cows.¹³

¹³*Amritsar District Gazetteer*, 1947, pp. 23-24

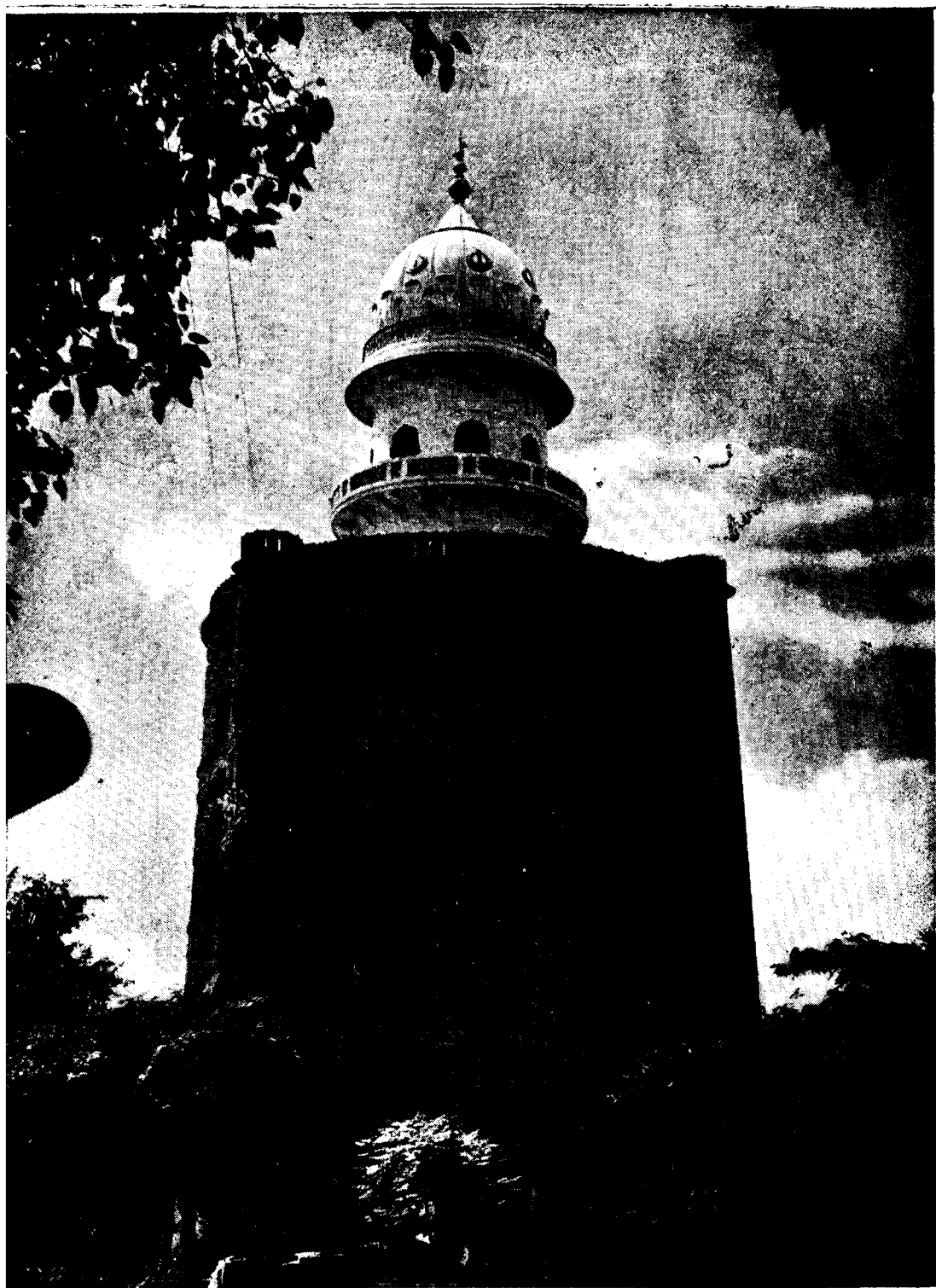
IV. Amritsar under the *misl*s and Maharaja Ranjit Singh

The repeated invasions of Ahmad Shah Abdali had not only exposed the hollowness of the Mughal Empire, but had given the Sikh *misl*s the long-awaited chance of proclaiming their independence and assumption of political power in whatever territory they could lay their hands on. The potential power of the Khalsa had been acknowledged by the Afghan invader, who, despite his determined efforts, had failed to suppress the Sikhs. He clearly realized that they would occupy the north-western regions as soon as his hold became weak. Even during his stay in the Punjab, the invaders were persistently harassed by the rising confederacies of the Sikhs.

On the withdrawal of the Afghan hordes from the north-western region of the country, the tract was divided among the Sikh leaders of various groups who were organized as *misl*s or confederacies. Several of these principalities had their headquarters at Amritsar, which was the seat of their most sacred shrine and was treated as the sanctum sanctorum of their religion. The hardy Jat peasantry of the Majha or the central tract formed the bulk of the fighting force of the *misl*s. The loose form of theocracy, which was united only in the face of a common external danger, remained engaged in perpetual mutual conflicts among themselves. Every *misl* tried to increase its strength and the territory occupied by it at the cost of its neighbours. It is believed that the areas occupied by individual *misl*s were got recorded at the Akal Takht, the political headquarters of the community, situated opposite the Darbar Sahib at Amritsar. Perhaps, for the same reason, these groups who had maintained their regular territorial accounts at the holy place were named as *misl*s or files.

The *misl*s continued to fight against one another all through the troubled times in the eighteenth century until Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the leader of the Shukarchakia *misl*, appeared on the scene. The principal *misl*s associated with Amritsar were the Bhangis, Ahluwalias and Kanhayas. Of these, the Bhangis were the first to come into prominence. Their territory extended towards the north from their strongholds at Lahore and Amritsar up to the River Jhelum and then down its banks. The Kanhayas were supreme between Amritsar and the hills. The Ahluwalias were powerful in the Jullundur Doab from where they pushed towards Majha, as the country included in the tahsils of Tarn Taran and Kasur came to be called.

The Ramgarhias, though not the masters of Amritsar, enjoyed special association with the town. In fact, they took their name from Ram Rauni, the mud fort which had been established to guard the sacred temple at Amritsar. The fort was subsequently named Ramgarh by Jassa Singh, the leader of the Ramgarhia *misl*. To this day, the Sikh carpenter loves to be described as Ramgarhia instead of as *tarkhan*, the name of the class of



2. Burj Baba Phula Singh, Amritsar

artisans. Though renowned for their mechanical skill, they also possessed the martial qualities of the Jat peasantry.

Nihangs and 'Akalis', the warlike enthusiasts, who have all along looked upon themselves as the armed guardians of the Holy Temple at Amritsar, are specially associated with the sacred city. They adopted arms as their profession under the inspiration of the Tenth Guru and, during the period of the *misl*s and Maharaja Ranjit Singh, they formed a prominent part of the Sikh Army. The *smadh* of Phula Singh, the most outstanding of the Nihangs, at Amritsar still forms the headquarters of the Buddha Dal, the name given to the Nihangs who were generally elderly people.

The power of the Bhangis under Jhanda Singh was challenged by the Kanhayas under their leader Jai Singh and their allies, the Shukarchakias, whose chief was Sardar Charat Singh, the grandfather of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Next, the Kanhayas and the Ahluwalias combined and forced the Ramgarhias to retire towards Hissar. Mahan Singh, who had become the leader of the Shukarchakias, joined hands with Jai Singh Kanhaya. He separated from the Kanhayas soon afterwards and allied himself with Ramgarhias with whose help he defeated the Kanhayas. On the death of Mahan Singh, his son, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, once again made alliance with the Kanhayas by marrying the daughter of Mai Sada Kaur, the widowed daughter-in-law of Jai Singh Kanhaya. With the powerful help of the Kanhayas, the young Shukarchakia chief seized Lahore from the Bhangis in 1799 and made it the capital of the Kingdom of Lahore. Maharaja Ranjit Singh further strengthened his position by a friendly alliance with Sardar Fateh Singh Ahluwalia with whom he had exchanged turbans as a token of intimate friendship. Ranjit Singh forced the Bhangis to retire from Amritsar in 1802. Thereafter, after the step-by-step liquidation and absorption of the remaining *misl*s, Ranjit Singh soon established himself as the paramount ruler of the Punjab.

Under the Lahore Darbar, Amritsar, which had already assumed the most important place as the religious and commercial centre of the Sikhs, became the second capital of the kingdom. Maharaja Ranjit Singh frequently visited the Darbar Sahib on all important religious occasions to take a dip into the Holy Tank and to make offerings at the Holy Temple. He came to Amritsar on almost every *Sankrant*, the first day of the Hindu calendar month. He visited the place on Maghi, Balsakhi and Diwali unless prevented from doing so on account of his failing health or heavy political pre-occupations.

Amritsar was the place where Ranjit Singh met Jaswant Rao Holkar in 1805. The Maratha chief after his defeat by the British had come all the

way to the Punjab to enlist the support of the rising Sikh ruler. Ranjit Singh, as is well known, tactfully declined to support him on the plea that, of the two chits thrown before the holy Granth Sahib, the one prohibiting the support of the Maratha chief had signified the will of the Granth Sahib. Again, it was around Amritsar that Maharaja Ranjit Singh is believed to have visited the camp of Lord Lake, who had come in hot pursuit of Jaswant Rao Holkar, in disguise to study the situation for himself¹⁴. The historic meeting with Metcalfe, resulting in the famous Treaty of Amritsar in 1809, also took place at this station. The treaty acknowledged Maharaja Ranjit Singh as the undisputed ruler of all the territories to the north of the River Satluj and recognized the river as the boundary between the two governments. In 1809, Maharaja Ranjit Singh completed the building of the Govindgarh Fort at Amritsar. The fort was intended to meet any possible danger from across the River Satluj. As a result of the strategic importance of Amritsar, special attention was paid to the development of the most important town in the kingdom next to the capital City of Lahore. A number of buildings and gardens such as Ram Bagh and Shish Mahal, and a wall around the town, were built there. Ranjit Singh also gave the Hari Mandir its marble facing and gold coating from which it came to be called the Golden Temple.

On the eve of the Kabul campaign by the British in 1838-39, Amritsar was the venue of the memorable meeting between Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the British Governor-General, Lord Auckland. In 1838, the Tripartite Treaty was concluded by the British with Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Shah Shuja for replacing Dost Muhammad by Shah Shuja on the Afghan throne. Towards the close of the year, the British forces assembled at Firozpur for the campaign, to the opening of which further eclat was given by an interchange of hospitalities between the Governor-General, Lord Auckland, and Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The Maharaja met the Governor-General at Firozpur on November 29, 1838, and, on the next day, a return visit was paid by the Governor-General to the Maharaja's camp across the River Satluj.

Thereafter, from December 1, 1838, onwards, the Governor-General at the invitation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and with a view to canvassing support of the Sikh ruler for the British campaign, visited Amritsar and Lahore. Lord Auckland, who was accompanied by his sister, Miss Emily Eden, and the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Henry Fane, besides his entourage, was received at a distance of about 3.6 km from Amritsar by Prince Sher Singh, the Prime Minister Raja Dhian Singh and other chiefs, attended

¹⁴ Cunningham, Joseph Davey, *A History of the Sikhs* (edited by H.L.O. Garrett ; Lahore, 1915), p. 116.



3. Summer Palace of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Amritsar

by a body of cavalry and infantry. The Maharaja himself met the distinguished guest near Katra Khazana Gate and mutual courtesies were exchanged. Ranjit Singh was particularly anxious to show the British dignitaries the Hari Mandir—the most sacred shrine, and other important landmarks at the place. The visit to the Hari Mandir was made particularly significant. The Maharaja also wished to create an impression on the British Government about his great military prowess. All his troops were, therefore, mustered at Amritsar for the grand review which he had specially arranged for the Governor-General. A vivid account of the celebrations at Amritsar on the occasion of the Governor-General's visit to the place, during the first half of December 1838, is given by the official chronicler of the Lahore Darbar, Sohan Lal Suri, in *Umdat-ut-Tawarikh*, Vol. III, Part V, pp. 51-77.

V. From the Death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh up to the Annexation of the Punjab by the British in 1849

Many of the leading men at the Court of Lahore were intimately connected with the district, such as Sardar Lehna Singh of Majitha, the Sindhanwalla chiefs (who belonged to the same family as the Maharaja), and Sardar Sham Singh of Atari, whose daughter was in 1837 married to Kanwar Nau Nehal Singh, the grandson of the Maharaja. Ranjit Singh died on the 27th June, 1839, and was succeeded by his son Maharaja Kharak Singh, who died in the following year. His son and presumptive successor, Nau Nehal Singh, was killed by the fall of an archway while returning from the cremation. Then followed the short reign of Sher Singh, who was murdered in 1843, when the young Prince Dalip Singh took his place and was proclaimed Maharaja. None of the events of the First Anglo-Sikh War of 1845-46 took place in Amritsar, their scene being entirely on the left bank of the Satluj. Thereafter, the British troops crossed the Satluj and occupied Lahore, withdrawing in March 1846, when arrangements for governing the country had been made and the treaties signed. It was agreed that there should be perpetual peace and friendship between the British Government and Maharaja Dalip Singh. The Jullundur Doab was ceded by the Lahore Darbar to the British and most of the troops were withdrawn from the Bari Doab, leaving only sufficient numbers to act as guard to the Resident appointed to the Court of Lahore and for the protection of the Maharaja. Of the eight members of the Council of Regency, three were drawn from the most powerful families of the Amritsar District, the Sindhanwalla, Majithia and Atariwala. A fourth was Sardar Atar Singh of Kala, a village just outside the Amritsar city. Peace lasted till 1848, when the revolt headed by the two Sardars of Atari, Sardar Chattar Singh and his son Sher Singh, led to the annexation of the rest of the Punjab by the British on the 29th March, 1849.

(d) British Rule

I. Early Stages of the British Administration, 1849—57

Amritsar, like other parts of the Kingdom of Lahore, suffered persistent disorders during the period of anarchy, after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The decade from 1839 to 1849 was, thus, marked by chronic civil commotion, which had become the order of the day on the rapid deterioration of the central authority under weak and inefficient successors of the "Lion of the Punjab". Under unstable political conditions, the army had become all powerful and had become self-governing, since it conducted its own affairs through *panchayats* or councils and imposed its will on the leaders. The unbridled armed forces had created a dangerous situation in respect of law and order. The armed bands of soldiers indulged in oppression and extortion with impunity. The existence of the leaders themselves being threatened, they could not bring them under any effective control. During the period of disorganization, the system of personal government, which owed its success to the vitality of the ruler, had completely broken down. The public, in general, were the worst sufferers from disorder and disorganization. Contemporary chronicles reveal a sad state of civil life. In the face of widespread lawlessness, people could not carry on their lawful vocations. It was not uncommon, therefore, that the inhabitants lived under perpetual dread of their lives and property. The frequent upheavals had almost paralysed trade and commerce. Even in the city of Amritsar, people were compelled to make their own security arrangements and it was not uncommon that merchants removed their wares to their residential houses from the shops in the evening. Every *mohalla* had become barricaded.

The most urgent problem faced by the British after the annexation of the Punjab in 1849 was, therefore, to restore normalcy and to make it possible for the people to carry on their normal work. Measures were taken to restore law and order in the district. During the first year after the annexation, the incidence of crime, especially gang robbery, was at its climax. In the district of Amritsar, it rose to alarming proportions. Some of the main roads were scoured at night by bands of armed and mounted highwaymen. Houses of native *grandees* were broken open in broad daylight. Most of the daring criminals were soon rounded up. Those who escaped the gallows were chased out of the district into the inaccessible areas of Bikaner and other parts of Rajputana (Rajasthan). Alongside gang robbery, thuggee was also practised on a large scale. This type of crime was discovered to have been introduced into the Punjab from across the River Satluj. The thugs practised their calling with great success during the period of disorganization of the Sikh administration and during the two Anglo-Sikh Wars of 1845-46 and 1848-49. Effective measures were adopted to eliminate this sinister form of crime as part of the general campaign undertaken in the form of anti-thuggee organization.

As part of the campaign for the restoration of law and order, highway robbery deserved particular attention. Certain parts of the district were marked by uncultivated waste and brushwood. It was not surprising, therefore, that many of these places were infested by highwaymen. Immediately after the annexation, wayfarers were exposed to danger from highwaymen. Extensive measures for the guarding of roads, such as the location of police-posts and regular patrolling by footmen and horsemen, gradually reduced the incidence of the crime and facilitated the restoration of law and order.

Apart from the conventional crimes which the new administration had to deal with, it endeavoured to eradicate a number of social evils. Female infanticide, *Sati* and the burying alive of lepers required persistent efforts for their abolition. In this respect, punitive measures were not expected to succeed. Instead, the persuasion of the influential sections of society was considered more expedient. A big conference of all the chiefs and notable persons of the Punjab was held at Amritsar in 1853. As a result of the general feeling engendered among the chiefs, it was expected that female infanticide would be curbed. The outcome of the conference was fairly satisfactory and the incidence of this crime gradually declined. In this connection, it is well to remember the injunctions of the Chief Commissioner John Lawrence: *Beti mat maro, bewa mat jalao and kohri mat dabao*.

Amritsar is, therefore, closely connected with the suppression of the female infanticide in the Punjab through the efforts of the influential sections of society. Ever since the cession of the Bist Doab after the First Anglo-Sikh War in 1846, steps were taken to ascertain the extent of female infanticide prevalent in the area. As early as 1852, meetings were held with the representatives of the Bedis and other castes, who practised female infanticide. A lucid treatise on the subject was prepared by Major H.B. Edwards, the then Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur. During 1853, full and authentic information was brought together by the Judicial Commissioner and, on the recommendation of the Chief and Judicial Commissioners, the Governor-General ordered that a grand meeting should be held at Amritsar on the occasion of the Diwali festival which fell on the last day of October and the first day of November 1853. At this notable meeting, all the nobility, chivalry and hierarchy of the old regime as well as the wealth, rank and influence of the new State were assembled. The Sikh Sardars, the Bedis, the Sodhis, the hill chiefs, the commercial magnates and the Muhammadan Nawabs were all invited to the assemblage. To it was added all the weight which official power and position could give. Besides the Judicial and Financial Commissioners, the Commissioners of all the trans- and cis-Satluj States and the district officers of most of the districts, including Amritsar, were present there. The first city in the Punjab had scarcely seen such a grand assembly on the annual festival of Diwali at Amritsar. The delegates assembled there solemnly promised that they would

ensure the eradication of female infanticide in the province¹⁵. As a result of the deliberations, measures were adopted to reduce the marriage expenses to so moderate a scale that no man should feel any real difficulty in marrying off his daughter and should, consequently, have no motive for the commission of infanticide. The rules in question were explained in detail by the Committee and were subsequently published and proclaimed. The fame of this meeting spread far and wide and the impression, thus created, sank deep into the minds of the people.

Much of the credit for the pioneering effort for suppressing female infanticide, which had been accepted almost as a tradition among some of the notable Indian families, rightly goes to Amritsar.

The transition from the Sikh to the British administration after the annexation of the Punjab in 1849 could not be expected to be easy or smooth. Even the rough and ready system of administration, introduced by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, had been almost completely disrupted during the period of anarchy which followed his death, leading to a rapid deterioration in, and a disorganization of, law and order.

To cope with the peculiar situation, the Punjab was to be treated as a non-regulation province and was placed under a Board of Administration from 1849 to 1853. Greater attention during this period was perforce to be devoted to the reservation of normal conditions which required levelling the ground and making it favourable for the British form of administration. The Board enjoyed special powers for summary decisions and quick remedies in keeping with the temperament of the people.

The work started by the Board of Administration was continued under the Chief Commissioner from 1853 to 1858. The difficulties experienced by the Board were, however, removed by giving full authority to the Chief Commissioner for prompt and effective measures for the establishment of peace and order in the newly annexed territories. Sir John Lawrence, who had earlier been a member of the Board of Administration, introduced several reforms and firmly laid the foundations of the British administration. The test of the soundness of the system was soon to come in the storm that burst in 1857.

II. THE GREAT UPRISING OF 1857

The administrative importance of Amritsar was realized by the British authorities in the events of 1857 and effective steps were taken to meet the situation.

¹⁵ Summary account of the Meeting is based on *Foreign Department Political Consultations*, 28th April, 1854, Nos. 243-48, National Archives of India, New Delhi

(1) **Measures Taken on Receipt of Intelligence of the Uprising.**—On May 12, 1857, when the first intelligence of the Meerut and Delhi uprisings reached Amritsar, the force within the cantonments consisted of the 59th Native Infantry, of whom 216 were on duty inside the Fort of Govindgarh. On the disarming of the troops at Lahore, nothing could be done but await calmly the progress of events. A rendezvous was fixed in case of a disturbance. The next evening (May 13), there came (what turned out to be a false alarm) the news that the disarmed troops at Lahore were preparing to escape, possibly with the idea of swarming into the Fort of Govindgarh. Accordingly, Mr. Macnaghten, Assistant Commissioner, proceeded to Atari with the Tahsildar of Amritsar. Diwan Narain Singh, the agent of Sardar Kahan Singh of Atari, came to the aid of Mr. Macnaghten in rousing the villagers and forming a barrier across the Grand Trunk Road so as to intercept the rebels and give the authorities time to prepare themselves. In the meantime, Colonel Boyd picketed out the 59th Native Infantry in various directions by way of diversion of attention, while Captain Waddy removed the whole of the battery of artillery inside the fort. On the other hand, Mr. F.H. Cooper, Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, had picketed outside the gate of the fort (from that day till it was well garrisoned by Europeans) a company of Sikhs and some *sowars* (horsemen), who at a certain signal from the fort were to accompany the Deputy Commissioner in. Having adopted all possible immediate measures, attention was paid to the feeling of the city, which was very much excited. As if to try the temper of authority, a Muhammadan *chowkidar* (watchman) had the audacity to cut down a cow, with the shallow pretence that he thought it was a dog. Setting aside regulations, and in anticipation of approval, the Deputy Commissioner had the man most severely flogged and put in irons and imprisoned for a year. The effect was great, and nothing of the kind occurred thereafter¹⁶.

(2) **Measures for the Safety of the Govindgarh Fort.**—It was a source of much uneasiness for the British authorities that the stronghold was occupied by a detachment of the 59th Native Infantry, with only 70 European artillerymen. Captain Lawrence, Captain of Police, and Mr. Roberts, Commissioner, drove over on 13th May, immediately after disarming the troops at Mian Mir (near Lahore), to arrange for the safety of the fort. On their return to Lahore the following day, they represented to Brigadier Corbett the urgent necessity for pushing a body of European foot into it. He instantly complied and, notwithstanding the alarming events of that day elsewhere, half a company of the 81st Foot was run across the same night in *ekkas* or gigs. It entered Govindgarh peaceably by the dawn of 15th. The 59th Native Infantry still remained in the fort, but as soon as the Europeans were available, they took their place. As soon as the outbreak occurred, one of the first measures adopted by Mr.

¹⁶ *Punjab Government Records, Vol. VIII, Mutiny Reports, Part I (Lahore, 1911), pp. 269-70*

Cooper, Deputy Commissioner, was to provision the fort of Govindgarh. This was rapidly and thoroughly effected without exciting any particular notice,¹⁷ and the fort then became one of the trusty bulwarks of the British, which it had not hitherto been. Mr. Macnaghten, Assistant Commissioner, at the same time went out on the Lahore road to raise the country (a part of the Majha) against any rebels who might come by. Rewards were offered for capturing any sepoy who had rebelled. Thus the escape for a rebel was impossible, because every village had been made a nest of hornets for him.

(3) **Discovery of a Muhammadan Conspiracy.**—June 1857 presents some peculiar features. The 59th Native Infantry continued to be armed, though their numbers in the Govindgarh Fort were much reduced. All letters to the sepoys were intercepted. Some of them contained very suspicious matter, but the time had hardly arrived to press matters. The evidence of a Muhammadan basis of the rebellion soon stood forth as some clear cases of “seditious conversation and projected treason” were brought to light. Muhammad Sharif, a relation of Risaldar Barkat Ali, of the mounted Risalah at Amritsar (“himself no small thorn in Mr. F.H. Cooper’s side”, a Hindustani and resident of Shahjahanpur); Mir Sahib, a clock-maker; Mian Sahib, a fakir (whom the Deputy Commissioner arrested at night in the city); a Nur Muhammad Khan, who admitted to have left Delhi on 22nd May (he was an ex-Munshi, had a fine horse and disguises, and clearly had left for the crusade in Amritsar); a Munshi Rajjab Ali, and others, were at once tried and thrown into prison. A Muhammadan Thanedar on the day of that trial had left his district and was found in the shop of the conspirators; he was promptly dismissed from Government service.¹⁸

(4) **Execution of Radha Kishan.**—During the same month, i.e. June 1857, Radha Kishan, a Brahmin, was hanged in the presence of the whole movable Column under Brigadier-General Chamberlain, for “high treason”. A proclamation proclaiming his crime and punishment was printed in the gaol and published in the city.¹⁹

(5) **The ‘Black Hole’ and the ‘Well of Death’ at Ajnala.**²⁰—Amidst a multitude of grim and gruesome acts of retribution perpetrated by the British rulers during the Uprising of 1857, the cold-blooded murder of some 500 rebels at

¹⁷ “Each different sort of provision came out from different bazaars at different hours of the day and at different gates which device effectually obviated any curious concentration of attention on the plain opposite the fort”. (Ibid)

¹⁸ Ibid., pp. 270-71

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 272

²⁰ The tragic events have been fully described in an article entitled “Black Hole and Well of Death at Ajnala” by V.S. Suri, published in *The Tribune*, dated September 15, 1957.

Ajnala is one of the most ghastly barbarities. Immediately after the news of the outbreak at Meerut and Delhi had been flashed to the Punjab, the 26th Native Infantry Regiment had been disarmed at Mian Mir (near Lahore) on May 13, 1857, and placed under surveillance. It was apprehended that the regiment was planning to flee. On July 30, the Indian soldiers bolted in a body. Parkash Pandey, a more desperate member of the party, rushed at Major Spencer, who tried to intervene, and put him to death. The Sergeant Major, who came to his aid, was also killed. If there was any hesitation, it was the indiscriminate firing by the Sikh levies who precipitated the murders and frightened all, good, bad, or indifferently disposed to flight. An unexpected duststorm covered their escape and the authorities could not determine in which direction they had gone. Pursuing parties were sent after them towards the south in the belief that the fugitives might head for Harike Ghat. But it was reported on the following day that they had proceeded towards the north, perhaps with the intention of going to Kashmir or joining hands with some Hindustani regiments in the districts in its neighbourhood.

By midday, on 31st July, Mr. Cooper, Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, was informed by the Tahsildar of Saurian, at Ajnala, that it had been reported by the Village Chowkidar that nearly 800—1,000 Purbias had arrived near Dadiyan. The Chowkidar had been asked by the Purbias to show them the fords on the left bank of the Ravi, but he feigned ignorance and referred them to his son. The father hastened to the Tahsildar and brought the presence of the host of strangers to his notice. The news of the revolt had already been circulated and so all were prepared.

Meanwhile, the Tahsildar, with a posse of police, rushed to the Ghat, about 41 km from Amritsar, to intercept the fugitive sepoys. In the struggle that ensued, about 150 of the sepoys were shot, mobbed backwards into the river and drowned in the strong current caused by the rains. The banks of the stream bore the marks of gore and the trampling of hundreds of feet. The disarmed sepoys, after their 64 km flight, were too weakened and famished to battle with the floods. The main body of the sepoys had, however, fled upwards and sought refuge on an island about a mile away from the bank by swimming or floating on pieces of wood.

The Deputy Commissioner set off for the Bul Ghat, 36 km from Amritsar, after collecting a party of sowars. He was accompanied by Sardar Jodh Singh (an old Sikh Chieftain), Extra Assistant Commissioner, and the Tahsildar of Amritsar. On the way, he was joined at Raja Sansi by Sardar Partab Singh Sindhanwalla along with five or six well-mounted and armed attendants. The Deputy Commissioner and party, passing by Ajnala, reached the bank opposite the hiding-place of the fugitives by 5 p.m.

They planned to capture and ferry the helpless sepoys to the mainland. The captives were to be taken ashore under adequate protection in two or three

trips "after the model of the old fable of the fox, the geese and the pack of oats"²¹. There were but two boats. Leaving most of the Hindustani *sowars*, ostensibly to look after the horses, the party dismounted and set off towards the island in the two boats, about 30 in each one of them.

When they neared the island, of which all that was left above water by the rising stream was an inhospitable patch, about 200 yards long by 70 yards wide, half covered with tall grass, it became clear to them that the number of the sheltering sepoys was much larger than had been seen at first.

The Tiwana *sowars* were ordered to jump out of the boats, matchlock and carbine in hand, to invest the lower or downstream side of the island. Seeing them approach, forty or fifty of the sepoys jumped into the river in utter despair, rose at a distance and disappeared in the increasing gloom and swift current.

The Tiwana horsemen, who were eager for a fray, obeyed the strict injunction not to fire upon those who had taken to the waters. This had the effect of apparently restoring confidence among the rebel sepoys, who probably imagined they would be subjected to a court-martial with the usual contingencies to light punishment or moderate incarceration, with eventual return to their homes²². Indeed Mr. Cooper alone knew what fate was in store for his victims. All of them were, however, landed on the bank of the river in boats.

All the rebels were, thereafter, escorted by the *sowars* and were surrounded by a host of villagers, marched to the Ajnala Police-Station, situated at a distance of 9 km from the spot. Thus by midnight, all the captives were safely lodged in the police-station. The drizzling rain, however, prevented their immediate execution, which had to be unavoidably deferred till day break.

Partab Singh Sindhanwalia had volunteered to take charge of the fugitives who had been confined in the surrounding villages, of whom he brought in no less than 66 during the night²³. The police-station being already full, they were ushered into a small bastion of the tahsil building. The total number of prisoners of all ranks swelled to 282²⁴.

To complete the preparations for the execution of the captives (and that had been clearly visualized by the Deputy Commissioner), he had, before starting from Amritsar, issued orders for a large supply of rope to be sent out to

²¹Cooper, Frederic, *The Crisis in the Punjab from the 10th of May until the Fall of Delhi*, p. 156

²²Punjab Government Records, Vol. VII, *Mutiny Correspondence*, Pt. I, p. 392

²³Ibid., p. 393

²⁴Ibid

Ajnala as also for 50 levies as a firing-party. The rope had arrived but it was not found to be sufficient to hang so many. So it was decided to shoot them in small batches.

Before taking up the actual work of execution, search was made for a convenient place of punishment and disposal of the dead bodies. The difficulty was soon removed by the discovery of a deep, dry and deserted well, about ninety metres from the police-station.

On the morning of August 1, ten by ten, the sepoys were called forth, their names having been taken down in succession. An equal number of the firing-party instantly moved up within one yard, fired at their hearts and in one moment they were launched into eternity.

Bodies with the slightest signs of life in them were despatched by the *sowars* and were flung into the pit (Pandey's, Tiwari's, Brahmins and Muslims) by the sweepers of the village. And so on, 130 had been regularly executed, when one of the firing-party having swooned, orders were given for their relief. The remainder were then executed without let or hindrance. The execution commenced at sunrise, and 237 had met their doom by 10 a.m.²⁵. All through, the captives had maintained remarkable composure, showed no sign of contrition, and, though many declared their innocence, none volunteered to divulge any secret.

The 66 sepoys huddled into the small room in the tahsil building were then to be dealt with. The Deputy Commissioner was informed that the remainder refused to come out of the bastion, where they had been imprisoned a few hours before. Expecting a rush and resistance, preparations were made against escape; but little expectation was entertained of the real and awful fate which had befallen the remainder of the rebels; they had anticipated, by a few short hours, their doom. The tragedy of Holwell's Black Hole had been re-enacted. No cries had been heard during the night, in consequence of the hubbub, tumult and shouting of the crowds of horsemen, police, tahsil guards and excited villagers. Forty-five bodies, dead from fright, exhaustion, fatigue, heat, and partial suffocation, were dragged into light, and consigned, in common with all the other bodies, to one common pit, by the hands of the village sweepers²⁶. The prisoners' horrible fate had been sealed, because in addition to the extremely limited accommodation and intense heat, all the windows had been securely closed.

The well, known as Kalianwala Khuh, to which the dead bodies were consigned, was ordered to be filled with charcoal and lime and a high mound

²⁵Ibid., p. 394

²⁶Cooper, Frederic, *The Crisis in the Punjab from the 10th of May until the Fall of Delhi* (London, 1858), pp. 162-63

of earth was raised over it. A tumulus was raised over the "grave", which, according to Mr. Cooper, began to be called *moofsidgar*, or rebels' hole, by the people of the vicinity.²⁷

Some English writers, who have the candour to admit that atrocities were committed by their countrymen, have commented on the wanton cruelty of Mr. Cooper. Greathed has said, "The sacrifice of five hundred villainous lives for the murder of two English is a retribution that will be remembered".

(6) Temper of the People of Amritsar towards the Uprising²⁸

The people in general, were not indifferent to what was passing around them. They naturally felt excited at the developments in the country. However, the severe measures adopted by the British authorities against even the mildest eruption of rebellious spirit in any quarter produced a marked change in the demeanour of the people. The moral effect of the presence of General Nicholson's mobile column at different periods, aggregating about a month, was also great. The general distrust of the British Government was shown by the poor contribution of the wealthy people of Amritsar and Lahore to the six per cent loan. Men worth half a crore of rupees offered a subscription of Rs 1,000 and others on the same scale.

III. AMRITSAR MULTAN RAILWAY

Incentive for Further Commercial Development of the City

As a result of the deep personal interest of the Sikh Gurus in the development of Amritsar not only as the foremost centre of the Sikh religion but also as a great entrepot of trade and commerce and the unbounded patronage of Maharaja Ranjit Singh during his stable rule, the city flourished in an unprecedented manner. Amritsar had assumed a pre-eminent position of a commercial town in the whole of northern India. It continued to receive good attention as a great commercial centre from the British. After the annexation of the Punjab in 1849, the set-back suffered by the city during the period of insecurity and disorders after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was soon overcome under the peaceful British administration. Thereafter, Amritsar continued to be the most important centre of trade and commerce in the region. To facilitate further growth of Amritsar trade with distant export centres, like Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi, it was felt necessary to develop faster and cheaper means of communication. To avoid the longer and tedious routes across Rajasthan and the G.T. Road, a quicker and safer artery for the Punjab products was provided for through the Amritsar-Multan Railway. On February 8, 1859, the railway linking Amritsar, Lahore and Multan was opened. The

²⁷Ibid., p. 164.

²⁸A. Macfarquhar, *Amritsar District Gazetteer*, 1947, p. 32.

introduction of a vast network of roads connecting Amritsar with principal centres of trade and commerce in the country and the railway system with much lower rates of freight vastly enhanced the commercial importance of the city.

IV. Political Ferment in the Punjab in the Beginning of the Twentieth Century

The opening years of the twentieth century found the Punjab in a peaceful and prosperous condition. The transition from the old system of administration to the new mode of government was complete. The Punjabis in the liberal professions, such as law and medicine, were gradually becoming conscious of their status in society. The British bureaucracy, however, did not seem to be responsive to the new ideas which the educated class had imbibed as a result of advanced Western education and contact with the British rulers.

While the Punjab appeared to be peaceful on the surface, an undercurrent of discontent was growing among that class of people who were until then considered to be loyal to the British. Unmistakably, the signs of popular awakening began to manifest themselves. The growing intellectual awakening had slowly created public opinion which had begun to express itself through the press. This was the result of the political and religious ferment in the Punjab towards the close of the nineteenth century. Nationalistic trends were also clearly visible at the time and Indian point of view was beginning to crystallize in the form of a new political organization and leadership. The Indian National Congress founded in 1885 had begun to be recognized as the popular political forum in the country.

The British belief in the unflinching loyalty of the people of the Punjab was soon to receive a rude shock. The Colonization Bill and the enhanced land tax and water-rate in certain areas of the Punjab seriously agitated the minds of the peasantry. A distressed peasantry naturally made the Punjab a fertile soil for the activities of the revolutionaries. Urban politicians took the lead in organizing protest meetings. The nationalist press supported their cause and, in its eagerness to help, enlarged the grievance against the Colonization Bill into a racial issue between the brown man and the white man.

By March 1907, the atmosphere in the cities and the affected colonies had become tense. A new song was on the lips of the people "*pagri sambhal jatta*"—"O peasant, guard your turban". Students of the Khalsa College, Amritsar, staged a hostile demonstration at the farewell visit of the outgoing Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Charles Rivaz. Protest meetings were organized by lawyers and members of the Arya Samaj. The fiftieth anniversary of the

great Uprising of 1857 was chosen as the occasion for a province-wide protest.²⁹ The British officers actually went into panic at the sudden formation of the Zamindara League in March 1907. Repressive measures far out of proportion with the gravity of the situation were resorted to. The Lieutenant-Governor in his minute to the Governor-General in Council in April 1907 described the situation in the Punjab as "Extremely dangerous and extremely serious, urgently demanding a remedy". The Punjab Government was so much worried that the British army officers were alerted in Lahore to suppress any possible outbreak of mob-violence.

Despite repression, the criticism of the bill continued unabated. The authorities sensed that the measure had caused uneasiness among the Sikh soldiers, many of whom had relatives in the colony areas, and the Governor-General, Lord Minto, vetoed the Colonization Bill. The land tax and the water-rate were reduced.³⁰

The policy of repression followed by the Government in the Punjab succeeded in putting down the sudden political upsurge for some time. But the strong spirit of patriotism could not be quelled effectively. The fire, thus sparked, continued to smoulder in the hearts of the people.

The extremist elements in the province sought inspiration from political leaders in other parts of the country and tried to establish active liaison with them. The struggle for liberation thus assumed an all-India character and the political movement in one part of the country began to produce serious repercussions in others. Amritsar, the hub of the Punjab, could thus neither be treated as isolated nor remain unaffected by the development in the rest of the country. The stringent measures taken by the British authorities sent a wave of resentment and exhorted the youth to throw away the British yoke. They fully realized that the struggle against the mighty Government would be long and hard. But they prepared themselves for it as best as they could under the circumstances.

The agrarian unrest of 1907 and its aftermath were responsible for a sudden upsurge of political consciousness in the Punjab, in general, and in Amritsar, in particular. Earlier, the predominantly commercial city carried on its activities under the official patronage. The city was still considered to be educationally backward and very little political activity was noticeable. A few meetings were sometimes held in the Bande Matram Hall, whose foundation-stone had been laid by the famous Indian patriot, Babu Surinder Nath Banerjee.

²⁹Khushwant Singh, *A History of the Sikhs, Vol. II, 1839-1964*, (London, 1966), p. 158.

³⁰Ibid., pp. 158-59.

V. The Ghadar Movement, 1913-15

The large number of Indian migrants in other countries, especially in the USA, were subjected to all sorts of humiliating disabilities and difficulties. The treatment meted out to them at the hands of the Government and the people was both discriminatory and degrading. In addition to the hardships which the emigrants were made to suffer, most of the Governments had proceeded to adopt legislative measures to squeeze them out of those countries. The more intelligent among the Indians abroad felt that they were unnecessarily accorded a status inferior to that of the ordinary citizens of those countries. Efforts made to get their grievances redressed proved unsuccessful in the face of public indifference and official apathy. The Indians realized that the main cause of their troubles was the political subjugation of the mother-country and, unless India attained freedom, they could not expect honourable treatment at the hands of the inhabitants of the countries where they had settled.

The ground was thus prepared for setting up a political organization to give guidance and direction to the movement. The outcome of the ferment was the formation of the Ghadar Party in 1913,³¹ with headquarters at San Francisco. Its aim was to liberate India by force.

The outbreak of the World War I, 1914-18, was hailed by the Indian revolutionaries living abroad as a favourable opportunity to free the country from the British rule through armed uprising with foreign assistance. The Ghadar Party tried to achieve their object by sending Indians, mostly Punjabis, imbued with revolutionary ideas, back to their mother-country to stir up rebellion there. The Government of India were fully informed of the activities of the Ghadar Party and took necessary precautions. The "Ingress into India Ordinance" of September 5, 1914, was purposely passed to deal with the Indian emigrants coming back to India.³²

Scores of the Ghadarites, however, sneaked through enquiries under the Ingress Ordinance and reached the Punjab. But they discovered that the atmosphere in India was far from conducive to revolution. They openly exhorted the people to rise, but, finding little response, the revolutionaries

³¹Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna, the founder President of the revolutionary organization started in the USA, hailed from the Amritsar District. The veteran freedom fighter died in 1969 after a prolonged illness.

³²R.C. Majumdar, *History of the Freedom Movement in India, Vol. II*, p. 447.

It is further stated that :

"A serious problem arose for the authorities in the Punjab, when on September 27, 1914, S.S. *Kamagata Maru* brought 400 Sikhs and 60 Muslims from the Far East in Hoogly" under the leadership of Baba Gurdit Singh of Sirhali, District Amritsar.

had to fall back on their own resources. Early in 1915, the Ghadarites made contacts with terrorist organizations in other parts of the country. In January, the famous revolutionary, Rash Bihari Bose (leader of the group which tried to assassinate Lord Hardinge in 1912), arrived at Amritsar and took over the general direction of the revolution. He was joined by Babu Sachin Sanyal and the Maharashtrian, Vishnu Ganesh Pingley, who began manufacturing bombs in the city, probably under the supervision of an ex-chemist, Dr. Mathura Singh Kohli. The chief liaison with the Punjabis was through the youthful Kartar Singh Saraba. Bose spent a fortnight at Amritsar and then shifted his headquarters to Lahore³³.

The plans of the Ghadarites were going according to schedule. February 21, 1915, was fixed for a general rising in the province; but unfortunately, the information leaked out. As a safeguard, the date for the revolt was advanced to February 19, 1915. Still the Government forestalled the move and struck in time. The proposed uprising failed to come off. Instead a hunt for the revolutionaries was launched. For the next two weeks, terror prevailed in the Punjab. Everyone was suspect and very few escaped the wide net cast by the police.

The arrested men were to be tried; but it was not done until the Government had made things secure for itself. The Defence of India Act³⁴ was hurriedly rushed through the Imperial Legislative Council. Its most important provision was the appointment of 'Special Tribunals' for the trials of the revolutionaries. Under the new Act, neither commitment proceedings to these tribunals nor judicial appeals from their decisions were allowed. A Tribunal of 3 was set up in the Punjab; its only Indian member was Shri Shiv Narain Sharma. On the 27th March, 1915, the First Lahore Conspiracy Trial opened at Lahore. Barrack No. 16 in the Central Jail, Lahore, was specially improvised to serve as the court of trial³⁵.

Thus ended the efforts of the simple, and in most cases uneducated, people entirely in the foreign surroundings to contribute their little bit to the fight for the freedom of their mother-land. At a time, when the leaders of the Indian national movement were talking of "self Government on British

³³Khushwant Singh, *A History of the Sikhs, Vol. II, 1839-1964* (London, 1966), pp. 182-85

V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present* (Amritsar, 1967), p. 59

V.N. Datta, *Jallianwala Bagh* (Ludhiana, 1969), pp. 58-59

Michael O'Dwyer, *India as I Knew it* (London, 1925), pp. 200-201

³⁴On 19th March, 1915, the Defence of India Act (Act IV of 1915) was passed; it was brought into force in sixteen districts of the Punjab three days later. (M.S. Leigh, *The Punjab and the War*, p. 21)

³⁵Randhir Singh, *The Ghadar Heroes*, p. 19

For a list of revolutionaries belonging to the Amritsar District, tried and convicted by Special Tribunals, see Appendix on pages 68-70

Dominion model", the heroes of the Ghadar had dared to raise the banner of complete independence and armed revolt against imperialism. It had been the most powerful revolt planned since the great uprising of 1857. The Ghadar Movement, which may be characterized as a 'revolution' in the Punjab, was in a way the first secular effort to liberate India by the use of arms. The Ghadar Party, though composed of overwhelming numbers of Sikhs, had no pretensions of religious revival and sought to achieve a strictly political goal. For this reason, both Hindus and Muslims were drawn towards it and, later, several other revolutionary groups were greatly influenced by the new ideology which had shed all religious bias. Thus the Amritsar District, as evidenced by the activities of some of the most prominent members of the Ghadar Party who hailed from there, occupied an honourable place in this phase of freedom struggle.

VI. The Home Rule Movement

About the middle of the second decade of the twentieth century, the Moderates and the Extremists groups in the Indian National Congress composed their differences and two associations were formed for intensifying the national movement. These were the two Home Rule Leagues founded in 1916, one by Mrs. Annie Besant, and the other by B. G. Tilak at Poona, with home rule or self-government for India as their object. Extensive lecture tours were undertaken for instructing masses on home rule and largely attended meetings were addressed, exhorting the people to become members of the Home Rule Leagues. The Home Rule Movement, thus, spread like wild fire and its branches were opened all over the country. In Amritsar, the movement was led by Dr. Saif-ud-Din Kitchlew, Bar-at-Law, who was a Home Ruler of pronounced anti-British views.³⁶

Mrs. Annie Besant and Tilak carried on intensive propaganda in favour of the Lucknow Pact signed between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League in 1916. The most important feature of the Lucknow Pact was that the Congress had agreed to separate electorates for the Muslims, and the Muslim League had accepted the Congress creed of Swaraj and agreed to press the joint scheme on the then British Government as a united national demand.

The British Government, then in the throes of war efforts, realized the necessity of a new handling of the situation. When Mr. E.S. Montague became the Secretary of State for India, he announced a change of policy in his famous declaration of August 20, 1917. This announcement promised responsible Government to the people of India by stages. To commemorate the announcement on reforms, a meeting was held at Amritsar wherein Dr. Kitchlew made a

³⁶V.N. Datta, *Jallianwala Bagh* (Ludhiana, 1969), p. 61

strong speech advocating home rule. As a result of the announcement, the Home Rule Movement died out by slow degrees.

VII. Formation of a Branch of the Indian National Congress at Amritsar, and the Subsequent Political Activity

A Branch of the Indian National Congress was formed at Amritsar towards the end of 1917. The most effective and decisive role in all political matters was played by two prominent local leaders, Dr. Saif-ud-Din Kitchlew, Bar-at-Law, and Dr. Satya Pal, a medical practitioner. The former had returned to India in 1915. During the educational career in England, Dr. Kitchlew had imbibed the creed of Western Liberalism. Those revolutionary ideas set people thinking. Kitchlew knew Madan Lal Dhillon, another resident of Amritsar, who had shot Sir William Curzon Wyllie, Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India. On July 1, 1909, Sir William was assassinated, while attending an entertainment given to Indians by the National Indian Association at the Imperial Institute, London. Curiously enough, Dr. Kitchlew was also present in the same building where the incident took place. On return to India, he decided to organize the youth, foster the Hindu-Muslim unity and take such steps as would ultimately result in the liberation of India from the British control. Agitation against the Rowlatt Act provided him with a suitable opportunity for winning the confidence of the people and organizing them politically. There came forth a band of followers, admirers and volunteers, who welcomed the ideology and gave him tumultuous support.³⁷

Dr. Kitchlew and Dr. Satya Pal had done much to help the growth of public consciousness in Amritsar. Politics meant in those days the organization of public opinion among the masses through lectures, conferences, writings and processions. Frequent mass meetings were held to maintain contact with the people and to popularize the Congress creed.³⁸

The two stalwarts, Dr. Kitchlew and Dr. Satya Pal, were helped by a host of other local leaders like Babu Kanhaya Lal Bhatia, a prominent Advocate who had been associated with the Congress since its very inception, Khawaja Yaseen, Badar-ul-Islam Khan, Bar-at-Law, Pandit Kotu Mal, Girdhari Lal, Mahasha Rattan Chand and Chaudhary Bugga Mal, who had attended the Indian National Congress session held at Delhi in 1918. They had invited the Congress to hold the next annual session at Amritsar in 1919. Brisk preparations were taken in hand in anticipation of the big political gathering. Amritsar had, thus, come to assume quite an important place in the political life of the province and the Indian National Congress had become fairly popular among the people.³⁹

³⁷V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present* (Amritsar, 1967), pp. 59-61

³⁸Ibid

³⁹Ibid

The acceptance of the invitation by the All-India Congress Committee greatly enhanced the prestige of Amritsar and gave the local Congress Committee, founded barely two years ago, in 1917, added importance in the political life of the country. As a prelude to the session of the Indian National Congress at Amritsar, the Punjab Provincial Congress held its meeting at the place on the 27-28th July, 1918.⁴⁰

Dr. Kitchlew became the President of the Satyagraha Sabha and Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Bashir its Secretary. The other local political leaders were Pandit Kotu Mal, a cotton-ginning mill-owner; Lala Narain Das and Roop Lal Puri, merchants; Lala Dewan Chand, a wholesale piece-goods merchant; Mahasha Rattan Chand, a broker; and Chaudhary Bugga Mal. They held secret meetings and drew up plans for a political campaign. The C.I.D. officials meanwhile kept a strict watch over their activities.⁴¹

Railway-Platform Tickets Agitation, February 1919.—The railway-platform at Amritsar was used as a promenade by the local residents. The congestion, thus caused, proved a great source of inconvenience to the railway travellers. To avoid unnecessary crowds at the platform, the railway authorities refused to issue platform tickets. The withdrawal of the facility, even in genuine cases, was greatly resented by the local residents. To seek redress of the grievance, an agitation was successfully launched under the leadership of Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Kitchlew. This gained them much popularity. To celebrate the triumph of the public demand, a meeting was held on February 11, 1919.⁴²

VIII. Anti-Rowlatt Act Agitation, 1918-19

Certain economic factors seriously affected almost all classes of people in the urban areas. With a population of 1,60,000 in 1919, Amritsar formed the chief distributing centre for piece-goods in northern India and a major centre for speculative dealings in grain. As a result of the Government appropriation of railway traffic to carry troops in war time, the piece-goods trade in the city was adversely affected. This embittered the traders, especially the Marwaris (a trading class migrated from Rajasthan), who started taking an active part in politics. The hide merchants also complained that they had been left with little business. The Punjab Government's action in restraining the export from the Punjab and purchasing it on public account in November-December 1918 caused great resentment among the grain merchants. The people, in general, suffered most. Towards the end of 1918, the prices of wheat rose high. In January-February 1919, a rupee would purchase less than six

⁴⁰V.N. Datta, *Jallianwala Bagh* (Ludhiana, 1969), pp. 59-60

⁴¹V.N. Datta, *Jallianwala Bagh* (Ludhiana, 1969), p. 63

V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present* (Amritsar, 1967), p. 62

⁴²Ibid.

seers of wheat in place of ten seers in 1917. A great deal of wheat had been purchased and stored by the Government with the intention of releasing it and bringing down prices when these rose above a certain level. However, the people believed that wheat was being exported to England while they were starving. Besides, the more affluent classes also began to feel the effects of the new income tax.⁴³ The general discontent was sure to find some outlet sooner or later.

The liberal contribution in men and money by the Punjab to the war effort during 1914-18 was greatly appreciated by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Michael O'Dwyer. The city of Amritsar had done better than any other town in the province and had thereby earned the special gratitude of the Lieutenant-Governor, who had, at a public durbar held on February 17, 1919, admired the loyal tradition, for which Amritsar was famous. But, the Rowlatt Committee Report of 1918 had greatly disappointed the people of the province and had filled them with intense frustration. The new political consciousness among the people as a result of many other developments received further acceleration. Political meetings became more and more frequent and Amritsar became the centre of political activities in the province.

In a determined effort to put down the new political movement and to halt the growing agitation against the British rule, the Rowlatt Act was passed, despite strong opposition from all quarters, in 1918 and was enforced on March 21, 1919. As a protest against the Rowlatt Act, Mahatma Gandhi had given a clarion call for a general *hartal* (suspension of work) on 30th March, 1919. The notice was considered to be very short and the date of the *hartal* was changed to 6th April, 1919. The information about the change of date, however, reached Punjab very late and the *hartal* in question was observed at Amritsar on 30th March, 1919, as scheduled. To make the suspension of work as complete as possible, a meeting was held on 29th March, 1919, under the presidentship of Girdhari Lal. Both Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Kitchlew addressed the meeting to explain the plans of Mahatma Gandhi. On the same day, however, Dr. Satya Pal was served with a notice prohibiting him from making any speech in the public.⁴⁴

The proposed *hartal* was a complete success and presented a remarkable scene of Hindu-Muslim Unity. All the shops were voluntarily closed and all

⁴³V.N. Datta, *Jallianwala Bagh* (Ludhiana, 1969), pp. 57-58
Report on Punjab Disturbances, April 1919
Disorders Inquiry Committee, Vol. III—Evidence (Calcutta, 1920), pp. 138, 193
Disorders Inquiry Committee, Vol. VI—Report (Calcutta, 1920), pp. 116-17

⁴⁴Evidence taken before Disorders Enquiry Committee, Volume VI, p. 117

business came to a standstill. People observed fast as a means of purification. In the afternoon, a grand public meeting attended by over 40,000 people was held in the Jallianwala Bagh,⁴⁵ with Dr. Kitchlew in the chair. Both the Hindu and Muslim public leaders addressed the audience.⁴⁶

In the face of the mounting political agitation, necessary measures were adopted by the Government to prevent another *hartal* from being observed on 6th April, 1919. The Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar made a request for extra troops to cope with the situation. Dr. Kitchlew, Pandit Dina Nath, Pandit Kotu Mal and Swami Anubhavanand were served with notices, prohibiting them from addressing the public meetings.⁴⁷ Encouraged by the successful *hartal* on 30th March, 1919, the organizers of the Satyagraha Movement made special efforts for the success of the *hartal* to be observed on 6th April, 1919. The Government, in the meantime, tried to undermine the solidarity of the new political movement through their loyal agents, who had become members of the Reception Committee in connection with the Congress session to be held at Amritsar in 1919. A resolution was passed by the Reception Committee that the *hartal* scheduled to be held on 6th April, be cancelled.⁴⁸ In pursuance of the policy of the Government not to allow the *hartal* to succeed, the Deputy Commissioner invited the Honorary Magistrates and a number of leading citizens at his residence on 5th April, and urged them that the proposed *hartal* should either not be observed or it should not be allowed to succeed. All these loyal elements gave the Deputy Commissioner fullest assurance in this regard, and again adopted a resolution that there would be no *hartal* on 6th April, 1919. This decision obviously taken under official pressure and according to the wishes of the agents of the Government, disappointed the younger elements in the nationalist leadership of Amritsar. It was, therefore, taken as a challenge to the new national consciousness which had swept Amritsar. The leaders of the general public took necessary steps to counteract the official propaganda against the *hartal*. Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Kitchlew went round the city and announced with the beat of

⁴⁵Originally, the area known as the Jallianwala Bagh belonged to Bhai Hamit Singh Jallawalia, a courtier of Raja Jaswant Singh of Nabha, who had also served as a *vakil* under Maharaja Ranjit Singh

'Jalle' is the *got* name of the owner; *wala* is the genitive termination; and '*bagh*' means garden. It was an open uneven area, a kind of irregular quadrangle, indifferently walled and in most parts the back walls of the houses enclosed it. At that time, it was used as dumping-ground and not even the oldest citizen of Amritsar today has any idea whether it was ever a garden. About 50 years ago, there could be seen a few mounds of broken earthenware. It was at that time a private property owned by several people, and had three trees, a dilapidated *smadh* and a wall. (V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, p. 74)

⁴⁶*Amritsar Police Diary and C.I.D. Reports* (1st February, 12th April, 1919, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh), pp. 18, 27, 29, 30, 58 and 69

⁴⁷Evidence taken before Disorders Enquiry Committee, Vol. VI, p. 375

⁴⁸Raja Ram, *Jallianwala Bagh Massacre*, p. 77

drum that the *hartal* would be observed on 6th April, 1919, as scheduled. Notices to that effect were pasted on places all over the city.

On the following day, Amritsar observed another complete *hartal*. Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims responded to the call in an unqualified manner. All shops, even those of the confectioners and vegetable-sellers, were closed. At the request of young volunteers, even passengers travelling by tongas got down and released the vehicles. Those who objected were let off. At various places, public kitchens (*langars*) were started for the benefit of the visitors to the city from outside. This was a thoughtful measure and saved a large number of people the unnecessary hardship because no eatables were available in the bazaar. A public procession was organized under Chaudhary Bugga Mal, of Katra Jaimal Singh, and Mahasha Rattan Chand and Ram Gopal (popularly known as Hindustani Mithaiwalas), and it paraded the streets shouting the slogan "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai". The big crowd proceeded towards the Aitchison Park from Karmon Deorhi. The processionists persuaded the large number of cricket fans, who were watching a cricket match in the park, to call off the play. The players and the onlookers all joined the crowd and made a round of the principal local markets. More and more people joined the procession on the route. At one stage, the crowd had swelled to about 4,000 and wished to go to the Railway Station. Chaudhary Bugga Mal, however, managed to lead them to the Jallianwala Bagh, where a public meeting was to be held.

The public meeting attracted over 50,000 people and was presided over by Badar-ul-Islam Ali Khan, Bar-at-Law, and was addressed by a number of young nationalist leaders. The main purpose of the meeting was to voice strong public feelings against the Rowlatt Act. It concluded in a peaceful manner after adopting a number of resolutions. The more significant feature of the political agitation was the new weapon of Satyagrah given by Mahatma Gandhi.

After the session of the Congress at Delhi in 1918, the political leaders emphasized the role of the Hindu-Muslim unity as a new plank in the liberation struggle. It was realized that much of the British success was due to the policy of "Divide and Rule." The people felt convinced that freedom could not be achieved without concerted action on the part of all communities. The local leaders zealously tried to make the Hindu-Muslim unity an accomplished fact in Amritsar. Under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Kitchlew backed by a band of enthusiastic workers, like Mahasha Rattan Chand, Chaudhary Bugga Mal and others, different sections of the people had been drawn closer to one another and the barriers of race and religion were removed. The most striking examples of national solidarity was witnessed on the Ram Naumi day on 9th April, 1919. On this occasion, a joint Hindu-Muslim procession was taken out and the members of both the

communities vied with one another to give proof of complete unity. The Hindus put *tilak* on the foreheads of Muslims and all of them drank water from the same cups, shedding the age-old prejudice about drinking and eating together among Hindus and Muslims. This unprecedented display of the Hindu-Muslim unity frightened the Government of the day.

Mahatma Gandhi on his way from Bombay to the Punjab was stopped at the Palwal Railway Station on the evening of 9th April, 1919, and was informed that his entry into the Punjab was banned. He was escorted back to Bombay by a special train. The arrest of Mahatma Gandhi at the time when public enthusiasm had reached a high pitch at Amritsar engendered great disappointment among the people, who were looking forward to his visit to Amritsar. On the same day, almost within an hour of receiving the report about the Ram Naumi procession at Amritsar, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant-Governor, sent orders to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, to arrest Doctors Satya Pal and Kitchlew and send them under escort to Dharmasala. Simultaneously, the Lieutenant-Governor asked General Beynon, G.O.C., 16th Division Lahore, to despatch an adequate number of troops to control the situation at Amritsar. Mr. Irving, Deputy Commissioner, took necessary measures on receiving the orders at about 7 p.m. Doctors Satya Pal and Kitchlew were required to report at the Deputy Commissioner's residence in the morning of 10th April, 1919. They presented themselves at the bungalow at about 10 a.m. and were, within half an hour, hustled into a motor-car and taken to Dharmasala.

The news of the arrest of the leaders spread like wild fire throughout the city and by about 11-30 a.m. the shops were closed as a mark of protest, and the people started gathering in the bazaars. Soon after, the crowd moved towards the residence of the Deputy Commissioner. On reaching the Hall Bridge, they saw a small picket of mounted troops on the farther side. The people were informed that they would not be allowed to proceed beyond the point. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner and Captain Massey arrived on the spot. The picket was reinforced by a fresh contingent. Two soldiers dismounted, took positions and fired shots at the crowd, without any provocation whatsoever, with the result that some persons were killed or wounded.

The police charged the crowd with fixed bayonets and at the ready positions. The crowd retreated and, on the arrival of infantry, the foot bridge and the carriage bridge were cleared and taken over by the military. The police picket occupied the railway level crossing.

As a result of the aggressive action on the part of the authorities, the crowd became furious and was losing self-control fast. Being unsuccessful in its efforts to get their leaders released, and feeling exasperated at the wounding and the killing of some members of the crowd, their anger had reached the

boiling-point. Even then, some lawyers in the crowd persuaded the people to move towards the Hall Bazaar along with the dead and the wounded. The sight of the wounded and the dead further inflamed the citizens. Just then, the news came that more military personnel were on the way to besiege the city. This news exasperated the people. The whole crowd ran back to the top of the carriage bridge, armed with sticks and *lathis* as a precaution against any possible assault. In the tense situation that prevailed, some members of the crowd tried to restrain the authorities, on the one hand, and reason with the crowd, on the other. But some members of the procession threw stones or pieces of wood at the military, which instantly opened fire, killing 20 and wounding many more. The volley was fired without any warning. An employee of the civil hospital, brought there to render first-aid to the victims, was ordered to go back to the hospital. People were asked to make their own arrangements.

Public patience was exhausted at this point and people resorted to violence. They began to assault the Englishmen, and set fire to the English-owned banks, a church, the offices of the Christian Religious Text Book Society, the Telegraph Office, and the Town Hall. In this riot, five Englishmen⁴⁹ were killed and an English woman missionary (Miss Mercella Sherwood) was severely assaulted.

Meanwhile, the authorities felt anxious about the safety of European women and children. Immediate steps were taken to bring them to the fort. The disturbances, however, subsided by the evening of the same day. In view of the critical situation, the Deputy Commissioner sent an S.O.S. for more troops. Two hundred Gorkha soldiers passing through Amritsar by train were detained and were armed from the fort armoury and posted at different places. Three hundred troops arrived at Amritsar from Lahore under the command of Major Macdonald. At 5 a.m. in the morning of 11th April, 1919, a similar number of troops arrived from Jullundur. The Amritsar news was conveyed to the Lieutenant-Governor in the afternoon of 10th April, 1919. Mr. Kitchin, the Commissioner, was immediately despatched by the Lieutenant-Governor to proceed to Amritsar to deal with the situation.

The Deputy Commissioner sent for Yasin and Maqbool Mahmud to the Railway Station on the morning of 11th April, 1919, and conveyed to them the order that the city was placed under military control and not more than 4 persons would be allowed to accompany a dead body. On the request of the leaders, however, the number of mourners was raised to 8. The crowd was not in a mood to accept the order and wanted to carry their dead in a procession. They sent more representatives to the Deputy Commissioner, but the authorities were adamant. The British officials felt that Europeans had been murdered and "Their blood could not remain unavenged and if there be the least resistance or disobedience or any breach of peace, sufficient amount of force would

be used, and, if necessary the city would be bombarded."⁵⁰ On persistent request by the leaders of the public, the Deputy Commissioner agreed that the people could take out the dead bodies in procession of not more than 2,000 persons through a special route and everything should be completed by 2 p.m. No *lathis* were to be allowed to be carried by the processionists. The above orders were carried out without any resistance⁵¹.

Next day, 12th April, 1919, at about 10 a. m. General Dyer marched through the city with a posse of 125 British and 310 Indian troops. During the day, some prominent persons were arrested with the help of the military personnel.⁵²

A public meeting was held in the compound of the Hindu Sabha High School at 4 p.m. on 12th April, 1919. In the absence of a President, Hans Raj, a Congress worker, declared in a speech that as they had no leader to guide them, everyone was a leader. He further announced that a meeting would be held the next day, 13th April, 1919, in the Jallianwala Bagh where messages from Drs. Satya Pal and Kitchlew would be read.

IX. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, April 1919

Thirteenth April, 1919 was the Baisakhi Day—the Hindu New Year's Day — when thousands of people visit Amritsar from far and wide to have a view of the Hari Mandir (Golden Temple) and take a dip into the sacred tank. The practice of holding a horse fair on the eve of Baisakhi had come to stay. This year, Amritsar was in the throes of an unusual political turmoil. Announcement, regarding the meeting at the Jallianwala Bagh on 13th April, 1919, had already been made on the previous day. The venue of the meeting being quite close to the Golden Temple, people in large numbers were expected to attend it.⁵³

On 13th morning, General Dyer again marched through the streets of Amritsar, exhibiting his arms and strength. It was arranged like some sort of ceremonial parade. Starting from the Ram Bagh headquarters, the procession crossed the railway line at the Hall Bridge, passed through the Hall Gate and came down to the Hall Bazaar. Five times it stopped between the Hall Gate and the Post Office (Town Hall). A drum was beaten and people were given time to flock. A proclamation was read two or three times in Urdu and then again in Punjabi at every stoppage. Handbills carrying the text of the proclamation in Urdu were also distributed at some places. The proclamation declared that every assembly of the people would be dispersed by force of arms. The procession

⁵⁰Report of the Commissioners appointed by the Punjab Sub-Committee of the Indian National Congress, Vol. II (Lahore, 1920), pp. 53-55 : Statement No. 19

⁵¹Ibid.

⁵²The arrested included Chaudhary Bugga Mal, Mahasha Vaishnava Das and Dina Nath.

⁵³Raja Ram, *The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre*, pp. 109-110

passed through various streets and *Chowks* (crossings), and at 19 places the proclamation was read in the manner indicated above, and handbills were also distributed at these places.⁵⁴

Shortly thereafter, a counter proclamation was made by a group of boys, beating an empty kerosene container that a meeting would be held at the Jallianwala Bagh at 4.30 p.m. over which Lala Kanhya Lal (a senior lawyer, aged 75) would preside and give valuable advice to the people.⁵⁵

Dyer was informed of that meeting at 12.40 p.m. while he was still in the city with his procession, and from the intelligence reports he came to know that, even in defiance of his proclamation, the meeting would be held in the Bagh, as already decided. Feeling very hot in the city, he returned to his headquarters at the Ram Bagh at 1 p.m.⁵⁶

Thereafter, Dyer was receiving news about the meeting at regular intervals. At 4 p.m., he was informed that a large number of people had assembled in the Jallianwala Bagh. He at once gave orders to his striking force to fall in.⁵⁷

General Dyer set out, leaving behind a strong contingent to guard his headquarters and taking the rest with him. He had his favourite Captain Briggs beside him in the car. Behind him came the two armoured cars, followed by the police car with Rehill, Superintendent of Police, and Plomer, Deputy Superintendent of Police. As the column marched along, five pickets, each of forty soldiers, were dropped on the way to take positions at strategic points. The contingent which accompanied the General right up to the Bagh was wholly Indian and comprised fifty soldiers armed with rifles⁵⁸ and forty Gorkhas armed only with *Khukris*.⁵⁹

In 1919, the Jallianwala 'Bagh' was no 'garden' but a desolate piece of land—a rectangle of irregular shape, about 229 metres long and 183 metres wide. This area had once belonged to one Bhai Hamit Singh Jallawala, a courtier of Raja Jaswant Singh of Nabha, who had been a *vakil* in the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. 'Jalla' or 'Jalle' is the *got* name of the owner, *wala* the genitive case and *bagh* 'garden'. It was used as a dumping-ground and not even the oldest living citizen of Amritsar has any recollection now whether it had ever really been a garden. The Bagh, sunk below the level of the city, was situated in its centre and was surrounded by narrow lanes. Long before 1919, houses had been built all around the Bagh with their back walls towards it. It had three or four openings

⁵⁴Ibid., pp. 110-11

⁵⁵Ibid., p. 111

⁵⁶Ibid., pp. 112-13

⁵⁷Ibid., pp. 113-14

⁵⁸25 Gorkha soldiers of 1/9th Gurkhas and 25 soldiers of 54th Sikh Frontier Force and 59th Frontier Force. The soldiers of these Frontier Force Units were Pathans and Baluchis

⁵⁹Ibid., p. 114

through which people could pass without much inconvenience and, between the houses, parts of the boundary wall were low enough to lean over. Opposite the main entrance (a narrow passage just broad enough for two men to walk abreast), there were no houses for about a hundred feet and a low brick and mud wall, about five feet high marked off this portion. To the right, there was another low wall made of mud. The Bagh contained one small *smadh*⁶⁰ (a Hindu tomb) towards the southern side, with four small trees growing near it, and an open wall of quite big dimensions towards its eastern boundary, with three trees growing nearby. It is also a noteworthy point about the Bagh of those days that its level was not even. A small strip of land near the entrance from the Jallianwala Bazaar side was on a higher level, whereas the rest of the land was lower by 4-5 feet.⁶¹

Dyer and his party proceeded to the Bagh from the Jallianwala Bazaar side. After entering this bazaar, they found that a very narrow passage led from there into the Bagh. It was not possible to drive the armoured cars into this passage; therefore these had to be left behind. Dyer entered the Bagh at about 5.15 p.m., along with his soldiers. He saw a vast crowd collected there. The meeting was, at that time, being addressed by a person standing on a platform. As already pointed out, the strip of land near the entrance was on a higher level. Dyer and his troops stood on this strip, so that they could have a better view of the crowd. The meeting was going on in a perfectly peaceful and orderly manner. People from the horse fair had also come to the meeting on hearing that a *Jalsa* was being held there. About 20—25 thousand persons were present there at that time.⁶²

The picture of Dr. Kitchlew had been put up and it was said that his portrait would preside. Gopinath read a poem about the *faryad* (the agonizing prayer) of the people not being heard. The C.I.D. people were also on the spot. Hans Raj, whom C.F. Andrews described as an informer⁶³ and who arranged meetings, addressed the crowd, assuring them that they need not have any fears and that the meeting had been called to pass two resolutions. The first resolution called for the repeal of the Rowlatt Act, and the second, condemning the firing on 10th of April, extended sympathy to the relatives of the dead. An aeroplane with a flag was seen hovering over the Jallianwala Bagh at about 4 p.m. It was believed to be a signal for the C.I.D. people to disperse. The people got panicky and began to move, but the speaker assured them that there was no

⁶⁰The *smadh* of the mother of Shri Sant Parkash Singh, Retired Inspector-General of Police, Punjab

⁶¹Raja Ram, *The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre*, pp. 114-15

V.N. Datta, *Jallianwala Bagh* (Ludhiana, 1969), p. 96

⁶²Raja Ram, *The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre*, pp. 115-16

⁶³Ibid

cause for fear or panic. When they had begun to sit down again, they saw soldiers standing with guns on the raised platform, not far from the meeting. At that time, Durga Dass was moving the third resolution and Gurbakhsh Rai intervened, whilst exhorting the people to sit down and not be panicky.⁶⁴

Dyer at once deployed his troops—twenty-five riflemen on the right and twenty-five on the left. All this happened within thirty seconds. The General then instantly ordered them to open fire.⁶⁵

Bullets rained on a panic-stricken crowd. People realized at once that they were caught in a death-trap. Within no time, the vast crowd rose in a wave, and rushed madly on all sides to escape from the hail of bullets. There were also present in the midst of the crowd some retired soldiers who shouted at the running people to lie flat on the ground instead of exposing themselves to bullets by running, but only a few fortunate persons paid heed to their valuable advice. Others continued to run helter-skelter, only to be hit by bullets at the next step. On all sides, however, the tide of rushing crowds was dammed up by the barriers of house walls. People who knew about the small exits rushed in hundreds towards them. Seeing this onrush towards the exits, Dyer directed his soldiers to fire at those points. Many people died at the mouths of these exits as a result of firing, while many others were trampled down by the onrushing crowds. Many people attempted to jump over the five-foot-high boundary wall on the opposite side to escape, but only a few could do so, whereas many were hit by the bullets and fell back, dead or wounded. Many children and elderly people lost their lives by being crushed under the feet of the running crowds. Many people also ran in the direction in which a well was situated in the Bagh, and, blinded by terror and unable to arrest their momentum, fell into it, as unfortunately, it had no protection wall around it in those days.⁶⁶

The firing continued for ten to fifteen minutes and ceased only after the ammunition ran out; 1,650 rounds were fired, i.e. 33 rounds per rifleman. Dyer admitted later that if more ammunition had been available, that, too, would have been spent on the people.⁶⁷

General Dyer left the Bagh, along with his force, at about 5.30 p.m., leaving behind a scene which was like a hell on the earth. The exact number of people who were killed will never be known. However, it was officially estimated much later that 381 persons were killed and at least 1,200 were wounded.⁶⁸ But

⁶⁴V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, pp. 74-75

⁶⁵Raja Ram, *The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre*, p. 116

⁶⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 117-18

⁶⁷*Ibid.*, p. 119

⁶⁸File : Punjab Government Home-Military-B, 1921—No. 139 (Punjab Government Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh)
(Quoted by Raja Ram, *The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre* (Chandigarh, 1969), pp. 134, 152-74)

this is a gross underestimate.⁶⁹ According to V.N. Datta, about 700 killed, even if not exact, is the nearest possible estimate. The wounded were at least twice as many as the number killed. It is conceivable that only a small number of wounded reported the fact for fear of being arrested as participants in the unlawful assembly.⁷⁰

Piteous and heart-rending cries were rising from the lips of hundreds of wounded people simultaneously and each was crying for water. But there was nobody to give them water or any kind of relief or assistance. Hundreds of people were in the throes of death, and, here and there, every minute, people were giving up the ghost. No doctor entered the Bagh to render medical assistance to the people. Even those residents of Amritsar, whose kith and kin had come to attend the meeting, did not dare to enter the Bagh for quite some time to search for their dear ones and take them away in case they had died or had been wounded.⁷¹

At 10 p.m., accompanied by a small force, Dyer visited his pickets and marched through the city in order to make sure that curfew orders were being obeyed. He found the city absolutely quiet and not a soul was to be seen on the roads. At the Bagh, the panic-stricken people remained to turn over the dead bodies in a desperate search for friends and relations. Many had to leave the dead and the wounded, because they were afraid of being fired upon again after 8 p.m.⁷²

Martial Law in Amritsar.—On 14th April, 1919, a meeting was convened in the Public Library Hall near the City Kotwali. About 100 to 150 persons, including local *raeesis*, magistrates, merchants and municipal commissioners attended. Speeches made by the Commissioner (A.J.W. Kitchin), General Dyer and the Deputy Commissioner, were mainly threats, warnings and exhortations.⁷³

Martial law was proclaimed in Amritsar and subsequently extended to other districts. General Dyer was appointed the Administrator of Amritsar on 15th April. The same day all shops were opened. Thus, the *hartal* came to an end. The courts opened for the first time on 22nd April, 1919. Lawyers were punished for their real or alleged interest in politics and, on 23rd April, they were enrolled as special constables, a step which had been taken as a vindictive measure. They were insulted and made to witness public flogging and to carry

⁶⁹Raja Ram, *The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre*, p. 84

⁷⁰V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, pp. 76-77

⁷¹Raja Ram, *The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre*, p. 119

⁷²V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, p. 76

⁷³*Ibid.*, p. 84

furniture like ordinary coolies. Their roll-call was held twice a day. They were relieved of their irksome duties on 12th May.⁷⁴

Kutchia Kaurianwala Khu, where Miss Sherwood had to hide, was chosen for punishing the offenders and all men, who passed that way, had to crawl. This order was issued on 19th April and remained in force until 25th April, when it was withdrawn under the instructions of the Punjab Government, not approving of it.⁷⁵

All citizens were called upon to salaam (bow down to) every Englishman they came across and those who refused to do so were brought to this lane for crawling with their bellies touching the ground. Disobedience resulted in arrest and detention in the lock-up. Some were ordered to stand up in the sun. The handcuffing of respectable persons was the order of the day. Special tribunals were set up for trying offences, and witnesses appearing for the accused were threatened, harassed and asked to tear up their statements. Lashing, after tying the hands above the head, was common. Abusing, slapping, the pulling of moustaches and beards were a daily occurrence. No one was allowed to leave Amritsar without a special pass which could be obtained only with great difficulty.⁷⁶

Martial law remained in force up to 9th June. The specially constituted courts tried nearly 300 men and summarily sentenced 51 to death and the others to various terms of imprisonment.⁷⁷ People were arrested without charges being preferred. They were asked not to give evidence or to give such evidence as suited the authorities. Persons, like Muhammad Akram, were transported for life on the basis of fabricated evidence. Mahasha Rattan Chand, a cloth broker; Maulvi Muhammad Sadiq, a *mazdoor* in the cloth market; Mir Mohamdi, a *nanbai*; Mian Sindhi, a *zargar* (goldsmith); Lala Wallaiti Ram, a milk seller; Lala Karam Chand, a jeweller; Mian Jalal-ud-Din, a proprietor, Iron Factory; Sardar Jairam Singh; and Chaudhary Bugga Mal, a glass-seller, were transported for life in the first instance.

The Jallianwala Bagh tragedy had left behind a trail of bitterness against the British Government. The nationalist movement had received an unprecedented boost and fostered the spirit of Hindu-Muslim unity. Jallianwala Bagh came to signify a nationalist shrine and marked a turning point in the Indo-British relations. The city of Amritsar earned an enviable position in the political annals of the country. The British on their part were also eager to teach a lesson to the people of Amritsar on the sudden outburst of their anger against the British rulers. Apart from the heavy toll of life as a result of the massacre in the

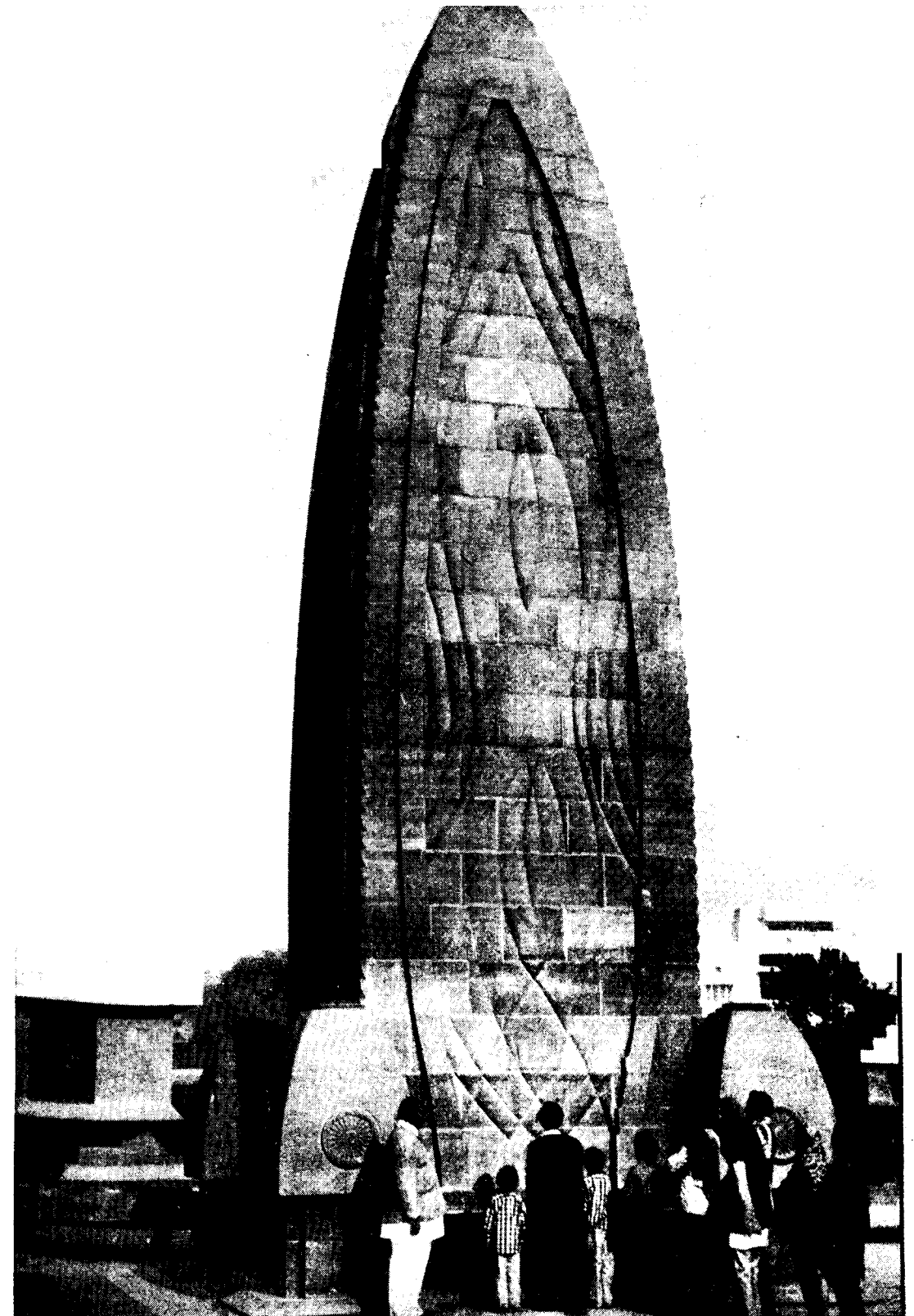
⁷⁴Ibid., p. 85

⁷⁵Ibid.

⁷⁶Ibid., p. 86

⁷⁷Khushwant Singh, *A History of the Sikhs, Vol. II, 1839-1964* (London, 1966), p. 165

4. Flame of Liberty, Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar



Bagh and subsequent indiscriminate arrests and heavy sentences inflicted on the prominent political leaders, the people, in general, were also called upon to pay heavy indemnity. The total loss of property at Amritsar was estimated at about Rs 16,97,511 and a collective fine to the tune of Rs 20,56,000 was proposed to be collected from the residents of the city through the Municipality by increased rates of terminal taxes and sale of immovable property. The sum imposed on the residents of Amritsar was, however, remitted by the Punjab Legislative Council by a majority vote when the matter was discussed there in 1921, at the instance of Raja Narendra Nath.

X. Historic Session of the Indian National Congress at Amritsar, December 1919

In the wake of the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy, the historic session of the Indian National Congress was held in the Gol Bagh at Amritsar during the Christmas of 1919 and was presided over by Pandit Moti Lal Nehru. The city had the honour of the visit of outstanding national leaders, like B.G. Tilak, Annie Besant, B.C. Pal, C.R. Das, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, M.K. Gandhi, Srinivas Shastri and M.A. Jinnah. No less than 36 thousand persons attended the Session and among them some 6 thousand persons were ordinary and 1,200 tenant delegates. The Ali Brothers—Maulanas Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali—also visited the city and were given a rousing reception. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, who was one of the dignitaries of the session, aptly described the Amritsar session as the first “Gandhi Congress”, because it ushered the Gandhian Era in the Indian political history. At this session, highly important resolutions about the future policy and the plan of work of the Congress were passed.

The great national upsurge, the outcome of the happenings at Amritsar, was responsible for the setting up of a number of political organizations in the city. The National Industrial High School was established in 1921. The Swaraj Ashram was built outside the Chatiwind Gate in order to train Indian youth in the new national ideology. Some of the prominent revolutionaries stayed there to impart training to the youth. Sardar Bhagat Singh, the great national martyr from the Punjab, was also one of the early trainees.

XI. Struggle for Sikh Shrines

Ever since the annexation of the Punjab in 1849, the management of the Golden Temple, the central and most sacred of the Sikh shrines, was carried on under Government supervision. In 1859, the management was entrusted to a non-official Committee of Sikh Sardars and Chiefs. The Committee was abolished in 1881 and a Manager was appointed to look after the Golden Temple under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. The new arrangement, however, proved to be unsatisfactory and led to a number of irregularities. The influential sections among the Sikhs clamoured for the control of religious and educational

institutions without any interference from the Government. A non-official Committee of 175 members, named as the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, was formed to manage, reform and control important Sikh shrines or *gurdwaras*. It was subsequently legally constituted and Baba Kharak Singh was elected its first President. The newly organized body had already taken over the management of the Golden Temple and the Akal Takht. It took up the case regarding the control of other notable *gurdwaras*, like Nankana Sahib, the birth-place of Guru Nanak Dev. The activities of the Committee brought it into open clash with the Government. On 7th November, 1921, the District Magistrate of Amritsar took away the keys of the *toshakhana*. The action of the authorities led to the agitation known as the "Keys Affair". The movement took a political turn and many Sikh leaders, including Baba Kharak Singh, Master Tara Singh and Sardar Mehtab Singh, were imprisoned under the Seditious Meetings Act. About the same time, the Nankana Sahib and Guru Ka Bagh *morchas* were launched. In the face of the mounting agitation among the Sikhs, the Gurdwaras Act of 1925 placed all the important *gurdwaras* in the Punjab under the control of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee.

As soon as the first flush of the Hindu-Muslim unity was over and the people of Amritsar had settled down to normal life, the authorities tried to create a cleavage between the principal communities by overt and covert actions. The age-long differences between the Hindus and the Muslims were emphasized and occasions were encouraged for communal agitation on petty matters. Serious communal trouble broke out between the Hindus and the Muslims in 1923. The occasion was particularly chosen to be the annual Baisakhi fair when vast crowds had collected at the place from all parts of the Punjab. The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee played a very important role in bringing the explosive situation under control. Akali *jathas* were organized to patrol the streets and a large number of students of the local Khalsa College volunteered their services for the restoration of peace and order in the city. The injured persons were admitted to the Golden Temple Hospital. As soon as the trouble had subsided, a conference of leading Hindus and Muslims was called to take effective steps against false rumours and the recurrence of trouble among the principal communities.

Dr. Satya Pal was responsible for the formation of Naujawan Bharat Sabha in 1926. Hassam-ud-Din, Sikandar Khizar, Ahmed Hassan, Rattan Chand and Gurdit Singh were some of the prominent members of the Sabha at Amritsar. The organization assumed greater importance and widened its nationalistic activities to infuse the spirit of patriotism into the youth and organize labourers and peasants on a common platform in pursuance of the Punjab Political Conference, held at Amritsar in April 1928. Under the joint auspices of the City Congress Committee and the local Naujawan Bharat Sabha, a public meeting was held in the Jallianwala Bagh on 30th June, 1929. The meeting was organized in support of the hunger strike observed by Sardar Bhagat Singh and his comrades as protest against the ill-treatment meted out to political prisoners in jails.

In 1935, the All-India Trade Union Congress set up a branch at Amritsar. A branch of the Servants of People Society was also formed at the place. The Ahrar Movement, under the leadership of Atta-Ullah Shah Bukhari, was organized at Amritsar to fight Hindu and Muslim communalism.

During the "Quit India" Movement of 1942, nationalistic activities at Amritsar were accelerated. During the period, Mahasha Parma Nand and Pandit Amar Nath Vidyalankar were the President and the Secretary respectively of the District Congress Committee, Amritsar. The activities of the Congress manifested themselves in numerous meetings and processions. A good number of persons, including some prominent leaders, suffered imprisonment.

During the period immediately preceding the independence, the Hindu-Muslim relations got strained on account of the prevailing communal tension. The highly explosive situation, which thus developed, resulted in rioting, bloodshed and arson. The situation was only relieved by the announcement of the Boundary Commission Award on August 17, 1947. The large-scale migration of the population, which followed the partition of the country, created complicated problems for Amritsar on account of its situation on the border.

(e) Independence and After

I. Exodus and Its Aftermath

The partition of the Punjab, which had been accepted as a solution of the political problem, gave rise to the exodus of the non-Muslims from the West Punjab and the Muslims from the East Punjab. Amritsar occupied the key position and was used as a base for the incoming and the outgoing refugees, who numbered millions. Soon after the announcement of the boundary award in mid August 1947, the trickle of unsettled persons developed into a spate and people started pouring in and going out in an unending stream. Amritsar presented a picture of a refugee camp on a vast scale. The unfortunate victims of religious frenzy all wore scars of violence. The local people collaborated with the Government to render them all possible succour. The Government organized relief measures on a very large scale and made necessary arrangements for the clearance of the refugees in order to reduce the congestion in the city.

As soon as the rioting had subsided at Amritsar, threads of life were taken up once more. Municipal administration was strengthened to face the heavy responsibility for sanitation and public health. Steps were taken to remove debris from the localities which had suffered from arson. It was planned to rebuild them on modern lines. The calamity of communal troubles thus proved to be a blessing in disguise. Measures were adopted to rehabilitate as many refugees as possible in the accommodation vacated by the Muslims in case it was found in a serviceable condition. Special arrangements were made for the provision of amenities in the new *abadis* which had sprung up around the city on account of the arrival of newcomers. Municipal limits were extended. Despite a heavy loss in the revenues

of the Committee as a result of disturbed conditions and reduction in the commercial importance of the city after the partition, the Amritsar Municipal Committee tried to cope with the new problems as best as possible under the circumstances. On the restoration of normal conditions, the income of the municipality showed an upward trend and the city can once again boast to be the largest municipality with the largest population in the State.

II. NEFA and Ladakh Campaigns (1962-63) and Indo-Pakistan Conflict (1965)

NEFA and Ladakh Campaigns (1962-63).—Like those from the rest of the country, the military personnel from the Amritsar District showed conspicuous valour and devotion to duty in the NEFA and Ladakh campaigns against the Chinese aggression in 1962.

The total number of military personnel, belonging to the Amritsar District, killed was 114. The district won two Vir Chakras, one of which was posthumous.

Indo-Pakistan Conflict (1965)⁷⁸.—Owing to its geographical position, Amritsar is exposed to Pakistan's air and land attacks. It naturally became an embattled city and assumed the position of a front-line post during the Indo-Pak conflict of 1965. The city was subjected to 4 to 10 attacks daily, except on 17th September, during the Pakistani air raids from 5th to 22nd September, 1965. During the period, Amritsar's favourite heroes were the ack-ack gunners, especially Subedar Raju, who guarded the city against the attacks from the sky and shot down enemy planes.

However, the worst befell on 22nd September when, immediately after the Pakistan President in a broadcast at 4 p.m. announced his acceptance of the cease-fire resolution of the United Nations, his pilots left for Chheharta, an industrial suburb of Amritsar. As the cease-fire was going to be effective from 3.30 a.m. on 23rd September, nobody in India expected any fresh outburst of violence from the enemy. For the first time during the past 18 days, the Indian ack-ack gunners relaxed their mind, and this proved to be the ruin of Chheharta. It was bombarded at 4.15 p.m. on 22nd September by the Pakistani fighters which dropped eight 1,000-pound bombs on this locality and caused terrible loss of life and property. A whole row of houses stood roofless. Seventy-seven houses and shops were razed, and 150 more were heavily damaged. Fifty-five persons were killed. The whole area presented a ghastly look.

The highest number of casualties in the Punjab on account of the Pakistani air raids during the conflict were 81 killed and 70 injured in Amritsar. There was also extensive damage to property and crops.

⁷⁸Hari Ram Gupta, *India-Pakistan War, 1965, Vol. I*, pp. 283-86
V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, p. 108

The total number of military personnel, belonging to the Amritsar District, killed during the Indo-Pakistan Conflict, was 85. The district won a Maha Vir Chakra (posthumous) and two Vir Chakras.

Citizens' Silent Service⁷⁹.—The Amritsar District displayed remarkable zeal and courage during the Indo-Pakistan conflict. The response to the call of the nation was spontaneous and substantial. Support to the fullest extent was given to the authorities in the war efforts and the public showed a commendable example of solidarity, and displayed a spirit of service to, and sacrifice for, the country.

In rural areas, in particular, the people maintained their age-long tradition of courage and devotion. The morale of those near the battlefield was exceptionally high. They stuck to their homes and fields even though they were living at a stone's throw from the burning border between India and Pakistan. The people shared everything with the soldiers. In the midst of heavy shelling, the residents of the neighbouring areas carried food, milk and *lassi* (buttermilk) right into the trenches where *jawans* had taken up their positions.

National Defence Effort⁸⁰.—Although the economy of Amritsar, depending mainly on the trade and industry, had been considerably disturbed owing to the grim fighting close to the border, frequent air attacks, bombing and shelling, yet liberal contributions were made to the National Defence Fund by men, women and children, the young and the old, the rich and the poor, with great joy and zeal. The city, thus, contributed about Rs 10,000 daily to the National Defence Fund which amounted to 8.5 lakhs of rupees till the end of October 1965. Besides, since September 7, Rs 7,000 was spent daily on the 50 odd canteens opened at various places on several highways and side roads for the *jawans*. Most of the money came from the common man, voluntarily.

⁷⁹Hari Ram Gupta, *India-Pakistan War, 1965, Vol. I*, pp. 249-52

⁸⁰*Ibid.*, pp. 27-28, 251

V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, pp. 108-109

APPENDIX

GHADAR (REBELLION) OF 1915

Revolutionaries belonging to the Amritsar District tried and convicted by
Special Tribunals

I. Persons tried in the First Lahore Conspiracy case and sentenced to death along with the forfeiture of property. Their death penalty was, however, commuted by the Viceroy into life imprisonment :

No.	Name	Village
1.	Balwant Singh	.. Sathiala
2.	Kala Singh	.. Amritsar
3.	Kesar Singh	.. Thathgarh
4.	Khushal Singh	.. Paddari
5.	Sawan Singh	.. Chabba
6.	Sohan Singh	.. Bhakna
7.	Wasawa Singh	.. Gilwali

II. Revolutionaries awarded life imprisonment and sent to the Nicobar and Andaman Islands. Their assets were forfeited by the Government :

1.	Bishan Singh	.. Dadehar
2.	Bishan Singh	.. Do
3.	Hazara Singh	.. Do
4.	Sant Wasakha Singh	.. Do
5.	Jwala Singh	.. Thatian
6.	Kehar Singh	.. Marhana
7.	Mangal Singh	.. Lalpur
8.	Sher Singh	.. Vainpoin
9.	Udham Singh	.. Kasel

III. Persons who received varying terms of imprisonment :

1.	Baaj Singh	.. Rayya 2 years' rigorous imprisonment and forfeiture of assets
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IV. Persons accused of the Second Lahore Conspiracy Case sentenced to transportation for life along with forfeiture of property :

No.	Name	Village
1.	Bhag Singh	.. Jaheer Sahib
2.	Bishan Singh	.. Varpal
3.	Ganda Singh	.. Khapaur Kheri
4.	Gujjar Singh	.. Bhakna
5.	Hari Singh	.. Kakar
6.	Harnam Singh	.. Rasulpur
7.	Jinder Singh	.. Chaudhariwala
8.	Maharaj Singh	.. Kasel
9.	Sucha Singh	.. Chohla Kalan
10.	Sunder Singh	.. Dulo Nangal
11.	Thakar Singh	.. Thatian
12.	Wasakha Singh	.. Dadehar

V. Persons sentenced to various terms of imprisonment in the Second Lahore Conspiracy Case :

1.	Jassa Singh	.. Jhar Sahib 6 months' rigorous imprisonment
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VI. Persons belonging to 23rd Cavalry, originally sentenced to death by a military court, but their sentences commuted later into transportation for life :

1.	Bishan Singh	.. Dhotian
2.	Bishan Singh No. 2	.. Do
3.	Natha Singh	.. Do
4.	Kehar Singh	.. Do
5.	Chanan Singh	.. Dhand Kasel
6.	Nand Singh	.. Rai ka Burj

VII. Army men of the 23rd Cavalry court-martialled at Dagshai (near Simla) and sentenced to death :

No.	Name	Village
1.	Bhag Singh	.. Roorhiwala
2.	Mota Singh	.. Do
3.	Dafedar Tara Singh	.. Do
4.	Wadhawa Singh	.. Do
5.	Inder Singh	.. Jeohala
6.	Inder Singh	.. Sahajpur
7.	Dafedar Lachhman Singh	.. Chuslewar
8.	Boota Singh	.. Kasel
9.	Gujjar Singh	.. Lahoke
10.	Jetha Singh	.. Do
11.	Budh Singh	.. Dhotian

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

(a) Population

(i) Total Population

According to the 1961 Census, the total population of the district was 15,34,916, comprising 8,27,821 males and 7,07,095 females. Out of these, 10,70,892 were rural and 4,64,024 urban.

Growth of Population.—The population of the district increased from 8,93,266 in 1881 to 15,34,916 in 1961. The increase is partly because on the partition of the country in 1947, 186 villages, including Patti, were transferred from the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (Pakistan) to the Amritsar District and formed into the Patti Sub-Tahsil which was later on raised to a tahsil and sub-division.

The following table gives the variation in population in the district during the sixty years from 1901 to 1961 :

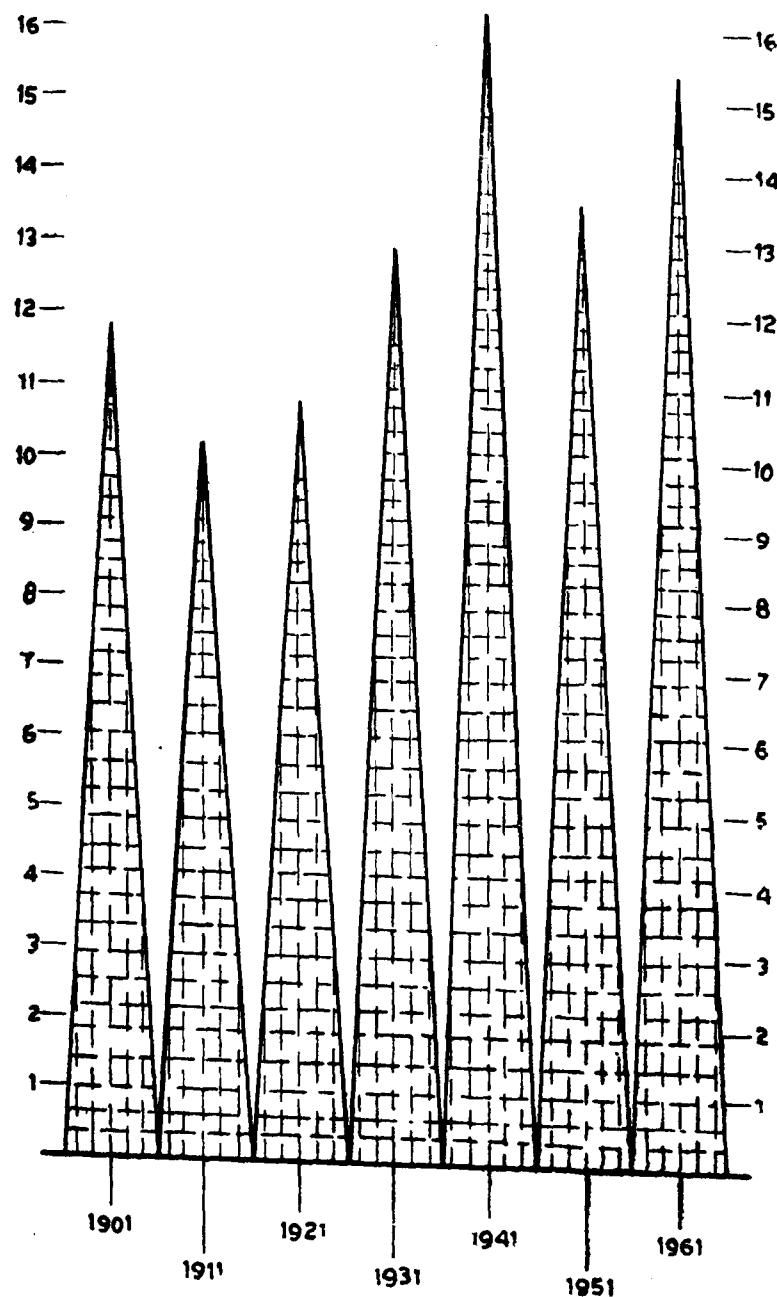
Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation	Males	Females
1901	11,87,140	..	..	6,49,086	5,38,054
1911	10,21,225	—1,65,915	—13.98	5,73,353	4,47,872
1921	10,77,596	+56,371	+5.52	6,00,140	4,77,456
1931	12,95,270	+2,17,674	+20.20	7,18,391	5,76,879
1941	16,21,126	+ 3,25,856	+25.16	8,80,347	7,40,779
1951	13,67,040	—2,54,086	—15.67	7,42,421	6,24,619
1961	15,34,916	+1,67,876	+12.28	8,27,821	7,07,095

(Census of India, 1961, District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, p. 201)

During the sixty years from 1901 to 1961, the population of the district increased by 29.3 per cent. The ten-year period (1901—11) was marked by severe epidemics of plague and malaria which took a heavy toll of the population. During 1911—21, there occurred the great influenza epidemic. The

GROWTH OF POPULATION

FIGURES IN LAKHS



Source - Census Of India 1961, DCH, No.13, P. 201

decades 1921—31 and 1931—41 were comparatively free from calamities and the population increased fast. The decade 1941—51 experienced the holocaust of unprecedented communal trouble and mass migration in the wake of the partition of 1947; the Muslim population of the district migrated to Pakistan but most of the non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan did not favour to settle in Amritsar because of its proximity to the border. Consequently, the population of the district decreased by 15.67 per cent despite 186 villages from the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (Pakistan) being transferred to the Amritsar District in 1947. The decennium 1951—61 was free from disease and the health measures taken by the Government considerably reduced the death-rate, whereas the birth-rate remained unchanged. The population of the district, thus, increased by 12.28 per cent.

Emigration and Immigration.—Emigration and immigration of persons from one place/district/State/country to another is a normal process. This is caused by various factors, e.g., economic, social and political.

Out of 15,34,916 persons enumerated in the district during the 1961 Census, persons born in the Punjab districts (as before the reorganization of the former Punjab State in 1966) other than Amritsar numbered 1,01,134 or 6.6 per cent of the population. Among these, the percentage of females (7.8) was higher than that of males (5.6).

The Punjab-born persons formed 83.5 per cent of the district's population. The remaining 16.5 per cent hailed from areas shown below:

Place of birth	Number	Percentage to total population
Other States of India	37,703	2.5
Pakistan	2,08,751	13.6
Other countries	3,911	0.3
Information not available	1,706	0.1

(Census of India, 1961, District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, pp. 35, 290-91)

Persons born in other Indian States were mostly from Jammu & Kashmir (6,668), Uttar Pradesh (18,188), Delhi (2,461) and Himachal Pradesh (1,110). Persons from Delhi were enumerated mostly in the urban areas but from other States mostly in the rural areas.

The Pakistan-born persons, barring a few, were those who migrated in the wake of the partition of the country in 1947. The persons reported to have been born in countries other than Pakistan were mostly children of the Punjabis who in their youth went abroad and had now come back or had sent their children home.

The particulars regarding the persons who migrated from the district to other places in the country or to foreign countries are not available.

Density of Population.—The following table shows the density of population in the district from 1881 to 1961:

Year	Density of population per sq. km.
1881	219
1891	244
1901	236
1911	203
1921	214
1931	258
1941	322
1951	272
1961	302

(Census of India, 1951, Vol. VIII, Punjab, Pepsu, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur and Delhi, Part I-A—Report, pp. 8-9, 26-27 ;

Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, p. 30)

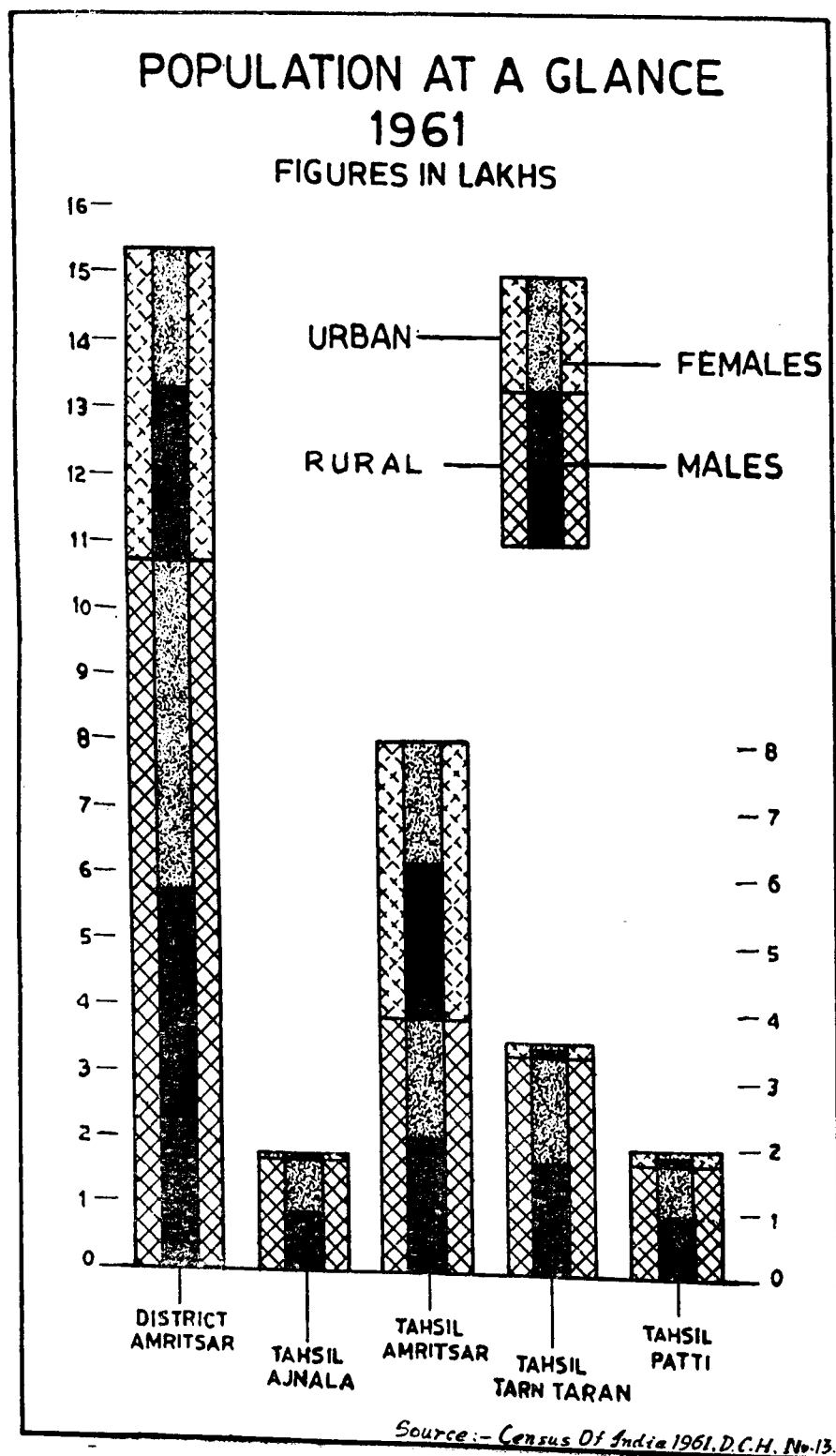
According to the 1961 Census, the Punjab (reorganized)¹ had on an average 221 persons to a square kilometre, with the Jullundur District as the most thickly populated (353) and Bhatinda as the most sparsely populated (153). The number of persons per square kilometre in the Amritsar District

¹On the reorganization of the former Punjab on November 1, 1966, the new (reorganized) Punjab State was left with only 11 districts, (viz. Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Ropar, Ludhiana, Firozpur, Bhatinda, Sangrur and Patiala) out of a total of 19 districts before the reorganization

was 302 and, in this respect, ranked 2nd among then 11 districts^a of the State. The reasons for higher density in the Amritsar District are not difficult to seek. With extensive irrigation facilities available everywhere in the district, Amritsar is capable of supporting a heavy population. The Amritsar Tahsil supported the maximum population (569 persons per sq. km.), mainly because of the big city of Amritsar. In the Ajnala and Patti tahsils, the density of population was 164 and 186 respectively. The main factor contributing to fewer people in these tahsils is their nearness to the Pakistan border.

The tahsil-wise distribution and density of population in the district, according to the 1951 Census and 1961 Census, is given in the following table :

^aWith the formation of the new District of Faridkot on August 7, 1972, the number of the districts in the Punjab State rose from 11 to 12



Distribution of population between the rural and urban areas in the Amritsar District, 1951 and 1961

District/Tahsil	1951 Census				1961 Census			
	Persons	Density of population per sq. km.	Males	Females	Persons	Density of population per sq. km.	Males	Females
Total District	13,67,040	272	7,42,421	6,24,619	15,34,916	302	8,27,821	7,07,095
Rural	9,58,533		5,12,198	4,46,335	10,70,892		5,70,444	5,00,448
Urban	4,08,507		2,30,223	1,78,284	4,64,024		2,57,377	2,06,647
Ajnala Tahsil	1,56,197	144	83,762	72,435	1,78,334	164	95,447	82,887
Rural	1,53,151		82,152	70,999	1,75,181		93,806	81,375
Urban	3,046		1,610	1,436	3,153		1,641	1,512
Amritsar Tahsil	6,87,273	487	3,78,087	3,09,186	8,03,219	569	4,37,713	3,65,506
Rural	3,26,028		1,73,276	1,52,752	3,86,284		2,05,274	1,81,010
Urban	3,61,245		2,04,811	1,56,434	4,16,935		2,32,439	1,84,496
Tarn Taran Tahsil	2,81,265	229	1,50,477	1,30,788	3,53,872	234	1,87,527	1,66,345
Rural	2,64,921		1,41,651	1,23,270	3,32,911		1,76,546	1,56,365
Urban	16,344		8,826	7,518	20,961		10,981	9,980
Patti Tahsil	2,42,305	178	1,30,095	1,12,210	1,99,491	186	1,07,134	92,357
Rural	2,14,433		1,15,119	99,314	1,76,516		94,818	81,698
Urban	27,872		14,976	12,896	22,975		12,316	10,659

PEOPLE

(Census of India, 1951, District Census Handbook, Vol. 12, Amritsar District, p. xiii;

Census of India, 1951, Vol VIII, Pt. I-A-Report, pp. 26-27; and

Census of India, 1961, District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, p. 197)

Sex Ratio.—According to the 1961 Census, out of the total population of 15,34,916 of the district, 8,27,821 were males and 7,07,095 were females, i.e. a ratio of 53.9 : 46.1.

In the Punjab (reorganized), there were 854 females per 1,000 males, and this was the lowest figure for females among the States in India : the corresponding figure for the Indian Union was 941 females per 1,000 males. Curiously, there is a belt stretching from the west to the east comprising the Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts where the sex ratio is conspicuously higher than that of the State average, and the number of women per thousand men increases gradually from the west to the east. According to the 1961 Census, it was 854, 886, 872 and 903 for Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur Districts respectively.

During the fifty years from 1911 to 1961, there has been an overall improvement in favour of women as the following figures show :

Year	Females per thousand males in the Amritsar District
1911	781
1921	796
1931	803
1941	841
1951	841
1961	854

Among the four tahsils, Tarn Taran leads with 887 females per 1,000 males, followed by Ajnala (868), Patti (862) and Amritsar (835). The sex ratio for the rural areas of the district works out to 877 : 1,000 and for the urban areas 803 : 1,000, the corresponding figures in 1951 were 870 and 775 respectively.

Age Composition.—In the following table, the population of the district, according to the 1961 Census, is distributed into various age-groups. With

a view to comprehending the comparative strength of these groups, the totals have uniformly been taken as 1,000 :

Distribution of 1,000 persons of each sex by age-groups, according to the 1961 Census, in the Amritsar District

Age-Group	Total Population			Rural		Urban	
	Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
All ages	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
0—9	305.51	300.86	310.96	317.57	316.15	263.81	298.41
10—14	122.63	122.60	122.67	128.15	123.40	110.27	120.88
15—19	93.21	93.33	93.07	90.95	90.32	98.61	99.73
20—24	81.49	79.50	83.83	69.37	77.60	101.96	98.90
25—29	73.10	71.05	75.51	64.09	71.89	86.48	84.29
30—34	60.27	59.23	61.48	53.24	59.18	72.51	67.06
35—39	48.24	47.47	49.14	42.20	48.37	59.15	51.00
40—44	46.27	47.11	45.28	44.61	45.35	52.67	45.11
45—49	36.06	35.55	36.65	33.82	37.69	39.38	34.14
50—54	38.25	41.34	34.62	42.42	35.27	38.96	33.05
55—59	20.49	20.71	20.24	21.06	21.60	19.94	16.93
60—64	29.67	32.94	25.84	36.43	27.68	25.19	21.39
65—69	12.72	13.94	11.28	15.53	12.18	10.42	9.13
70+	31.85	34.13	29.19	40.38	33.09	20.27	19.72
Age not stated	0.24]	0.24	0.24]	0.18	0.23	0.38	0.26

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, p. 32)

Too much reliance cannot be placed on the inferences that may be drawn from the figures given in the above table, since a district is a small geographical area and the inflow and outflow of the population as a disturbing factor cannot be ignored. With this reservation, some broad inferences, as drawn, are given below :

The age pyramid for the district has a broad base and tapers rather obliquely—306 persons per thousand of the population are below the age of ten and only 95 persons are of the age of 55 years and above. Roughly speaking, four out of every ten persons were below the age of 15, 5 in the age-groups 15 years to below 55, and only one past the age of 55.

The age span of the females is lower than that of the males. The males below the age of 15 years are 423 per 1,000 males; the corresponding figure for the females is 434. In ages between 15 and below 55 years, the males count 475 per 1,000 males, but the women are 480. In ages 55 years and above, the males are 102 and females are only 86. The girls in the rural areas unfortunately still do not receive the same care as the boys, and after marriage, they have the extra handicap of maternity troubles and stress of domestic life.

It is a common observation that a large number of persons shift from villages to towns for education and livelihood. The low-paid among them leave their families in their village homes and live in the towns by themselves. When past the age of useful work, some among them return to their villages. The effect of this type of movement is reflected in the statistics of rural and urban age composition. For age-groups below 15, 15 to below 55 and 55 and above, the distribution among the males in the rural areas is 446, 441 and 113 and in the urban areas, 374, 550 and 76. The corresponding figures for the females in the rural areas are 440, 466 and 94, and for the urban areas, they are 420, 513 and 67.

Marital Status.—In the following table, persons in different age-groups in the district, according to the 1961 Census, are further classified according to their marital status. To comprehend the significance of these figures, one thousand males and one thousand females, for the district as a whole and for the rural and urban areas, are distributed according to marital status:

1,000 males and females, according to the 1961 Census in the Amritsar District, classified according to marital status

Marital status	Total		Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
All ages	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Never married	584.46	510.29	590.19	506.75	571.75	518.87
Married	369.34	423.57	360.29	429.71	389.39	408.70
Widowed	44.01	64.62	48.22	62.64	34.69	69.42
Divorced or separated	1.00	0.73	1.04	0.75	0.93	0.66
Unspecified status	1.19	0.79	0.26	0.15	3.24	2.35

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, p. 33)

It will be noticed that, in the district as a whole, some 58 per cent of the males and 51 per cent of the females were unmarried. A higher proportion of the unmarried males was due to the shortage of females, and this aspect has been studied earlier. Correspondingly, there was a higher proportion of the married among the females than among the males.

The proportion of the married males was higher in towns than in villages, but the proportion of the married females was higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas.

Marriage in India is universal and there is always an explanation for an old bachelor or spinster. Out of the unmarried males and females numbering 4,83,827 and 3,60,824 respectively in the district in the rural areas, there were only 31 bachelors per thousand males past the age of 34 years, and 5 spinsters per thousand females past the age of 25 years. The corresponding figures for the urban areas were 23 and 15.

(ii) Distribution of Population between the Rural and the Urban Areas

The following table shows the distribution of population between the rural and the urban areas in the district in 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1961:

Distribution of the population between the rural and urban areas in the Amritsar District in 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1961

District		Persons	Males	Females
Rural/Urban				
1931 Census				
Total District	..	11,17,120	6,21,040	4,96,080
Rural	..	8,21,008	4,44,658	3,76,350
Urban	..	2,96,112	1,76,382	1,19,730
1941 Census				
Total District	..	14,13,876	7,76,782	6,37,094
Rural	..	9,66,727	5,17,529	4,49,198
Urban	..	4,47,149	2,59,253	1,87,896
1951 Census				
Total District	..	13,67,040	7,42,421	6,24,619
Rural	..	9,58,533	5,12,198	4,46,335
Urban	..	4,08,507	2,30,223	1,78,284
1961 Census				
Total District	..	15,34,916	8,27,821	7,07,095
Rural	..	10,70,892	5,70,444	5,00,448
Urban	..	4,64,024	2,57,377	2,06,647

(Census of India, 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1961)

The total population of the district rose from 11.17 lakhs in 1931 to 14.14 lakhs in 1941. Thereafter, it fell to 13.67 lakhs in 1951 but again rose to 15.35 lakhs in 1961. The decrease in the population of the district, during the decade 1941-50, was caused by a higher emigration of Muslims from the area to Pakistan than that of the non-Muslims from Pakistan. They settled in the district on the partition of the country in 1947.

In the same way, the rural population of the district rose from 8.21 lakhs in 1931 to 9.67 lakhs in 1941. It fell to 9.59 lakhs in 1951, but again rose to 10.71 lakhs in 1961. The urban population also rose from 2.96 lakhs in 1931 to 4.47 lakhs in 1941. It fell to 4.09 lakhs in 1951 but again rose to 4.64 lakhs in 1961.

(iii) Displaced Persons

On the partition of the country in 1947, there was an unprecedented migration of Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan to India and of Muslims from India to Pakistan. Thus, a huge number of Muslims from the Amritsar District migrated to Pakistan and settled in places from which the Hindu and Sikh refugees migrated to the district. The detailed particulars about the refugees and their rehabilitation in the district have been discussed in the section on 'Rehabilitation' of this chapter.

The table given in Appendix on pages 126-27 shows the details of the refugee population by the district of origin in Pakistan settled in the Amritsar District.

(b) LANGUAGES

Punjabi is the predominantly spoken language in the district, followed by Hindi, Nepali, Kashmiri, Urdu, etc. as borne out by the following figures relating to the mother-tongue given in the 1961 Census :

Mother-tongue	Number	Per 1,000
Punjabi	11,74,505	765.19
Hindi	3,51,921	229.28
Nepali	12,318	1.51
Kashmiri	1,571	1.02
Urdu	1,435	0.94
Others	3,166	2.06

(Census of India, 1961, District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, pp. 286-87)

Under the Punjab Official Language Act, 1967,^a Punjabi in the Gurmukhi script was introduced as the official language of the State on April 13, 1968. The Act provides that Punjabi shall be used for such official purposes of the State and from such dates as may be specified by notifications to be issued from time to time. For official work at the district level and below, Punjabi has replaced English in almost all matters, except accounts, technical matters, etc.

For the promotion of Hindi, the Government holds seminars, *Kavi Sammelans* (poetic symposia), etc., from time to time.

The Amritsar District forms the heart of Majha. If a Majha Jat is asked to define Majha in the district, he will demarcate the areas from Atari to Govindwal, wherefrom the old Badshahi road passed. According to the above assumption, Tarn Taran would be the central Majha, whereas the Ajnala and Amritsar tahsils could not be said to be part of Majha. Broadly speaking, the entire district, alongwith the Gurdaspur District, is described as Majha. The areas of the Patti Subdivision, transferred from the Lahore District to the Amritsar District in 1947, have also been included in Majha.

The language spoken in the district is the Majhi dialect of the Punjabi language. This dialect has been adopted as the standard Punjabi for general purposes. The basis of grammar has, however, not been adopted from the Majhi dialect. This is not because this dialect did not come up to the required standard. It was rather because of the inadequacy of the first Punjabi dictionary and the Punjabi grammar prepared and printed at Ludhiana (Malwa) by the Christian Missionaries. The first translation of the Bible in Punjabi was also published by the missionaries at Ludhiana. The forms of grammar were, consequently, adopted on the basis of the Malwai dialect. Those were accepted by the Punjabi writers, regardless of its being written on the basis of the Malwai dialect. Another potent factor for the Majhi dialect being adopted as the standard Punjabi was that this dialect was spoken by the people residing in the central Punjab. Moreover, this dialect was well understood by the people of the Punjab as a whole, even though some persons felt some difficulty in speaking it.

There are certain words in the Majhi dialect which sometimes enable us to recognize whether the man belongs to the Bist Doab or the Rachna Doab.

There are certain points of difference from the Ludhiana standard that can be noticed in Majha.

The cerebral *l* is never sounded in Amritsar. The ordinary dental *l* is always substituted for it. Thus, *naal* not *nal*. The letter *d* is often doubled. Thus, *tuhadda*, your; *wadda* for *wada*, great; *duradda* for *durada*, far. On the

^aThe Act of 1967 repealed the Punjab Official Languages Act, 1960.

other hand, letters which are doubled in the standard dialect of Ludhiana are often not doubled in Amritsar. Thus, *uth-ke* for *utth-ke*, having risen ; *vich* not *vichch*, in, but *vichcho*, from in; *lagia*, joined, but *lagga*, began; *labh-pia*, not *labbh-pia*, got ; *aparia*, for *apparia*, arrived.

Nasalization is frequent. Thus *apna dhan*, his own wealth ; *aundi-hai*, she is coming ; *bharna chahunda-si*, he was wishing to fill ; *jawanga*, I will go ; *chummia*, it was kissed ; *manaie*, let us celebrate. Some of these nasalized forms are relics of the old neuter gender.

In the declension of nouns, the initial *v* of the post-position *vich* is often elided, and the remainder of the post-position is attached to the main words as a termination, as in *gharich* for *ghar-vich*, in the house. The post-position of the agent case is *nai* or *nai*.

The initial *v* in Majhi is sometimes substituted for *d* used in the standard Punjabi. For instance, *vekhna* instead of *dekhna*, to see.

Moreover, false genders are caused by attraction, in phrases, like *ihdi hathi*, on his own hand, *hathi* is used in the singular.

In the pronouns, the nasal of *asi*, we, and *tusi*, you, is omitted, so that we have *asi* and *tusi*. Other forms not shown in the grammar are *mainai*, by me ; *sadda*, our ; *tainai*, by thee ; *tuhadda*, your. *Tu*, thou, often has its oblique singular *tudh*. The oblique plural of the pronoun of the third person is *una* not *uhna*.

In the verb substantive, we have *hai* and *han*, both meaning 'we are' and 'they are'. The present participle of the finite verbs often ends in *na* instead of *da*. Thus, *marnaha*, 'I am striking'.

Irregular forms noted are *deu*, give thou ; *deh*, give ; *jah*, go ; *jawanga*, I will go ; *aunda* or *anda*, is coming ; *kuna*, to say, or *kunda nahen*, does not speak. This irregular form of verb *kuna* is spoken only in the Tarn Taran Tahsil.

The people belonging to the lower strata of society pronounce *sh* instead of *chh*. For instance *shittar* for *chhittar*. When in easy mood, intending to give an expression of enjoyment, they say *anand bajha oya*, enjoyment is there. The word *gu* or *gun* is used instead of *ga* used in the standard Punjabi. For instance, *men le lawun gu*, I shall take, instead of *men le lawun ga*. A jat of Majha is popularly called *Bhaao* (brother).

The peculiar abbreviation of *jhai* for *bharjai* is prevalent. The word also undergoes change in its meaning. The word is used for one's mother and not for one's sister-in-law.

The persons belonging to the Khem Karan area still use certain Persian or Urdu words. This is so because that area before the partition was a part of the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (Pakistan) and was very near the Kasur town, mostly inhabited by Muhammadans.

After the partition, the Hindus and Sikhs of Pakistan migrated to India and a good number of them settled in the district. They speak Majhi, Pothohari and Lehnda dialects. They have some definite impact on the Majhi dialect in Amritsar but not in the entire district. The children of the migrants speak Majhi fluently. They also speak their original dialect with their parents and in families originally belonging to the areas from where their parents migrated. The word, *bhapa*, so often spoken by the persons belonging to the Rawalpindi side, has been adopted by others in Amritsar. The Majhi spoken in the Tarn Taran Tahsil, however, stands affected to the least extent.

Some common English words, e.g. permit, ration, station and allot are commonly used by rural people. The literate persons so often use so many English words. They use English words when they are unable to find their equivalent in Majhi or in the standard Punjabi or just to show their literacy.

In one important point, these specimens do not illustrate the dialect of Majha. This is the occasional use of personal terminations with the past tense of verbs. This is properly a characteristic of the outer circle of languages and does not belong to Punjabi, as illustrated in books of grammar. On the other hand, it regularly appears in Lehnda, and, as explained in the introduction to this section, there is a Lehnda basis at the bottom of Punjabi, which is almost concealed by the language of the inner group that has established itself in the central and eastern Punjab. As one goes westwards from the old Saraswati, the Lehnda basis becomes more and more pronounced and, hence, we occasionally find these terminations in Majhi. In Majhi, they are only found in the third person of the transitive verbs, and are, for the singular, *us os* or *osu* and, for the plural, *one*. Thus, instead of the regular *us akhia* (he said), we frequently hear *akhios* and instead of *unhe* (or *una*) *akhia* (they said), *akhione*. So *ditto* (he gave); *kahios* (he said); *kitosu* (he did) ; *manneosu* (he heeded); *ditto* (they gave) *kitone* (they did), etc.

(c) RELIGIONS AND CASTES

Principal Communities.—The total population of the district, according to the 1961 Census was 15,34,916. The Sikhs form the majority and the Hindus come next. In the urban areas, however, the Hindus form the majority and

the Sikhs come next. The majority of the Sikhs reside in rural areas. The religion-wise break-up of the population in the district may be given as under :

Religion	Persons	Per 1,000	Males	Females
Buddhists	251	0.16	174	77
Christians	33,739	21.98	18,144	15,595
Hindus	5,06,170	329.77	2,76,861	2,29,309
Jains	1,987	1.30	1,119	868
Muslims	2,401	1.57	2,125	276
Sikhs	9,90,344	645.21	5,29,376	4,60,968
Other religions	4	N	2	2
Religion not stated	20	0.01	20	—

The persons belonging to the various Scheduled Castes in the district numbered 3,05,162 (1,61,702 males and 1,43,460 females) and formed 19.88 per cent of the total population.

Casteism is not a problem amongst the Hindus alone. Christians, Muslims and Sikhs are also no exceptions. In this respect the Christians and Muslims residing in the country are different from their co-religionists in other countries.

Buddhists.—Buddhists number 251 in the district where they have their separate entity. They are mostly from Lahul and Spiti or are refugees from Tibet and are engaged in the woollen trade.

Buddhism enjoins upon its followers *ahimsa* and believes in the transmigration of the soul. Its ultimate object is to attain *nirvana*. Its theology, philosophy and mythology seem to have been inspired by the *Upnishads*. Its founder was Gautam, the Buddha. Buddhism is almost silent about the existence of God. This religion did make notable progress during the reign of Ashoka in northern India also, but its influence declined after Harsha Vardhana and, thereafter, it never regained its previous popularity. The Buddhist population in the district is almost entirely either from Lahul and Spiti, or from Tibet.

The sacred books of the Buddhists are *Tripatakas* which are also of immense value from the historical view-point.

The Buddhists do not believe in the caste-system. Their important festival is Buddha Jayanti.

Christians.—They number 33,739 (18,144 males and 15,595 females) in the district. The Amritsar Mission dates back to 1852 when T.H. Fitzpatrick and Robert Clark, the first missionaries of the Church of England appointed to the Punjab, arrived there. The principal mission in the district was conducted jointly by the Church Missionary Society and the Church of England Zanana Missionary Society. Substations of the Mission were also opened in important towns of the Majha tract such as Tarn Taran, Ajnala and Jandiala Guru⁴.

At present, the different missions functioning in the district are : Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Salvation Army, Methodists and Seventh-Day Adventists.

⁴Article entitled "The Singh Sabha Anniversary" by Professor Harbans Singh, published in *The Sikh Review*, February 1972, Vol. XX, No 219, pp. 37—44
Robert Clark, *The Missions in the Punjab and Sindh* (revised edition of 1904)

Hindus.—Out of the total population of the district, 5,06,170 are Hindus (2,76,861 males and 2,29,309 females). They are mostly settled in towns. They also hold land and in certain villages they are also engaged in cultivation. The Scheduled Castes amongst the Hindus, settled in the villages, work as tenants or agricultural labourers.

Hindus are divided into various groups, viz. Brahmins, Khattris, Aroras, Banias, Suds, Rajputs, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. These groups are further subdivided into castes and subcastes⁵. The persons belonging to each group generally make matrimonial alliances within their own castes and subcastes. Though by and by the caste-system is getting relaxed, yet it retains considerable hold over the society. Inter-caste marriages are, however, not so uncommon as they used to be a few decades back. Untouchability, the most deplorable feature of the caste-system, has been abolished by law. Hence, caste is no longer any insurmountable hindrance in contracting marriages and is no longer a hallmark of social status.

The distinguishing features of the different social groups are described as follows :

5. In his book entitled *Political and Social Movements in Ancient Panjab*, Dr. Buddha Prakash has identified modern castes of the Punjab with ancient tribes that came from Central Asia and settled in India, as under :

Aroda	.. Aratta, Arastraka
Bagga	.. Bhagala
Badhwar	.. Bhadra
Bedi	.. Do
Bahl	.. Balhika
Behl	.. Do
Bhalla	.. Do
Bhalka	.. Do
Bhallar	.. Do
Bhallowana	.. Do
Chawla	.. Jaula
Gujar	.. Gurjara, Khazar Wu-sun
Huna	.. Huna
Jat	.. Jarta—Jatioi
Joneja	.. Yavanaja—Ionian
Kamboh	.. Kamboja
Kang	.. Kang-kiu
Kapur	.. Arjunayana(?)
Khanna	.. Khyon (Khionite)
Kharoti	.. Kharostha
Khosla	.. Kusulaka
Khokar	.. Karaskara
Madan	.. Madra
Malava	.. Malava—Malloi
Mehra	.. Maga
Osahan	.. Sahi (Saka)
Pathan	.. Paktha
Puri	.. Paurava
Saluja	.. Salvaja—Salva
Sahni	.. Sahanusahi—Kusana
Sikka	.. Saka
Soi	.. Sai—Wang (Saka)
Sondhi	.. Saundika
Sud	} .. Sulik—Sogdian
Sulka	
Suri	
Tokhi	
Thakar	.. Tukhara
Vishnoi	.. Tukhara
Wadev	.. Vaisnava—Vasudevaka
	.. Do

Brahmins

There are ten groups amongst Brahmins. Of these, the Sarsuts, Kankubjas, Gaurs, Utkals and Maithals are called Panjgaur; and the Darbara, Tailang, Maharashtras, Gurjars and Karnataks are called Panjdarbaris. The Brahmins residing in the district are Sarsuts. They are of more amiable nature than their Gaur counterparts. They are also more tolerant and freely mix up with the people of other castes, e.g. Khatri, Banias, Suds and Aroras.

Sarsut Brahmins are further divided into subcastes. Bahris (twelve) have twelve subcastes within which they contract marriages. Baunjais (fifty-two) have fifty-two subcastes and they also contract marriages among themselves. Another group, Asht-bans (eight subcastes), namely, Sand, Shori, Pathak, Mahrur, Joshi, Tiwari, Kural and Bhardwaj, marry their daughters only in these subcastes. Mohyal Brahmins have five subcastes, viz. Datt, Bali, Mohan, Lau and Chhibber. They own land and do not practise priestly duties. They also contract marriages amongst their own five subcastes. After the partition, the restrictions in respect of marriage, etc., within different Brahmin castes and subcastes, have mostly disappeared.

The Brahmins in the district are usually handsome and well-built like other residents. They are engaged in public services, business, industry and agriculture. They also perform priestly duties—their hereditary profession. The number of those mainly engaged in priestly duties is, however, on the wane.

Khatri

The word Khatri is derived from the Sanskrit word Kashatriya. Like Brahmins, they are also divided into various groups. The Baunjais (fifty-two) have fifty-two subcastes and contract marriages within these Khatri subcastes. It is said that the Baunjais form that group of Khatri subcastes of the West Punjab, particularly Multan, who submitted a memorandum to Ala-ud-Din Khilji against his order of widow remarriage. Another group of Khatri of the eastern Punjab, who refused to sign the said memorandum, were called 'Shara-ain' (law-abiding), which later became corrupted to be called Sarin. Sarins also contract marriages among the subcastes falling under the Sarin group. Another group, called Khokhrain, is said to consist of the descendants of certain families of Khatri who were believed to have joined Khokhars in a rebellion and the other Khatri families were loath to have matrimonial relations with them. Khokhrain Khatri are Sethi, Kohli, Chadha, Bhasin, Surl, Sabharwal, Ghal, etc. The group Bahri among Khatri does not mean twelve, but groups of those subcastes whose ancestors went to Delhi in attendance upon one of Akbar's Rajput wives and who, separated from other Khatri subcastes, married only within the said groups of subcastes. The prominent subcastes among Bahris are

Mehrotra or Mehra, Khanna, Kapur and Seth. There is another group of subcastes, called Dhalgharas, who contract marriages within their own group.

Before the partition (1947), the Khatri residing in the Amritsar District were mainly Baunjais. The Khatri who had come here from the eastern Punjab were generally Sarin. The Khatri of Amritsar, engaged in business, are mainly those of Lahore and Multan. They had shifted to this place when Guru Ram Das founded the town and made it a great religious and commercial centre. These Khatri contracted marriages among the Khatri of the city who are from all the Khatri groups. However, in recent times, they have made a departure from their old practice and have started contracting marriages outside the district also. They are easily distinguishable on the basis of their peculiar dialect and dress. They are very handsome and of good disposition. Their physical features indicate considerable similarity with those of the people of Kashmir. It is likely that they contracted marriages in Kashmir since, being engaged in the woollen trade, these trading classes remained in contact with that area for a considerable period.

Aroras

Aroras trace their origin from the Khatri. It is said that Khatri are Khatri of Lahore and Multan, whereas Aroras are Khatri of Aror, modern Rori and Sukkar (Sind) in Pakistan. There is a street in Amritsar named as 'Arorianwali Gali'. The Aroras seem to have settled in Amritsar during the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh or even earlier. It is presumed that they migrated to Amritsar from Lahore to which place they might have originally migrated from Sind or Multan. This is inferred from the fact that, after a very long stay in the central Punjab, they ceased to speak their Lehnda dialect. After the partition also, the Aroras migrated from Pakistan and mostly settled in the towns. They differ in physique and disposition from the local Aroras.

Aroras are very energetic and intelligent. They are mostly engaged in trade and industry. They are superior in business acumen to their counterparts settled in the district. A good number of them have also joined public and private services.

Aroras are divided into three groups, viz. Uttradhi, Gujrati and Dakhna. Previously, they contracted marriages within their own groups but, after the partition, they have started mixing with other groups also.

Banias

The word Banla is derived from the Sanskrit word *banijya* or trade. Banias are essentially a commercial class, and can be easily recognized from

their peculiar dress. They are of soft disposition. Bantias of all subcastes are found in the district as a whole but they are settled mostly in Amritsar. Their number in the district is, however, not considerable.

Suds

In the district, the Suds are mostly settled in Tarn Taran. Their origin appears to be the same as that of the Raikwals of Delhi and Agra, but they do not intermarry. They are divided into two groups, viz. those belonging to the hilly areas (Uchanda) and plains (Niwanda), socially *khara* (pure) and *gala* (inferior) respectively. Previously they did not intermarry, but now such distinctions have disappeared. The Suds settled in the district belong to the former group. They are fair-complexioned and of mild-disposition. They are engaged in business and public and private services.

Scheduled Castes

The number of Scheduled Castes in the district is 3,05,162. They belong to various groups. Their caste-wise, religion-wise and rural and urban break-up is given in the following statement :

Castes and Religions of the Scheduled Castes in the Amritsar District

Name of the Scheduled Caste	Rural/ Urban	Population		Total		Name of Religion			
		Males		Females		Hindu			
		3	4	5	6	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total	Rural Urban	2,55,781 49,381	1,34,740 26,962	1,21,041 22,419	67,260 17,687	60,237 14,608	67,480 9,275	60,804 7,911	
Ad Dharmi	Rural Urban	2,047 144	1,125 71	922 73	1,098 69	903 68	27 2	19 5	
Bangali	Rural Urban	— 6	— 5	— 1	— 3	— 1	— 2	— —	
Barar, Barar or Barar	Rural Urban	46 236	38 148	8 88	36 148	5 88	2 —	3 —	
Batwal	Rural Urban	— 140	— 79	— 61	— 77	— 61	— 2	— —	
Bauria or Bawaria	Rural Urban	— 158	— 97	— 61	— 97	— 61	— —	— —	
Bazigar	Rural Urban	2,602 135	1,306 64	1,296 71	1,227 64	1,219 70	79 —	77 1	
Balmiki, Chuhra or Bhangi	Rural Urban	13,620 16,478	7,534 8,907	6,086 7,571	7,502 8,783	6,065 7,489	32 124	21 82	
Bhanjra	Rural Urban	4 7	— 6	4 1	— 5	— 1	— 1	— —	
Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rahgar, Raigar, Ramdasi or Ravdasi	Rural Urban	5,672 5,870	2,973 3,323	2,689 2,547	2,689 2,242	2,465 1,756	314 1,081	234 791	
Dhanak	Rural Urban	6 —	6 —	— —	6 —	— —	— —	— —	
Dhogri, Dhangri or Saggi	Rural Urban	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	
Dumna, Mashasba or Doom	Rural Urban	1,106 2,858	570 1,611	536 1,247	567 1,604	529 1,247	3 7	7 —	

(contd.)

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gagra		Rural	3	1	2	1	2	—	—
Kabirpanthi or Julaha		Urban	3,785	1,981	1,804	1,874	1,696	107	108
Khatik		Rural	3,713	2,067	1,646	1,785	1,311	282	335
Korior Koli		Urban	355	182	173	182	173	—	—
Mazhabi		Rural	11	8	3	8	3	—	—
Megh		Urban	620	420	200	418	200	2	—
Nat		Rural	2,17,282	1,14,261	1,03,021	47,512	42,806	66,749	60,215
Pasi		Urban	14,507	7,876	6,631	160	84	7,716	6,547
Santhal		Rural	93	80	13	80	13	22	21
Sansi, Bhedkut or Manesh		Urban	3,046	1,565	1,481	1,543	1,460	—	—
Sapela		Rural	4	3	1	3	1	—	—
Sarera		Urban	13	132	13	—	13	—	—
Sikligar		Rural	165	—	33	132	33	—	—
Sirkiband		Urban	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Unclassified		Rural	9,424	4,828	4,596	4,674	4,476	154	120
		Urban	816	341	475	340	471	1	4
		Rural	23	2	21	2	21	—	—
		Urban	9	2	7	2	7	—	—
		Rural	9	8	1	8	1	—	—
		Urban	24	12	12	12	12	32	25
		Rural	93	43	50	11	25	—	—
		Urban	14	10	4	10	4	—	—
		Rural	14	14	—	1	—	13	—
		Urban	2	2	—	1	—	1	—

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, p. 317)

PEOPLE

For centuries, the Scheduled Castes have remained downtrodden and have been treated as untouchables. After independence, untouchability was made a penal offence, and the Government has taken necessary steps to ameliorate their lot. In Government services, 25 per cent of the posts are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 5 per cent for the Backward Classes. Land is being given to the landless Harijans. Loans and grants are given to enable them to start small-scale and medium-scale industries.

Hinduism, as practised in the Amritsar District, does not materially differ in main postulates from that practised in the other districts of the Punjab. At best, Hinduism may be described as a way of living with certain variations in beliefs and modes of religious worship. Hinduism varies from animism (the belief that everything has a soul) to pantheism (identity of God with everything that exists). It is also cynically branded as a conglomerate of heterogeneous beliefs. Religion stands for a broad catholic outlook and tolerance for others' beliefs.

Hindus include the followers of various sects, e.g. Sanatan Dharm, Arya Samaj and Radhasoami. Among Sanatan Dharmis, the worship of various *avtars*, like Ram and Krishan, and of *devis* (goddesses) e.g. Vaishno Devi, Chintpurni, Jawalaji, Naina, Devi and Shitla, is quite common. Of late, *Bhajan kirtans*, i.e. recitations of devotional songs in praise of gods and goddesses, have become popular. *Jagratas* (recitation of devotional songs throughout the night) are also held.

People also worship animate and inanimate objects, e.g. the cow, the *peepal*-tree and the *tulsi* plant. They also believe in phallic worship.

Superstitions and belief in witchcraft, sorcery, etc. are common among illiterate persons.

Radhasoamis.—The Radhasoami Sat Sang, Beas, was founded by Baba Jaimal Singh in 1891. At the instance of his guru, Swamiji Maharaj of Agra, he founded the Dera, situated on the western bank of the River Beas. These headquarters of the sect are known as Dera Baba Jaimal Singh and are situated about 8 km from the Beas Railway Station (in the Amritsar Tahsil). By the end of the nineteenth century, there were only a few huts. Baba Jaimal Singh was succeeded by Baba Sawan Singh. During his pontificalcy for nearly 40 years, the sect progressed, and more and more of *satsangis* were enrolled. He was succeeded by Baba Jagat Singh. The present Guru, Baba Charan Singh—the fourth in the line—is the grandson of the second Guru, Baba Sawan Singh. In 1957, he transferred the entire *Dera* property, valued at about 6—7 lakhs of rupees, to the corporate body of the *satsangis*. Up to that time, the Guru was its legal owner. The Guruship is not hereditary, but is bestowed by the living Guru on another, keeping

in view his merit, sense of duty and dedication. The word Radhasoami, though well known to the Hindus, has a different meaning for the Radhasoamis. 'Radha' they interpret as the soul (*atma*) and 'Soami' (the owner), i.e. *Paramatma*. The name of the sect was probably selected to make it appear most attractive to the Hindus and the Sikhs alike. The sect, popularly known as Sat Sang (congregation), does not require its disciple to renounce his religion. A follower of any faith can become a '*satsangi*'. A person is, however, called upon to abstain from the use of liquor, meat and eggs. The *satsangi* is required to follow the special moral and religious code. The Guru preaches *bani* in the form of sayings from different religions. The sect has imbibed the good points of every religion. The Guru gives discourses at Beas—the headquarters—and at other important stations, as and when invited by a sizeable group of devotees. The present Guru has also started giving discourses abroad. He, however, initiates new *satsangis* into the sect at Beas. The initiation given by him to his *satsangis* is supposed to be kept secret. In his teachings, his main emphasis is on discovering oneself from within—*dasandwar*—the name given to the forehead. He preaches that a living *guru* or enlightener is absolutely essential for the salvation of a devotee. *Satsangis* are found all over the world, though their number is small. About 200 foreigners from about 70 countries annually attend the Satsang at Beas. The sect also attaches importance to submission and humility. To curb one's ego, one is required to perform *mitti ki sewa*, i.e. to throw *mitti* (earth) from highlands into ravines washed by the river and *Kai ki sewa*, i.e. to collect reeds from the bank of the river to be used as fuel for the *langar* (free kitchen). On the occasions of congregations, outsiders are served food from the *langar*, whereas the *satsangis* usually take meals from the canteen on payment.

The total number of *satsangis* who have received initiation is over 4 lakhs. Since the statistics are not maintained by the Dera district-wise, it is not possible to give the number of *satsangis* residing in the Amritsar District. A detailed description of the Dera is given in the chapter 'Places of Interest'.

Jains.—The Jains number 1,987 (1,119 males and 868 females) in the district and have settled mostly in Amritsar, Patli and Jandiala Guru. They are essentially a peace-loving, law-abiding and commercial community. They are engaged mostly in business and industry. They are of medium stature and intelligent and possess special business acumen.

The Jains are divided into two main groups: Digambara and Shvetambara. The former group roams unclothed and the latter puts on white robes.

Jains are strictly vegetarian. They even abstain from the use of garlic and onion.

Muhammadans.—According to the 1961 Census, the number of Muhammadans in the district was 2,401 (2,125 males and 276 females). They include very few local Punjabi Muhammadans. They are usually from Ludhiana or Malerkotla (Sangrur District) and visit Amritsar on business. A good number of the Muhammadans from Kashmir are engaged in shawl-embroidering, and in the darning of woollen garments. There are also a few Muhammadans from the northern Uttar Pradesh, who reside in Amritsar and are engaged in miscellaneous occupations, e.g. tailoring, cobblery, cotton-carding and rickshaw-driving. They are also of the migratory type.

The Muhammadans have two notable sects, viz. Sunnis and Shias. Before the partition of 1947, the Khoja Muslims, belonging to the Shia faith, were residing in large numbers in Amritsar, but, on the partition of the country they migrated to Pakistan. Presently, the Muslims residing in the district are mostly Sunnis.

The most important festivals of the Muhammadans are Id-al-Fitar, following the close of Ramzan; Id-al-Azha held on Zu'l Haj 10—the last day of the Haj Pilgrimage and Id-al-Milad, i.e. the celebration of the prophet's birthday. The Shias observe Muharram, a period of mourning extending over ten days, to commemorate the martyrdom of Hussain and Hussain. The Muslims also celebrate Shab-i-Brat with great pomp and show. Like Diwali among the Hindus, they display fireworks and distribute sweets while celebrating this festival.

Before the partition, the principal Muhammadan gathering used to be at Kotli Shah Habib, the shrine of the saint near Ramdas in the Ajnala Tahsil. After the partition, there has occurred neither such a gathering, nor a fair has been held at the shrine of any other Muslim saint in the district.

Sikhs.—Sikhs number 9,90,344 in the district. They include the Khatri Sikhs, the Arora Sikhs, the Jat Sikhs, the Kamboh Sikhs and the Scheduled Castes Sikhs.

The Khatri Sikhs have castes and subcastes like the Hindu Khatri. They are divided into different groups, viz. Sarin, Baunjais, Khokarian Bradari, Jumman and Josan. Previously, the Khatri Sikhs used to marry among their respective groups but, after partition, they have started contracting marriages with other Khatri groups as well. The Khatri Sikh contract marriages even with Hindu Khatri.

The Khatri Sikhs even hold land in the district. They, however, do not cultivate it themselves, but give it on *batai*. Normally, they are settled in business and industry. They are very apt in business. They are of good disposition like their Hindu counterparts. They have also started joining public and private services. Their Hindu counterparts, who have migrated from the N.W.F.P. (Pakistan), are generally engaged in business, including the running of hotels and restaurants.

The Arora Sikhs are mostly found in big towns, especially in Amritsar. They were living there even before the partition. Their Hindu counterparts, who have migrated from Pakistan, are also very intelligent and hard-working. They believe in the dignity of labour. After the partition, they took up petty jobs and gradually have established themselves well. The local Arora residents are also doing well in business. They have also started joining public services. They are sturdy and of good disposition.

The Arora Sikhs, too, are divided into sub-castes and groups like those of their Hindu counterparts. They contract marriages with Arora Sikhs and with Arora Hindus. There was a practice among Aroras in Pakistan to make the eldest son in the family a Sikh. Since the district constituted the headquarters of the Sikh religion, this practice was quite common among the local residents as well. Thus many Arora families in the district are a happy blend of Hindus and Sikhs.

Jats.—The Jats constitute the most important section of the Sikh population. The stronghold of the Sikh Jats is that part of the district, which is known as Majha. This term is sometimes loosely used to denote the whole of the upper part of the Bari Doab, as distinguished from the Malwa, the country lying south of the Satluj, and including most of the Ludhiana, Patiala and Ferozpur Districts and part of the Jullundur District. But a Sikh Jat of Amritsar, while speaking of Majha, refers more particularly to that part of the Tarn Taran Tahsil which lies below the Badshahi Road from Atari to Govindwal and to Kasur and part of the Chunian Tahsil of Lahore. Ajnala Tahsil is not counted as in the Majha, nor, properly speaking, is the Amritsar Tahsil. Now that the old Badshahi Road has been superseded by the Grand Trunk Road, the limits of Majha have, in common speech, been extended, and the whole of that part of the Amritsar District which lies on the right of a traveller going towards Jullundur on the Grand Trunk Road, is spoken of as Majha. Jullundur and Kapurthala are spoken of as Doaba; anything beyond that is vaguely termed Malwa; and different parts of the Amritsar Tahsil are referred to by mentioning

the names of some central village, such as "Majitha-ki-taraf" or "Mahta-ki-taraf". In short, the Sikh Jat of Amritsar, in speaking of Majha, may be understood to exclude the Bangar of the Amritsar Tahsil, the Jandiala sand ridge, the *naihri* (canal-irrigated) country around Amritsar (where Kambohs and miscellaneous tribes become most numerous) and the Ajnala Tahsil where there is a strong admixture of migrants from Pakistan and the Jats, who are so migrants numerous in the riverain tract. The Sikh Jats of whom the Majha Sikhs are the pick, are the finest of the Amritsar peasantry. In physique, they are inferior to no race of peasants in the region, and among them are men who in any country in the world would be considered fine specimens of the human race. The Sikh Jat is generally tall and muscular, with well-shaped limbs, erect carriage, and strongly marked and handsome features. They are frugal and industrious, though not intellectual; they have considerable shrewdness in the ordinary affairs of life, and are outspoken and possessed of unusual independence of character. They are certainly litigious; their natural stubbornness leading them to persevere in a case long after all chances of success are gone; but, at the same time, they are perhaps as honest and simple a race as any is to be found in India. They make admirable soldiers, when well led. They are inferior to no Indian troops. They have more dogged courage than dash; they are steady in the field, and trustworthy in difficult circumstances. In private life, they are not remarkable for chastity, and they are largely addicted to the use of intoxicating drugs or spirits. The women are inferior in physique to the men, and age sooner, probably from the effects of early marriages, and are not remarkable for beauty. But they have the same industrious habits as the men and make excellent housewives, frugal and careful in management, and enjoy a very considerable amount of influence in the family. That the basic characteristics of the race have not changed is evident from Macfarquhar's sketch in his assessment reports: "Shrewd and assertive, yet ignorant and easily led, every enterprise finds in him a potential recruit. At his best abroad, he is a dullard at home. His lusty brutality sees nothing attractive in spending its energy on improved farming and reacts from the monotony of the rural round in individual violence or as the instrument of mass agitation *morchas*, and murders are endemic in the Majha. But the turbulent qualities, for which the village offers no safety-valve, serve very well discipline in other spheres. As a fine soldier and a successful pioneer, the Jat is widely known. And, in the evening of life, he returns home from foreign countries or from the army, to exercise his pitiless commercial instincts and invest his earnings for further profit at the expense of his untravelled brothers". In the Amritsar Tahsil, the Jat "is more sensible and solid fellow than his cousin in the Tarn Taran Majha. His mind is more his own and less the property of every agitator. He is readier to direct his energies into profitable channels and has made a considerable success of commercial enterprises far beyond the borders of the district".

Sub-divisions of the Jats

A list of different sub-divisions of the Jats and their distribution by tahsils is discussed hereunder :

(i) **Sandhus.**—The Sandhu⁶ Jats are the strongest clan in the district. They are found in detached villages in the three tahsils of Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Ajnala, but muster especially strong in the south-east corner of Tarn Taran. The central village of this group is Sirhali Kalan, and from this they have founded and peopled the ring of villages which lie around it. Here, they held thirty-two villages. This part of the tahsil was formerly known as the Khara Majha, a bleak treeless tract with deep brackish wells, a soil sometimes poor and sandy, but generally hard and unpromising, and an uncertain rainfall. Canal irrigation has changed the appearance of the country. The holdings being small, the Sandhus have always taken eagerly to military service. Military service is traditional among the Sandhus, and from this tribe the Sikhs drew many of their best men. They are the best specimens of the Majha Jat which the district can show. Men in service find it easy to dispose of their land by mortgage during their absence. It is easily redeemed out of savings on their return, and in every village there are pensioners who are only too ready to take it up, and advance money on it. The clan is found in some strength in the neighbouring corner of the Patti Tahsil, and also across the Satluj in Firozpur, but there is no other collection of Sandhu villages in Amritsar. The Sandhus of the Sirhali Kalan, *ilaqa* have an ancient feud with the Pannuns of Naushehra and Chaudhriwala, which is said to have arisen from a murder by a Sirhali Kalan man of a Pannuan connection by marriage. The two clans are now on fairly good terms but things have not improved so much as to permit marriages between the Pannuns of these two villages and the Sandhus of the Sirhali Kalan neighbourhood. The Sandhus are independent and not much given to abide by the law, and their headmen have little authority.

(ii) **Gills.**—Gills are the next strongest clan. They are known as excellent and hardworking cultivators. They hold about twenty-five villages in whole or in part in Tarn Taran, but they are scattered all over the tahsil. They muster strongest in the Amritsar Tahsil, near Majitha. Majitha and Sohian Kalan (part) in the Amritsar Tahsil, and Dhotian in Tarn Taran are the largest settlements of this clan.

(iii) **Dhillons.**—The Dhillons are found mostly in Majha, in fact, along with the Sandhus, Gills, Pannuns, Aulakhs and Sidhus, they take up nearly the whole of Majha proper. But the Dhillons reside farther up the Tarn Taran

⁶The name of the Jat clan Sandhu is a mere variant of Sindhu (H.A. Rose, *A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province*, Vol. III (Reprinted 1970), p. 351)

Tahsil, in the upper half of it—the country in which the Bhangi Misl was once supreme. They hold twenty-eight whole villages and parts of others, and many of their villages are among the largest in the tahsil, such as Kairon, Paddri, Gaggobua, Panjwar, Jhabal, Dhand, Kasel, Gandiwind, Serai Amanat Khan and Leian. All these are typical Majha villages, and supply many recruits to the army, especially the villages of Dhand and Kairon. In the other tahsils, the clan is more scattered, but they are fairly scattered over the Amritsar Bangar, and across the Beas in Kapurthala. The Amritsar Dhillons say that they came originally from the Majha, but this is doubtful. They marry all *gots* except the Bals. The story is that a family bard, or *mirasi*, from a Dhillon village was refused help, when in difficulty in the Bal *ilaqa*, and in revenge cursed the whole Bal clan. *Mirasis* were in those days more of a power than they are now, and the Dhillon clan took up the feud, which survive to this day in the refusal to intermarry. The Dhillons of Amritsar, who live alongside the Bals of the Sathiala *ilaqa*, do not carry the feud further than this, but those of Majha will not eat or drink in a Bal village, or from the same dish as a Bal.

(iv) **Randhawas.**—The Randhawas come next. They are hardly met within the Tarn Taran Tahsil but are very strong all along the Batala border, and down the sand ridge in the Amritsar Tahsil, especially near Mahta and as far as Kathunangal. They rank high as cultivators, and cane-growing is their speciality. Several leading men during the Sikh period belonged to this *got*.

(v) **Aulakhs.**—The Aulakh Jats are most numerous in the Ajnala Tahsil, but there is also a cluster of nine villages around Shahbazpur in the Tarn Taran Tahsil, held by this clan. Though quite a small village, Shahbazpur is well known, and the corner of the Majha in which it lies takes its name from the village and is generally known as “Shahbazpur ki taraf”. But it is around Kohala in Ajnala that the Aulakhs are encountered in strength and their chief villages are Kohala, Kohali, Lopoke, Chawinda Khurd and Chawinda Kalan, Mandoke, Barar and Chogawan. The larger portion of their country is profusely irrigated by the Upper Bari Doab Canal, and they are a prosperous and well-to-do clan, though with small holdings.

(vi) **Chahils.**—They own sixteen villages near Sheron Baga in the Amritsar Tahsil.

(vii) **Sidhus.**—The Sidhus hold, around Atari and Bhakna, fourteen villages in all. The Atari family belongs to this clan. They have a few representatives in other parts of the district, their country being mostly in the Firozpur and Faridkot Districts where they hold the entire south and west of Moga, the Mehraj villages, the greater part of southern Muktsar and numerous villages in the sandy tracts of the Firozpur and Zira Tahsils. They trace their descent from Raja Jaisal, a Manj Rajput, from one of whose descendants, Barar, have sprung the ruling families of Patiala, Faridkot, Nabha and Jind. Other details of the Sidhu clan, also known as the Barars in Firozpur, will be found in the

Gazetteer of the Firozpur District, where the clan is of the first importance. The Sidhus of Amritsar are almost entirely Sikhs and live in the Tarn Taran Tahsil.

(viii) **Other Gots of Jats.**—The Bal Jats hold the large villages of Bal Khurd and Bal Kalan near Amritsar, besides Sathiala, Butala, Jodha and Bal Serai, in the Bangar of Amritsar, and twenty-three villages in all. The Pannun Jats, who have spread from the Doaba, own seven large estates in the Majha, including Naushehra and Chaudhriwala. The principal village of the Chhina Jats is Harse Chhina, near Raja Sansi, in Ajnala. The Sadal Jats, all inhabit the Amritsar Tahsil. The Bhullars are a fairly numerous clan and with the Mans and part of the Hers have the honour of being known as *asli* or original Jats, all others having enrolled themselves in the great tribe of Jats at a later date. No satisfactory explanation is forthcoming for all the Hers not being ranked as originals nor is it clear whether any particular village or family belongs to the original clan or not. The Bhullars hold the large villages of Khihalla (Khurd and Kalan) in the Ajnala Tahsil. They and the Sohals, inhabiting the village of that name in Tarn Taran, have the notoriety of being among the most lawless people in the district. The Kangs hold a compact cluster of villages near Tarn Taran, chief among which are Kang, Kalla and Mal Chak. The Jhawara Jats of Matewal and the neighbourhood and the Mahil Jats of Ajnala are not now classed separately in the census returns.

Kambohs.—The Kambohs take quite the first rank as cultivators in the district. Their industry is proverbial, and they seem to get more out of the land than even the Jats. They are found principally to the right and left of the Grand Trunk Road, on each side of Jandiala Guru, their best villages being Bahoru, Nizampurah, Nawanpind, Taragarh, Thattian and Jahangir. The Sikh Kambohs are in every way similar to the Jats. They take the *pahul*. In appearance they are usually shorter and more thickest than Jats, with less pronounced features, and altogether showless breeding. They have their *gots* just as the Jats have (the chief being Marok, Josan and Jand) and marriage within the *got* is forbidden. But they never marry outside the tribe, with Jats or other Sikhs, and even with the Sainis of the Doaba they have no connection. It is probably only within the last hundred years that they have come to be recognized as owners of land in Amritsar, and that in former times the highest status they could aspire to was that of tenants with some right of occupancy in the land on which they had been settled, and had broken up. There are numbers of them in the city, where they excel as market-gardners, but the city Kambohs are often in debt and are not so prosperous as those living in the villages. Like Arains, they are easily induced to leave home in the hope of extra profit as cultivators in the canal-irrigated tracks. At home, they are generally found cultivating as tenants in several villages around their own, and, having little land of their own, and being given to multiplying fast, they are willing to pay a high rent. As farmers they are unsurpassed, being careful of their land and their cattle, and never sparing themselves.

The Sikhs have great respect for their Ten Gurus. Their holy book is the *Adi-Granth*, i.e., the *Granth Sahib*. They have uncompromising belief in monotheism. Their place of worship and the centre of their community life is the *gurdwara*. The *Adi-Granth* is kept in it for devotional study and recitation. This book is installed in a *gurdwara* with great devotion and reverence. The *Dasam Granth* (composition of the Tenth Guru) is also shown great reverence, but it is not placed in a *gurdwara*.

The Amritsar District is the biggest centre of the Sikh religion. Guru Angad Dev, Guru Amar Das, Guru Ram Das, Guru Arjan Dev and Guru Hargobind mostly resided in the district. The historic *gurdwaras* in their memory are at Khadur Sahib, Govindwal, Amritsar and Tarn Taran.

The seasonal festivals of the Sikhs are almost the same as observed by the Hindus. Besides, they celebrate the *gurpurbs*, i.e., the birth anniversaries of Guru Nanak Dev and Guru Gobind Singh, and the martyrdom days of Guru Arjan Dev and Guru Tegh Bahadur. Hola Mohalla is celebrated instead of Holi.

A few sects among the Sikhs are Nihangs, Namdharis, Nirankaris, etc. The Nihangs have a dozen of *deras* in the district.

(d) Social Life

The Indian Society is caste-ridden. No religion in the country can boast of having eliminated it. This district could not be an exception to it. Not long ago, people would mix up more freely within their castes. They had, however, great attachment with their community, village and *mohallas*, and were quite social with one another. They lived in localities, organized caste-wise or group-wise. A particular caste or community of Hindus, Sikhs and Muhammadans had settled in a particular street or *mohalla*. The residents of the streets were generally from the same stock, forming a *bradari*. The *bradari* exercised a powerful influence over the individual in regard to his social and personal behaviour. Every man was bound to abide by the decisions of the *bradari* and was also required to have fellow-feelings.

With the advent of the railways, construction of roads, spread of education, increase of trade and commerce, and development of industry, the avenues of livelihood radically changed. The socio-economic changes have thrown up tremendous opportunities of employment in the urban areas. This has, therefore, considerably lessened the control of the particular caste or group in particular areas. People have left their abodes for better avenues elsewhere and they have been replaced by others. The supremacy of the *bradari* has broken, but the *mohalla* feeling in the urban areas still persists in a milder form. The villages, however, have not experienced any rapid change. People are quite social with their neighbours and mix with one another freely. Though the sting of hatred for Scheduled Castes stands extracted with the passage of Untouchability

(Offences) Act, 1956, yet the people of other castes and groups do not freely mix with them in the *mohallas*. Surprisingly enough, they have no such scruples while sitting in hotels, restaurants, cinemas, railway trains and buses. The Scheduled Castes generally live in separate *bastis*.

The joint-family system appears to have outlived its utility. If seen more minutely, it still exists in a changed form. A person working in the urban areas as a labourer or workman generally keeps his family in his home village. Even when he is keeping his family with him, he has to do something to help the aged parents residing in the village in the shape of financial help on special occasions, e.g., a marriage, the construction of a house, and illness. He has to think also of ultimately returning to his ancestral village during old age unless he is properly provided for in the urban area. Similarly, a man belonging to the urban areas and working somewhere else has connections with his family in his home district. This arrangement continues till he becomes the head of a separate family after the marriage of his son and daughters.

Despite tremendous scientific progress, people still generally believe in superstitions and sorcery. Although the spread of education and advances in medical science have considerably enlightened the people, yet the belief in superstitions persists. Uneducated people believe in sorcery to a great extent and the educated people also cannot be said to be entirely free from its influence. While going out for some piece of work, if someone sneezes, or if a cat crosses the path or if anybody calls from behind, these are taken as bad omens. Instead of running to a doctor when one is sick among the lower strata, they rush to ascetics practising sorcery—believed to be a cure for their ills.

After independence, the practice of *pardah* has almost disappeared from among the Hindus and the Sikhs. The middle-aged ladies in the villages, however, still observe it. The practice may be expected to disappear in a decade or so. Elderly Muhammadan ladies, however, observe *pardah*, but it is on the wane among modern educated girls.

(i) Property and Inheritance

The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, governs the inheritance of the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains. In accordance with the Act, the property of the deceased is distributed among his sons, daughters, widow and mother. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, governs the adoption of the children and the maintenance allowance to the wife.

Muslims are governed under the Shariat Act, 1937. Under Islamic law, the son/sons, wife/wives and daughter/daughters inherit the property of the deceased. Wife is the sole owner of *mehr* given to her at the time of marriage.

Inheritance among Christians is governed under the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

(ii) Marriage and Morals

Marriage.—Amongst the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Muslims, marriage is performed according to the customs prevalent in their respective communities. These may vary from place to place but not to any significant extent. A civil marriage is performed in accordance with the Special Marriage Act, 1954. It is open to any community and is performed in case of inter-caste or inter-religion marriage.

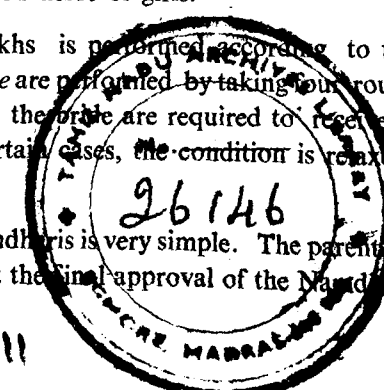
Among Hindus, marriage is considered most sacred and obligatory. Manu, the famous Hindu law-giver, classified marriages into eight types. Marriage amongst the Hindus and Sikhs is generally arranged by the parents. When the preliminaries are settled by the parents, the father of the girl, accompanied by certain relations or friends, visits the house of the boy and offers money and sweets. This custom is called *thaka*. It is not prevalent in the villages. When the regular engagement takes place, the boy is given seven dry dates by the father of the girl along with money and sweets. Some clothes and ornaments are also sent by the boy's parents for the girl. After consulting the horoscope, the date of the wedding is fixed. A day before marriage, the *ghori* (mare) ceremony is observed. After the *ghori* ceremony, the boy stays either in a temple or with some friend.

On the following day, the *brat* (marriage-party) moving in a procession, with the boy riding a mare, and led by bandsmen, proceeds to the bride's house with great pomp and show. The latest trend is performance of *bhangra*, i. e. a dance, in front of the marriage procession by men and women. Fireworks are also displayed. The pomp and show of the *brat* depends upon the economic position of the boy's parents. In front of the bride's house, the *milni* (reception) takes place among the relations of the boy and the girl. Gifts and money are given by the girl's relations. The *brat* is cordially received and is served sumptuous meals. The ceremony of *lawan* or *phere* is performed and the priest solemnizes it. The next day (or even the same day), the *brat* returns to the boy's home with the bride and dowry. The bridegroom's mother receives the bride with *shagun*.

The commercial class of the Amritsar city, popularly known as *la'as*, spend lavishly on marriages, particularly on those of girls.

The marriage among the Sikhs is performed according to the *Anand Karj* Act, 1909. The *lawan* or *phere* are performed by taking four rounds of the Holy Granth. The bridegroom and the bride are required to receive the *Pahul* or *Amrit* before marriage. In certain cases, the condition is relaxed and the *Amrit* is taken after marriage.

The marriage among the Namdhari is very simple. The parents of the boy and the girl settle the marriage, but the final approval of the Namdhari Guru is



a must. The marriage ceremony is performed by the Guru *en masse*. The prospective matches assemble in a big circle, duly bathed and robed in white. Their kerchiefs are knotted together. The *lawan* ceremony is performed by chanting hymns from the *Granth Sahib*. Five stanzas of *Anand Sahib* are recited. The distribution of *prasad* completes the wedding ceremony.

Among the Muhammadans, the marriage is called *nikah*, which is a mutual contract agreed upon by both the parties. The marriage is arranged by the parents of the boy and the girl, either through direct negotiations or through some mediator. The initiative is taken by the groom's parents. The amount of the *mehr* by the bridegroom to the bride is settled. *Mangni*, i.e., betrothal, takes place at the bride's house. With the usual feast, the *nikah* takes place. The bride's wakil (agent) obtains her consent in the presence of two witnesses and conveys it to the groom. The *mullah* or deputy obtains the consent of the bridegroom and sanctifies the *nikah*.

Among the Shia Muslims, the consent of the bridegroom is obtained first. The vakils of the bride and the bridegroom stand before each other and one asks the other if the consent has been obtained.

Marriage among the Christians is performed in the church. The priest performs the marriage ceremony after baptising the bride and the bridegroom. The relations and friends of both assemble to greet the couple and are served with a feast.

Widow remarriage

It is not very popular amongst the higher classes of Hindus. The vigorous propagation by the Arya Samaj in favour of widow remarriage has not achieved any tangible results. The widow remarriage with *dewar* (younger brother-in-law) in the villages by customary law—*chadar-andazi* is, however, generally practised among the Sikhs. Muslims believe in widow remarriage, but their number being negligible in the district, no effect of this custom is noticed. The Christians also believe in widow remarriage.

Widow remarriage is not only a progressive step in itself in the social field, but it is also an economic necessity. The new avenues of employment for women have, however, considerably eliminated it as an economic necessity. Even widows are able to earn their livelihood by getting themselves employed in government or private service.

Morals.—There is nothing special in the district to justify the describing of any separate standards of morals. Every person eventually adopts the customary relations of conjugality. The disreputed persons or those who are extremely poor or are otherwise disabled or are suffering from infectious diseases do

not marry or cannot get married. The percentage of well-to-do persons remaining unmarried is extremely small. This percentage is negligible among girls. Polygamy is not practised, or it is only a rare phenomenon. Those, with more than one living wife, are debarred from Government service. In villages, people marry the widows of their brothers according to the custom of *chadar-andazi* owing to economic necessity or to check the spread of immorality. Sometimes, persons already married contract conjugal relations with the widows of their brothers, whom they keep as their second wives under the above-mentioned custom.

Prostitution ended in the Punjab with the exodus of Muslims much earlier than the passage of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956.

The cases of immoral traffic in women generally escape the notice of the police. Only such cases as are reported to the police are investigated. The cases of immoral traffic in women and girls occur, because the labourers generally keep their families in the villages owing to the high cost of living in the cities and also owing to their irregular employment. They are, as such, addicted to liquor or other such vices and commit immoral traffic in women. This lapse is also not altogether absent amongst the rich who indulge in such practices on account of their affluence and privileged social status. The growing disregard of the traditional cultural values among the people—rich and poor alike—is also one of the causes of increased moral laxity.

The cases of elopement, enticement and abduction also cannot be properly checked, as these are generally caused by mutual consent. Since the percentage of such cases is negligible, it can hardly be inferred that these cases have anything to do with the prevalent moral standards.

Birth and Death Ceremonies.—Among the Hindus, the ceremonies begin even before the birth of the child. When the mother is expectant, she is served with gifts (*reet*) amid rejoicing among relations and neighbours (women). When the child is born, the *dai* announces the birth to the members of the family. In case of a male child, the *dai* hangs some branches of *sarish*-tree from the top of the outer door of the house. An iron bangle is also tied to the cot of the mother. The oldest member in the family, father-in-law, if the delivery takes place in her in-laws' house, or her father, in case the delivery takes place in her father's house, consults the priest if the time of the birth is auspicious. If otherwise, *upai* (expiatory ceremony) is held. If the child is stated to be *gund mool* (born under bad stars), necessary remedies are practised by the priest after a certain number of days and, only after that, *gund mool* is deemed to have been removed. No such formalities are observed when a female child is born. The child is named after consulting the priest. Nowadays, people do not bother the priest and name the

child themselves. The *mundan* ceremony of a male child is performed before his attaining the age of five. The parents of the mother of the child send presents and clothes on the occasion. Some people perform the *mundan* ceremony at the holy shrines of Vaishno Devi (near Jammu) or Chintpurni (near Hoshiarpur). These customs, however, vary from family to family and from individual to individual.

The ceremonies among the Hindus and the Sikhs are practically the same. The *sutak* period of 40 days is not strictly observed by mothers, especially in the rural areas. Instead of the *mundan* ceremony, the Sikhs perform *kesi dahi* by putting curd into the hair of the male child and bathing him. The custom is practically extinct amongst the Jats.

Among the Muslims no ceremony is observed when a female child is born. On the birth of a male child, the *mullah* comes on any day between the first day and the third day of the birth and utters the *kalma* in the ear of the child. After three days, the mother comes out with the child in her lap and gazes at the sky and the stars. The period of impurity ends with the fast (*iqiqa*). The child is named in consultation with the *mullah*.

Circumcision (*sunnat*) of the male child is performed before he attains the age of twelve. A child born circumcised is called a *Rasulia*.

In case of death among the Hindus and the Sikhs, the dead body is bathed and wrapped in a piece of white cloth and placed on the bier. In case of the death of a very old person, the bier is tastefully decorated and taken to the cremation-ground without any usual mourning and is sometimes accompanied by a band. At the cremation-ground, the dead body is placed on the pyre and burnt by adding ghee and *samagri* to it. On the third day, the ashes, i. e., charred bones (*phul*, as these are called) are collected and, subsequently, immersed in the holy Ganga at Hardwar (U. P.) The Sikhs generally immerse the ashes in the Satluj at Patalpuri near Kiratpur (District Ropar). The mourning period lasts for thirteen days among the Hindus and seven days among the Sikhs.

The Jains also burn their dead. The obsequies are performed by their priest. The notable difference is that they do not mourn their dead and instead forget everything about them after their cremation.

Among the Muslims, the dead body is covered with cloth, put on the bier and taken to the graveyard. The last prayer is offered near the graveyard. The dead body is laid to rest in the grave, the head being towards the north and face towards the west. After filling the grave with earth the *mullah* recites verses from the Koran. The relations and friends, who have assembled, pray for the deceased. After forty days, alms are distributed among the poor and the needy.

The Christians also bury their dead. They put the dead body in the coffin (a wooden box) and the priest offers prayers. The coffin is taken to the cemetery and laid to rest in the grave. After closing the grave, they line it with bricks. Sometimes an epitaph is installed towards the head of the dead body, giving brief particulars about the person.

(iii) Home life

Types of Dwellings.—From the earliest times, the types of dwellings of the people have reflected their material, cultural and social progress. The rich and well-to-do persons generally constructed their houses in the centre of the villages. The lofty *havelis*, rising among the clusters of small houses, are an index of the economic status of the owners. Similarly, in the towns, the rich persons constructed houses which ensured the greatest security for the occupants. Amritsar could easily boast to be one of the biggest cities of the Punjab during the nineteenth century, and, in the truncated and reorganized Punjab, the city continues to enjoy the highest status. The maximum number of houses were built within the walled city. Around the city, there was a ditch. The open space in the houses served as courtyards which have generally disappeared in case of small houses. It was after the eighties of the nineteenth century when the said ditch was got filled with debris by the Municipal Committee that the people started residing outside the walled city.

Amritsar is one of the most congested cities in the State. It has 7,398 houses per square mile (only next to Ludhiana having 8,202 houses per square mile). Patti, primarily a Muhammadan town before 1947, is also an equally congested town. The main cause of congestion in Amritsar has been that, being a trading centre, more and more people wished to settle here. Additional accommodation could only be found by raising more structures in the courtyards. As against Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Jandiala Guru and Khem Karan have been comparatively free from congestion.

After the partition, the concept of the types of houses has altogether changed. Houses are now built on modern designs and are generally provided with all the amenities, including underground drainage.

In the rural areas, the improvement in this respect has not been so marked. The houses in the Amritsar and Tarn Taran tahsils are mostly pucca. Some of the villages in the Ajnala Tahsil and in the Patti Tahsil (near Khem Karan) are completely *kachcha*. This is due to the economic backwardness of the people or due to their keen desire to invest their money in agriculture. However, the villages have mostly been electrified.

The houses in the villages are quite commodious. The cattle are tied there. Fodder and foodgrains are also stored. The middle-class farmers

construct a pucca outer room, called *baithak* (sitting-room). Generally, they do not make any provision for bath-rooms and latrines in the houses.

The houses of well-to-do people in the rural areas are mostly pucca. These are generally on the pattern of the houses built in the towns.

There are 3,59,335 houses in the district. Out of these 1,22,281 are in the urban areas and 2,37,054 in the rural areas. Out of the 1,22,281 urban houses 90,180 are in Amritsar. Out of the total number of houses, 1,066 are shop-cum-dwellings in the rural areas and 714 in the urban areas, and 148 workshop-cum-dwellings in the rural areas and 210 in the urban areas. The tahsil-wise break-up of the houses is as under :—

Name of Tahsil	Number of houses	Dwellings	Shop-cum-dwellings	Workshop cum-dwellings
Ajnala Tahsil				
Total	48,382	29,678	110	30
Rural	47,360	29,072	106	24
Urban	1,022	606	4	6
Amritsar Tahsil				
Total	1,91,757	1,39,906	1,051	237
Rural	82,796	64,304	483	72
Urban	1,08,961	75,602	568	165
Tarn Taran Tahsil				
Total	75,247	58,615	384	81
Rural	69,428	55,029	271	46
Urban	5,819	3,586	113	35
Patti Tahsil				
Total	43,949	34,017	235	10
Rural	37,470	29,848	206	6
Urban	6,479	4,169	29	4

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, p. 292)

Furniture and Decoration.—The items of furniture and decoration in the rural and urban areas of the district do not differ much from those generally prevalent in the rest of the State.

Normally, a house in the rural areas has charpoys, *pihris*, *muhra*s, *bara muhras* and occasionally a chair and a table. Better-class rural people have also a radio or a transistor for recreation.

The items of decoration include calendars of gods and goddesses, the Gurus, national leaders, actresses, etc. hung on the walls. Sometime they also fix wooden plank, supported by pegs, to a wall to keep on it pieces of crockery, toys, etc. They also plaster the inner walls and the floor of the house (if it is *kachcha*) with cow-dung. Occasionally, they also paint some figures of animals and birds on the outer gate to decorate the house. The pucca houses have also some painted work at the gate for ornamentation. The interior of such houses is decorated with framed pictures and calendars. Such houses have some items of furniture, e. g., chairs and tables, besides *niwari plangs*.

In the urban areas, normally *plangs*, tables and chairs are used. Radiosets and transistors are also commonly seen. There are also pieces of crockery although cheap, e. g. tea-sets, tea-cups and plates; sometimes the middle-class people can afford more items of furniture, but the acute shortage of accommodation discourages them from buying these.

The houses of rich people in the rural and urban areas have all the modern items of furniture, e.g. sofa-sets, divans, carpets, and decoration pieces. In the urban areas, such houses have even refrigerators. These people have generally spacious accommodation.

The side-effect of the rapid urbanization and industrialization of Amritsar is the emergence of slums. The industrial labourer, getting better wages than the village labourer, is obliged to find shelter in dingy slums. He can at best afford to hire a one-room set which is to serve as bed, drawing and dining room. The Amritsar Improvement Trust has undertaken certain housing schemes to eliminate the slums.

Dress and Ornaments

Dress

The climate, tradition and heritage of a locality play an important part in the development of the dress of the residents. The people of the surrounding areas and countries also have significant impact on the dress pattern of the people of a particular area. For instance, the Muhammadans left a notable

impact on our dress. *Shalwar* and *qamiz*, put on generally by unmarried Hindu and Sikh girls, is essentially a Muhammadan dress. During the British rule in the Punjab for about a century, following the annexation of the Punjab in 1849, the European dress also gained considerable popularity, especially among the educated people.

The dress of men in rural areas is *kurta*, *tahmad* made of long-cloth and a turban. They generally wear *desi jutti* (country shoes). The Western type of shoes are also fairly common. The notable thing among the Majha people is that they keep a sheet of long-cloth on their shoulders in summer and woollen or shoddy shawl in winter. They generally apply starch to their turbans but do not colour them. They tie the turban in a quaintropé like fashion in a loose manner. From his typical turban, a Majha Jat can be recognized without much difficulty. The people of rural areas, belonging to the Khem Karan side, leave one end of the turban on the back. In winter, they generally put on a black woollen jackets. The women of rural areas have no peculiarity about their dress. They wear *shalwar*, *qamiz* and *dopatta* (*orhni*). The wearing of a *sari* is almost unknown in the villages.

The dress of lower classes and the Scheduled Castes in the rural areas is not different from that of the other residents. The only difference is that they have a marked liking for gaudy colours.

The dress in the urban areas, especially of the people of Amritsar, is noteworthy. The educated people dress themselves in the European fashion and their dress is not different from that of the people in other parts of the State. The members of the commercial community, called *lalas*, dress themselves in white. They wear either a fine *dhori* or a white *pyjama*, a white shirt and a black cap. In winter, they also wear sweaters and coats. Besides, they keep a woollen *chaddar* on their shoulders. They are well dressed and change their clothes daily. Nowhere in the State, the commercial class is so well dressed as the *lalas* of Amritsar.

The women of the urban areas are most fashionable. They put on *sari*, blouse, *shalwar*, *qamiz*, *kurta* and *churidar pyjama*. The ultramodern women also put on the Western types of dress. The commercial community being very rich, their women put on costly clothes. The women of Amritsar have a special liking for silk. The old ladies keep a silken *dopatta* over the muslin *dopatta*. Thus they use a double headwear. The girls in the urban areas generally wear *shalwar* and *qamiz*, and *kurta* and *churidar pyjama*. In Amritsar, the girls also wear Western types of dress, i.e., skirts and jeans. The young boys of the middle-class families in Amritsar are dressed in the traditional manner. The children of ultramodern families are dressed in the Western style.

Ornaments

Right from the ancient times, the Indian women have been using ornaments to enhance their beauty. Nose ornaments have Muslim origin but are now widely used. The most coveted metal for ornaments is gold, next to which comes silver.

The women use ornaments for the head, ear, nose, neck, wrists, fingers and ankles. The hair-clip, ear-rings, necklaces, nose-ring, bangles, *karas* and rings are very common. The *phul chauk*, an ornament used by rural women, is fast becoming obsolete. Amritsar is a very big market for ornaments of the latest designs. Hence all types of ornaments in vogue all over India are available. The women of the commercial community, being rich, are loaded with ornaments. The giving of ornaments on marriages in dowry is a must. Widows do not put on ornaments. The major portion of the savings of middle-classes is spent on ornaments.

Nowadays, women widely use artificial jewellery. The poorer classes use it out of economic necessity.

Men generally do not use ornaments, except rings. Some old persons may be seen wearing ear-rings, called *murkian* or *nantian*. The Jats wear *kanthas* on marriages and fairs to show off their opulence. The well-to-do Sikhs also wear a *kara* of gold.

Food.—The climate of the area and the availability of certain cereals determine the dietary habits of the residents. The Amritsar District is one of the most fertile areas in the State. Fodder and grass are available in abundance. People breed cattle. Milk is available in huge quantities and it is consumed to the maximum in the district. The district has ample irrigation facilities, e.g., canals, tube-wells and wells. Millets and gram are not commonly grown and, for the same reason, these are consumed sparingly.

The people in the rural areas mostly take wheat as their staple food. Pulses locally grown, viz. *moong*, *mash* and gram, are consumed. Vegetables, mostly leafy ones and grown locally, e.g., *methi*, *mustard*, *bathu*, are taken. Carrots, turnips, etc., are also consumed. Potatoes are nowadays used in abundance. Brown sugar is mostly used instead of sugar. Sweet dishes comprise *halwa*, *khir*, *zarda*, etc., which are prepared on festive occasions. *Chhah* or *lassi* (buttermilk), once the most coveted beverage in the district, is now no longer consumed in abundance. Milk fetches a high price and it is taken to the urban areas and sold there. The agriculturists have made it a business and have started selling milk. They keep the minimum quantity at home for preparing tea. During the last decade or so, tea has become the most important beverage. It is prepared with brown sugar and taken in the morning, at noon and in the evening. Gram-flour (*besan*) is used mostly for

preparing *pakor*as and curry. The latest trend is that the people have started taking chillies in large quantities. The cooking medium is generally vegetable oil and mustard-oil. Ghee is occasionally used by the well-to-do persons. Meat is consumed on special occasions. Alcohol is consumed by men in large quantities, especially on festive occasions, like *Balsakhi*, *Diwali* and *Lohri*. Smoking is also common amongst the non-Sikhs.

The people in the urban areas also use wheat as the staple food. All types of pulses and vegetables are used. The cooking medium is mostly vegetable oil. The well-to-do families, however, also use ghee. The people of Amritsar have a special liking for milk and milk products. They take milk, curds, *lassi*, cheese, and other milk products in large quantities. The sweets prepared from milk, e.g., *barfi*, *pera*, *ranghula*, *gulab-jaman*, are in great demand. Throughout the city, *halwais* sell boiled milk having a thick layer of *malai* (cream), a speciality of Amritsar and of the surrounding area. The residents, of the towns have a special liking for fried vegetable *pakor*as, popularly called *talia hoia*. These are sold on *rehris* throughout the city to the great liking of the people. The residents of Amritsar have special liking for *kulcha* and *bhatura*, sold with cooked grams to which a bit of curd is also added. This is certainly a speciality of Amritsar. All kinds of sweets are taken by the people. They have a special liking for Punjabi and Bengali sweets. The consumption of liquor has increased much during the last two decades or so.

Tea and coffee have become quite popular these days. Tea is taken by all high and low. Coffee is taken by the elite in modern cafes and hotels. In summer, people use aerated water, syrups and *shakanjvin*. To stimulate the appetite, they also use *jalzira* and *kanji*. Cakes, biscuits and pastries are also consumed in abundance by well-to-do people. Children are becoming more and more fond of toffees, etc.

(iv) Communal Life

Fairs and Festivals.—Fairs and festivals reflect the cultural heritage of the people of the area. They cover religious, social and economic fields and some of them glorify the change of season. A few of them are also held in commemoration of anniversaries of incarnations, *gurus*, saints and notable persons.

Amongst the Hindus, there is a continual chain of religious functions, fairs and festivals all the year round. *Shivratri* is celebrated in February, *Guru Ravi Das's* birthday is also celebrated in this month and processions are taken out. *Holi* is celebrated in *Phalgun* (March). The festival is observed for almost a week. Men, women and children take part in it. In Amritsar, it is celebrated enthusiastically. In the villages, however, the festival does not carry much significance. *Janam Ashtami* commemorates the birthday of *Shri Krishn*. The people keep fast and visit temples which are specially decorated on the occasion.

Dussehra is celebrated on the 10th *Navratra* in *Asauj* (September-October) in honour of the victory of *Ram* over *Ravan*, i.e. victory of virtue over vice. This notable traditional festival is celebrated with marked enthusiasm at Amritsar, *Tarn Taran*, *Patti*, *Khem Karan*, *Majitha*, *Ajnala* and *Ramdas*. A big *mela* is held in Amritsar in the spacious *Govindgarh* grounds where the effigies of *Ravan*, *Meghnath* and *Kumbhkaran* are burnt amidst great public rejoicing.

Diwali, the festival of lights, is associated with the worship of *Laxmi*—the goddess of wealth, and with the return of *Ram* to *Ayodhya* after his long exile. The houses are cleaned and whitewashed. There are large-scale illuminations, play of fireworks and jubilations. Sweets are distributed amongst relations and friends. On the occasion, goddess *Laxmi* is worshipped. The Sikhs attach special importance to *Diwali*, as on this day *Guru Hargobind* was released from the *Gwalior Fort*. Instead of *Holi*, the Sikhs celebrate *Hola Mohalla* on the day following *Holi*.

In addition to the above festivals, the Sikhs also celebrate *Baisakhi* (in April), the martyrdom of *Guru Arjan Dev* (in May/June) and of *Guru Tegh Bahadur* (in December/January), and the birthday of *Guru Nanak Dev* (in October/November) and of *Guru Gobind Singh* (in December/January). *Langar* is usually served on these occasions in the *gurdwaras*. On *Guru Arjan Dev's* martyrdom day sweetened water mixed with milk (*kachchi lassi*) is served to the people in the bazaars and streets. The *Baisakhi* has a special significance, as on this day in 1699, *Guru Gobind Singh* founded the *Khalsa Panth* at *Anandpur Sahib*. Many other noteworthy events in the history of the Punjab also took place on this auspicious day which marks the New Year's Day in northern India.

Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated by the Jains by taking out processions of huge portraits of *Lord Mahavira*. The Jains fast on this day. The festival falls in *Chaitra* (March). *Paryushan* is celebrated in *Bhadra* (August-September) when the Jains go on fast for purifying their souls. *Samatsari* marks the end of *Paryushan*. The Jains beg others' pardon for any wrong they might have consciously or unconsciously done them.

Noteworthy among the Muhammadan festivals and fairs are *Moharram*, *Bara Wafat*, *Shab-i-Brat*, *Ramzan*, *Id-al-Fitar* and *Id-al-Azha*. *Moharram* is celebrated on the 10th of *Ramzan* in the memory of *Hazrat Imam and Hussain* who laid down their lives fighting against the tyranny of *Yazid*. *Bara Wafat* is celebrated on the 12th day of *Rabi-al-Awal*. On the birthday of *Prophet Hazrat Muhammad*, the teachings of *Islam* are explained to the people and the holy *Koran* is recited. On *Shab-i-Brat*, which is celebrated with the display of fireworks, the Muhammadans distribute food among the poor and offer prayers after ablutions to their deceased forefathers. *Ramzan* is taken as the holy month and throughout the month purificatory fasts are

observed by the faithful. Id-al-Fitar marks the end of the fasts on the expiry of Ramzan. Prayers are offered in mosques. People exchange presents among friends and relations and rejoice. Id-al-Azha falls on the 9th-10th Zil-Haj. On this occasion, people go on the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca and Madina.

The Christians observe the festivals of Christmas, New Year's Day and Good Friday. On Christmas day, they hold services in the churches and exchange presents amongst relatives and friends.

There are some festivals signifying the change of season, viz. Lohri, Basant and Baisakhi. Lohri signifies the climax of winter, Basant the end of winter and the beginning of spring and Baisakhi the beginning of summer and the harvesting season.

The list of other fairs, held in the district, is given below :

Serial No.	Name of fair	Place where held		Date
		Village/Town/Place	Tahsil	
1.	Baisakhi Fair	Chohla	Tarn Taran	13 April
2.	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev	Dehra Sahib	Tarn Taran	In November
3.	Bir Sahib Buddha Ji	Bir Sahib Buddha Ji	Tarn Taran	6-7 October
4.	Massia	Tarn Taran	Tarn Taran	Every month
5.	Death anniversary of Guru Amar Das	Govindwal	Tarn Taran	In September
6.	Guru Angad Dev	Khadur Sahib	Tarn Taran	4 days after the fair at Govindwal
7.	Death anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev	Kot Data	Patti	At every new <i>Saradh</i>
8.	Baba Vir Singh ⁷	Naurangabad	Tarn Taran	21 Chaitra
9.	In memory of Baba Sher Shah Walli	Gharyala	Patti	13-14 Chaitra
10.	Martyrdom day of Baba Vir Singh	Rattoke	Patti	27 Vaisakha
11.	Fair of Jogi	Manochahal	Tarn Taran	On 4th Navratra
12.	Baba Vir Singh	Naurangabad	Tarn Taran	On Maghi
13.	Baba Bidhi Chand Ji	Sur Singh	Patti	8 Jyaistha

⁷Baba Vir Singh is the same saint of Naurangabad (Tahsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar) who is mentioned in chapter 'Places of Interest' as Bhai Vir Singh. He is popularly known as Baba Bir Singh.

Serial No.	Name of fair	Place where held		Date
		Village/Town/Place	Tahsil	
14.	Guru Gobind Singh	Manhala	Patti	7-8 Asadh
15.	Chet Amavas	Guru-ka-Bagh	Ajnala	Chaitra
16.	4th <i>Saradh</i> Fair	Ramdas	Ajnala	On 4th <i>Saradh</i>
17.	Baba Bakhar Ali Shah	Khutril Kalan	Ajnala	Phalguna
18.	Fair Ram Tirth	Ram Tirth	Ajnala	About a fortnight after Diwali
19.	Rakhar-Punia	Baba Bakala	Amritsar	Every <i>Amavas</i>
20.	Radhasoami	Dera Baba Jaimal Singh, Beas	Amritsar	March-April
21.	Fair Gop Ashtami	Jandiala Guru	Amritsar	8 days after Diwali
22.	Fair Kotha Sahib	Valla	Amritsar	Basant Panchami
23.	Fair of Verka	Verka	Amritsar	25-26 March
24.	Fair of Baba Rora	Village Bhoma Vadala	Amritsar	8-10 Chaitra
25.	Basant Panchami	Chheharta	Amritsar	January-February
26.	Guru-ki-Vadali	Vadali	Amritsar	Jyaistha
27.	Sanh Sahib Fair	Near Basarke Gillan	Amritsar	Bhadra
28.	Sangrana Sahib Fair	Chabba	Amritsar	Asadh

Folk-Songs and Cultural Life.—Folk-songs are poetical expression of the ideas and sentiments of the people in the varied fields of life. On account of the intensity of feelings and emotions, they appeal more to the heart than to the wits. They are simple and smooth-running. They have neither been composed by any reputed poet nor were they ever collected and compiled until the recent past.

The origin of the folk-songs cannot be traced district-wise. For this purpose, Punjab, as such, forms a compact unit and also includes West Punjab (Pakistan). Punjabi classics, Hir Ranjha and Sassi Pannu, have greatly influenced the Punjabi folk-songs.

Feudalism exercised the most powerful influence on marriage songs, i.e. *ghoris*. The sisters sing *ghoris*, keeping in mind the old feudal days and wish their brothers to have matrimonial alliance in the feudal lord's family. Even in other spheres, feudalism has left a significant impression.

Folk-songs depict different facets of life. There are folk-songs on marriage, *sithnis*, *ghoris*, love, separation from husband, quarrels with the sister-in-law (*nanad*), brother-in-law (*dewar*) and mother-in-law (*sas*), remembering her husband who is away, and also remembering her mother, brothers and father.

The folk-songs bearing on the freedom movement depict vividly the intense feeling of the people for freedom. These also reflect the reaction of the people to the contemporary political developments, even though these are couched in not very refined language and may not be recognized as high-class or sophisticated poetry.

Except those bearing on the freedom struggle and Community Development Schemes, the folk-songs depict the life of the nineteenth century and even earlier. The extracts from a few folk-songs (along with their English rendering), depicting the various aspects of life, are given below :

DHOLAK GIT

Lai gai phul motiai da tor gawaya
Ve sutta ein te jag Ranjhana.

Sadi janj patnan te aai
Ve berian sutade babla.

Sanu bania langhan nahin denda
Te ladduan da bhara mangda.

Doli chuk lao kaharo meri
Ke main sohni Mahiwal di.

Doli rakh dao amban di chhanwen
Sahelian nu mil lain de.
Tainu sahelian milan na aaiyan
Kikran nu pa lai japhian.

Sohni aap dubbi jind tardi
ke wich dariawan de.
Mera mas machhio na khayo
Ve main sohni Mahiwal di.
.....

They have taken me away as a *motia* flower is plucked off,
O dear, wake up if you are asleep.
Our marriage party has reached the river bank,
O father, arrange boats for them.

The banian does not allow us to pass,
And demands charges in the form of *laddus* (a kind of sweetmeat).

O litter-carriers, carry my litter,
I am the beloved of Mahiwal.

Place the litter in the shade of mango-trees,
And let me meet my friends.

Friends have not come to meet you,
Embrace the *kikkar* trees (*acacia*) instead.

Sohni herself is drowned but her life floats
In the rivers.

O fish, don't eat my flesh,
I am the beloved of Mahiwal.

* * * * *

Mangi saan main Fatehgarh
Lawan lai gia Chambe da raja.

Chhanwen chhanwen tor beliya
Sade doriae da agge rang kala.

Mapian ne tor ditti
Gal pa ke janjiri wala kurta.

Lai ja chhalian bhuna laein danen
Dhiaie tere dur sauhre.

Asan dane ki karne
Agge aan ge Singha tere nanke.
Vekhe Singha tere nanke
Chulhe agg na ghare vich pani.

Vekhin Singha mere nanke
Talan purian te bhujan batere.
Vekhe Singha tere nanke
Tutti manji atte van purana.

Vekhin Singha mere nanke
Ratta plang sunehri pave.
Babala dein us ghare
Man jithe dhi da hove.

Us vehre ki wasna
Jithe gharian ne nit nit tutna.

Tere ve saher babla
Sathon hai nindia na jave.
.....

I was betrothed in Fatehgarh,
But wedded to the Chamba Raja.
Move me unto the shade O companion,
The colour of my *doria* (head-wear) is already dark.

The parents sent me off,
Having put on me a shirt with chain (fastener).
Take with you malze ear and get its grains parched,
O daughter, your in-law's house is far off.

What have we to do with grains,
On the way will come your maternal parents' home, O Singh.
I have seen your maternal parents' home, O Singh,
There is neither fire in the hearth nor water in the pitcher.

You will see my maternal parents' home, O Singh,
Puris will be fried and quail will be roasted there.
I have seen your maternal parents' home, O Singh,
There is a broken cot with old *ban* (strings with which woven).

You will see my maternal parents' home, O Singh,
There is a red bedstead with golden legs.
O father, marry your daughter in such a family,
Where regard may be paid to her.

Why to live in such a street,
Where there are to be clashes all the time.
O father, the person you have wedded me to,
Cannot be condemned by me.

* * * * *

Bolian

Sittian vichon sona chamke
Sone chon khushhali.

Bol bohal da pura hove
Akhan hal panjali.

Sone ne ajkal bhar dene
Kul bharole khali.

Nan hi rainhni bhukh dhiddan di
Nan thur, soch, kangali,

Waje wanjhali chhiran lagoje
Tur pai hali pali.

Bhangra pa mundia
Kankan mari lali.

.....

In corn ears, there is a glitter of gold,
And gold begets prosperity.
Aspirations of the heap of corn have been fulfilled,
As testified by the plough and yoke.

The gold will these days fill
All empty (earthen) containers.
Neither the hunger of the bellies will remain,
Nor deficiency, anxiety and poverty.

The playing on of pipes and flutes has started,
The ploughmen and graziers have left (home for work).
O boy, play *bhangra* (country dance in the Punjab),
The wheat crop has grown reddish.

* * * * *

Har har ve har ve

Mere bhole babla

Sade sak na kar ve.

Sade te jat bure suninde

Gutton lainde phar ve.

Mera udde doriya

Maihalan wale ghar ve.

.....

O God, O God, O God,
My innocent father,
Don't engage us.

Our Jats are said to be misbehaved,
They catch hold of their wives by the pigtails.

My *doria* (scarf) flies,
Towards a palatial house.

* * * * *

Sue nathran chare pase

Khetan vich hariali,

Banjar dharti vah ke biji

Aj sanjhe ne hali.

Jis dharti vich jammi pohli

Oh aj ae narmian wali,

Jat di mehnat ne

I ai andi khushhali.

.....

Distributaries and canals are on all the four sides,
And greenery in the fields.

Fallow land has been tilled and sown,
The ploughmen are working jointly today.

The land which grew *pohli* (a thorny plant),
Now grows cotton.

The farmer's labour
Has ushered in an era of prosperity.

* * * * *
Games and Recreations.—Games are a potent factor in the physical development of the people. Moreover, this is the healthiest way to spend time. *Khido-khundi*, wrestling, *kabaddi*, etc. are indigenous games. The children play *gulli-danda* in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Kite-flying is very popular in the district, particularly in Amritsar.

There is a sports stadium, known as Gandhi Ground, at Amritsar. Games, like cricket, hockey, volley-ball, tennis, badminton and football, are played. Much impetus was given to these games by the establishment of the Amritsar Games Association in 1924. The association provides playing-grounds for different games, holds tournaments and arranges important matches. For the first time in 1933, the association invited the Melbourne Cricket Club for playing a match. In the last few years on account of an increasing shortage of open space and increased cost, volley-ball has become very popular.

The Amritsar District High School Tournament, which is held every winter under the auspices of the Headmasters' Association, includes competitions in different games and sports. Such competitions create great interest for games among the school boys. In the district, hockey, football, ruggertouch, volley-ball, tug-of-war, *kabaddi*, jumps and races are very popular.

The cheapest recreation these days is the cinema. People rush to the cinema-houses and enjoy the movies. Dramas and cultural shows are also held by the local dramatic and cultural societies. In the Amritsar city, there are 15 cinema-houses. Besides, there are 5 clubs for games and recreation. In summer, the residents of Amritsar flock to the canal and enjoy picnic-parties.

In the rural areas, the cheapest recreations are bards and *dhadhis*. They recite ballads (*wars*) and popular love romances and provide the people with ample recreation. The rural people also have nice time at the *melas*. They perform *bhangra* and enjoy themselves on the occasions of marriages. Sometimes, professional singers are engaged and they recite songs.

(e) Rehabilitation

The independence of the country in 1947 brought in its wake the partition of the Punjab and Bengal—an unprecedented event. Out of the 29 districts of the pre-partition Punjab, 16 were left behind in Pakistan and, with the remaining 13 districts, the new State of East Punjab was carved out. This, by itself, was not the end of the story. Another unprecedented catastrophe, i. e. the exodus of the minority communities from the West Punjab to the East Punjab and vice versa, abruptly developed. The communal riots, which had started early in 1947, had compelled the minority communities on both sides to reconcile themselves to the idea of migration against their wishes. After 15th August, 1947, people started migrating in trains, motor-vehicles, bullock-carts and even on foot as caravans, bringing with them the portable and absolutely essential equipment together with some ready and available cash and valuables. At many places, the trains were looted and the helpless migrants were killed. The caravans were also not spared and, at some places they were even deprived of drinking water, not to talk of food, etc.

As Amritsar is situated on the Grand Trunk Road and forms a gateway to India on the Pakistan border, refugees from the Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Lyallpur and Lahore districts came here in the first instance. Though Amritsar was the first notable station where the migrants could be provided with food and shelter, yet it could not accommodate their mounting numbers. Even the normal capacity of accommodation in Amritsar was considerably reduced, since most of the evacuee houses were burnt during riots or had collapsed owing to exceptionally heavy rains. The contingency was met by opening a big refugee camp at Amritsar in the Khalsa College building. An infirmary was also opened for widows, destitutes and orphans. All the educational institutions were closed for an indefinite period for providing these refugees with residential accommodation. The students studying in these institutions were called upon to perform social service to the migrants and also to assist the Government in settling their problems.

The camps started in Amritsar provided shelter for the refugees temporarily. The inmates were later on shifted to other camps for making room for other migrants. Moreover, the refugees themselves were not very keen to settle in this border district. The lack of sufficient number of houses in Amritsar also made their settlement at the place difficult. They wanted to settle in such districts as could give them greater security after the harrowing experiences of the partition and political upheaval.

During their stay in the camps, the refugees were provided with free rations. Milk was also issued to the convalescents. Multi-vitamin tablets were distributed to avoid malnutrition and infections. Dispensaries were opened where the sick were looked after. Care was taken to guard against hardship caused by disease and scarcity of food.

Since the influx of refugees appeared to be an unending stream as an aftermath of the partition of the country, steps were taken to settle the rural population on evacuee lands where *kharif* crops were ripe for harvesting. The energetic refugee peasants and cultivators were eager to stand on their own legs and willingly preferred hard work (to earn their livelihood) to remain idle and live on Government doles. They gladly accepted temporary resettlement on land. To start cultivation, they were advanced loans for purchasing bullocks, repairing wells, purchasing seeds and repairing their dilapidated houses. Similarly, in the urban areas, the available residential houses were allotted to those who were eventually to be settled in the district and, in pursuance of the policy, evacuee commercial sites and industrial units were allotted to migrants to enable them to resettle and earn their livelihood.

According to the 1941 Census, there were 6,57,695 Muslims residing in the district, whereas their number in 1951 was found to be 4,585 only. The district accommodated only 3,32,260 refugees, (vide Appendix on pages 126-27), leaving a gap of 3,20,850. This gap was further widened to 4,21,093 if the number of Muslims of 186 villages of the Patti Subdivision transferred to the Amritsar District in 1947, which is estimated to be 1,00,243 is taken into consideration. This resettlement of the non-Muslim refugees in place of Muslim migrants not only affected the rural areas but also the urban areas, especially Amritsar and Patti. The newcomers resettled in the district far less in number than the outgoing Muslims who were residing in the district.

Rural Resettlement

Quasi-permanent Allotment of Land.—About 66,412 hectares of land was available in the district for allotment. The temporary allotment of land made before April 1948, was replaced by quasi-permanent allotment. The temporary allotment was done on group basis. The cultivators were asked to submit applications in groups along with the persons with whom they sought allotment. This was done for maintaining the traditions and customs of the people of a particular area and also on security grounds. The quasi-permanent allotment was made with a view to imparting a sense of permanence to the cultivators and alluring them to develop their land further. The cultivators belonging to the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District, and the Narowal Tahsil of the Sialkot District and the colonists of Amritsar were intended to be resettled in the district.

The next step to resettle the migrants in the rural areas was to allot them land permanently. For this purpose, the temporary allottees and those having agricultural lands in Pakistan were required to submit their claims. For the verification of the title, records from the Pakistan Government were requisitioned on reciprocal basis. After the verification of claims, the next stage was to allot the land.

The next stage was to standardize the claims. In order to standardize the claimants' rights, the tenures of lands in different kinds of soil and in different tracts of Pakistan were classified and evaluated. The area of every claimant was then converted into the newly evolved term 'Standard Acres'. As a result of this conversion into standard acres, a piece of land on one side of the border could be easily balanced against a piece of land on the other side of it.

The allotment of land on quasi-permanent basis could not by itself be sufficient for the rehabilitation of the migrants. They were advanced loans for 'purchasing bullocks, agricultural implements, fodder and seeds and for repairing wells and houses. To eliminate misuse, the loans were, as far as practicable, advanced in kind. The amounts of loans, advanced during the period from 1947-48 to 1953-54, are as follows :

Kind of loan	Amritsar Tahsil	Ajnala Tahsil	Tarn Taran Tahsil	Patti Tahsil
Purchase of bullocks	.. 1,35,300	2,53,000	2,17,902	2,10,100
Purchase of seeds	.. 1,87,706	1,91,000	1,55,124	94,920
Purchase of fodder	.. 40,000	66,000	7,000	4,000
Purchase of agricultural implements	.. 45,000	41,000	35,245	29,250
Purchase of power pumps	.. 2,57,280	1,35,828	73,140	10,773
Purchase of tractors	.. 26,000	34,000	16,000	28,000
Boring of wells	.. 43,300	10,000	7,250	—
Construction of houses	.. 9,600	3,000	3,000	1,400
Repair of houses	.. 2,70,045	3,17,250	1,95,500	1,02,211
Repair of wells	.. —	5,000	13,721	—

The payment of agricultural loans was stopped after 1953-54.

The land left by the Muslims in the East Punjab was barely about 62 per cent of the area left by the non-Muslim migrants in Pakistan. The proportion of irrigated land in Pakistan was much higher. The Government decided to allot land to all the cultivators. A formula of graded cuts was evolved, whereby the small landholders were less affected and the bigger landlords were

subjected to drastic cuts. The scheme of graded cuts in terms of standard acres was as under :

Up to 10 acres	.. 25 per cent
More than 10 acres but not more than 30 acres	.. 30 per cent
More than 30 acres but not more than 40 acres	.. 40 per cent
More than 40 acres but not more than 60 acres	.. 50 per cent
More than 60 acres but not more than 100 acres	.. 65 per cent
More than 100 acres but not more than 150 acres	.. 70 per cent
More than 150 acres but not more than 200 acres	.. 75 per cent
More than 200 acres but not more than 250 acres	.. 80 per cent
More than 250 acres but not more than 500 acres	.. 85 per cent
More than 500 acres but not more than 1,000 acres	.. 90 per cent
More than 1,000 acres	.. 95 per cent

Conferment of Proprietary Rights.—The work of transferring permanent rights to the allottees was started in 1955-56 and was completed by 1963-64. These rights were conferred on the allottees who were allotted land on the quasi-permanent basis.

Rural Housing.—Exceptionally heavy rains and floods caused havoc in 1947. Consequently, a large number of rural evacuee houses were badly damaged and became uninhabitable. Moreover, these houses were disproportionately distributed in villages. In certain villages, these were more than the requirements of the allottees whereas in certain other villages the houses were far fewer than the requirements of the allottees. On the basis of the quantum of land, the allottees were given houses according to merit. The big landholders were allotted better houses and the remaining ones were given to the rest. The Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes were also allotted houses which were transferred to them on nominal payment. Those who could not be allotted any accommodation were compensated for the loss of this facility by payment in cash.

Urban Resettlement

Immediately after the encampment of the urbanite displaced persons, the Government undertook to rehabilitate the displaced persons, particularly those belonging to the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District, and

those of the Narowal Tahsil of the Sialkot District. The urban properties left by the Muslims in the district were mainly in Khem Karan, Patti, Tarn Taran, Majitha, Jandiala Guru, Ajnala, Ramdas and Amritsar. A good number of houses, shops, industrial establishments and dilapidated houses or shops were available for allotment. The abandoned properties left in the district were taken over as evacuee properties under the Punjab Evacuee Ordinance IV of 1947, later replaced by the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950. The available houses shops etc. were allotted to the displaced persons on temporary basis. The permanent allotment and disposal began in 1953-54. The properties of the value of less than Rs 10,000 (Rs 50,000 in case of industrial establishment) were allottable, whereas properties above Rs. 10,000 were disposed of by auction.

Since the number of displaced persons proposed to be resettled in the urban areas of the district fell far behind that of the Muslims who migrated, no necessity of setting up new colonies and model towns in the district was felt.

Another important work before the Government was to grant compensation to displaced persons in the urban areas. Steps were taken under the Displaced Persons Claims Act, 1950, to verify claims in respect of properties left behind by them in Pakistan.

To avoid unnecessary delay, an Interim Compensation Scheme was sanctioned and, under the scheme, payments were made to certain high-priority categories of displaced persons. The high-priority categories included persons drawing maintenance allowance, disabled persons and T. B. patients. The compensation actually started from 1954. The claimants, entitled to priority both in respect of cash payment and finalization of their cases, were divided into several categories, the details of which are as follows :

Category	Number of cases registered	Number of cases settled	Number of cases pending
I MA	.. 102	96	6
IV (NTCH)	.. 60	53	7
VII (W)	.. 721	700	21
VII (WA)	.. 203	197	6

Category	Number of cases registered	Number of cases settled	Number of cases pending
VIII (MT)	95	91	4
XI	10	8	2
XII (RB)	183	178	5
XIV (M)	153	150	3
XV (ST)	120	117	3
XVI (TB)	51	49	2
XVII (D)	95	93	2
XXI (L)	1,012	1,004	8
XXII (A)	4	4	Nil
XIII (EUP)	14	13	1
RFA	1	1	Nil
XXIV (Cosh)	550	538	12
XXVI (EP)	1	1	Nil
Total	3,375	3,293	82

By 1964, 97½ per cent of the cases had been settled.

The Interim Compensation Scheme was later replaced by the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954. Under the Act, a final scale for the payment of compensation was approved. This scale had certain important features and was so devised as to pay proportionately more to the smaller claimants and less to the bigger claimants. The compensation to be paid included an amount of rehabilitation grant. The rehabilitation grant was paid out of the Government contribution to the pool and had normally been confined to those claimants whose claims were below Rs 50,000.

Under the final scale of payment of compensation, the lowest categories of claimants, i.e. those up to Rs 2,000, would get 66.6 per cent of their verified claims, those with claims between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 from 51 per cent, to 41 per cent, those between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000 from 39 per cent to 33 per cent those between Rs 20,000 and Rs 50,000 from 33 per cent to 20 per cent and those between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1,00,000 would get 20 per cent.

Thereafter, the percentage would decrease progressively down to 11.11 per cent on verified claims worth 18 lakhs of rupees. Beyond 18 lakhs, irrespective of the value of the verified claim, the ceiling of Rs 2 lakhs would operate.

The final scheme sanctioned by the Government in 1955 replaced the Interim Compensation Scheme which had come into effect in 1953. Under this final scheme, applications for compensation were invited in 1955 from all the remaining claimants who were not given any compensation on priority basis. The total number actually registered in the district under this category, popularly known as the 'general category', was 16,664. Out of these, 16,188 cases were finalized. There were then only 558 cases—82 cases from priority cases and 476 cases from the general category, which were pending and were settled by 1964.

AMRITSAR
APPENDIX

Displaced persons by the district of origin
District Amritsar, total displaced population

(Vide pages 80,120)

District of origin (Pakistan/Bangladesh)	Total	
	Males	Females
Lahore	51,820	46,291
Slalkot	21,913	17,701
Gujranwala	9,156	6,704
Sheikhupura	12,129	10,252
Gujrat	3,001	3,708
Shahpore	7,877	3,686
Jhelum	976	766
Rawalpindi	2,775	3,226
Attock	601	496
Mianwali	705	452
Montgomery	7,785	8,143
Lyallpur	33,794	32,672
Jhang	1,584	825
Multan	3,518	3,960
Muzaffargarh	348	209
Dera Ghazi Khan	248	222
Baluch Frontier Tract	..	32
Gurdaspur	2,907	1,896
Hyderabad	1,345	512
Karachi	788	295
Nawab Shah	33	780

PEOPLE

District of origin (Pakistan/Bangladesh)	Total	
	Males	Females
Sukkur	679	48
Tharparker	17	8
Upper Sind Frontier	387	498
Hazara	565	130
Mardan	250	384
Peshawar	2,522	1,263
Kohat	188	216
Bannu	823	599
Dera Ismail Khan	198	153
Quetta	478	186
Bulan	12	2
Baluchistan	..	11
Bahawalpur	1,396	343
East Bengal (Bangladesh)	20	4
Unclassified Districts	137	95
Total	1,70,975	1,46,768
Burnt Slips	10,278	4,239
Grand Total	1,81,253	1,51,007

*(Census of India, 1951, Punjab, District Census Handbook, Volume 12,
Amritsar District, D-V, p.xxix)*

CHAPTER IV

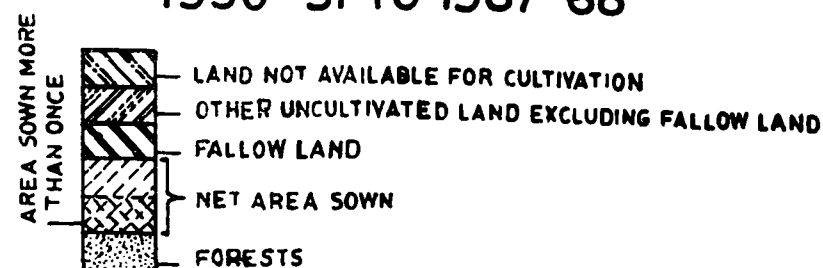
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

(a) Land Reclamation and Utilization

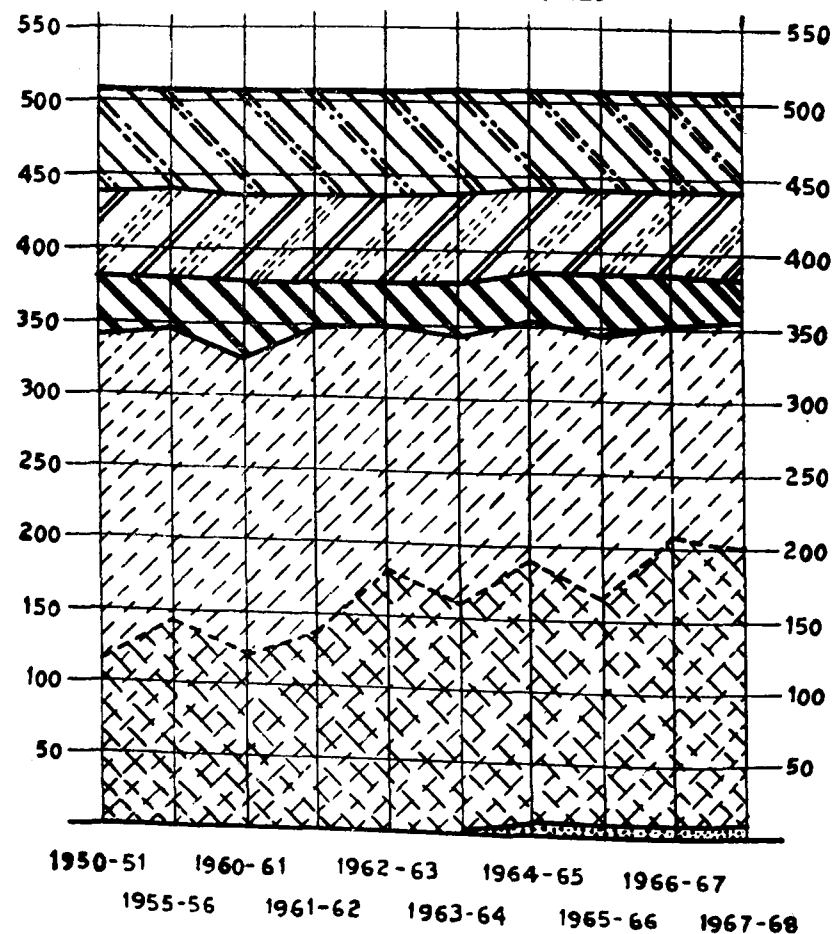
(i) **Land Utilization.**—The utilization of land in a region or in a particular area depends largely on its physical, cultural and economic environment. In other words, it is governed by such factors as the configuration of land, the amount and distribution of rainfall, the fertility of soil, the density of population and the dietary habits of the people, the number and types of draught and domestic animals, the agricultural practices followed, the stage of industrial development, the transport facilities and the demand for its produce. Since most of these factors are changeable, there is a corresponding change in land utilization.

Amritsar is a thickly populated district, covering approximately 506 thousand hectares, as ascertained in 1970-71. The following table gives the classification of area according to land use in the district during 1950-51, 1955-56 and during 1960-61 to 1967-68 :

CLASSIFICATION OF AREA BY LAND USE IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT 1950-51 TO 1967-68



FIG'S. IN THOUSAND HECTARES



SOURCE: Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1968.

Classification of area by land use in the Amritsar District during 1950-51 to 1967-68

Particulars	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
1. Total area, according to village papers	508	508	508	508	508	509	509	509	509	509
2. Forests	—	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	7	7	7	7
3. Land not available for cultivation	70	66	73	73	73	73	67	67	67	68
4. Other uncultivated land excluding fallow land	56	62	57	57	57	58	57	57	57	57
5. Fallow land	42	32	54	29	28	33	31	41	34	30
6. Net area sown	340	348	324	349	350	345	347	337	344	347
7. Area sown more than once	114	145	121	137	183	159	183	156	200	195
8. Total cropped area (6+7)	454	493	445	486	533	504	530	493	544	542

(Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1968, pp. 40-47)

(a) Means below 500 hectares.

Note:—Minor differences are due to the rounding of figures.

Area not available for cultivation comprises barren and uncultivable lands and lands put to non-agricultural uses such as land under buildings, roads and canals. The total area of such lands in the district was 68 thousand hectares in 1967-68.

Other categories of uncultivated land, excluding the fallow land, comprise cultivable wastes, grazing lands and lands under tree groves, not included under the sown area. Such land covered about 57 thousand hectares in 1967-68.

In revenue terminology, land is termed 'cultivated' if it has been sown even once during the previous four harvests. The cultivated area, thus, comprises (i) the fallow land, and (ii) the sown area. Such land in the district during 1967-68 measured about 377 thousand hectares.

The holdings in the district being very small, the farmers are eager to bring every inch of land under cultivation. This is all the more so, because under the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949, the cultivable land, if not fully utilized, can be taken away from the owner for cultivation by someone else. No appreciable cultivable waste is, therefore, available with individual farmers. If there is any, that is mostly due to the development of *kallar*.

Kallar lands are being reclaimed by the farmers by adopting the following methods :

- (1) The cultivation of paddy for 4-5 years on *kallar* infested lands by applying additional irrigation from tube-wells or by having additional canal outlets from the Irrigation Department. *Kallar* salts are leached down by flooding the fields put under paddy.
- (2) The application of gypsum. Gypsum is supplied by the Agriculture Department on 50 per cent subsidy to reclaim *kallar* lands.

Lightly infested *kallar* lands are also being improved by applying farm-yard manure judiciously. In the fields where there is some *kallar*, green-manuring is also being practised. The *kallar* patches are being removed by scraping the land and by adding soil or silt from *kallar*-free fields. The *kallar* lands are also being improved by growing *kikar* (*Acacia arabica*) trees.

(ii) **Cultivable Waste.**—Most of the cultivable waste is the village common land in the possession of the village panchayats. Some of the panchayats have started their direct cultivation; but still large areas remain uncultivated and, as such, are being utilized by the villagers for grazing cattle.

The panchayats are gradually making efforts to bring the cultivable waste under cultivation and for this purpose, they are being advanced loans to enable them to purchase tractors and implements and sink wells and tube-wells for irrigation.

Since the available irrigation facilities are adequate, only a small area is left fallow.

(iii) **Reclamation of Waterlogged Areas, Swamps, etc.**—Canal irrigation has not been an unmixed blessing. It has caused waterlogging in several areas, especially on both sides of the canals. Through seepage, the water penetrates into the deeper subsoil. Consequently, the underground water-table rises, and when it reaches the root zone, it seriously affects the growth of plants. Waterlogging also leads to salt infestation. These factors have rendered large areas unfit for cultivation and have depressed the yields. The problem of waterlogging has become very acute in the Amritsar District. It is apprehended that unless suitable measures are taken in time to stop this menace, vast areas may become unfit for cultivation. In certain areas, drains are being dug to lower the subsoil water-table, but so far the progress in this respect has not been encouraging, and effective measures to root out this problem are imperative.

Soil erosion is not an acute problem in this district. It, however, takes place in parts of the Ajnala Tahsil owing to the *dhusi* bund, or it is present to a very negligible extent in the sandy areas of the Tarn Taran Tahsil.

No problem of swamps exists in this district.

The extent of the problem of *thur* and *sem* in the district during the *rabi* season of 1968, as compared with that during the corresponding harvest season in the preceding year, i.e. *rabi* 1967, is shown below :

Description of areas	Thur		Sem		Number of estates affected	
	(hectares)		(hectares)		Number of estates affected	
	Rabi 1967	Rabi 1968	Rabi 1967	Rabi 1968	Rabi 1967	Rabi 1968
Cultivated	1,939	2,013	173	159	659	673
Fallow (broken) ..	1,745	1,745	213	220		
Uncultivated (never broken)	16,539	16,935	158	199		
Total ..	20,223	20,693	544	578		

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1967 and 1968)

Land Reclamation, Irrigation and Power Research Institute, Punjab, Amritsar.—Originally established in 1924, the institute was reorganized after the partition of 1947 at Amritsar. It is headed by a Director who is assisted by an Executive Engineer, 10 Research Officers, 29 Assistant Research Officers, 3 Subdivisional Officers, 198 Class III ministerial/technical and 148 Class IV staff.

The Institute mainly deals with research and design problems pertaining to irrigation and power projects. Extensive soil, water and ground-water surveys form its regular feature for the exploitation of these resources to the benefit of the State. For devising suitable anti-waterlogging measures, a number of pilot schemes have been taken up by the institute at Amritsar and other places in the State.

(b) Irrigation

The district is classed as plain and the greater part of it is secure against very serious failure of either the summer or winter rains, but the certainty of each harvest is still further secured by ample irrigation, both from wells and canals. This irrigation also admits of superior staples, such as sugarcane, cotton, maize and rice, being grown, and enables a far larger area to be put under wheat than would be the case if the cultivator had to depend on rain alone.

Variations in the timings of rainfall, however, affect the sowing as well as the harvesting of crops, particularly those of the 'kharif' season. A fair amount of rainfall towards the end of June or in the beginning of July leads to an all-round sowing activity, whereas a failure of rain in the second half of July and also in August, followed by that in September, leads to the scorching of the crops by the sun. The table below shows the entire relation between the variations in rainfall and the failure of crops in the district :

RAINFALL IN THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT

Actual for 10 years 1958-59 to 1967-68

Year	Annual rainfall (cm)	Rainfall during months of				Area under crops failed (hectares)
		July (cm)	August (cm)	September (cm)	October (cm)	
1958-59	..	67.34	13.09	5.04	28.08	2.07
1959-60	..	52.09	23.06	14.02	10.00	1.06
1960-61	..	68.7	16.00	9.00	2.00	—
1961-62	..	88.7	24.03	30.02	17.01	2.02
1962-63	..	72.1	14.04	12.02	35.00	—
1963-64	..	33.0	13.00	5.01	6.07	—
1964-65	..	63.7	30.06	19.01	5.00	—
1965-66	..	32.11	21.02	5.02	1.01	—
1966-67	..	63.6	14.07	12.00	20.00	1.01
1967-68	..	66.11	10.01	22.03	7.00	3.01

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

The peculiar climatic conditions, thus, necessitate irrigation by artificial means for the sowing, growing and proper maturing of crops and for increasing their yields.

Irrigation Facilities.—For an increased artificial supply of water for irrigation, recourse must be had to river-water through canals—known as major irrigation—and subsoil water through wells (percolation), pumping-sets and tube-wells—known as minor irrigation. In 1967-68, the area irrigated by canals and wells worked out to be 59 and 31 per cent respectively of the net area sown in the district. Canals, therefore, form the major source of irrigation. Next to these are wells, tube-wells and pumping-sets.

The following table shows the area irrigated through different sources during the years 1950-51, 1955-56 and 1960-61 to 1967-68 :

Net area under irrigation in the Amritsar District

	(hundred hectares)										
Source	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	
Government canals	..	1,865	1,982	1,911	1,864	1,892	1,914	1,976	2,040	2,046	
Wells	..	1,139	1,176	952	1,052	1,115	1,065	1,092	1,051	1,063	
Other sources	..	11	11	20	17	30	22	18	17	17	
Total	..	2,828	3,052	2,928	2,933	3,037	3,001	3,086	3,108	3,126	

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(Statistical Abstract of District Amritsar, 1967, pp. 102-103;
District Statistical Officer, Amritsar)

Canals

Four branches of the Upper Bari Doab Canal run through the district: the Sobraon Branch, the Kasur Branch, the Main Branch Lower, and the Lahore Branch. The original project of the Upper Bari Doab Canal was drawn up in 1850, shortly after the annexation of the Punjab by the British. Some modifications of the original design were found to be necessary, and a revised estimate was submitted in 1856. The canal was formally opened in 1859, and irrigation commenced in the following year. The headworks are situated on the River Ravi near Madhopur in the Gurdaspur District. The canal runs in one channel for 48 km, after which it splits up into two principal channels called the Main Branch Upper and the Kasur Branch Upper. The latter, about 11 km farther on, bifurcates into the Sobraon Branch and the Kasur Branch Lower, both of which pass through the Amritsar District. From the former, irrigation is supplied to the country between the high bank of the Beas and the Patti drainage and from the latter to the tract lying between the Kasur and Patti drainages. At Aliwal, in the Batala Tahsil of the Gurdaspur District, the Lahore Branch takes off from the Main Branch Upper. Below this point, the main branch is known as the Main Branch Lower and serves the country between the Kasur and the Hudiara drainages. The Lahore Branch traverses the southern border of the Ajnala Tahsil and irrigates the tract between the Hudiara and Sakki Nalas. The total length of the Upper Bari Doab Canal branches, in the Amritsar district is 258.37 km.

All these four channels of the Upper Bari Doab Canal are perennial but, during the *rabi* season, these are run in rotation if the supply of water in the river is short.

It is primarily through the Upper Bari Doab Canal that about 90 per cent of the cultivated land in the district receives irrigation. Canal irrigation is particularly indispensable in the Tarn Taran and Patti tahsils where underground water is usually brackish and unfit for well or tube-well irrigation.

Wells (including Tube-wells and Pumping-sets)

Next in importance to canals are wells as a source of irrigation in the district. For a long time past, the Persian wheel and *dhinkli* have been used to lift subsoil water. Tube-wells and pumping-sets have been introduced during the post-independence period. The number of wells (percolation), tube-wells

and pumping-sets installed during the Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66), 1966-67 and 1967-68 are given in the following table :

Wells, tube-wells and pumping-sets installed in the Amritsar District,
1961-62 to 1967-68

		Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66)	1966-67	1967-68
Wells (percolation)	..	728	93	65
Tubewells	..	1,296	582	657
Pumping-sets	..	548	276	412
Loans advanced for the above minor irrigation works	Rs	31,22,960	13,61,500	28,99,500

(Source : District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar)

Water at will is considered to be the most important means for increasing agricultural production. During the period from 1961-62 to 1967-68, a total amount of Rs 73,83,960 was advanced as minor irrigation loans to the farmers in the district as per details given below :

Minor irrigation loans advanced in the Amritsar District,
1961-62 to 1967-68

Year	Wells (Rs)	Tube-wells (Rs)	Pumping-sets (Rs)	Total (Rs)
1961-62	40,000	2,30,000	1,25,000	3,95,000
1962-63	72,000	2,57,400	1,06,500	4,35,900
1963-64	2,30,000	2,00,000	5,000	4,35,000
1964-65	45,560	3,55,000	2,27,500	6,28,060
1965-66	74,000	6,45,000	5,10,000	12,29,000
1966-67	1,88,000	8,45,700	3,27,800	13,61,500
1967-68	1,24,000	17,83,000	9,92,500	28,99,500
Total ..				73,83,960

(Source : District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar)

(e) Agriculture, including Horticulture

(i) Set-up and Activities of the Agriculture Department.—The Department is represented in the district by the District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar, who is under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Agricultural Circle, Jullundur. The District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar, is assisted by 1 Agricultural Information Officer, 1 Seed Development Officer, 22 Agricultural Inspectors, 64 Agricultural Sub-Inspectors, etc., besides ministerial and Class IV staff. Moreover, 1 Horticultural Inspector, 1 Grape Inspector, 1 Agricultural Inspector (Implements), 2 Statistical Inspectors and 1 Vegetable Inspector are posted at Amritsar under the District Agricultural Officer. Five Assistant Extension Specialists of the Punjab Agricultural University belonging to different subjects, namely agronomy, horticulture, farm management, plant protection and soil science, also assist the District Agricultural Officer in the Farm Advisory Service Scheme.

To look after plant protection, an Assistant Plant-Protection Officer is posted at Amritsar under the direct control of the Deputy Director (Locust Control and Plant Protection), Chandigarh. Three Plant Protection Inspectors are posted under him at Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Patti.

An Assistant Soil Conservation Officer is posted at Amritsar. His work is supervised by the Chief Conservator of Soils, Punjab, Chandigarh. He has Agricultural Inspectors posted all over the district to attend to soil conservation.

A Superintendent, Horticulture, is posted at Atari under the direct control of the Deputy Director (Horticulture), Chandigarh. He looks after the Atari Gardens and other horticultural research work.

The Agriculture Department guides the farmers in the lay-out of gardens, in the extension of new orchards, in solving problems relating to the maintenance and establishment of gardens and nurseries, in controlling various pests and diseases affecting agricultural crops and gardens, in the management and procurement of fertilizers and good seeds, and in laying out demonstration plots to bring home to the cultivators the superiority of varieties recommended for cultivation in the district. The Agricultural Inspectors educate the farmers in their block areas on matters relating to improved seeds, fertilizers, improved agricultural implements and recommend agricultural practices by laying out demonstration plots, organizing rural fairs, distributing literature, etc. The Agriculture Department also helps the fruit-growers in getting enhanced supply of canal water for establishing and developing new orchards.

The Government takes keen interest in increasing agricultural production by popularizing improved agricultural practices and implements. Loans are

advanced for repairing old wells and sinking new ones and installing tube-wells and pumping-sets under the development of irrigation programmes. Besides, *taccavi* loans are advanced for the development of horticulture at the rate of Rs 300 per acre of plantation. The loans for the reclamation of land are also given. Loans for grape cultivation at the rate of Rs 3,000 per acre are advanced to the cultivators.

The State assistance to agriculture, which comprises *taccavi* loans, loans for reclamation, subsidies, relief, etc. advanced in the district, during the period 1961-62 to 1967-68, is shown in the following statement :

Loans/subsidies advanced to agriculturists in the Amritsar District, 1961-62 to 1967-68

Loans/subsidies	1961-62 (Rs)	1962-63 (Rs)	1963-64 (Rs)	1964-65 (Rs)	1965-66 (Rs)	1966-67 (Rs)	1967-68 (Rs)
Loans							
1. Sinking of percolation wells ..	49,000	71,500	1,55,915	45,560	74,000	1,88,000	1,24,000
2. Sinking of tube-wells ..	2,30,000	2,57,400	74,16,000	6,25,000	6,45,000	8,45,700	17,83,000
3. Installation of pumping-sets ..	1,25,000	1,00,000	81,500	2,27,500	5,10,000	3,27,800	9,92,500
4. <i>Taccavi</i> loan for fertilizers ..	4,34,553	13,98,663	1,29,25,241	48,63,740	41,77,352	11,77,163	—
5. <i>Taccavi</i> loan for the purchase of tractors ..	80,000	50,000	80,000	80,000	80,900	—	—
6. <i>Taccavi</i> loan for the development of horticulture ..	1,00,000	17,700	50,000	27,000	39,000	—	—
7. <i>Taccavi</i> loan for the purchase of sugarcane seed ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. <i>Taccavi</i> loan under the Land Improvement Loans Act XIX of 1983 (Ordinary) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. <i>Taccavi</i> loan under Agriculturists Loans Act XII of 1934 (Ordinary) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Subsidies							
1. Subsidy for green-manuring at the rate of Rs 2.50 per acre ..	..	1,087	2,924	2,923	3,902	5,360	—
2. Subsidy for the purchase of fruit-plants (for grape cultivation) ..	—	—	2,500	10,975	—	—	—

(Source : District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar)

.. denotes 'Not available';
— denotes 'Nil'

(ii) **Soils, Climate and Crops.**—The climate and soils have direct bearing on the cropping pattern of an area. The crops suitable for a particular type of soil and climate are sown there. Recently, there has been a new trend to sow high-yielding crops and ignore the less-paying ones. As a result of increased irrigation facilities, the cultivators are putting a smaller area under less-paying crops and a larger area under more-paying ones, like Mexican wheat (dwarf varieties), paddy IR-8 and hybrid maize. Thus, the area under the gram crop has decreased, whereas that under wheat has increased.

Soils

The natural distinctions of soil, recognized by the people, are given below. These distinctions are not, however, of the same importance in this district, as they are in others, owing to the prevalence of canal irrigation, and the zamindars apply them only to *barani* lands.

Rohi: land lying in or near a depression, which, by reasons of surface water collecting, has become hard and clayey.

Maira: a firm level loam, often reddish and easily worked.

Tibba: soil mixed with sand, which will not form into clods, found in undulating ground and liable to be blown into ridges.

Doshahi: a somewhat indefinite term, used to describe a soil which is none of the other three, usually a mixture of clay and sand.

The *rohi* soil gives the heaviest yield, but requires a steady supply of moisture. In a very wet year, it is liable to become waterlogged, and the crops grown in it suffer accordingly. In a very dry year or when the supply of artificial irrigation fails, crops grown on it succeed no better. Regular and ample, but not excessive or deficient, moisture or irrigation is required. It is the soil most valued by the people, and is the best for rice and other valuable irrigated crops. *Maira* is the next in value, being a clean soil, easily worked and weeded, and is that most commonly met with in Amritsar. The excess or failure of moisture causes less harm to crops grown in it than to those raised in *rohi* soils, and it is especially suited to maize and wheat. *Tibba* is looked on as an inferior soil, and on this the yield is never heavy. It is not suitable for irrigation, as water travels slowly on it. But it succeeds with less rainfall than either *rohi* or *maira* and the more sandy it is, the less it suffers from drought. Evaporation, so long as the sand is fine and not coarse, takes place slowly and it is, therefore, classed as a cool or *thanda* soil. But excessive rainfall is injurious, as it is apt to wash away the soil from about the roots, whereas high winds on exposed tracts may smother the plants in blown sand. *Moth* and gram suit it best and melons succeed well enough in it. *Doshahi* is not easy to be recognized. The people will describe their own *rohi* as *doshahi* when they wish for any reason to depreciate it or will apply the term to their neighbour's sandy soil, when they have

an object in making it out better than it really is. *Ghasra* is a term applied to a mixture of clay and sand in the Ajnala Bet, and *rakkar* to a poor shallow soil, with grey river sand at a short distance below the surface, also most frequently met with near the rivers. Such a soil needs a long rest, and ample and timely rain, and is apt to be infested with rats. *Khoba* is used to describe a thick layer of recent alluvial mud, loose in texture, left by the receding of river floods, and has not had time to settle and harden and *goira* means the artificially manured belt of land round the village site, and the soil found on it.

Major and Subsidiary Crops

The two main harvests in a year in the district are *kharif* and *rabi*, locally called *sawni* and *hari*. The former is the summer-season harvest and the latter the winter-season harvest. Besides, there is another harvest which is assessed along with *kharif* and sometimes with *rabi*. The harvest assessed with *rabi* is called in the village papers as *zaid-rabi* and that with *kharif* as *zaid-kharif*. It includes mostly vegetables and fodder crops.

The principal *kharif* crops are paddy, cotton, maize and sugarcane, whereas minor ones or subsidiary crops are *kharif* vegetables, such as lady's-finger, cauliflower, tomato, brinjal, cucurbits, *kharif* pulses and fruits. The principal *rabi* crops are wheat, gram, barley and *berseem*, whereas minor *rabi* crops are *rabi* oilseeds (*sarson*, *taramira*, *alsi* and *toria*), and winter vegetables such as peas, turnip, radish, carrots, *lobia*, etc.

The main commercial crops of the district are sugarcane, cotton, vegetables and celery. The area under sugarcane and paddy has increased considerably owing to the rise in the subsoil water and because of heavy rains.

Wheat.—Among the *rabi* crops, wheat is the principal staple of this region. It is sown in October or November and is ready for harvesting by the middle of April.

A Wheat-Package Programme was started in 1966, under which one Agricultural Inspector continues to be posted in each of the 8 Wheat-Package Blocks, viz. Tarn Taran, Khadur Sahib, Rayya, Chohla, Naushehra Pannuan, Patti, Valtola and Bhikhiwind.

Gram.—Gram (*Chana*) is grown alone as well as mixed with wheat (the mixture being known as *berara*). Its cultivation does not require fine tillth, but like most of the *rabi* crops needs to be sown with good initial soil moisture to germinate well. It is a hardy plant in most respects, but is liable to damage in poor soils if rains fail or are scanty during early spring (February-March) when high winds laden with dust occur at the time of flowering in March, or when there is a long spell of damp, cloudy and thundery weather. Sown in October, the crop is harvested from the end of March to the middle of April.

Rice.—Rice is called *jhona*, whatever the variety grown. The old low-yielding rice varieties are being replaced by improved high-yielding ones, e.g. I.R.8, Jaya, Palman 579. The best rice crop is obtained from seedlings transplanted from nurseries (*paniri*), but the crop may also be sown broadcast. *Lawen* and *bhijen* are the terms employed for the two processes. The former generally gives a higher yield. The crop is harvested in October.

The Rice-Package Programme was started in 1965, under which 10 Agricultural Inspectors and a number of Agricultural Sub-Inspectors were posted in 10 Rice-Package Blocks, viz. Verka, Jandiala Guru, Tarsikka, Rayya, Majitha, Ajnala, Chogawan, Tarn Taran Naushehra Pannuan and Gandiwind.

Maize.—It is sown in the second week of July and is reaped in October and November. The straw is chopped and fed to cattle, but it is not a good fodder.

Cotton.—Cotton is grown both on well-irrigated and canal-irrigated lands, but it succeeds better on the former. It is a very important *kharif* crop. It is sown in April-May. Its picking begins in September and lasts through December. Both types of cotton, viz. American and *desi* are grown, though the area under the former has decreased.

A Cotton-Package Programme was taken up in 1967 in Cotton-Package Blocks, viz. Patti, Valtaha, Bhikhiwind, Khadur Sahib, Chohla, Tarn Taran, Naushehra Pannuan and Rayya.

Sugarcane.—It is sown from mid February to mid March and harvesting is carried on from November to March.

Oilseeds.—An Oilseed Extension Programme was started in 1967 in the Rayya, Ajnala and Tarsikka Blocks, in each of which an Agricultural Inspector was posted.

The oilseed crops are generally damaged by aphids, commonly known as *tela*. With advances in agriculture, the cropping pattern in the district has changed. The cultivators have taken to sowing *toria* a bit earlier and after harvesting it, they sow the Mexican wheat.

Detailed particulars regarding the area under different crops, their total production and yield per hectare in the district during 1950-51 (year before the introduction of the First Five-Year Plan), 1955-56 (the last year of the First Five-Year Plan), 1960-61 (the last year of the Second Five-Year Plan), 1965-66 (the last year of the Third Five-Year Plan), and 1967-68 are given in Appendices I, II and III at the end of this chapter at pages 181-183.

VEGETABLES

To augment the production of vegetables in the district, an Agricultural Inspector (Vegetables) has been posted at Amritsar to guide the farmers in

vegetable-growing and to make necessary arrangements for vegetable seeds, etc. An Agricultural Sub-Inspector is also posted there to look after the potato development work. He is mainly responsible for supplying disease-free potato seed from departmental farms.

Demonstration plots for different kinds of vegetables have been set up in selected villages, to prove the performance of good-quality seeds. Training camps are organized in different blocks to train the farmers in vegetable-farming. Besides, the Agricultural Inspector (Vegetables), during his tours to different villages, holds meetings with the farmers and gives lectures on vegetable-farming. Introductory demonstrations are also given to the farmers for controlling vegetable pests and diseases.

There is a Vegetable Seed Farm at Beas for producing vegetable seeds. The farm is under the charge of an Agricultural Inspector who functions under the control of the Vegetable Development Officer, Ludhiana.

Besides commercial vegetable-growing, kitchen-gardening is encouraged under the Applied Nutritional Programme which has been introduced into the Ajnala, Verka and Tarn Taran blocks. Good-quality vegetable seeds and seedlings are supplied to the farmers in rural areas under this programme.

The area under vegetables has increased considerably. Celling on land holdings has led to intensive cultivation which has increased the intensity of cropping. The vegetable crops also had, therefore, their due share in increasing the intensity of cropping. The increase in the area under vegetables is also due to the increase in irrigation facilities. A rise in the sale price of celery has also increased the area under it. Vegetables are, in fact, the most paying crops for the small landholders.

Almost all the plains vegetables, as detailed below, are sown in the district:

Summer Vegetables.—chillies (*mirch*), okra (*bhindi*), bottle-gourd (*ghia kaddu*), vegetable marrow (*chappan kaddu*), squash melon (*tinda*), bitter-gourd (*karela*), pumpkin, (*halwa kaddu*), sponge-gourd (*ghia and kali tori*), ash-gourd (*petha*), musk-melon (*sarda kharbuza*), water-melon (*tarbuz*), long-melon (*tar*), cucumber (*khira*), arum (*arvi*), sweet-potato (*shakarkandi*), and cowpea (*lobla*).

Winter Vegetables.—potato (*alu*), cauliflower (*phulgobhi*), cabbage (*bandgobhi*), knol-khol (*gandgobhi*), peas (*matar*), tomato (*tamatar*), radish (*mulii*), turnip (*shalgam*), carrots (*gajar*), brinjal (*bengan*), spinach (*palak*), fenugreek (*methi*), onion (*piaz*), garlic (*lassan*), lettuce (*salad*), and French bean (*valaiti sem*).

Out of the above, the major vegetable crops grown in the district are chilli, potato, cauliflower, okra, brinjals and tomato. The total area under both vegetable and fruit crops in the district in 1967-68 was 7,799 hectares.

FRUIT CROPS AND GARDENS

For a balanced diet, fruits provide the vitally needed vitamins in addition to the various salts essential for the maintenance of health. Greater emphasis was, therefore, laid in the Second and Third Five-Year Plan Projects for augmenting the production of fruits in the district. With the exception of *kallar* and *bet* areas, the climate and the soil of the Amritsar District are eminently suited for the cultivation of tropical and subtropical fruits like citrus, guava, mango, peach, pear, plum, papaya, *ber* and *lichl*.

Owing to the adequate distribution of loans under the minor irrigation programme, the growers have installed their own tube-wells and pumping-sets, which, in turn, have increased the irrigation facilities, so vital for fruit-growing. Long-term loans at the rate of Rs 300 per acre, advanced to fruit-growers for planting new orchards, have gone a long way in increasing the area under fruit orchards. To encourage grape cultivation, loans up to Rs 3,000 per acre are advanced. The loans advanced for the establishment of new orchards in the district, from 1961-62 to 1967-68, are as under:

Year	Amount of loan advanced	
	General horti-culture	Grape cultivation
	(Rs)	(Rs)
1961-62	1,00,000	..
1962-63	17,700	..
1963-64	50,000	12,000
1964-65	27,000	21,000
1965-66	39,000	27,000
1966-67	..	18,000
1967-68	..	21,000

(Source : District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar)

The area under fruit orchards in the district, during the last two decades, has been as under :

		1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1967-68
Area under fruit orchards (hectares)	Irrigated ..	1,251	743	1,192	1,956	865
	Unirrigated ..	11	..	37	22	42
Total ..		1,262	743	1,229	1,978	907

Under the Punjab Fruit Nurseries Act, 1961, two nurseries have been established in the private sector in the district to supply the pedigree fruit-plants of the recommended varieties, free from any kind of insect pest or disease. These are:

1. The Khalsa College Nursery, Amritsar.
2. The Malak Nursery, Court Road, Amritsar.

(iii) Improved Agricultural Practices.—The rise in agricultural production in the district has been due to the introduction of high-yielding varieties of crops and the adoption of improved cultural practices, such as greater and better use of fertilizers and deep ploughing, crop rotation, green-manuring, the use of compost and farmyard manure, the use of bacterial cultures, the use of legume crops in rotations, the sowing of crops by using the *pora* method, the line-sowing of cotton, the Japanese method of paddy cultivation, the trench-sowing of sugar-cane, the use of improved furnaces for *gur*-making, and the installation of tube-wells and pumping-sets.

The high-yielding varieties of different crops sown in the district are as under:

Name of crop	Variety
Wheat	Kalyan, Sona, P.V. 18
Gram	Pb. 7, S-26, C-235, C-104
Paddy	I.R. 8, Jaya, Jhona-320, Jhona-349, Jhona-351, Palman Saffalida-246, Basmati-370, Basmati-217

Name of crop	Variety
Maize	Ganga-101, Ganga-5, Composite Vijay
Cotton	{ <i>Desi</i> 231-R, G-27
	{ <i>American</i> F-320, T-34
Sugarcane	{ <i>Early</i> Co. J-58, Co. L-29, Co. 6711
	{ <i>Mid-season</i> Co. 975, Co. 1158, Co. L-9
	{ <i>Late</i> Co. J-39, Co. J-46, Co. 1148
Barley	C-138, C-164
Potato	Up-to-Date, Kufri Chandarmukhi (2708), Kufri Sandhuri, Kufri Shakti (C-1)

(iv) **Crop-Competition Scheme.**—The scheme was introduced in the district in 1951-52 to promote a spirit of healthy rivalry among the cultivators for maximizing the yield of important crops per hectare through the use of improved agricultural practices. Crop-competitions are organized every year at the village, tahsil, district and State levels.

Besides, agricultural shows are held on the occasions of block *melas* and on the arrival of distinguished visitors.

Farmers Training Camps are organized for *kharif* and *rabi* seasons each year at district, block and village levels, where farmers are trained in modern scientific methods of agriculture.

(v) **Agricultural Co-operatives.**—In India, the idea of co-operation took a concrete shape for the first time with the passage of the Co-operative Credit Societies' Act, 1904, which provided for the formation of credit societies only. Since then, during its about seventy years growth, the co-operative movement in the country has passed through phases of rectification and cautious expansion, thereby expanding its scope to marketing, processing and many other aspects of economic and social life in India.

With the adoption of modern techniques of agriculture, the farmer today needs ready financial assistance in the form of short-term loans to meet expenses on chemical fertilizers, improved seeds and implements, minor irrigation facilities, insecticides, etc. In view of the limited resources of the State, it becomes imperative to mobilize all the resources of the farming community, and this is possible only by an active participation of the persons concerned. Co-operative

societies, both service and stores, are thus playing an increasingly important role in helping the farmers to augment the yield from their fields in many ways.

Co-operative societies in India can be broadly classified into two heads: primary and secondary. Whereas the primary societies deal directly with the members, the secondary societies, including Co-operative Unions, Central Co-operative Banks extend help to the primaries.

Of the agricultural co-operatives, the primary agricultural co-operative societies are further classified into primary agricultural credit/service societies and agricultural non-credit societies as under:

(1) **Primary Agricultural Credit/Service Societies.**—The co-operative movement in India started with these societies which today constitute the base of the co-operative credit structure in the country. In the Amritsar District, the co-operative movement was initiated in 1908. The work was started with a single Honorary Sub-Inspector. The Agricultural Credit Society was the first to come in the field. The district was given a separate Inspector for the first time in 1920, after which only real expansion began. With the establishment of the Central Co-operative Bank, Amritsar, on July 14, 1922, the agricultural credit societies expanded their activities. Until the partition of the Punjab in 1947, these societies confined their activities to the tapping of local deposits and to the advancing of loans. By and large, the co-operatives were functioning merely as thrift and credit societies.

On the partition of the Punjab in 1947, most of the societies left in the district were in a crippled condition owing to the exodus of the Muslim members and because of the blockade of funds in Pakistan. Nevertheless, in course of time, the movement got rehabilitated and made steady progress.

Hitherto, the co-operative credit societies were uni-purpose, i.e. these provided only credit to the cultivators and did nothing else. But, on the recommendations of the Co-operative Planning Committee, the primary co-operative credit societies were reorganized into multipurpose societies. The latter not only finance the agriculturists but also help them in selling their produce, storing the crops, purchasing manures and implements and supplying different consumer goods. Thus, during the Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61), the credit societies enlarged their functions so as to include the supplying and marketing of produce. About 9 rural godowns were set up and all regulated markets were covered with the marketing co-operatives. During the Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66), the co-operatives made good progress both in terms of the expansion programme and the enlargement of activities.

A network of primary agricultural credit/service societies is spread all over the district. These cover all the villages and exist within 3 km of the home

of the farmer. Their number increased from 1,130 in 1961-62 to 1,175 in 1965-66 and to 1,163 in 1967-68. The total amount of loans advanced increased from Rs 42.50 lakhs in 1961-62 to Rs 56.02 lakhs in 1965-66 and Rs 168.51 lakhs in 1967-68. In 1967-68, the membership of these societies was 1,11,992 and their paid-up share capital was Rs 45.18 lakhs.

All the service co-operatives are affiliated to the Amritsar Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Amritsar, which, in its turn, is affiliated to the apex credit institution known as the Punjab State Co-operative Bank Ltd., with its headquarters at Chandigarh. The Amritsar Central Co-operative Bank has its branches at Rayya, Pattl and Tarn Taran.

Besides the primary agricultural credit/service societies advancing short-term and medium-term loans, the Land Mortgage Banks¹ advance long-term loans for various major purposes, e.g. debt redemption, the purchase of land, the purchase of tractors and the installation of tube-wells.

(2) **Agricultural Non-Credit Societies.**—Though the co-operative movement in India has been essentially a credit movement from its very inception, yet its non-credit aspect has received some impetus since the World War II (1939-45). The number of agricultural non-credit societies in the district was 170 in 1967-68. Their principal forms are as under :

CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING SOCIETIES

These Societies grant loans only when the cultivators store their produce with them. The area of operation is wider and the members' liability is limited. The cultivators deal directly with the consumers through the societies and the middle men are altogether eliminated from the transaction. In 1967-68, there were 11 co-operative marketing societies in the district.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING SOCIETIES

Co-operative farming refers to a system of agricultural organization, wherein the cultivators of an area voluntarily associate together, pool their individual holdings for purposes of cultivation and manage the whole farm as one unit under an elected management. Its main object is to combine the incentive of ownership with the 'size economies' possible in agriculture. The small land holdings are not economic units and the scarcity of labour and its high

1. The land-mortgage banking structure consists of one apex institution known as the Punjab State Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank Ltd. Chandigarh (established in 1958) and two Primary Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks at Amritsar and Tarn Taran in the district. Since the Punjab State Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank was established very late, it could not divert the major flow of loans into productive channels till 1965-66. However, from July 1967, it switched over to productive finance, and these institutions have established a name in the entire country for the best recovery performances maintaining a pool of trained staff and keeping the lowest lending rates.

charges require that the cultivation of land be carried out on a co-operative basis. Either co-operative farming societies should be reorganized on some regular scale or some system of joint-farming be evolved, so that modern improved agricultural implements may be used and the problem of scarcity of agricultural labourers be solved. The Government, therefore, encourages farmers to group themselves voluntarily into co-operative farming societies.

In 1967-68, there were 124 co-operative farming societies in the district.

OTHER SOCIETIES

The number of other societies in the agricultural and allied fields in the district, during 1967-68, was as under:

Serial No.	Type of society	Number 1967-68
1.	Co-operative Fisheries-Farming Societies	1
2.	Co-operative Veterinary First-Aid Societies	5
3.	Consolidation of Holdings Societies	1
4.	Co-operative Cattle-Breeding Societies	21
5.	Co-operative Better Farming Societies	7

(vi) **Progress of Scientific Agriculture.**—New discoveries in the field of agricultural science and technology have led to a better understanding of crop behaviour and response to nutrients under different situations, and now the need is of the application of these principles judiciously to a given agro-climatic region. The problem of food production today, therefore, centres upon two points, viz. the provision of adequate supply of inputs of water and fertilizers, and their economic and efficient use.

Agricultural Implements.—Improved agricultural implements and machines play a vital role in increasing agricultural production. The farmers are gradually mechanizing agriculture and adopting improved implements in accordance with their utility and scope for use. The wooden plough has been completely replaced by the iron plough. The Persian wheels are being replaced by tube-wells and pumping-sets. The wooden-wheel cart has been almost completely replaced by the pneumatic-tyre cart. The traditional system of threshing wheat under the feet of bullocks has been almost discarded in favour of the mechanical method through power threshers operated with tractors or small motors.

The tractor-owning farmers are also adopting precision machines like seed-drills, seed-cum-fertilizer-drills, and corn-planters. The tractors are steadily replacing the bullocks. Almost all types of tractors manufactured in the country are operating in the district. The number of tractors registered in the Amritsar District, as on June 30, 1968, was 881.

The improved implements are being gradually adopted by the farmers in accordance with their utility and scope for use. The holdings in the district are, of course, very small, and this situation limits the scope for mechanized farming. However, owing to the scarcity of labour, high wages, the spread of education among the farmers, the enforcement of the Tenancy Act, and the improved condition of the farmers due to high prices of agricultural commodities, some well-to-do farmers have shifted to mechanized farming. Soil-inverting ploughs, disc-harrows, single-row cotton-drills, seed-cum-fertilizer-drills, corn-planters, shellers, sprayers, dusters, etc. are getting very popular.

The old type of agricultural implements still in common use in the district are *hal* (plough), *spade*, *khurpa*, *sohaga* (wooden plank), *trangli*, *sangha*, *chhajli*, sickle, *panjali*, *por*, the juice-boiling pan, *gand*, *ghowan*, *thapi*, *poni*, bullock-cart, hand-*toka*, axe, *phallah*, *jandra* (for making *bunds*), *karaha* (leveller), etc.

The table below gives the production of agricultural implements in the district during 1967-68 :

Name of Implement	Number	Cost
		(Rs)
Soil stirring plough	.. 12,818	28 each
Meston plough	.. 155	27 "
Buckets with chain (various size)	.. 5,803	5 "
<i>Triphali</i>	.. 168	34 "
Seed-cum-fertilizer-drill (bullock drawn)	.. 67	244 "
Bar-harrow	.. 265	45 "
Maize-sheller	.. 125	234 "

(Source : Agricultural Engineer (Implements), Punjab, Ludhiana)

Seeds.—Improved seeds constitute a basic requirement of increasing agricultural production. The multiplying and supplying of seeds of improved

varieties have been one of the most important functions of the Department of Agriculture. However, previously the production and supply of different seeds were not systematic and were carried on only on a limited scale. To improve upon this aspect, a scheme was undertaken during the Second Five-Year Plan to set up a chain of seed farms throughout the State to saturate the countryside with improved varieties of seeds of different crops. In 1967-68, there were ten seed farms in the district for producing improved seeds and their distribution to registered 'A' class growers for further multiplication and redistribution among the farmers. The particulars regarding these seed farms are given in the following statement :

Location			Year of establishment	Area of the seed farm (hectares)	Name of seed	Variety of seed	Quantity produced in 1967-68 (Quintals)
Tahsil	Block	Place					
1. Amritsar	.. Jandiala Guru	Mananwala	1957-58	3.5	Wheat	C. 306 C. 273	10.10 5.05
2. Do	.. Do	Mehrbampur	1957-58	10	Paddy	Paddy	No sowing
3. Do	.. Rayya	Bhalipura	1960-61	20	Wheat	P.V. 18 Larma Rojo	114.70 85.98
4. Ajnala	.. Ajnala	Dial Bahrang	1957-58	20	Paddy	..	21.60
					Wheat	Kalyan 227 P.V. 18	225.44 79.05
5. Do	.. Do	Ajnala	1957-58	10	Paddy	..	54.38
					Wheat	Kalyan 227 P.V. 18 Larma Rojo C. 306	57.04 96.65 69.64 13.37
6. Tarn Taran	.. Tarn Taran	Khabe Dogran	1957-58	8.5	Wheat	..	140.28
					Paddy	P.V. 18 Larma Rojo C. 306	90.00 22.00 17.00
					Maize	Paddy	20.99
					Wheat	..	9.00
					Wheat	Kalyan 227 P.V. 18	41.76 94.29
					Wheat	C. 306	11.67

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7. Tarn Taran	.. Chohla	Fatehabad	1957-58	10	Paddy	Paddy	50.90
					Maize	..	3.91
					Wheat	Kalyan 227 P.V. 18 C. 306	41.76 94.29 11.67
8. Do	.. Naushehra Pannuan	Usman	1960-61	20	Maize	..	171.70
					Wheat	Kalyan 227 P.V. 18 Larma Rojo	167.00 78.00 53.63
9. Patti	.. Patti	Bahmniwala	1957-58	10	Paddy	..	136.65
10. Do	.. Do	Kulah	1957-58	20	(Under dispute)	..	..
					Wheat	Kalyan 227 P.V. 18 Larma Rojo	106.00 163.00 53.63
					Paddy	..	18.06
					Maize	..	90.20

(Source : District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar)

The requirements of improved seeds are met by raising the foundation seeds at the Government and Block Model Farms, and by their systematic multiplication through registered growers. In 1967-68, there were 7 registered growers in the district. The distribution of seeds is made through the District Wholesale Co-operative Marketing and Supply Society which has its sub-depots at all important places in the district.

The distribution of the different varieties of improved seeds has gradually increased. Their distribution in the district by the Agriculture Department, during 1967-68, is given below :

Crop	1967-68
	(Quintals)
Wheat	.. 13,973
Paddy	.. 949
Hybrid Maize	.. 199
Gram	.. 51
Jantar	.. 135
Cotton	.. 1,423

(Source : District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar)

Crop Rotation.—Each crop removes from the soil certain particular nutrients more than the other nutrients. If the same crop is repeated year after year on the same land, the soil will become deficient in those particular nutrients. The soil recuperates its fertility if some other crop sown withdraws different plant nutrients.

Rotation, which includes restorative leguminous crops, helps to improve the soil fertility. The farmers, therefore, generally try to follow suitable rotations according to the prevailing conditions. The rotations generally followed are given below :

1. Paddy—*berseem*
2. Cotton—*senji*—sugarcane
3. Maize—*senji*—sugarcane
4. Wheat—maize—wheat—*dhaincha* (green-manured)
5. *Dhaincha* (green-manured)—paddy—wheat

6. *Dhaincha* (green-manured)—potato—potato
7. Wheat—cotton—*senji*—sugarcane
8. Maize (fodder)—maize (fodder)—potato—potato
9. Wheat—fallow—wheat (*barani*)

Fallow Cultivation.—The land, from which one crop has been harvested and is left to rest until the next crop is sown, is called the fallow land. Fallow lands are of two kinds. Lands which, after abandonment, remain uncultivated over a long period are called 'old fallows,' whereas those kept uncultivated during the current year are called 'current fallows'. Fallow cultivation, therefore, means the cultivation of land which has thus rested. In the absence of organic manures and fertilizers, fallow cultivation is very important for replenishing the soil fertility reduced by the previous crop.

With the extension of irrigation facilities and owing to the pressure on the land, not much area is left fallow. The extent of current fallows, however, depends on rains. If rains are timely, the maximum area is sown and only a little area is left fallow.

Fertilizers and Manures.—The fertility of a soil is the basic pre-requisite of good harvests. It can be maintained and improved through the adoption of such agricultural practices as not only tend to minimize the loss of nutrients but also add them to the soil. Therefore, next to irrigation, fertilizers and manures are the most important inputs for increasing crop yields. These inputs improve the texture and fertility of the soil and thereby increase crop yields.

Chemical Fertilizers

The soils of the district are poor in nitrogen which is the greatest limiting factor in crop production. Certain soils are also deficient in phosphorus. Owing to the inadequate supply of organic manures, the addition of chemical fertilizers is indispensable to the increasing of crop yields. The fertilizers, however, should be used in combination with organic manures.

The adequate and timely use of fertilizers is, thus, by far the most important factor for bringing about a quick increase in agricultural production, especially under irrigated conditions. As a result of various educational, promotional and organizational measures, such as the large-scale demonstrations, training camps, phased indenting, increase in the number of distribution centres, adequate credit and effective co-ordination among various departments, viz. Agriculture, Co-operative and Development, and, above all, individual personal contacts through various types of crop or farm plans, the consumption

of fertilizers, both nitrogenous and phosphatic, has steadily increased. This is borne out by the following data regarding the distribution of fertilizers :

Year	Chemical fertilizers distributed
1955-56	(tonnes) 1,129
1960-61	1,310
1965-66	20,067
1967-68	50,149

(Source: District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar)

As fertilizers are getting popular among the cultivators, the demand for these is increasing rapidly. It has, however, not been possible to meet the demand in full owing to their limited production in the country and because of the limited imports on account of foreign-exchange difficulties. The availability of credit is a vital factor in pushing up the consumption of fertilizers, as the farmers have generally meagre resources at the time of sowing their crops and are unable to purchase fertilizers on cash payment. Fertilizers are, therefore, issued as *taccavi* through authorized officials. Being a controlled commodity, the supplies of fertilizers are arranged through the Government. The District Wholesale Co-operative Marketing and Supply Society, Amritsar, distributes these to depot-holders on cash payment as well as on credit.

Local Manurial Resources

Owing to the constant production of crops from the soil, the latter is being depleted gradually of its nitrogenous and other nutrients. An ordinary crop takes about 25 lb. of nitrogen from an acre. It is, therefore, necessary to replenish the soil with the elements which are removed by the crops year after year.

Organic matter is the life of the soil because it contains all the essential elements required for plant growth. It also serves as food for soil bacteria. Decomposed organic matter, known as humus, improves the soil tilth and helps the plant to grow. Well-stored farmyard manure is most important of all organic manures, but it is not available in sufficient quantity. Farmyard manure, if not properly stored, loses its nutrient-supplying value to a great extent.

Therefore, in order to conserve farmyard manure and town refuse properly, two schemes were taken in hand by the Agriculture Department during the Second Five-Year Plan (1956—61). The schemes were : "Development of Local Manurial Resources" and "Manufacture of Compost in Towns".

Rural Compost and Cattle-Dung Manure.—Cattle dung or farmyard manure is one of the best manures. Rich in nutrients which are readily available, it costs next to nothing. However, out of necessity or ignorance, the cultivators burn cow-dung as fuel. It is estimated that only about two-thirds of the total cow dung is utilized in compost-making, the rest being used as fuel.

The Rural Compost and Cattle-Dung Manure Scheme came into operation in January 1958 on an all-India basis to develop the local manurial resources. The main object of the scheme was to increase the quantity of cattle-dung manure and to improve its quality. This is being achieved through a larger and better utilization of all the manurial resources in the villages.

The scheme has a vital role to play in increasing agricultural production in view of the shortage of chemical fertilizers, their high cost and foreign-exchange difficulties in importing these in large quantities to meet our requirements. The scheme will indirectly result in increasing production and in improving the economic condition of the farmers. New compost pits are dug and old ones are repaired for the proper conservation of farm and household wastes. Cattle dung is, however, still being used as fuel by the cultivators in the villages, though during rains most of it goes to the manure pits and is converted into compost.

Previously, the work of compost-making was carried out only through persuasion and propaganda which proved to be quite an uphill task, because the farmers in the villages were often found reluctant to adopt the improved methods. It was felt that some legislation was necessary to make it obligatory on the farmers to conserve their cattle dung and other organic wastes properly in the pits. Thus, the East Punjab Conservation of Manures Act, 1949 (East Punjab Act No. 15 of 1949) was passed in October 1949. Under this Act, defaulters are liable to a fine up to Rs 25 and, in case of continued breach, to a further fine which may extend to Rs 4 per day. The advantage of conserving manure in pits, apart from hygienic considerations, is that all the farm rubbish can be converted into manure which is rich in nitrogen.

The quantity of rural compost prepared during the past few years is as under :

Year	Rural Compost prepared
	(tonnes)
1960-61	3,47,436
1965-66	6,66,000
1966-67	8,46,000
1967-68	7,35,000

(Source : Town Compost-cum-Field Manure Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Green Manuring.—Farmyard manure and compost are not available in sufficient quantities to the farmers to meet their full requirements. Artificial fertilizers are also in short supply. Owing to the intensely hot summers, the available humus in the soil is burnt up quickly. A periodical application of organic matter is, therefore, essential to replenish the loss of humus, which is necessary for keeping the soil in good condition by enhancing the supply of nitrogen and by promoting the growth of micro-organisms.

Green-manuring is, thus, a very useful soil-improving practice for building up soil fertility. First, it increases the soil fertility by the direct addition of nitrogen to the soil. Second, it improves the soil texture by the addition of humus or organic matter which is essential for making the soil more productive. The addition of organic matter improves both heavy and sandy soils, as it has a binding effect on the loose particles of the sandy soils and makes the hard and heavy soils porous. Thus, it also increases the water-holding capacity of the soil. Besides, the conditions for increasing the number of useful bacteria in the soil are also improved. The crop generally used for green-manuring is *dhaincha*, though the cultivation of sun-hemp and *guara* is also in vogue.

Green-manuring is in common use in irrigated lands, but its popularity in *barani* land is hindered by the lack of irrigational facilities.

The Extension of Green-Manuring Scheme came into operation in the Punjab with effect from April 1, 1961. It aims at popularizing the use of green manure in the State. The Government encourages the adoption of this practice by the farmers by granting subsidies on seeds of green-manuring crops. The Irrigation Department also grants remission of water-rate, if crops are buried for green-manuring before 15th of September.

The total area under the green-manuring crops in the district, during the past few years, has been as under :

Year	Area under green-manuring crops (hectares)
1955-56	716
1960-61	7,785
1965-66	13,254
1967-68	26,096

(Source : Town Compost-cum-Field Manure Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Town Compost and Sullage Utilization

Town Compost.—The bulky organic manures are quite important for the maintenance of soil fertility, and for a high level of crop production. The refuse available in the towns, e.g. all sorts of waste organic matter, such as cattle dung, house refuse, leaves of trees, and night-soil, are a potential source of good-quality compost which can be utilized for crop production. To harness this source for increasing agricultural production, all-out efforts are being made in the State to have these wastes properly conserved for using as manure.

Town compost is prepared in the district by the municipalities of Amritsar, Chheharta, Jandiala Guru, Majitha, Patti and Tarn Taran. Its production during 1965-66 to 1967-68 is given below :

Year	Urban compost prepared by municipalities (tonnes)					
	Amritsar	Chheharta	Jandiala Guru	Majitha	Patti	Tarn Taran
1965-66	33,814	2,227	3,588	538	512	1,783
1966-67	35,543	2,640	3,514	273	617	1,259
1967-68	41,921	1,851	4,035	1,218	4,920	2,113

(Source : Town Compost-cum-Field Manure Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Sullage Utilization.—Sewage or sullage is a mixture of numerous kinds of household and industrial wastes which are conveniently carried away by water. A large proportion of the waste water is of organic origin and contains plant-food nutrients in varying quantities and can be used with advantage for fertilizing the land. Crops grown on sewage or sullage effluents give considerably higher yields than those with ordinary irrigation water.

(vii) Plant Diseases, Pests and Obnoxious Weeds

Agriculture, apart from a gamble in rain, is subject to havoc caused by pests and diseases. As human ingenuity has no control over natural forces,

plant-protection measures against pests and diseases become a necessity for the successful raising of farm crops. Suitable control operations against the attacks of insect pests and diseases in case of cereals, vegetables, fruit-trees, cash crops or stored grains need to be carried out regularly, like manuring, watering and hoeing; otherwise very often the pests and diseases attain such magnitudes as to wipe out the crops.

Appalling ravages wrought by field rats are bitterly known to farmers. The commonest pests and diseases occurring in the district are mentioned below :

Crop pests and diseases	.. Sugarcane top-borer, sugarcane stem-borer, sugarcane pyrrilla, cotton jassid, cotton leaf-roller, rice bug, <i>pansukh</i> disease of rice, <i>sarson</i> aphids, <i>toka</i> , loose smut of wheat, etc.
Fruit pests and diseases	.. Citrus psylla, lemon caterpillar, mango-hopper, mango mealy bug, citrus canker, etc.
Vegetable pests	.. Red pumpking beetle, brinjal <i>hadda</i> , potato and <i>bhindi</i> jassid, brinjal and <i>bhindi</i> fruit-borer.
Stored grain pests	.. <i>Khapra</i> , <i>susri</i> , <i>dhora</i> , etc.
Miscellaneous pests	.. Field rats, jackals, etc.

Obnoxious Weeds.—*Pohli* is an obnoxious weed. The State Agriculture Department tried to eradicate it through persuasion, but the cultivators did not pay much heed to its eradication and the intensity of *pohli* infestation reached an alarming level. The State Government, therefore, enacted the East Punjab Agricultural Pests and Diseases and Obnoxious Weeds Act, 1949. Under this Act, the offenders can be punished on conviction by a Magistrate with fine which may extend up to Rs 50, or in default a simple imprisonment for a period, not exceeding ten days. Notices are issued by Agricultural Inspectors to those cultivators who do not eradicate this weed on persuasion before the maturing of its seed, and the defaulters are reported against for legal action, wherever necessary.

(d) Animal Husbandry, Poultry and Fisheries

Livestock are the backbone of the peasantry. They not only supply the motive power for agricultural operations but also supply milk and other by-products and help to augment the income of the farmers. Moreover, they help to secure a balanced diet for the urban people and reduce dependence on foodgrains alone.

Animals, especially cattle, play an important role in the economy of the district. Animal husbandry, thus, forms an important part of agriculture. The essential equipment of a peasant-farmer includes a pair of bullocks or he-buffaloes to do the ploughing, work the Persian wheel and draw the cart. Even though motor power and electricity are gradually replacing the bullocks, yet for a long time to come, the importance of the latter will remain pre-eminent. Further, milk, which cows and buffaloes yield, is of great importance as a nutritive and protective food.

The district possesses a good number of livestock, including cattle, buffaloes, horses and ponies, donkeys, mules, sheep, goats, camels and pigs. Their number, according to the livestock Census of 1966, is as under :

Livestock in the Amritsar District (1966)

Particulars	Tahsil Amritsar	Tahsil Tarn Taran	Tahsil Ajnala	Tahsil Patti	Total
Cattle	1,30,222	1,06,933	63,384	57,038	3,57,577
Buffaloes	1,57,225	1,32,693	73,164	66,440	4,29,522
Horses and Ponies	3,776	3,471	1,129	1,580	9,956
Donkeys	6,468	6,715	1,994	4,502	19,679
Mules	238	191	69	9	507
Sheep	4,276	7,496	5,279	6,617	23,668
Goats	10,089	11,140	5,175	4,108	30,512
Camels	407	1,824	285	1,120	3,636
Pigs	194	320	366	217	1,097
Total	3,12,895	2,70,783	1,50,845	1,41,631	8,76,154

(Statistical Abstract of District Amritsar, 1967, pp. 132—137)

For the development of animal husbandry, including veterinary aid, the Amritsar District falls under the Jullundur Division, which is under the charge of a Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry, with headquarters at Amritsar. He is under the control of the Director, Animal Husbandry, Punjab, Chandigarh. At the district level, there is a District Animal Husbandry Officer at Amritsar, holding the semi-independent charge of the district. Before the partition of the country in 1947, the district was under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent, Animal Husbandry, Lahore (now in Pakistan), who was in charge of both the Lahore and Amritsar districts.

The functions of the Department at the district level are : the control and prevention of contagious diseases among animals, the improvement of stock by castrating useless male stock, the supply of bulls of improved breeds, the supervision of poultry and piggery, the holding of cattle shows, etc., the maintenance of stallions for horse-breeding and mule-breeding, the provision of fresh semen of exotic and local breeds of cattle by the Nili buffalo-bulls, the establishment of Key Village Blocks with a number of Key Village Units for the improvement of cattle, the supply of seeds to bonafide breeders at subsidized rates for the improvement of fodder crops, the establishment of demonstration pasture plots, grants for popularizing fodder grasses, the organizing of calf rallies as incentives to the breeders to look after their young calves, etc. These activities are carried on through 30 Civil Veterinary Hospitals, 32 Veterinary Dispensaries, the Mule-Breeding Centre, and 5 Key Village Blocks with 50 Key Village Units.

(i) **Animal Health Wing and Animal Breeding Wing.**—The Animal Husbandry Department at the district level comprises two wings, viz. Animal Health, under the charge of a District Animal Husbandry Officer, and Animal Breeding, under the charge of an Assistant Director, Key Village Scheme. Their strength (as on April 1, 1968) was as under :

Animal Health Wing.—One District Animal Husbandry Officer, assisted by 24 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, 2 Animal Husbandry Assistants, and 62 Veterinary Compounders, besides other miscellaneous technical and ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

Animal Breeding Wing.—One Assistant Director, Key Village Scheme, assisted by 6 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, 46 Stock Assistants, 2 Laboratory Assistants, and 3 Drivers, besides other miscellaneous technical and ministerial Class III and allied Class IV staff. The jurisdiction of the Assistant Director, Key Village Scheme, Amritsar, also extends to the Gurdaspur and Kapurthala districts.

Animal Health Wing.—The jurisdiction of the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Amritsar, is the entire district and he attends to the following activities :—

- (1) Control and prevention of contagious diseases of animals.
- (2) Treatment of sick animals.
- (3) Castration of useless male stock for the improvement of breeds.
- (4) Making available of bulls of improved breeds.
- (5) Maintenance of stallions for horse-breeding and mule-breeding in the district.
- (6) Supervision of poultry-breeding and piggery-breeding and the extension of that work to augment the protein-rich diet of the nation.
- (7) Holding of cattle-shows and the awarding of medals, prizes and certificates to top-quality animals for the encouragement of improved breeding.
- (8) Holding of milk-yield competitions and the awarding of prizes to encourage the breeding of milk strains, like the Sahiwal in case of cows, and the Nili breed in case of buffaloes.

These activities are performed through 30 civil veterinary hospitals, each under the charge of a veterinary assistant surgeon, and 32 veterinary dispensaries, each under the charge of a trained veterinary compounder. Besides, a mule-breeding centre is run in the district at Sialka.

Animal Breeding Wing.—An Intensive Cattle Development Project under the control of the Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry, Jullundur Division, with headquarters at Amritsar, with the project jurisdiction of the Amritsar District, was started in 1968 in the combined milk-shed areas of Amritsar to make an impact on milk production in the tract, which is well-known for the Nili buffalo famous for high milk yield. On account of lucrative prices offered by the traders for these high milkers, the breeders keep quality animals.

The breeding operations are carried on by obtaining fresh semen from the Semen Bank where progeny-tested Nili buffalo-bulls are kept. Bulls for semen collection are selected on the basis of milk yield of their dams and on phenotypic characters. In addition to the existing facilities of Key Village

Blocks, ten new livestock centres, under the charge of trained stock assistants, have been set up. Each centre covers ten thousand buffaloes of breedable age. To avoid indiscriminate breeding, an intensive effort is made to castrate scrub buffalo-bulls. The fodder resources of the district are favourable and the scheme envisages the adoption of improved feeding practices, the development of fodder resources and also the establishment of a feed-mixing plant to supply nutritive feed to the breeders of the area for these animals. Facilities are provided for the registration of animals of outstanding milk yield. Cattle-shows and calf rallies are also organized. To educate the farmers in the art of better management, feeding and disease prevention of milch animals, in particular, and of other livestock, in general, periodical audio-visual programmes are arranged in the blocks and areas around them through a film project.

The jurisdiction of the Assistant Director, Key Village Scheme, extends over the three districts, viz. Amritsar, Kapurthala and Gurdaspur, with headquarters at Amritsar, and covers the following activities :—

- (1) Provision of fresh semen of exotic and local breeds of cattle and Nili buffalo-bulls by establishing a semen bank at Verka.
- (2) Establishment of Key Village Blocks with a number of Key Village Units for the improvement of cattle and buffalo breeds through artificial insemination.
- (3) Supplying of seeds to the *bonafide* breeders at subsidized rates for the improvement of fodder crops.
- (4) Establishment of Demonstration Pasture Plots by giving grants for popularizing fodder grasses and silos.
- (5) Provision of funds for organizing calf rallies for giving incentive to the breeders to look after their young calves.

The above activities are carried on through 5 Key Village Blocks under the charge of trained Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, and 50 Key Village Units under the charge of trained Stock Assistants. Top quality cows and buffalo-bulls are maintained at the Key Village Blocks and Key Village Units for natural service.

The following institutions exist in the district for artificial insemination. All these are under the supervision of the Assistant Director, Key Village Scheme, Amritsar. But the ten centres shown under the Intensive Cattle Development Project (I.C.D.P.) are under the direct control of the Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry, Jullundur Division, Amritsar.

Key Village Block/ Artificial Insemination Centre	Date of opening	Key Village Unit attached	Number of villages covered
1. Khalsa College, Amritsar	26th March, 1954	(i) Chheharta (ii) Raja Sansi (iii) Verka (iv) Harse Chhina (v) Chak Mukand (vi) Kohali	17 villages, be- sides the Amritsar city
2. Jandiala Guru ..	1st April, 1967	(i) Mananwala (ii) Bundala (iii) Tangrah (iv) Kale Ke (v) Khalchian (vi) Mehman (vii) Timmowal (viii) Charyala (ix) Nizampurah (x) Vadalah Jauhal	
3. Patti ..	1st March, 1957	(i) Kairon (ii) Jandoke (iii) Tarn Taran (iv) Usman (v) Sirhali Kalan (vi) Dhariwal (vii) Manihala Jai Singh (viii) Gharyala (ix) Surwind (x) Mughal Wala	32
4. Mahta ..	8th March, 1959	(i) Mattewala (ii) Bhoewal (iii) Dhardeo (iv) Udoke (v) Sialka (vi) Baba Bakala (vii) Sathiala (viii) Ghuman (ix) Rangarh Nangal (x) Dhariwala	46
5. Ajnala ..	15th February, 1962	(i) Dalam (ii) Thoba (iii) Chhina Karm Singh (iv) Mananwala (v) Othian (vi) Dial Bharang	26
6. Semen Bank, Verka	15th August, 1965	(This Centre is meant for supplying semen)	

Intensive Cattle Development Project Centres

Ten such centres have been established in the district at Prit Nagar, Kohala, Chawinda, Chidan, Kaler, Naushehra Nangli, Mohan Bhandari, Bhoma Vadala, Bhoja and Uggur Olakh to cater to the breeding requirements of the

people of the respective areas. Each of these centres covers 10,000 buffaloes and cows of breedable age in a compact contiguous block.

Development of Gaushalas

Taking into consideration the huge potentialities of the *Gaushalas* and *Pinjrapols* all over the country, a Gaushala Development Scheme was launched on an all-India basis to develop selected *Gaushalas* to serve as cattle-breeding-cum-milk-producing centres. Such a scheme was introduced in the Punjab in 1956-57 during the Second Five-Year Plan and was further continued during the Third Five-Year Plan.

In the district, there are three *gaushalas*, viz. (1) Amritsar Pinjrapol Gaushala Regd., Ghee Mandi, Amritsar ; (2) Siri Ram Gaushala, Govindwal ; and (3) Gaushala Jandiala Guru. Of these, only the first is functioning; the others exist only in name.

Cattle Fairs and Shows

To stimulate the interest of the breeders in cattle development and to get them good return from the money invested in this industry, a number of cattle fairs and shows are held in the district. Besides, providing marketing facilities, handsome prizes are awarded at the fairs and shows to the breeders for the excellent stock bred by them. These cattle fairs also afford an opportunity to the breeders to select suitable types of animals, and to exchange ideas and experience with one another in the field of livestock-breeding.

With the same end in view, the celebration of the Gosamvardhana Week was started in 1955 on the Gopal Ashtami day and has been continued every year. The funds for the purpose are allotted by the State Animal Husbandry Department. Out of the funds, 50 per cent of the expenditure is met by the Central Council of Gosamvardhana, New Delhi.

During 1968-69, a milk-yield competition was held. Twenty animals competed in it and Rs 200 was awarded as prizes from the State funds.

Castration

It is an admitted fact that effective improvement in livestock can only be achieved if efficient and strict culling of all substandard animals is carried on regularly. Any amount of breeding carried out to improve the livestock will be futile if not supported by vigorous culling. During 1967-68, 9,155 animals, including 9,070 bovines, 12 equines and 73 others were castrated.

Control of the Menace of Wild and Stray Cattle

Great damage is done to the crops by wild and stray cattle in rural areas. Their number is on the increase, owing to the progressive imposition of a complete ban on the slaughtering of cattle in the State. In order to control this menace, a scheme for the rounding up of wild and stray cattle as well as for their disposal, known as the Wild and Stray Cattle Catching Scheme, was launched in the State in 1962-63 during the Third Five-Year Plan. It was, however, felt that the more extensive efforts were needed for tackling this problem. Accordingly, a fairly comprehensive programme was included in the Third Five-Year Plan. Under the scheme, cattle-catching parties have been organized to round up wild and stray cattle.

Gosadans

The elimination of useless and unproductive cattle is an important supplementary factor for ensuring the success of the cattle-development programme. This problem has increased in importance because of the imposition of a progressive ban on the slaughtering of cattle in the State. In order to segregate useless and inferior cattle, *Gosadans* have been established.

(ii) **Area under Fodder Crops.**—Normal years yield plenty of fodder. During April to June, the cattle are fed on wheat, barley, gram and dry straw. The new straw of the *rabi* crops comes in April. In July and August, there is good grass in the waste-lands and on the fallows. So the cattle are grazed on it. In September and October, green fodder in the form of *jowar* alone or mixed with *moth* or some other legume is given. From November to the beginning of March, the dry stalks of *jowar*, maize, etc. are given and, if necessary, wheat or barley in the form of *misra bhusa*. In March, animals are sometimes fed on *metha*, *senji*, turnips, *shatala*, etc. and green wheat or barley is also given. This, however, is an exception in case of milch cattle and is not the rule. So wheat and barley straw in the summer and *jowar* and maize stalks in the winter form the principal cattle fodders. Turnip is only used in the *bet* (riverine area).

From the above account, it is evident that August to November is the best period for the cattle in the whole of the year and April to June is the worst period for them. Speaking generally, chaff, grass, *jowar*, *senji*, *shatala*, *bajra* and the crushed stalks of sugarcane are the principal fodders of the district.

About 20 per cent of the total cropped area (as ascertained in 1967-68) is under fodder crops. Apart from these crops, the stalks of *bajra*, *jowar* and maize and the chaff of wheat, gram and minor cereals are used as animal fodder. The important among the fodder crops are *churi*, green maize, *guara*, *metha*, *javi*, *berseem* and lucerne. Of these, *churi* is the leading crop and covers about 8 per cent of the area under forage crops. The following table gives the area

under different fodder crops in the district during 1955-56, 1960-61, 1965-66 and 1967-68 :—

Area under fodder crops in the Amritsar District, 1955-56 to 1967-68

Fodder crops	Year			
	1955-56 (hectares)	1960-61 (hectares)	1965-66 (hectares)	1967-68 (hectares)
Kharif crops :				
Jowar (chari)	42,527	37,143	40,880	44,576
Guara	—	1,761	1,139	1,948
Other fodders	10,514	5,593	4,861	6,732
Total	53,041	44,497	46,880	53,256
Rabi crops :				
Berseem	20,656	26,041	34,228	13,653
Oats (javi)	402	20	—	427
Lucerne	—	—	—	257
Other fodders (turnip)	40,690	24,816	24,239	39,473
Total	61,748	50,877	58,467	53,810
Grand Total	1,14,789	95,374	1,05,347	1,07,066

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

The feed and fodder development programme has also been undertaken under the Key Village Scheme. The farmers are persuaded to grow improved varieties of fodders and grasses by supplying the seeds at subsidized rates. The utility of improved seed, cultural practices and intercropping is explained to them by laying out demonstration plots, each $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre, in the cultivators' own fields. Breeders are also asked to conserve the surplus green fodder during the flush season for utilizing it during the lean period. The paddy straw, utilized as cattle feed, is very deficient in food value.

Shamlat deh or the village common lands, which were being used as pastures before the consolidation of holdings, have now been distributed among the villagers and brought under cultivation. There are now no pastures or grazing-lands as such in the district.

(iii) **Dairy Farming.**—Buffaloes and cows constitute the main source for the supply of milk. According to the Livestock Census of 1966, the numbers of cows and buffaloes in milk in the district were 58,570 and 1,19,131 respectively. Sparsely distributed in certain areas of the district, there are some goats and sheep also, but their milk yield is small and of no commercial importance.

The total output of milk is quite adequate in terms of the requirements of the rural population. But the tendency of the cultivator is to sell as much of his products as possible for cash, even if this entails a shortage of essential nutrients in his own diet and that of his family. For the villages in the vicinity of towns, the market is relatively lucrative and the sale of milk is a valuable addition to the cultivator's income. The Verka Milk Plant collects milk from cultivators whose holdings are remote from the market.

The Government Milk Plant was established at Verka in 1962. It is fed by the Village-Collection Centres located in the rural area. The milk collected at these centres is brought to the 19 Assembling-Centres, from where it is taken to the plant. Besides, there are 2 Milk-Chilling Centres at Patti and Mahta. The details of milk handled and milk products made by the plant during 1967-68 are as under :—

	Kilogrammes
(1) Milk	1,07,75,715
(2) Whole milk powder	1,61,276
(3) Skim-milk powder	3,90,191
(4) Table butter	1,56,026
(5) White butter	2,39,220
(6) Ghee (prepared from white butter mentioned above)	25,565

(iv) **Sheep-Breeding.**—The improved methods of rearing, breeding and management of sheep, including the shearing and grading of wool, besides providing veterinary aid to protect sheep from contagious and non-contagious diseases, which cause heavy loss to the breeders, are essential for improving the quality and quantity of the wool yield. The scheme for the development of sheep and wool in the State was introduced in 1957. It aims at developing the sheep and wool industry by improving the quality and quantity of wool yield through scientific knowledge in sheep husbandry and wool technology imparted to the sheep-farmers, registering the flocks for the maintenance of breeding records, and by controlling the outbreak of diseases among sheep.

The total numbers of sheep and goats in the district, according to the Livestock Census of 1966, were 23,668 and 30,512 respectively.

The sheep in the district are of non-descript breed. Selection methods are employed for breeding. The best ram out of the lot available is selected and utilized to improve the breed.

(v) **Poultry Farming.**—The changes in food habits, in general, since the partition of the country in 1947 have given a stimulus to poultry-farming. Religious prejudices against the eating of poultry and eggs, prevalent among certain sections of the population, are being gradually shed.

Previously, people used to keep *desi* birds on the free-range system. With the establishment of 4 Poultry Service Centres at Verka, Tarn Taran, Ajnala and Kairon, farmers have taken to poultry farming on scientific lines. Twelve poultry co-operative societies, with a total membership of 179, are functioning in the district. There are two Panchayat Samiti Poultry Extension Centres at Ajnala and Kairon, run with Government staff. Their main function is to provide veterinary aid to the poultry farmers and remove their difficulties. There are about 94 poultry farms in the district. High-egg-laying strains of White Leghorn and Rhode Island Red birds are being maintained in the district by the poultry farmers.

According to the Livestock Census of 1966, the total number of fowls, ducks, turkeys and other birds in the district was 1,87,755. The Poultry Wing was retransferred to the control of the Animal Husbandry Department from that of the Industries Department with effect from April, 1966.

In 1967-68, there was one Poultry Extension Centre at Kairon, three Intensive Poultry Development Blocks at Ajnala, Tarn Taran and Kairon, and one Poultry-cum-Piggery Centre at Ajnala in the district.

(vi) **Piggery.**—Pig is a very prolific breeder. Its offspring grow more quickly and mature at an earlier age than those of other food animals. Pigs, therefore, have great potentialities for augmenting the food-supply, because of their number can be rapidly increased.

To improve the indigenous stock, interested breeders have been provided with a number of good quality pigs, both male and female, at Government approved rates. According to the Livestock Census of 1966, the total number of pigs in the district was 1,097.

(vii) **Fisheries.**—Apart from the vast natural fishery resources of the district, there are vast expenses of culturable waters within the boundaries of its 14 blocks. Natural fisheries abound in the riverine complex consisting of approximately 128 km of the Beas River, 40 km of the Ravi River, 32 km of the Satluj River and 78.4 km of the Sakki Nala. Besides, there are drains, canals, and *dhands* to the extent of approximately 400 km of water-courses.

Apart from the natural fishery potentialities, the district is also rich because of ponds and tanks covering 952.75 acres in 317 villages. Including the fallow water areas like *chhambs*, there are about 1,000 acres of culturable water which can easily be brought under fish-culture after minor remodellings and improvements with the object of boosting fish production.

With the passage of time, the food habits of the people have markedly changed. Now fish easily finds a place on the dining table. The demand for fish has increased manifold. Thus there is a regular and substantial demand for fish for local consumption.

There is, therefore, a great scope for fish-culture after effecting some minor and major renovations in the ponds and tanks. Fish-culture is practised by using stocking fingerlings at the rate of 1,000 per acre of water after the monsoon and generally during the winter months. The fry of the major carp, which are left in the inundated waters of the rivers, or in the enclosed sheets of waters cut off from the river waters, are reared up to the fingerling stage in the natural environment and are sorted out and collected by the department and stocked in ponds and tanks.

The natural fishery resources are also an asset to the district. The stock in the natural course can also be enriched by more effective conservation measures, which, in turn, will be a lure to anglers, fish-traders, etc.

The species of the major carp are stocked in the village ponds for fish-culture. These are *Rohu* (*L. rohita*), *Thail* (*C. catla*), *Mirgal* (*C. mrigala*), *Kelahan* (*L. calbans*) and *Mirror car*. These species are non-carnivorous in their feeding habits and, thus, a mixed farming of all these species is done to utilize the whole productivity (food) of ponds and tanks because of the different food habits of the fish at different strata of the fresh water. These species are cultured together to utilize the food to the maximum. Catfishes do appear in the stocked ponds and they should be eliminated from the stock. The riverine fish fauna, however, consists of all the varieties of major carp and catfish.

The commercially important fish with their local names are : *Dhambra* or *Rohu*, *Thail*, *Morakh* or *Mirgal*, *Kalehan*, *Singhara*, *Saul*, *Mulle*, *Paddi*, *Mahanseer*, *Khaga*, etc., whereas those less important are *Batter*, *Bhangan*, *Kursa*, *Pallu*, *Kingar*, *Daulla* and *Pahari Rohu*.

The fishing contract is auctioned for one year from September to August. The fish production in the district from notified waters, other than drains, etc. was 460 quintals in 1965-66 and 2,328 quintals in 1967-68. The annual production from drains, canals, etc. also on an average amounts to 200 to 300 quintals.

Fisheries being a paying enterprise, and, with the increasing trend in fish production from rivers, streams, canals and drains, there is a marked increase

in revenue therefrom. The income of Rs 20,000 during 1965-66 increased to Rs 1,30,010 during 1967-68. Apart from this, the canal fisheries contribute their share to the extent of Rs 10,000 to 20,000 annually. There is also a meagre contribution from angling sport licences and compensation and sale of fish seed.

The promotion of fisheries was previously looked after by the Director, Animal Husbandry and Warden of Fisheries, Punjab. But in 1963, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries was bifurcated and a separate department under the charge of Director and Warden of Fisheries was set up. In the district, the department is represented by 3 Fisheries Officers, one each at Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Jandiala Guru. They are assisted by the following staff, the distribution of which is given circlewise:—

Amritsar Circle	.. 3 Field Assistants and 3 Fishermen
Tarn Taran Circle	.. 3 Field Assistants and 1 Boatman
Jandiala Guru Circle	.. 2 Field Assistants and 1 Fisherman.

The main activities of the department are the conservation of fishery resources and the development of fisheries. The conservation aspect is looked after by keeping a check on the activities of poachers and those indulging in unlicensed fishing as well as in the harmful methods of fishing, such as the dynamiting and poisoning of public waters.^a The licensees are allowed to catch fish under the rules framed under the Punjab Fisheries Act, 1914, so as to eliminate indiscriminate fishing and save fisheries (which form a natural asset) from annihilation. In order to give a fillip to the fishing industry and to ensure regional self-sufficiency, the village ponds, which, in their existing neglected condition, form only breeding places for mosquitoes and, thus, prove eyesores to the picturesque village surroundings, are stocked with fish seed collected from natural spawning-grounds. The stocked ponds and tanks become free from mosquitoes, larvae and many other disease-producing parasites.

(viii) Animal Diseases and Veterinary Hospitals Animal Diseases

Although a comprehensive effort has been made to control and reduce the incidence of veterinary diseases, these continue to reduce the vitality and working efficiency of the livestock. The common animal diseases prevalent in the district are haemorrhagic septicaemia, black-quarter, foot-and-mouth disease, and parasitic diseases. Haemorrhagic septicaemia causes heavy losses among the livestock. It occurs in the low lying and marshy areas after rains in August, September and January. All the animals are vaccinated as a prophylactic measure before the rains to ward off the incidence of the disease. Prophylactic vaccination has proved very successful in controlling the outbreak of this disease. The outbreak of black-quarter is controlled with the black-quarter serum and

^aThere are in force mesh regulations, size restrictions and the close season (July and August) under the Punjab Fisheries Act, 1914, and the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897.

vaccine. The foot-and-mouth disease generally breaks out in the threshing seasons of the crops and is cured by resorting to local treatment. Rinderpest is a highly fatal disease amongst the cattle. The Rinderpest Eradication Scheme, launched during the Second Five-Year Plan, aims at eradicating the disease by immunizing the entire cattle population through mass-scale vaccinations and inoculations in the villages. It has been almost completely eradicated from this district.

Veterinary Hospitals

Three veterinary hospitals were started in the district in 1907-08. Their number rose to 4 in 1915-16, 6 in 1921-22, 11 in 1930-31, 14 in 1942-43, 18 in 1950-51 and 23 in 1960-61. Five permanent outlying dispensaries were started in 1936-37, and their number rose to 8 in 1942-43, 10 in 1950-51 and 18 in 1960-61. There was (as on March 31, 1968) a network of 30 veterinary hospitals, each under a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, 32 permanent outlying dispensaries, each under a Veterinary Compounder, and other veterinary institutions as under :

Veterinary hospitals and permanent outlying dispensaries in the Amritsar District,
as on March 31, 1968

Veterinary hospitals		Permanent outlying dispensaries	
Zila Parishad	Municipal Committee/ Panchayat Samiti/ Government	Panchayat Samiti	Provincial
Tahsil Amritsar			
1.	Hathigate, Amritsar (maintained and run by the Municipal Committee, Amritsar)	1. Naushehra Nangali	
		2. Fatehpur Rajputan	
2.	Chatiwind, Amritsar (maintained and run by the Municipal Committee, Amritsar)	3. Thande	
		4. Bundala	
3. Jandiala Guru		5.	Bhoewal
4. Tarsikka		6.	Verka
5. Rayya		7.	Basar Ke
6. Butala		8.	Dhulka
7. Kathunangal			
8. Tahli Sahib			
9. Majitha			
10. Mahta			

Veterinary hospitals		Permanent outlying dispensaries	
Zila Parishad	Municipal Committee/ Panchayat Samiti/ Government	Panchayat Samiti	Provincial
Tahsil Tarn Taran			
11. Tarn Taran		9.	Bhail Dhaiwal
12. Naushehra Pannuan		10. Kairon	
13. Chohla		11. Bhuchar Kalan	
14. Atari		12. Naushehra Dhala	
15. Fatehabad		13. Dera Sahib	
16. Jalalabad		14. Dhotian	
17. Kasail		15. Kang	
18. Panjawaar Kalan		16.	Shahbazpur
19.	Khadur Sahib (run by the Panchayat Samiti)	17.	Sirhali Kalan
20.	Pandori Sidhuan (run by the Government)	18.	Nagoke
Tahsil Patti			
21. Patti		19. Burj Deva Singh	
22. Valtoha		20. Narli	
23. Bhikhiwind		21. Sabhra	
		22. Sugga	
		23. Bhangala	
		24. Gharyala	
		25. Minhala Jai Singh	
		26. Rajoke	
		27. Sur Singh	
		28. Algon	
		29.	Khem Karan
Tahsil Ajnala			
24. Ajnala		30. Vachhoha	
25. Ramdas		31. Saurian	
26. Raja Sansi		32. Sarangdev	
27.	Gagomahal (run by the Panchayat Samiti)		
28. Chogawan			
29. Chetanpura			
30.	Jasraur (run by the Panchayat Samiti)		

(Source: District Animal Husbandry Officer, Amritsar)

(e) Forestry

The whole of the Amritsar District and a part of the Gurdaspur District fall under the jurisdiction of the Divisional Forest Officer, Amritsar. He is assisted by an attached officer, one Head Assistant, 5 Forest Rangers, 6 Deputy Rangers, 19 Foresters and other Class III ministerial staff and 102 Forest Guards in Class IV, besides other miscellaneous staff.

This office was established in 1945. The main functions of the department are to undertake the plantation of fuel-trees and to conserve forests. The department also grows plants along drains and bunds. It plants trees along roads, canals and railway strips, and protects the old reserve forests of Serai Amanat Khan, Bhoru, Gagrewal and Othian. The areas lying alongside the Ravi River, the *bet* areas and the gullied areas along the right bank of the Beas River are also being acquired for plantations.

(i) Importance of Forestry in the Economy of the District.—There are no regular forests in the district with the exception of the following four old reserved forests, i.e. *rakhs*, covering 9.64 square kilometres:

Name	Area in sq. km.	Located in
1. Rakh Serai Amanat Khan	4.95	Tarn Taran Tahsil
2. Rakh Bhoru	2.38	Ditto
3. Rakh Gagrewal	2.11	Ditto
4. Rakh Othian	0.20	Ajnala Tahsil
Total	9.64	

(Source: Divisional Forest Officer, Amritsar Forest Division, Amritsar)

The Rakh Serai Amanat Khan was transferred to the Forest Department by the civil authorities in 1946. It mainly contains *shisham*-trees raised by supplying canal irrigation during the early fifties. There are large patches of highly saline and alkaline soils which do not sustain any growth of useful trees.

The Rakh Bhoru is situated along a natural drain and the area is subject to inundation during the rainy season. The area contains a patchy growth of *shisham*-trees, and recently eucalyptus has been introduced into the areas waterlogged by rains to improve the tree-stock.

The Rakh Gagrewal is situated on the right bank of the Beas River near the village of Gagrewal. *Kikar*-trees were raised in this *rakh* in the early fifties by the direct sowing of seeds.

The Rakh Othian is a small patch of forest near Ajnala. It contains a good growth of *shisham*-trees and mesquite-trees.

The process of the consolidation of holdings has further led to the cutting of trees in large numbers. Under the grow-more-food campaign, most of the culturable waste-land has also been reclaimed and brought under the plough. To augment their income, the village panchayats have been eager to bring the culturable commons under cultivation. Thus, areas which are quite poor and where cultivation does not appear to be economical are given to the Forest Department for afforestation.

The indiscriminate cutting of trees has been the main cause of the scarcity of fuel in the country side. The rural population has perforce to meet their domestic needs for fuel by using cow dung cakes which, if used as manure, would increase considerably the fertility and productivity of the soil.

After the partition of 1947, there arose an acute shortage of fuel in the State. Steps were taken to bring more Government land under the control of the Forest Department for raising fuel and economic plantations thereon. Consequently in 1951, the railway and national highway strips, and in 1956, the P.W.D. road-strips and canal-strips were transferred to the Forest Department for plantations. In addition to controlling the spread of desert and adopting other soil-conservation measures, the Forest Department aims at increasing the timber, fuel and fodder resources by afforesting the Government and private land. During the Vanmahotsava Week in the second week of July every year, a large number of fruit-trees, timber-trees and other trees are planted.

The forests in the district are of considerable importance. The areas include rail, road and canal strips. The area under forests in the district is classified, according to legal status, as 'Reserved', 'Protected' and 'Unclassed'. Reserved forests are permanently assigned either to the production of timber or to other forest produce and in these the right of grazing and cultivation is seldom allowed. In protected forests³, these rights are allowed subject to certain restrictions.

The protected forests cover 63 square kilometres and include all rail-strips, road-strips and canal-strips in the district where *shisham* and other species of trees are being raised for timber and fuel-wood.

³The forests were declared protected vide Punjab Government Notification No. 1122-Ft-58/1195, dated the 3rd May, 1958.

The area under the control of the Forest Department under different categories in the district during 1967-68 was as under :

Particulars	Area in sq. km.
(i) Reserved Forests	10
(ii) Protected Forests	63
Rail-strips	8
Road-strips	11
Canal-strips	44
(iii) Unclassed	—
(iv) Area notified under section 38 of the Indian Forests Act, 1927	—
(v) Area notified under sections 4-5 of the Land Preservation Act, 1900	—
Total	73

(Source : Divisional Forest Officer, Amritsar Forest Division, Amritsar)

(ii) Forest Produce.—The forest produce is classified into major and minor produce. The major produce includes timber and firewood which are auctioned periodically, whereas the minor produce includes grasses, tan-bark, leaves, etc. The annual income from the sale of forest produce in the district during 1955-56, 1960-61, 1965-66 and 1967-68 was as under :

Year	Major produce (Rs)	Minor produce (Rs)
1955-56	2,40,038	2,530
1960-61	3,80,026	33,704
1965-66	3,84,780	26,411
1967-68	7,73,876	56,703

(Source : Divisional Forest Officer, Amritsar Forest Division, Amritsar)

(f) Floods

Floods are a common feature of the district. Water, usually from the Gurdaspur side, collects and flows into this area. Three big drains, each 90 feet wide, have been dug and arterial drains have also been dug to fall into these big drains. The drains help to remove the flood water easily. Before the construction of these drains, floods used to cause havoc to crops, etc. and large sums had to be spent for giving relief to the flood-stricken people. The following table shows the damage caused by floods and heavy rains in the district from 1961 to 1968 :

Damage caused by floods during the rainy season in the Amritsar District, 1961—68

Year	Number of villages/towns affected	Area affected (sq. km.)	Number of human lives lost	Number of cattle lost	Number of private houses damaged	Damage to crops		
						Area affected (hectares)	Produce damaged ('00' quintals)	Value of damage ('000' rupees)
1961	..	762	9	32	9,815	75,278	578	21,413
1962	..	1,202	30	450	59,727	1,81,154	10,289	50,178
1963	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1964	..	457	22	322	10,547	64,618	4,729	27,613
1965	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1966	..	864	16	48	26,689	55,485	6,258	47,425
1967	..	26	—	—	—	644	34	576
1968	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1967, 1968 and 1969)

(g) Famine

The Amritsar District is one of the most well-developed districts in the Punjab and it has the maximum irrigation facilities. So the chances of famine are remote. An account of scarcities in the past is, however, given below:

The Scarcity of 1868 and 1869.—The failure of the monsoon rains in 1868 and 1869 caused much distress in the south of the district, particularly among the menial classes for two successive seasons. The presence of the Amritsar city increased the difficulties of the district, for its reputed wealth made it a centre to which the distressed persons were attracted and there were at one time many thousands of immigrants in the city and its neighbourhood, subsisting wholly upon charity. Relief measures such as the construction and repair of roads from Tarn Taran to Jandiala Guru, Vairawal, and the Harke Ferry, and from the city to Ajnala were adopted and the famine-stricken people were employed as labourers and were paid at famine rates. Houses from which the poor could be fed were opened in the Amritsar city and at the tahsil headquarters. The work of filling in the great ditch, from which the materials for the ramparts had been excavated, and which was a fruitful source of disease, was begun. Nearly 3,000 labourers were employed each day on this work alone. The work was brought to a close in April 1869 after the winter rain had removed the chief fear of famine, but had to be restarted in August when the monsoon rains failed again. This time, the Ahluwalia Dhab, a morass in the centre of the city, was the relief work and from the first to last day, nearly a lakh of labourers were employed to fill it up. The price of wheat rose to 9½ seers a rupee. At that time, it was remarked that the attraction of high prices might tend to denude the district of stocks, and leave a tract naturally rich and self-supporting in a bad way when the famine would come. Amritsar may now suffer from scarcity, which may react on the cattle on which so much depends, but it is not likely with its present advantages ever to suffer from actual famine.

The District Generally Safe from Famine.—Since the scarcity of 1868-69, there have been other years of scarcity, such as 1899-1900 and 1907-08 when the failure of rains resulted in a serious shortage of fodder and the price of wheat and other principal staples rose very high. This is liable to happen in any year, but even in the worst years famine was never proclaimed and is never likely to be so, as the district is so well protected by canal and well irrigation. In fact, Amritsar may be regarded as a district from which large supplies can be exported in case of famine in other parts of India, not only from local produce but from the huge imported stocks always held in the city. The unprotected area of the Ajnala Tahsil, which lies beyond the Sakki Nala, is the tract most quickly affected by a shortage of rains and, consequently, is most liable to famine, but despite its isolated position and lack of communications by rail and road, even here any serious famine need not be apprehended.

APPENDIX I

(Vide page 142)

Area under principal crops in the Amritsar District

(thousand hectares)

Crops	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1967-68
Cereals					
Rice	28	31	41	68	70
Wheat	134	142	139	161	177
Bajra	14	11	8	6	8
Maize	25	27	33	36	49
Jowar	—	—	—	—	0.2
Barley	4	3	4	3	6
Pulses					
Gram	59	66	42	30	32
Moong	—	—	—	—	0.32
Mash	1	0.50	—	—	0.45
Moth	1	0.50	—	—	..
Massar	3.00	2.00	5	4	5.48
Oilseeds					
Rape and mustard	22	10	—	12	21
Sesamum	12	6	2.50	3	3.6
Linseed	—	—	—	—	0.3
Other Crops					
Sugarcane	13	12	13	17	15
Cotton American	—	34	15	18	19.5
Cotton desi	23	7	16	14	13.1
Potatoes	—	—	—	1	0.8
Chillies	—	1	2.00	3	3.68

(Statistical Abstract of District Amritsar, 1967, pp. 56-83; and Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1968, pp. 62-80)

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APPENDIX II

(Vide page 142)

Production of principal crops in the Amritsar District

(thousand tonnes)

Crops	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1967-68
Cereals					
Rice	42	41	67	90	98
Wheat	139	132	143	231	274
Bajra	5	4	7	4	7
Maize	14	21	47	44	69
Jowar	—	(b)	(b)	—	—
Barley	3	3	3	2	6
Pulses					
Gram	41	48	35	30	25
Moong	..	(b)	(b)	(b)	0.09
Mash	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.24
Massar	2.2	1.3	—	2.2	2.90
Oilseeds					
Rape and mustard	15.6	6.7	8.4	10.9	6.0
Sesamum (thousand cwt)	52.6	9.8	—	26.98	1.64
Linseed	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.20
Other crops					
Sugarcane	24	37	49	62	63
Cotton American (thousand bales)	(b)	26.6	18	20.1	25.2
Cotton <i>desi</i> (thousand bales)	16	6	19	16.8	16.8
Potatoes	1.5	0.3	13	12.6	11.0
Chillies	..	..	..	..	3.44

(Statistical Abstract of District Amritsar, 1967, pp.84-91; and Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1968, pp. 62-80)

(b) Denotes less than 500 tonnes.

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 142)

Yields of principal crops in the Amritsar District

Crops	1950-51 (per acre in pounds)	1955-56 (per acre in pounds)	1960-61 (per hectare in kilo- grammes)	1965-66 (per hectare in kilo- grammes)	1967-68 (per hectare in kilo- grammes)
Cereals					
Rice	1,363	1,185	1,660	1,339	1,425
Wheat	932	837	1,038	1,458	1,570
Bajra	320	301	887	667	875
Maize	498	692	1,435	1,258	1,440
Jowar	—	95	171	..	..
Barley	747	850	857	667	1,000
Pulses					
Gram	629	651	857	1,000	781
Moong	..	..	..	..	..
Mash	..	..	..	..	..
Massar	..	..	..	..	..
Oil seeds					
Rape and mustard	..	..	..	..	..
Sesamum	..	..	..	..	..
Linseed	..	..	..	..	..
Other Crops					
Sugarcane	1,629	2,604	3,674	3,795	4,270
Cotton American	..	122	158	199	232
Cotton <i>desi</i>	106	108	198	216	231
Potatoes	6,720	9,875	18,630	17,000	14,000

(Statistical Abstract of District Amritsar, 1967, pp. 92-99; and Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1961, 1966 and 1968)

(a) Old—Time Industries and Industrial Development

For a long time, Amritsar has been one of the biggest trading centres in northern India. It was known for *pashmina* (the word *pashmina* has been derived from *pasham*, which means fine wool), silk goods, carpets and thick serge.

The main reason for the development of Amritsar as a commercial centre was its importance as the main seat of the Sikh religion. It drew pilgrims in large numbers from far and near. Amritsar, thus, provided a ready market for the Kashmiri goods, i. e. woollen shawls and silk. The goods of the Kangra and Mandi Hills also found their way here and were exchanged for the produce of the plains.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh's frequent visits to the city, too, gave an impetus to the trade of Amritsar, and the stationing of a good number of troops there created demand for manufactured goods. Amritsar came to be known as one of the leading commercial cities of the Punjab. The British also recognized the commercial importance of the city and connected it by rail and road. The importance of Amritsar as a centre of brisk trade and commerce is more evident from the amount of octroi collected from Amritsar than that collected from Lahore (another important city of the pre-partition Punjab). During the time of Ranjit Singh, out of the total annual octroi revenue of the whole kingdom amounting to Rs 24,00,000 as much as Rs 7,00,000 was collected from Amritsar as against Rs 50,000 from Lahore.¹

Amritsar was not only a leading centre of trade, it was also famous for its various industries. About 1833, quite a large number of famine-stricken Kashmiris settled here. They were adept in making woollen shawls. They brought with them instruments and techniques which greatly helped the local shawl industry to develop on sound lines. They used to manufacture from coarse wool, a sort of thick, warm serge which the Sikh horsemen wore in winter and during the rains. They also cleaned the shawls brought from Kashmir for export to other parts of India. Later, the Punjabi Muslims also took to *pashmina*-weaving. These weavers worked as apprentices with Kashmiris for several years, and became skilled. There was a large demand for shawls in various parts of the country. But, after the death of Ranjit Singh, the entire trade declined owing to political insecurity and indiscriminate taxation of the artisans of Amritsar. The shawl industry, too, could not escape this blow.

Apart from the *pashmina* work, silk goods were also manufactured in Amritsar. Raw silk was imported from Bukhara and it was cleaned, sorted,

¹V. N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, p. 132

carded and dyed at Amritsar and then exported to different places in India. Spun and artificial silks were imported from England, Japan, Italy and Switzerland. Later on, wool also came to be imported from Bukhara via Karachi. There were some 2,000 looms, with an annual production of goods worth 3 lakhs of rupees. In old days, silk was considered to be a luxury and it was worn by princes, nobles and the rich.

Amritsar was also known for carpet-weaving. With the development of the *pashmina* industry, the weavers also took to carpet-weaving which required inferior varieties of raw wool. The products were so skilfully designed that they became known far and wide. These were also exhibited in important exhibitions held in India and abroad. A large number of carpets were exported to England, the USA, France, etc. Towards the close of the nineteenth century, there were about 150 looms at work at Amritsar.

Besides the above industries, acids and other chemicals, soap, gold thread, silver thread, etc. were also manufactured in small quantities. Carving was done in ivory, wood and metal. Though not much, wood-carving was done at Amritsar and Tarn Taran. Utensils-making also formed an old and important industry of the district. One firm had also started the cleaning of cotton with machinery which was a new thing in those days. Jandiala Guru was famous for metalwares. Zinc ornaments were also made in rural areas for the poor people. About the beginning of the twentieth century, other industries, like the distilling of spirits, ice-making, printing of textiles, tanning and weaving also came into being.

Power-looms were set up at Amritsar for the first time in 1919. These were operated, using the woollen yarn. In course of time, some wool-spinning mills also came into being. But, as the period from 1920 to 1933 was one of depression, the industry could not flourish much. In 1939, with the outbreak of the World War II, the industry got a great impetus, as the foreign imports stopped and the local market had to depend on indigenous production. With the achievement of independence in 1947, the industry got a further fillip and all-round progress was made.

The partition of the country in 1947 gave a temporary set-back to the industries of the district, as it not only lost the skilled workers but also markets for the outlet of products. But soon after, the scarcity of labour was overcome by training the displaced persons who came from Pakistan. In order to rehabilitate these people, industry was considered to be the best means of employment for them. These people had great initiative and drive and lost no time in availing themselves of this opportunity to start small-scale industries. Some of them engaged themselves in the already existing industries of textiles, whereas some others started the manufacturing of paints,

plastic goods and rubber goods. During the fifties, a large number of new industries sprang up and the already existing units expanded.

In 1967-68, there were about 27 units in the large-scale sector and about 5,500 units in the small-scale sector, producing a large number of engineering goods, wood and machine screws, panel pins, textile machinery, printing and paper-cutting machinery, electric fans, chemicals and, above all, the textiles—woollen, silken, cotton, etc. In the production of woollen fabrics, like worsted, tweeds, blankets, shawls, etc. the district holds a prominent place in the country.

The industries have developed either in Amritsar proper or in its suburbs. Most of these, especially textiles—cotton, woollen and silken—are at Chheharta and Verka. There are also a Government Milk Plant at Verka and a distillery at Khasa.

(b) State Aid to Industries

Amritsar has been known for industrial progress. After 1947, the State Government recognized the importance of industries for the development of the State. It has offered all sorts of help and given various facilities. The Department of Industries, Punjab, gives financial assistance in the form of loans and subsidies and grants to the industrialists under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935. The following table shows the amount of financial assistance granted to the industrialists in the district during 1963-64 to 1967-68 :

Year	Number of units	Loans	Grants-in-aid and subsidy
		Amount (in lakhs of rupees)	(Rs)
1963-64	136	2.63	3,825
1964-65	134	2.61	824
1965-66	321	29.97	3,725
1966-67	177	9.37	6,000
1967-68	156	5.46	1,600

(Source : Director of Industries, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Apart from the financial assistance rendered by the Government, the industries also got assistance in the form of loans from the Punjab Financial Corporation, Commercial Banks and Co-operative Banks against security.

The other measures taken by the Government for the development of industries in the district are detailed below :

(1) **Supply of Machinery on Hire-Purchase Basis.**—The National Small Industries Corporation is an institution started by the Government of India for the development of small-scale units in the country. It looks after the development of industries at the national level. It helps the small-scale industries to acquire machinery even on the hire-purchase basis and also helps to get raw materials for them. The cost of the machinery and equipment is to be paid by the units on easy instalments.

(2) **Supply of Raw Material.**—The State Industries Department provides facilities for the procurement and distribution of raw materials, e. g. copper and zinc, to the industrialists according to the fixed quota. It also helps to procure those raw materials which are required to be imported from abroad.

(3) **Marketing Assistance.**—Marketing assistance is also provided to the cottage and small-scale industries. For this purpose, a number of emporiums have been opened by the State Government. Industrial exhibitions are also organized by the Government from time to time at suitable places for the display and disposal of products of the cottage and small-scale industries.

(4) **Quality-Marking Scheme.**—It was introduced during the Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61). Under this scheme, the manufacturers of various goods are provided either free or at very nominal charges the testing facilities, technical guidance, manufacturing data, etc.

The need for introducing the Quality-Marking Scheme was felt in order to improve the quality of the products of the small-scale industries and to bring about uniformity which was lacking before this scheme. The Government started the scheme at its own level, because the small units were unable to install modern equipment for testing raw materials, semi-finished products, finished products, etc. Moreover, this step gave the third-party guarantee to the consumers.

The following quality-marking centres have been set up in Amritsar under the Quality-Marking Scheme :

(i) **Quality-Marking Centre for Textile Goods, Amritsar.**—Started in 1956, the centre provides technical assistance for the units in choosing the right type of raw material and in the quality-marking of the goods. The

centre has a well-equipped testing laboratory, controlled by well qualified technical staff. The Controller of Stores, Punjab, gets the goods tested from it before placing orders with the private units.

The progress of the centre, during the five years from 1963-64 to 1967-68, is shown in the following table :

Year	Value of the quality-marked goods (in lakhs of rupees)	Number of parties registered under the Quality-Marking Scheme	Number of tests performed	Value of goods tested for export (in lakhs of rupees)
1963-64	.. 14.44	27	775	—
1964-65	.. 23.09	40	1,193	4.1
1965-66	.. 25.09	25	3,944	5.1
1966-67	.. 19.70	13	3,246	2.9
1967-68	.. 27.4	2	2,454	0.58

(Source : Quality-Marking Centre for Textile Goods, Amritsar)

(ii) **Government Quality-Marking Centre for Engineering Goods, Amritsar.**—To uplift the standard of engineering products and to provide them with technical guidance and testing facilities and also to make the producers and consumers quality-conscious, the Quality-Marking Centre for Engineering Goods was started at Amritsar in 1967. The centre has registered 35 units under the Quality-Marking Scheme. It also inspects goods on behalf of the Indian Standards Institution. The laboratory of the centre is well equipped with modern testing machinery. The centre has also arrangements for testing water-metres and pumping-sets.

In 1967-68, the centre quality-marked goods worth Rs 2,02,237. The number of tests performed during that year was 5,386. As many as 1,156 units received technical guidance. The main items quality-marked include paper-cutting machines, paper-printing machines, dog-chucks, etc.

The centre provides for technical assistance for improving the quality of engineering products through selection of raw materials and proper machines; providing drawings and tolerances, and testing equipments and gauges; and testing of finished and semi-finished products; etc. The centre is headed by a Senior Technical Officer, who is assisted by Technical Assistants and other staff.

(5) **Common Facility Service Development Schemes.**—The following centres provide technical assistance and common facility services for the various industries :

(i) **Government Development Centre for Electrical Appliances, Amritsar.**—Established in 1963, the main object of the centre is to uplift the decaying electrical and mechanical industry in the district. It provides technical and testing facilities for the small-scale industrial units. It is equipped with modern machinery, mostly imported. The centre functions under a Senior Technical Officer, who is assisted by technical and administrative staff.

The progress of work done by the centre, during 1964-65 to 1967-68, is shown in the following table :

Year	Processing charges realized (Rs)	Value of goods processed (Rs)	Number of units to which technical assistance rendered	Number of tests performed
1964-65	.. 517	17,000	88	555
1965-66	.. 7,684	1,21,000	712	1,350
1966-67	.. 12,089	2,15,000	1,200	7,902
1967-68	.. 6,193	92,280	1,093	8,524

(Source : Director of Industries, Punjab, Chandigarh)

(ii) **Heat-Treatment Centre, Amritsar.**—The Centre renders useful service to the industrialists. The service rendered by it, during 1964-65 to 1967-68, is shown below :

Year	Processing charges realized (Rs)	Value of goods processed (Rs)	Technical assistance rendered	Number of tests performed
1964-65	.. 2,148	6,000	—	—
1965-66	.. 19,193	80,000	—	—
1966-67	.. —	—	—	—
1967-68	.. 5,813	1,02,000	55	3,000

(Source : Director of Industries, Punjab, Chandigarh)

(6) **Other Organizations for Development of Industries.**—Besides the above-mentioned common facility service development centres, there exist the following organizations for the promotion of industries in the district :

(i) **Amritsar Local Productivity Council, Amritsar.**—It is one of the 47 Local Productivity Councils formed by the National Productivity Council (which was established by the Government of India in February 1958) to generate the productivity. The Amritsar Local Productivity Council is one of the nine^a Local Productivity Councils under the National Productivity Council, Regional Directorate, Ludhiana. It is a tripartite organization having members from among the employees, employers, governmental and professional organizations.

The council arranges conferences, talks, training courses in the fields of business, commerce and industry ; carries out audio-visual programmes, productivity survey, implementation service, etc. The main aims of the council are to improve the productivity and quality and to cut down wastage. To start with, the council provided these services for industries only. But now it has extended its area of operation to the agricultural productivity and fuel efficiency. All industrial units, organizations, trade unions, educational institutions, research institutions, other institutions, individuals, etc. can become the members of this council.

The council's office at Amritsar conducts training programme on subjects, such as material management, marketing management, marketing research, installation and operation of a system of cost and budgetary control programme evaluation and review techniques, work study, production planning, controlling of personnel management, industrial relations, supervisory development, etc.

(ii) **The Punjab State Small Industries Corporation Ltd., Chandigarh.**—The Punjab State Small Industries Corporation was set up as a plan scheme under the Third Five-Year Plan. It started functioning towards the close of 1962. The objectives of the corporation are to aid, counsel, assist, finance, protect and promote the interests of small industries in the State. Its main functions comprise the procurement, storage and distribution of all categories of industrial raw materials, whether imported or indigenous, e.g. ferrous and non-ferrous metals, coal, molasses, yarn, oil, dyes and chemicals. Besides, it distributes raw materials to those units, whose names are recommended by the Director of Industries, Punjab, through its offices opened in various towns. The Corporation's office was established at Amritsar in July 1968. It distributed raw materials worth Rs 43,85,761 during 1968-69.

^aThe remaining eight Local Productivity Councils are established at Ludhiana, Batala, Jullundur, Sonapat, Faridabad, Jaipur, Srinagar and Delhi.

(iii) **Small Industries Service Institute, Ludhiana.**—Set up by the Government of India in 1956, the Small Industries Service Institute has its regional office at Ludhiana, which has jurisdiction over the States of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The scope of the industrial extension service provided for by the institute includes technical counselling, training, preparation and distribution of technical literature in the form of technical bulletins, drawings and designs, and economic information service. The industrial management advice, marketing and the rendering of common facilities in the workshop and laboratories of the institute, and its Extension Centres are also included in its scope.

As a result of the efforts of the institute, the quality and the finish of the goods produced by several industrial units in the district have improved.

(iv) **Mechanical Engineering Research and Development Organization, Ludhiana.**—The headquarters of the Mechanical Engineering Research and Development Organization are at Durgapur (West Bengal). It has three centres,^a one of which is at Ludhiana. The centre at Ludhiana was established in December 1965 in order to provide for regional centres at the focal point of the concentrated engineering industries in the country to assess their research and development needs and provide for engineering technology which is not otherwise available to them. Since this centre has been set up to meet the requirements of the north-western regions, it also renders facilities to the engineering industries at Amritsar.

The plan and programme at each centre are formulated under the guidance of a Scientific Committee appointed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur. The Committee for the Ludhiana Centre is headed by the Technical Adviser, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.

The main objective of the organization is to render help to the industries in removing their technical difficulties and to establish sound production practices with an acceptable quality of products.

(e) Industrial Training

In a developing country such as India, the need of industrial training can hardly be exaggerated. With a view to providing employment to the released military personnel with avenues of employment, an industrial training programme was initiated in India after the World War II (1939-45). Under this programme, the Government of India established industrial training institutes in various parts of the country to impart training in various trades, e.g. blacksmithy, wiremanship and steel-metal.

^aThe three centres of the Mechanical Engineering Research and Development Organization in the country are : Poona in the west, Ludhiana in the north-west and Madras in the south.

After 1947, the concept of establishing industrial training institutes underwent a considerable change. It was realized that industrial training was necessary not only for creating employment opportunities, but also for supplying trained personnel to the industries of the country. This step led to an all-round expansion in the training programme.

The industrial training programme in the Punjab also received an impetus under the Government of India's programme. The Department of Industrial Training, Punjab, imparts industrial, technical and vocational training to boys and girls through its various industrial training institutes and schools.

There are three Government Industrial Training Institutes in the district at Amritsar, Sirhali Kalan and Patti. These institutes provide training for the students in engineering and non-engineering trades, as detailed in the following statement :

Government Industrial Training Institutes in the Amritsar District

Serial No.	Name and location of the institute	Year of establishment	Course/craft in which training is imparted	Seating capacity	Duration of the training course	Minimum qualifications required for admission	Comment - of the session
1.	Industrial Training Centre, Dayanand Polytechnic Institute, Amritsar	Originally started in 1948, it was taken over by the Punjab Government from the Government of India in November 1956	1. Welder, Carpenter, Motor Mechanic, Painter, Moulder	148	1 year	Middle	August
			2. Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic	32	Ditto	Matric	Ditto
			3. Fitter, Turner, Wireman	144	2 years	Middle	Ditto
			4. Electroplator, Electrician	32	Ditto	Matric	Ditto
			5. Electrician	96	Ditto	Matric with Science	Ditto
			6. Draftsman (Civil), Surveyor, Mechanic Radio and Television	64	Ditto	Matric with Science and Mathematics	Ditto
			7. Stenography (English)	32	1 year	Matric with English	Ditto
			8. Book-binding, Cutting and Tailoring, Hand Composition and Proof Reading, Printing Machine Operator	64	Ditto	Middle	Ditto
			9. Stenography (Punjabi)	16	Ditto	Matric with Punjabi	Ditto
			10. Stenography (Hindi)	16	Ditto	Matric with Hindi	Ditto

Serial No.	Name and location of the institute	Year of establishment	Course/craft in which training is imparted	Seating capacity	Duration of the training course	Minimum qualifications required for admission	Commencement of the session
2.	Industrial Training Institute, Fatti	1963	1. Mechanic Tractor, Moulder, Carpenter, Plumber 2. Fitter, Turner, Machinist (Compositor) 3. Electrician 4. Stenography (Punjabi)	96	1 year	Middle	August
3.	Industrial Training Institute, Sirhali Kalan	1963	1. Blacksmith, Carpenter 2. Fitter 3. Electrician 4. Surveyor, Mechanic Radio and Television 5. Stenography (English)	112	2 years	Middle	Ditto
				32	Ditto	Middle with Science	Ditto
				16	1 year	Matric with Punjabi	Ditto
				64	Ditto	Middle	Ditto
				32	2 years	Middle	Ditto
				32	Ditto	Matric with Science	Ditto
				64	Ditto	Matric with Science and Mathematics	Ditto
				32	1 year	Matric with English	Ditto

(Source : Industrial Training Department, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Besides the above-mentioned institutes, there are three Government Industrial Schools for Girls at Amritsar, Jandiala Guru and Rayya which impart training in tailoring, cutting, needle work and embroidery. The Government Industrial School for Girls at Amritsar runs also the one-year teachers' training course.

There are also three private recognized Industrial Schools for Girls at Amritsar, viz. Dayanand Polytechnic, Sital Industrial School and R.B. Girdhari Lal Industrial School for Girls, which impart training to the girls in various trades.

The other institutions which impart technical instruction in textile and garment technology, located at Amritsar, are : the Government Institute of Garment Technology and the Punjab Institute of Textiles. These institutions are meant for boys only.

(i) **Government Institute of Garment Technology, Amritsar.**—Established in 1937, the institute imparts training to the matriculates in Cutting and Tailoring Diploma Course of three years' duration. It was upgraded to the level of National Trade Certificate Course in 1968 and was affiliated to the State Board of Technical Education, Punjab, Chandigarh. The institute runs the following courses :

(1) Diploma in Garment Technology (3 years' course) for matriculates and above.

(2) National Trade Certificate Course in Cutting, Fitting and Stitching of Garments (one-year course) for middle pass and above.

In the above courses, 21 per cent seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes candidates, who are also awarded a stipend of Rs 45 per month. Scholarships/stipends of Rs 25 each per month are also awarded to other students on poverty-cum-merit basis. No tuition fees are charged. Hostel arrangements also exist in the institute for the students coming from outside.

(ii) **Punjab Institute of Textile Technology, Amritsar.**—The institute was established in 1920 with a view to imparting technical instruction in textile technology and to produce technicians in order to help and develop the textile industry. It runs a 3 years' diploma course of the National Certificate Standard, duly recognized by the Director of Industries, Punjab, Chandigarh, and the Government of India.

This institute imparts intensive and extensive training in spinning, weaving technology and its allied subjects, e.g. drawing, design, dyeing, finishing, mill-planning, administration, motion study, trade economics, labour laws

and legislation. The numbers of students on the rolls of the institute in 1967-68 and 1968-69 were 85 and 72 respectively.

(d) Industrial Areas and Estates

The scheme for the establishment of industrial estates was launched in the State in 1959. The Urban Industrial Estate at Amritsar was established during the Third Five-Year Plan to provide suitable accommodation for the various industrial units. The estate has constructed 50 sheds for housing small-scale units. Out of these, 35 sheds have already been allotted to small-scale units. A large number of industrial units in the district are situated at Chheharta on the Grand Trunk Road and extended up to Khasa, which is about 14 km from Amritsar. On the Batala Road, the industrial units extend up to Verka.

There are three Rural Industrial Estates in the district, established by the Industries Department, Punjab, at Ajnala, Kathunangal and Lopoke. These estates have 8 sheds each.

(e) Sources of Power

Power is the most important factor in the economic development of a region. The sources of power in the district are electricity, diesel oil, petrol, crude oil and coal. Slowly and steadily, electricity is replacing the other sources of power. After the independence, gigantic programmes of execution of multipurpose river-valley projects were launched and electricity came to be known as an index of the measure of prosperity in any region. More and more people started discarding the age-old manual processes, used both in agricultural and industrial production.

Amritsar was electrified for the first time in 1916, when the Municipal Committee, Amritsar, obtained a licence to generate electricity. Diesel-generating or steam-generating sets were installed in the Municipal Power-House. This system continued up to 1932-33, when it was replaced by hydro-power, obtained from the Verka Grid Substation and converted into D.C.

The Punjab State Electricity Board now feeds the whole of the Amritsar District which is divided into four divisions, viz. East Division, Verka; Tarn Taran Division, Tarn Taran; West Division, Amritsar; and Jandiala Guru Division, Jandiala Guru. There are about 14 Operation Subdivisions in the district. The power to most of the Amritsar municipal area is supplied through the Amritsar Municipal Committee Power-House which obtains power in bulk from the Punjab State Electricity Board. Part of the power, thus obtained, is converted from A.C. into D.C.

The total number of villages electrified in the district, as on March 31, 1969, was about 1,000. The total number of industrial connections given direct by the Punjab State Electricity Board up to February 1971 was 3,338.

(f) Growth and Development of Industries

Much before the rail and road communications developed, Amritsar had grown into a prominent commercial centre. It was regarded as a flourishing trade centre of northern India for the shawls and saffron of Kashmir and for other commodities. It was also the intention of the founder of this city, Guru Ram Das, that the people coming for a pilgrimage should devote themselves to the development of trade. With the foundation of the Golden Temple in the seventeenth century, greater stress was laid on the development of trade and, as such, a number of markets were developed around the temple and, up to this day, these markets have not lost their significance.

Gradually, the traders of Amritsar developed a business acumen which enabled them to try new experiments. In Amritsar, the textile industry gave a lead to other industries. The shawl industry got an impetus during the regime of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. A large number of shawls were exported to various European countries. Similarly, the silk industry was also developing. The World War I (1914-18) gave a fillip to the industries of the district and a large number of these were set up to meet the demand of the Defence Department. The World War II (1939-45) gave a further fillip to the industrialization of Amritsar. Thereafter, the Amritsar industries developed on a sound footing. By 1947, apart from textiles—woollen, silken, and rayon and cotton—certain engineering and chemical industries were also set up. Though the partition of 1947 gave a set-back to the industries owing to the migration of skilled labourers, yet the position was retrieved by training up the refugees who migrated from Pakistan. The post-partition era showed a tremendous progress in the development of industries, though a period of about seven years after the partition was one of fluctuating fortunes and vicissitudes for the local industry.

Between 1955 and 1965, over 10 crores of rupees are said to have been invested in the various industries in the district. Amritsar occupies the top position in the manufacture of woollen fabrics. It also holds a monopoly in the manufacture of printing-machines and paper-cutting machines. The important industries working in the rural areas are handloom-weaving, leather-tanning, shoe-making, ban-making, rope-making, cotton-ginning, etc.

(g) Industries and Manufactures of the District

The present day industries in the district may be categorized into three broad heads, viz., large-scale industries, small-scale industries and village industries. A few industries, which fall partly in the large-scale sector and partly in the small-scale sector, have been dealt with among those in the large-scale industries. The particulars of the different industries, viz., the number of units engaged, the annual production and the average employment during 1962-63 to 1967-68 are given in the Appendix on pages 218-225.

(i) Large-Scale Industries

(1) Textiles.—This is the most important industry of the district and is mainly located in the Amritsar city. It is said to have been established towards the close of the nineteenth century. At that time the main products of the industry were *pashmina* and *daryai* which were made from wool and silk respectively. Before the World War I (1914—18), the industry did not make any substantial progress, but the war gave it a fillip owing to a heavy demand for textiles. The first power-loom was installed in Amritsar in 1919. Later on, the Swadeshi Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi also gave an impetus to the industry and a few handlooms were installed. Then came the depression of 1929—33 which hit the Amritsar industry as a whole and the textile industry was no exception. The World War II (1939—45) again gave it a fillip. But the partition of the country caused a great set-back to the industry as it was deprived of a large number of skilled workers and of markets. However, it soon retrieved its position.

The textile industry includes fabrics manufactured from wool, cotton and rayon art silk. Out of these, the most important is the manufacture of the woollen cloth, and after this comes the cloth manufactured from silk rayon and artificial silk.

Woollen Manufacture

In India, the woollen industry was started on an organized basis with the setting up of the first woollen mill at Dhariwal (in the Gurdaspur District) in 1876. The Punjab was, thus, the first to install a mill for the manufacture of woollen fabrics. Moreover, woollen goods, like shawls and carpets, have been produced in Amritsar since 1833 during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. In 1919, the first power-loom was installed in Amritsar for the production of woollens and afterwards other entrepreneurs followed suit. But up to 1947, the growth was rather slow. The real expansion of the industry started after the independence, when 3,000 power-looms for manufacturing woollens were installed in the country. Out of these, about 1,400 power-looms were installed in the Amritsar District, most of which (about 90 per cent) were concentrated in the Amritsar city. In 1967-68, there were 1,205 power-looms in the district, and these employed 11,100 persons and produced goods worth 38 lakhs of rupees.

Most of the raw material of this industry is the imported greasy wool. Before 1957, this item was under O.G.L. (Open General Licence) and, thus, the industry was working satisfactorily. But, owing to the shortage of foreign exchange imports were reduced, as a result of which there was lot of idle installed capacity in 1967.

Woollen Carpets.—Carpet-weaving has been carried on in Amritsar since long. After the annexation of the Punjab in 1849 by the British, the export trade in carpets expanded. Carpets of very fine quality and beautiful designs

were produced and exported to various countries. The designs were largely made by Kashmiris and were based on the shawl-pattern motives. A woollen mill for the manufacture of carpet yarns was established in 1924. The carpet production increased in quantity and improved in quality. Before the partition, carpets were also hand-woven by Muslim weavers who were paid according to the number of stitches woven into the carpet. At present, there is only one unit producing carpets in the district. It is engaged in the production of hand-knitted woollen carpets of different fineness with indigenous and imported woollen yarns. There are about 100 handlooms run in the villages of the district. The products are mainly exported to France, Germany, Canada and Sweden.

The industry is facing a crisis because of the shortage of skilled labour.

Shawls.—This is an old industry of the district. For many years, Amritsar was famous for the manufacture of very fine shawls which were made from the finest wool (*pasham*). The origin of the shawl industry dates back to 1833, when a large number of famine-stricken Kashmiri weavers came and settled in Amritsar. They brought with them instruments and techniques which greatly helped the local shawl industry to develop on sound lines. They also cleaned the shawls brought from Kashmir for export to other parts of India. Initially, about 300 looms worked in Amritsar with an annual production of Rs 30,000. The industry appears to have spread rapidly during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1799—1839) owing to a large demand for shawls from various parts of the country. Amritsar shawls were famous for their quality, fineness and embroidery not only in India but also in foreign countries.

The *pashmina*-shawl industry was virtually destroyed owing to (i) the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), (ii) the adulteration of wool with imported inferior stuff in the latter half of the nineteenth century, (iii) the import of woollen clothes from foreign countries, (iv) the advent of machinery and power-looms, (v) the Second Afghan War (1878-79) and (vi) the World War I (1914—18). The immediate loss to the Amritsar *pashmina*-manufacturers, as a result of the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), was substantial and many weavers were thrown out of employment. In the late forties of the twentieth century, owing to a reduction in the tariff duty, the merchants were able to import yarn at a smaller cost, with which they could prepare shawls cheaper than those supplied by France and Germany. Shawls were also imported from Germany. These were embroidered at Amritsar mostly by the Kashmiri Muslims and then sold as a kind of Amritsar's inferior shawls⁴.

With the partition of the country in 1947, the industry suffered a set-back. In 1951, owing to the Korean War, America stopped her imports from China,

⁴V. N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, pp.138-39.

which had been her main supplier of *pashmina*, and turned, instead, to Kashmir. A few Kashmiri exporters came to Amritsar to collect the largest assured supplies and this encouraged the Amritsar merchants. In subsequent years, the Amritsar merchants, by virtue of their initiative and enterprise, captured a significant portion of the American market. This led to an increase in exports from the Punjab and to the discovery of 'pulled *pashmina*'⁵.

Blankets.—Blankets are also made in Amritsar, both in the large-scale and small-scale sectors. Almost all the woollen mills in the large-scale sector manufacture blankets.

The raw materials used are woollen and shoddy yarn. In the small-scale sector, mostly shoddy yarn is used. The blankets have been manufactured in Amritsar since the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, but the quality and method of production have been changing. The Amritsar-made blankets are much popular and are marketed throughout India.

Having discussed the various production wings of the woollen industry, its overall picture is that in 1967-68, there were 15 units in the large scale-sector, which produced goods worth 722 lakhs of rupees and provided employment to 3,599 workers. There were 310 units in the small-scale sector which produced goods worth 500 lakhs of rupees and provided employment to 12,000 workers. The woollen goods of Amritsar are marketed throughout the country and abroad. Amritsar meets as much as 65 per cent of the demand of woollen fabrics of the country. The main products are worsted, tweeds, ladies' coating, shawls, blankets, melton, cotswool, blazer, carpets, etc.

Silk Manufacture

This is also an old industry of the district. Before Ranjit Singh's time and even after that, raw silk was imported from Bukhara, Yarkand, Kashmir and China. It was cleaned, sorted, carded and dyed in Amritsar and then exported to different places in India. Silk yarn and staple fibre yarn were imported from China, Japan and Italy, whereas cotton yarn came from Bombay and Central Provinces. The main items of production were *daryai* and silken handkerchiefs, turbans, *lungies*, *ghagras*, *sarees* and *dopattas*. Shirting and suiting cloth was also produced. By 1883, the average annual value of imported silk was Rs 3,00,000. By 1893, there were 2,000 looms in operation, with an output worth Rs 2,00,000. Like other industries, the World Wars I and II gave a fillip to this industry also. With the passage of time, the nature of products changed. Artificial silk took the place of pure silk and then rayon further replaced it.

In Amritsar, this industry is mostly in the small-scale sector, apart from two or three units in the large-scale sector. These are composite units, producing both woollen and silk products. The main items produced are georgette, taffeta, *shanoon*, etc.

⁵Ibid.

Cotton Textiles

There is one unit in the large-scale sector established before the partition of 1947. It is mainly engaged in the spinning of cotton yarn, though previously it also used to weave. The product, i.e. the spun cotton yarn, meets the local demand. The production was 1,92,323 kg in 1967-68. About 28.8 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the large-scale sector.

On the weaving side, there are a number of small-scale units producing goods like *khaddar* (coarse cloth), bed sheets, *bukram* and some other varieties of coarse cloth. The main raw materials for the products are raw cotton and cotton yarn.

The printing of textiles is another important aspect of the textile industry in the district. A number of units are engaged in the machine-printing, screen-printing and block-printing of textiles.

(2) **Textile-Finishing Industry.**—The textile-finishing industry generally meets the demand of the units in the small-scale sector, as the larger units in the textile industry have their own finishing-plants and dyeing-plants.

There is one unit in the large-scale sector engaged in the dyeing and finishing of textiles. In 1967-68, it carried out jobs worth 34 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 319 workers. About 27.4 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry. The basic raw materials are dyes, chemicals, auxiliaries, starches, steam-coal, etc.

(3) **Embroidery Industry.**—The machine embroidery was introduced into the country for the first time in 1934 when the first unit was established at Amritsar by an Italian. Another unit came into being there in 1941. The raw materials required are mercerized cloth, art silk yarn and cotton yarn. These two units in the large-scale sector produced goods worth 63.5 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 230 workers during 1967-68. About 17.3 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in these units.

Embroidery work is also carried on in the small-scale sector.

(4) **Roller Flour-Mills.**—There are two roller flour-mills in the district in the large-scale sector. Their main products are *maida*, *rawa*, *dal*, poultry feed, etc. One of these mills was started in 1946 and the other in 1956. These produced goods worth 350 lakhs of rupees in 1967-68 and gave employment to 153 persons.

(5) **Oil-Mills.**—This industry came into being in the district in 1924 or thereabout. Three units in the large-scale sector are engaged in it. They produce hydrogenated oil, rice-bran, solvent oils, *mahua* oil and, as by-products, de-oiled rice-bran, de-oiled cakes, etc. The essential raw materials required for

these are: rice-bran, *neem*, cotton seed, groundnut, *mahua*, acids, salts, etc. The industry produced goods worth 703 lakhs of rupees, with an investment of 124 lakhs and gave employment to 342 persons in 1967-68.

(6) **Milk Plant.**—Under the Punjab Dairy Development Corporation Ltd., Chandigarh, the Composite Milk Plant at Verka is the second biggest project of its type in the country, built at a cost of 60 lakhs of rupees with American aid. The plant started functioning from December 1, 1962. Its machinery was supplied by America as a gift to the country. The dairy consists of a modern plant for the pasteurization of milk and its bottling at the rate of 6,000 bottles per hour. The manufacturing section produces about 5,000 kilogrammes of butter and ghee and 6,200 kilogrammes of milk powder per day. The factory has five storage tanks, each with a capacity of 13,500 litres. Besides, it produces items like pasteurized fluid milk, whole-milk powder, powder, skim-milk powder, ghee, butter, ice-cream powder, milk-shake powder, *lassi* powder and sweetened flavoured sterilized milk. The yearly turnover of the plant is said to be about 2 crores of rupees.

The milk required for the project is obtained from the nearby villages and is collected at the main factory and also through three milk-collection-cum-chilling centres established at Mahta, Patti, and Fatehgarh Churian (Gurdaspur District). These centres are equipped for the reception, testing, chilling and storage of milk. The milk, thus, collected is carried to the main factory at Verka. The various sections of the dairy are : the raw-milk-receiving section, the washing of empty cans section, the pasteurizing section, the storage section, the bottle-washing and bottle-filling section, the cold store, and the butter section.

In 1967-68, the total production of the plant was worth Rs 86,48,703 and it gave employment to 278 workers.

(7) **Wood-Screw and Machine-Screw Industry.**—There are about 42 units of this industry in the small-scale sector. One unit in the large-scale sector is engaged in the manufacture of wood and machine-screws, panel pins, wire nails, etc. In the small-scale sector, mostly wood screws are manufactured, but in the large-scale sector, both wood and machine-screws are produced. The basic raw materials required for this industry are mild-steel wire, wire rods and brass wire. The raw material is indigenous and is available in the open market. About 35 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry. It produced goods worth 55 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 230 workers in 1967-68 in the small-scale sector. It produced goods worth 22.86 lakhs of rupees in the large-scale sector and gave employment to 172 persons.

(8) **Chemical Industry.**—This is an old industry of the district. Amritsar is probably the only district in the State where chemicals are manufactured. The first chemical factory, viz. Messrs Shambhu Nath and Sons Ltd., was

established as early as 1898. By 1929, two other factories were established. The World War II, too, gave an impetus to this industry and the number of units rose to 9 by 1947. This number rose further to 15 in 1954-55. In 1967-68, there were 14 units engaged in the manufacture of chemicals in the small-scale sector and 2 in the large-scale sector.

The main items produced by this industry are inorganic acids, medicines, table salt, mixed fertilizers, turpentine, alcohols, dyes, paints, varnishes, etc. The basic raw materials required by the industry are Sambhar salt, sodium nitrate, sodium ash, sulphur, nickel powder, acids, solvents, etc. The products of this industry are not only marketed throughout the country but are also sent abroad. The large-scale units in the industry gave employment to 293 workers and produced goods worth 87.4 lakhs of rupees during 1966-67. The total investment in the large-scale units was to the tune of 35.3 lakhs of rupees. The small-scale units had an annual output of 12.6 lakhs of rupees during 1967-68 and gave employment to 84 workers.

(9) **Distilling Industry.**—This is one of the oldest industries of the district. Established in 1898, the distillery is situated at Kharsa on the Grand Trunk Road. There have been changes in its nomenclature from time to time. In 1898, it was named 'The Punjab Distilling Company' but, in 1948, its name was changed to 'Punjab Distillery'.

The main articles produced by the industry are country spirit, liquor and carbon dioxide. The main raw materials are molasses and coal.

The industry produced goods worth 16.71 lakhs of rupees during 1967-68 and gave employment to 258 workers. About 26.61 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry.

(10) **Northern Railway Locomotive Workshop, Amritsar.**—This workshop was set up towards the beginning of the present century.

(ii) Small-Scale Industries

The small-scale industries play a vital role in the economic development of the country. Though the large-scale industries are *sine qua non* for the economic development, yet the small-scale industries are equally indispensable. The various small-scale industries existing in the district are detailed below :

(11) **Machine-Tool Industry.**—This industry produces a large number of items, the main among which are dog chucks, drilling-machines, fly presses, printing-machines, cutting-machines and paper-stitching-machines, etc. In 1967-68, there were 215 units engaged in the industry in the district with an annual output

of 1.75 lakhs of rupees and provided employment to 2,085 workers. A detailed description of these industries is given below :

Manufacture of Textile Machinery

The industry is said to have been established some three decades back. There were 6 units engaged in the manufacture of textile machinery in 1967-68. Though all these units are in the small-scale sector, yet 4 of them are in the relatively large-scale sector. The raw materials required are steel bearings, stainless steel, etc. The bodies of machines are mostly cast in the local foundries, but some of the units have their own foundries. Apart from meeting the local demand, the industry supplies its products to other parts of the country. The industry produced goods worth 70 lakhs of rupees in 1967-68. About 20 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in it.

Printing-Machine and Paper-cutting Machines

This industry is said to have been established in 1940. In 1967-68, there were about 60 units in the district, producing printing-presses and paper-cutting machines. All the units are in the small-scale sector. The district holds monopoly in the manufacture of printing-presses not only in the Punjab but in the country as a whole. The bodies of the machines are procured from the local foundries. Some of the bigger units have their own foundries. The main raw materials used are casts and steel, most of which are indigenous. About 50 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry which produced goods worth 100 lakhs of rupees in 1967-68. The products are supplied mostly to Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

Kohlus (Indigenous Oil-Presses)

In the Punjab, *kohlus* are mostly manufactured at Amritsar and are marketed throughout the country. The industry came into being in the district in 1934. In 1967-68, there were in Amritsar 5 units engaged in the production of *kohlus*. The raw materials used are pig-iron, scrap-steel, etc. The bodies of *kohlus* are either moulded by the units themselves or are produced by the local foundries. In 1967-68, the industry produced goods worth 25 lakhs of rupees and provided employment to about 80 persons. The total investment in this industry is said to be 12 lakhs of rupees.

(12) **Agricultural Implements.**—In 1967-68, there were 34 small-scale units in the district engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements, like chaff-cutters, *tokas* and iron ploughs. The industry provided employment to 348 persons and produced goods worth 29 lakhs of rupees in 1967-68. It mostly caters to the demand of the local market.

(13) **Cycles and Cycle Parts.**—This industry was started in Amritsar during the World War II. The main items manufactured were carriers, stands, pedals, B.B. axles, tricycles, etc. Presently, the industry is manufacturing carriers, saddles, chain covers, cycle pumps, etc. The main items of raw material and components required by the industry are free-cutting steel, steel of various types, steel pipes, M.S. sheets (10 to 24 gauges), M.S. strips, M.S. rounds and bars, M.S. wires, seamless tubes, etc. The other ancillary items include tyres, brake-rubber, pedal rubber, oils; component parts, e.g. chains, rims, B.B. shells, steel balls; consumable stores, such as nickel anodes, copper electro-plating and mopping materials, coal, paints, etc.

In 1967-68, there were 26 units engaged in this industry in the district. These units produced goods worth 9.22 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 180 persons.

(14) **Sewing-Machines and Parts.**—The industry came into existence after the partition. In 1954-55, there was only one unit, producing sewing-machine parts in the district. With the emergence of Ludhiana as the centre for the production of sewing-machines and sewing-machine parts, only assembling is mainly done in Amritsar. In 1967-68, there were 4 units engaged in the production of sewing-machines in the district. These units produced goods worth 1.96 lakhs of rupees and provided employment to 17 workers.

(15) **Steel Re-rolling.**—The industry came into existence in the district in 1935. It meets the demand of the district and also of some other parts of the State. The main items of production are round bars, square bars, flat bars, strip angles, etc. These products are used in cycle, automobile and building industries. The basic raw materials for this industry are scrap-iron, billets and steam coal.

In 1967-68, three units (one registered and two unregistered) were engaged in the industry in the district. It provided employment for 260 workers and produced goods worth 47.4 lakhs of rupees. About 100 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry.

(16) **Non-Ferrous Metals Industry (Utensils).**—This is an old and important industry of the district. Its important centres are Amritsar and Jandiala Guru. At Amritsar, there is one big unit engaged in utensil-manufacturing. Besides, there are small units at Jandiala Guru and Amritsar. The basic requirements of the industry are brass, aluminium and scrap.

The industry also produces stainless-steel utensils which are quite popular these days. Brass-casting is done both as a utilitarian industry and for ornamentation. *Thalis* are made of copper and are enriched with concentric bands of ornament, cast through tin into the copper ground. Metal work

as a craft is seen in the inlay work which is done on copper and brass with floral and other designs.* The work is carried on with machines and hand-tools. The utensils manufactured by the industry are in great demand in the district and also in other parts of the country.

There were 95 units engaged in the industry in the district in 1967-68. These units gave employment to 260 persons and produced goods worth 13.10 lakhs of rupees. During the last few years, the production of the industry has been adversely affected by the inadequate supply of non-ferrous metals.

(17) **Nuts and Bolts.**—The industry is said to have been established in the district in the early sixties. The main items manufactured are nuts, bolts, rivets, dog spikes, etc. The raw materials used are iron, mild steel (round), mild steel (square), etc. indigenous and imported. The products are marketed throughout India. In 1967-68, there were 4 units engaged in the industry in the district. These units produced goods worth 2.15 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 30 workers. About 4.5 lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry.

(18) **Electric Motors.**—In 1967-68, there were 9 units producing electric motors in the district. These units gave employment to 39 workers and produced 1,635 electric motors, worth 6 lakhs of rupees. The raw materials used are stampings (lamination), bearings, enamelled copper wire, mild steel, etc.

(19) **Electric Fans.**—This industry came into existence in the district before 1947. At the time of the partition, there were 17 units, but afterwards their number came down.

Amritsar is the only centre in the district for the production of electric fans. The industry produces ceiling fans, table fans, cabin fans and pedestal fans. The main raw materials used are stampings, enamelled copper wire, condensers, ball bearings, silicon-steel sheets, mild-steel sheets, etc.

In 1967-68, there were 5 units in the small-scale sector engaged in the production of electric fans. They produced goods worth 5.95 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 67 workers. Two lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry.

(20) **Glass Beads.**—In 1966-67, there were 21 units engaged in the manufacture of glass beads in the district which produced goods worth 2 lakhs of rupees. They gave employment to 112 workers. The goods are marketed throughout the country. The essential raw materials required for the industry are glass, blocks and crucibles, and chemicals, most of which are imported.

*V. N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, p. 147

(21) **Cotton-Ginning.**—In 1967-68, there were 27 units engaged in the cotton-ginning in the district. These units provided employment for 972 workers, and produced 11,00,000 bales of cotton which brought an income amounting to 77 lakhs of rupees.

(22) **Hosiery Industry.**—The origin of the hosiery industry in the district dates back to 1930. Both cotton and woollen hosiery goods were manufactured in Amritsar. The industry flourished up to the World War II which gave it a fillip. But, with the partition of the country, it received a severe set-back owing to the migration of skilled labour to Pakistan.

In 1967-68, there were 37 units producing cotton hosiery exclusively, viz. socks, under-vests, etc. These units produced goods worth 15.8 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 230 workers during 1967-68. Fifteen lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry. The basic raw material used by the industry is cotton yarn which is procured locally. The products are marketed throughout India. The industry is facing tough competition from the Ludhiana manufacturers.

(23) **Thermometer Industry.**—The industry was established at Amritsar in 1955 with the help of a Japanese firm. Apart from supplying the necessary machinery, the firm also offered the services of its technicians. The industry produces only clinical thermometers which are marketed throughout the country. The principal raw materials required are capillary tubes, mercury, plastic powder, petrol, etc. Previously, the capillary tubes were imported, but now these are manufactured and supplied by some Indian firms.

In 1967-68, there were 5 units engaged in the manufacture of clinical thermometers. The industry produced goods worth 5 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 100 workers. The goods are marketed throughout India.

(24) **Radios and Amplifiers.**—The industry was started at Amritsar in 1946. To begin with, only 5 units were engaged in it. One of these was at Tarn Taran. As a matter of fact, no important part of the radio is manufactured at Amritsar. Only assembling is done. The parts are either imported from abroad or are procured from other parts of the country.

In 1967-68, there were 155 units engaged in assembling radios and amplifiers. These units produced goods worth 23.15 lakhs of rupees and offered employment to 392 workers.

(25) **Food Products.**—In 1966-67, there were 105 units producing food products in the district. Their production was worth 32 lakhs of rupees and these gave employment to 435 persons.

The industry in the district may be divided into two categories, viz. the *warian* and *paapar* industry; and the jam and *murabba* industry.

Warian and paapar Industry

This is the oldest industry of Amritsar. The city has a monopoly in the production of *warian* and *paapar*, which are popular throughout the country for their fine spicy taste. The industry also earns foreign exchange by exporting the products to the USA, the UK, Singapore, Canada, Afghanistan, etc.

In 1967-68, there were about 25 units producing *paapar*, *warian* and *phulwarian*, and these produced goods worth 20 lakhs of rupees. The raw materials required by this industry are pulses, spices and some other such items.

Pickle and Murabba Industry

This is also an old industry of the district. In 1967-68, there were about 15 units engaged in the production of pickles, preserved fruits (*murabba*), *araks* (extracts obtained by distillation), etc. The oldest of these units is said to have been established in 1850. Of late, the industry has been started on scientific lines. The raw materials required are *amla* (*Emblic myrobalan*), *harada* (*Chebulic myrobalan*), mango, apple, carrot and sugar. The products are marketed throughout the country. The industry also earns foreign exchange by exporting the products to other countries. In 1967-68, goods worth 15 lakhs of rupees were produced. Ten lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in this industry.

Both the above-mentioned industries gave employment to 435 workers during 1967-68.

(26) Chemical Industry.—The following four types of chemical industries are run in the district :

Pharmaceuticals

In 1967-68, there were 14 units manufacturing pharmaceuticals in the district. These units produced goods worth 12.67 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 84 persons.

Paints and Pigments

The first paints factory was established in 1930 at Amritsar which has ever since continued to be an important centre of the industry. The essential raw materials used are chemicals, e.g. resin, zinc oxide, dye pigments, lithophone, titanium dioxide, carbon black and linseed oil. The principal products are white paint, enamel, cement colours, dry paints, yellow ochre red oxide, etc.

In 1967-68, there were 21 units engaged in the industry in the district. These units produced goods worth 32.38 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 182 workers. Twenty lakhs of rupees are said to have been invested in the industry.

Dyes and Colours

In 1967-68, there were 7 units engaged in the production of dyes and colours. These units produced goods worth 10.32 lakhs of rupees and provided employment for 54 workers.

Soap Manufacture

This is another important industry of the district. It is said to have been established in the middle of the nineteenth century or thereabout. Its main centres are Amritsar and Tarn Taran. The industry manufactures washing and toilet soap which has a good market in and outside the district. The main raw materials required are mutton tallow, caustic soda, sodium silicate, soap stone, edible oils, non-edible oils, etc. (both indigenous and imported). In 1967-68, there were 190 units engaged in the industry. These produced goods worth 70 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 1,340 workers.

(27) Lace (*Gota*-Weaving) Manufacture.—This industry is carried on partly in homes and partly in small factories in the district. Gold and silver thread, woven along with silk yarn, is used by ladies for the borders of their dresses, especially for *sarees* and for table covers. Formerly, the weaving of imitation *gota* was popular. Owing to the changing habits of the people, the industry is now declining.

(28) Automobile Parts.—This is a post-partition industry. It produces automobile parts, e.g. pistons, piston pins and rings, and steering-wheels. The basic raw materials used are aluminium alloy, alloy steel, etc. In 1967-68, there were 5 units engaged in the industry in the district. These units produced goods worth 37 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 260 workers. The total investment in the industry is said to have amounted to 15 lakhs of rupees.

(29) Rubber Goods.—This is an important industry of the district and is mainly located at Amritsar, Jandiala Guru and Tarn Taran. The main items manufactured are pram and tricycle tyres, rubber grips, pedals, motor-cycle parts, corks, rubber heads, bicycle seats, *chappals*, radio parts, electric wire, etc. The essential raw materials used are synthetic rubber, pigments, carbon, raw rubber, reinforcing clays, petrol, etc. In 1967-68, 13 units were engaged in the industry. These produced goods worth 90.68 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 154 workers.

(30) Plastic Goods Industry.—This is also a new industry in the district and was started after the partition. The main items manufactured are shuttle-cocks, chessmen, strikers, grips, pens, buttons, stationery items, crockery, photo frames, table-lamps, sewing-machine parts, surgical goods, knitting-needles, toys, containers, etc.

The essential raw materials are polystyrene powder, alkethyne (cellulose acetate), plastic acrylic sheets, polyethylene chloride sheets, etc., which are mostly imported.

In 1967-68, 45 units were engaged in the industry which produced goods worth 5.68 lakhs of rupees. It gave employment to 158 workers.

(31) **Musical Instruments.**—This industry came into being in 1892. Before that time, musical instruments were imported from France. The industry produces harmonium, *tabla*, *dholak*, *banjo* and *sitar*. The raw materials required are wood, *dhama* wire, etc.

In 1967-68, 38 units were engaged in the manufacture of musical instruments. These units produced goods worth 1.5 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 70 workers.

(32) **Oils and Perfumes.**—The industry is said to have been established in 1860. The essential raw materials required are aromatic chemicals, essential oils, resin-oils and scents.

In 1967-68, two firms were engaged in manufacturing scented oils and perfumes. The total output of the industry was worth 4.5 lakhs of rupees and 20 persons were engaged in it.

(iii) Village Industries and Handicrafts

The various village industries existing in the district are given below :

(33) **Handloom-Weaving.**—This is one of the important village industries and is carried on by hereditary weavers. Before the partition, it was in the hands of the Muslims. The weavers in the villages mostly use hand-spun cotton yarn, which is available in plenty from the village folk. The other varieties, i.e. staple and woollen yarn, except the worsted woollen yarn to some extent, are obtained from other States. Handloom-weaving is carried on in all the towns. In villages, it continues to be an important industry. The goods produced with handlooms are *khaddar*, *kheses*, bed-sheets, bed-covers, woollen blankets, shirting, etc.

In 1967-68, 2,050 units, mostly located in the rural areas, were engaged in this trade. The value of the goods produced was to the tune of 43.4 lakhs of rupees and the industry gave employment to 9,706 persons.

(34) **Shoes and Other Leather Goods.**—Shoemaking is also an ancient industry among the traditional shoemakers. In 1967-68, there were 580 units in the district, and these produced goods worth 37.55 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 953 persons.

In rural areas, the manufacture is mostly confined to the *desi jutti* (country shoes) for local use. The basic raw material is leather.

(35) **Leather-Tanning.**—Before the partition, Amritsar was famous for raw hides and skins, leather and leather goods. The trade was mostly in the hands of the Muslims. Now, it has been taken up by others. In 1967-68, 90 units were engaged in the industry. These units produced goods worth 31.8 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 275 persons.

(36) **Village Ghani-Oil.**—In 1967-68, 54 units were engaged in the industry which gave employment to 215 persons. The production was worth 4 lakhs of rupees. The basic raw material for the industry is mustard (*sarson*).

(37) **Ban-Making and Rope-Making.**—The manufacture of *ban* is undertaken on family basis. *Sarkanda* and *bhabar* grass, the basic raw materials for the industry, are found in the district in abundance. Before the partition, the industry was mostly in the hands of the Muslims who used to manufacture *moorahs*, etc. The important centres of this industry are Khem Karan, Bullarwal, Govindwal and Fatehabad.

In 1967-68, 219 units were engaged in the industry. These units produced goods worth 3.58 lakhs of rupees and provided employment for 221 persons.

(38) **Gur and Khandsari.**—In 1967-68, 768 units were engaged in the production of *gur* and *khandsari* in the district. These produced goods worth 20.80 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 1,185 workers.

(39) Handicrafts :

Ivory Goods

Ivory-carving in Amritsar began with the comb trade about a century back. Combs are of special importance to the Sikhs, as a comb is one of the five symbols of Sikhism. Boxwood is used in large quantities. The finest comb is made of ivory, decorated with geometric patterns. Paper-knives, trays, bangles, chains, buttons, tags and the long parting combs of European toilet are also made. The raw material for these articles is partly purchased locally and is partly imported. This industry is facing crisis owing to the non-availability of raw ivory according to the requirements.

At the time of the partition in 1947, only 3 units were engaged in the manufacture of ivory goods. By 1967-68, their number increased to 18 which produced goods worth 6.8 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 68 persons.

Pashmina Goods

This is an old industry of the district, mainly concentrated in Amritsar which is the biggest processing centre of *pashmina* in the Punjab. The local

manufacturers purchase raw *pashmina* from Kulu and Mandi (in Himachal Pradesh) and get it cleaned and sorted out at Amritsar. In 1966-67, there were 5 units engaged in this industry. These units produced goods worth 3.35 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 21 persons.

Other Handicrafts

In 1967-68, 53 units were engaged in different handicrafts whose output was worth 7.89 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 154 workers.

(h) Role of Industrial Co-operatives

Industrial co-operatives are of paramount importance in villages where the industries are run by the members of a family or by individuals. The individuals single-handedly cannot run them efficiently. They face difficulties in matters of finance, equipment and procurement of raw material and also in marketing the produce. If all the workers unite and form co-operative societies, such hurdles are mostly overcome. The co-operative societies can get many types of facilities from private as well as from public sectors. These societies purchase raw materials in bulk, and so the prices charged are lowered, as these materials can be purchased from the wholesalers. Similarly, the products are disposed of at reasonable prices. Apart from these advantages, credit facilities are also given by private entrepreneurs. The State Government gives subsidies, grants-in-aid and loans to the co-operative societies for the purchase of machinery, equipment, etc.

There has been much improvement in the development of industrial co-operatives in the district after they came under the control of the Industries Department in 1963. The State Industries Department grants them timely financial help in the form of loans, subsidies and quotas of various commodities. The membership of the industrial co-operatives in the district rose from 3,465 in 1963-64 to 4,273 in 1967-68. The items manufactured by the industrial co-operatives are handloom goods, radios, agricultural implements, stationery goods, engineering goods, motor and cycle parts, hosiery goods, oil and soap, *gur* and *khandsari*, spray pumps, and handicrafts.

The following table shows the development of the industrial co-operatives in the district during 1963-64 to 1967-68:

Year	Number of industrial co-operatives	Membership	Share capital	Working capital	Production	Sales
		(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1963-64	287	3,465	10,22,495	30,30,653	34,05,075	33,76,858
1964-65	309	3,990	12,63,588	33,44,476	32,89,615	33,56,093
1965-66	314	4,052	12,97,198	35,62,464	37,57,299	37,51,797
1966-67	323	4,279	15,13,957	39,36,858	40,39,318	32,94,113
1967-68	315	4,273	16,71,929	41,25,131	38,74,375	25,67,345

(Source : Industrial Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar)

The Government has always encouraged the industrial co-operative societies. It provided the following financial assistance to these societies through various schemes during 1963-64 to 1967-68 :

Year	Name of the Scheme			
	Share capital loan	Improved appliances loan	Loans for the introduction of powerlooms	Share participation by the Government in the industrial co-operative societies
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1963-64	—	11,040	—	—
1964-65	1,275	5,566	—	—
1965-66	825	4,088	—	—
1966-67	975	2,893	1,32,000	69,000
1967-68	—	3,996	—	—

(Source : Industrial Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar)

Besides the Government, the Co-operative Banks also advance loans to the industrial co-operatives. The Government has also started another scheme, viz. the Credit-Facility Scheme, under which the industrial co-operatives get loans from the banks. The funds for this purpose are provided by the Government to the banks.

Since 1963, the industrial co-operative societies are under the administrative control of the Director of Industries, Punjab, Chandigarh. Previously, these societies were under the control of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab, Chandigarh. At the district level, the Industrial Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar, looks after them.

The details regarding the loans and subsidies advanced to the industrial co-operative societies during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 are given below :

Particulars	1966-67		1967-68	
	Loan	Subsidy	Loan	Subsidy
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Weavers' Societies	4,59,886	19,753	5,71,934	5,700
Small-Scale Industries Societies	4,00,983	5,100	3,78,889	10,648
Khadi Industries	1,82,862	—	1,85,957	—
Handicraft Societies	—	4,800	—	7,200
Sericulture	3,400	—	3,400	—

(Source : Industrial Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar)

(i) Labour and Employers' Organizations

Labour Organizations.—The labour for the Amritsar industries comes either from the city itself or from the neighbouring villages. Their dwellings spread over the whole city. The demand for skilled labour is met through the institutions, viz. Dayanand Polytechnic, Punjab Institute of Textile Technology, Government Institute of Garment Technology and the Government Industrial Training Institutes.

The following is the list of registered industrial workers' unions in the district :

Serial No.	Name and address of the union	Date of registration
1.	Surgical Dressing Labour Union, Chheharta ..	17th March, 1951
2.	Surgical Dressing Company Mazdoor Union, Chheharta	17th March, 1951
3.	Distillery Mazdoor Union, Amritsar ...	13th May, 1953
4.	National Mechanical Labour Union, Amritsar ..	19th January, 1954
5.	Textile Mazdoor Ekta Union, Amritsar ..	28th April, 1954
6.	Kapur Silk and Weaving Mills Mazdoor Union, Amritsar	27th September, 1954
7.	Textile Labour Association, Amritsar ..	16th March, 1955
8.	Iron & Steel Workers' Union, Amritsar ..	10th June, 1955
9.	Amritsar Sugar Mill Mazdoor Union, Chheharta	23rd February, 1956
10.	Paints, Colour and Chemical Industries Workers' Union, Amritsar	4th May, 1957
11.	Embroidery Mazdoor Union, Chheharta ..	6th June, 1957
12.	Universal Screw Factory Mazdoor Sangh, Chheharta	5th July, 1957
13.	Federation of Working Embroidery and Lace Industry, Amritsar	17th July, 1957
14.	Textile Mazdoor Sangh, Amritsar ...	8th August, 1957
15.	Calico Printing Mills' Mazdoor Union, Amritsar	28th August, 1957
16.	Textile Workers' Union, Amritsar ...	10th December, 1957

17.	Surgical Dressing Labour Union, Amritsar	21st February, 1958
18.	Chemical and Medical Workers' Union, Amritsar	8th January, 1959
19.	Chemical Workers' Union, Amritsar ..	8th January, 1959
20.	Amritsar Metal & General Mazdoor Union, Amritsar	9th January, 1959
21.	Shambhu Nath & Sons Workers' Union, Amritsar	4th October, 1959
22.	Rayon & Silk Mills Labour Union, Amritsar ..	20th April, 1961
23.	Amritsar Textile Labour Union, Amritsar	21st June, 1961
24.	Vishvakarma Thathera Workers' Union, Jandiala Gurni	11th May, 1962
25.	Amritsar Rayon & Silk Mill Mazdoor Union, Amritsar	7th/8th August, 1962
26.	Amritsar Textile Karamchari Sabha, Amritsar ..	29th August, 1962
27.	Punjab Distilling Industry Mazdoor Union, Chheharta	24th September, 1962
28.	Mechanical Mazdoor Association, Amritsar ..	16th March, 1963
29.	Indian Woollen Textile Mazdoor Union, Chheharta	30th April, 1963
30.	Rubber Workers' Union, Amritsar ..	22nd July, 1963
31.	Amritsar Ara Labour Union, Amritsar ..	1st January, 1964
32.	Saco Rubber Industries Workers' Union, Verka	26th May, 1965
33.	Amritsar Textile Mistries Union, Amritsar ..	26th October, 1965
34.	O. C. M. Workers' Union, Chheharta ..	26th December, 1966
35.	Partap Steel Rolling Mill Workers' Union, Chheharta	24th June, 1967
36.	Amritsar Glass Workers' Union, Amritsar ..	17th July, 1967
37.	O. C. M. Karamchari Sangh, Amritsar ..	17th September, 1967
38.	Textile Mazdoor Sabha, Amritsar ..	8th November, 1967
39.	Universal Screw Factory Mazdoor Union, Chheharta	30th December, 1967

Manufacturers' Associations.—The manufacturers' associations, functioning in the district, are given below :

1. Textile Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
2. Amritsar Small-Scale Woollen Manufacturers' Association Amritsar
3. Punjab Industries and Commerce Association, Amritsar
4. Punjab Federation of Commerce, Amritsar
5. Punjab Textile Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
6. Cottage Industries Association, Amritsar
7. Village Handloom Textile Association, Amritsar
8. Amritsar Small-Scale Industries and Commercial Association, Amritsar
9. Punjab Warp Knitting Association, Amritsar
10. Handloom Shoddy Weavers, and Processors' Association, Amritsar
11. Screen Printers' Association, Amritsar
12. Amritsar Rubber Goods Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
13. Amritsar Small-Scale Pump Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
14. Amritsar Buckets Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
15. Amritsar Plastic Goods Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
16. Amritsar Small-Scale Radio Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
17. Amritsar Small-Scale Soap Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
18. Cottage Paints Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
19. Punjab Paint Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
20. Punjab Machinery Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
21. Foundry Owners' Association, Amritsar
22. Amritsar Knitters' Association, Amritsar
23. Dyestuff Manufacturers' Association, Amritsar
24. Engineering Industries Association, Amritsar
25. Punjab Thermometer Association, Amritsar

(j) Welfare of Industrial Labour

The growth of organized industries and the evolution of an industrial proletariat are of comparatively recent origin in India. The industrial progress in the country in recent years has led to a rapid increase in the number of workers employed in various organized industries. An important feature of the introduction of industrialization was the eagerness of the employers for quick returns and easy profits. Owing to the employers' desire to extract work from the labourers for as long a time as possible under the most intolerable conditions, various efforts were made to improve the conditions and organize labour in the country. For this purpose, the Government also passed various labour laws from time to time.

The industrialists, as a class, have generally confined their activities to improve the lot of the labour class in compliance with only the statutory provisions of the law. However, a few of them have taken a number of steps for the betterment of their workers. These steps include educational-cum-recreational holidays trips, children's parks, family and children welfare centres, distribution of milk and vitamins to children, women, etc. This subject has been dealt with at length under the section 'Labour Welfare' in Chapter XVII, 'Other Social Services'.

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APPENDIX

Particulars of Industries in the Amritsar District

(Vide Page 197)

Serial No.	Name of industry	Year	No. of units	Production		Average employment
				Quantity (in lakhs)	Value (in lakhs of rupees)	
(i) Industries in the Large-Scale Sector						
1. Woollen and Silk Textiles		1962-63	15		610	5,342
		1963-64	15		726	6,016
		1964-65	12	Cloth : 31.79 metres Yarn : 1,202.231 tonnes	337	5,478
		1965-66	14		597.82	3,933
		1966-67	15		812	3,599
		1967-68	15		722	3,599
	2. Cotton Textiles		1962-63	1	5.50 lb. (yarn)	35.0
		1963-64			23.4	362
		1964-65	1		26.0	307
		1965-66	1	Cotton yarn : 394.476 tonnes Shoddy yarn : 324.456 tonnes	19.72 1.94	150
		1966-67	1		4.81	126
		1967-68	1		6.0	88
3. Flour-Mills			1962-63			297
		1963-64	2		346.54	237
		1964-65	2		196.62	224
		1965-66	2		106.17	171
		1966-67	2		223.91	231
		1967-68	2		92.52	153
	4. Oil-Mills		1962-63	1		237
		1963-64	1		274	210
		1964-65	1		319	220
		1965-66	1		441	233
		1966-67	3		738	323
		1967-68	3		703	342

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. Milk Plant		1964-65	1		44.64	456
		1965-66	1		450.64	456
		1966-67	1		189.40	286
		1967-68	1		86.48	278
6. Chemicals		1962-63	1		39.4	239
		1963-64	1		35.7	257
		1964-65	1		21	195
		1965-66	1		38	175
		1966-67	2		87	293
7. Wood and Machine Screws		1967-68	2		20	276
		1962-63	1		29.00	260
		1963-64	1		26.40	223
		1964-65	1		26.10	211
		1965-66	1		35.30	294
8. Distilling		1966-67	1		22.43	178
		1967-68	1		22.86	172
		1962-63	1		23.50	328
		1963-64	1		35.30	340
		1964-65	1		..	..
(ii) Industries in the Small-Scale Sector		1965-66	1		35.64	310
		1966-67	1		22.48	274
		1967-68	1		16.71	258
9. Wood and Machines Screws		1962-63	23		21.25	625
		1963-64	23		21.75	647
		1964-65	23		21.87	658
		1965-66	23		18.50	575
		1966-67	24		19.10	582
10. Chemicals (Pharmaceutical)		1967-68	42	5,310,900 gross	55.11	230
		1962-63	10		10.9	124
		1963-64	10		11.35	137
		1964-65	10		13.39	137

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		1965-66	10		12.25	125
		1966-67	10		12.30	132
		1967-68	14		12.67	84
11. Cycle and Cycle Parts		1962-63	20			230
		1963-64	20		9.00	235
		1964-65	18		8.39	219
		1965-66	18		9.29	222
		1966-67	21		9.60	230
		1967-68	26		9.22	180
12. Sewing-Machines and Parts		1962-63	1	2, 423 pieces	1	40
		1963-64	1	2, 430 pieces	1	42
		1964-65	3		3.90	39
		1965-66	4		4.00	42
		1966-67	4		3.80	40
		1967-68	4	1, 722 pieces	1.96	17
13. Machine-Tools		1962-63	18		23.24	207
		1963-64	184		175.00	1,975
		1964-65	180		17.36	1,945
		1965-66	180		1.70	1,925
		1966-67	230		1.80	2,075
		1967-68	215	52, 134	1.75	2,085
14. Agricultural Implements		1962-63	33		18.4	310
		1963-64	33		18.75	325
		1964-65	35		1.88	347
		1965-66	35		13.30	320
		1966-67	35		11.00	340
		1967-68	34		29.00	348
15. Steel Re-rolling		1962-63	3	6,320 tonnes		150
		1963-64	3	6,520 tonnes		157
		1964-65	3	6,580 tonnes		157
		1965-66	3	5,800 tonnes	23.40	145
		1966-67	3	1,5000 tonnes	25.00	152
		1967-68	3	58 tonnes	47.40	260

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16. Non-Ferrous Metals		1962-63	90		26.30	392
		1963-64	95		27.10	407
		1964-65	95		28.15	419
		1965-66	95		23.10	365
		1966-67	95		21.10	340
		1967-68	93		13.10	349
17. Nuts and Bolts		1966-67	2		6.00	..
		1967-68	4	26,875 gross	2.15	30
18. Electric Motors		1962-63	1	130 pieces	..	11
		1963-64	1	135 pieces	..	13
		1964-65	1	2,840 pieces	..	20
		1965-66	2	3,250 pieces	16.25	35
		1966-67	4	3,350 pieces	16.45	40
		1967-68	9	1,635 pieces	6.05	39
19. Electric Fans		1962-63	2	1,120 pieces	..	59
		1963-64	2	2,620 pieces	..	75
		1964-65	3	2,840 pieces	..	80
		1965-66	3	3,175 pieces	4.87	98
		1966-67	5	3,275 pieces	5.00	110
		1967-68	5	3,931 pieces	5.95	67
20. Glass Beads		1962-63	10		1.7	59
		1963-64	20		2.13	75
		1964-65	20		2.15	125
		1965-66	20		1.95	105
		1966-67	21		2.00	112
21. Power-loom-Weaving		1962-63	864		1,350	9,800
		1963-64	1,004		1,500	10,960
		1964-65	1,205		1,500	11,975
		1965-66	1,297		1,310	12,000
		1966-67	1,352	113,500,000 metres	1,243	12,200
		1967-68	1,205		738	11,100

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1	2		3	4	5	6	7
22.	Cotton-Ginning	..	1962-63	27	29,723 bales	..	920
			1963-64	27	27,620 bales	..	1,070
			1964-65	27	27,934 bales	..	1,037
			1965-66	27	25,500 bales	76.50	980
			1966-67	27	25,600 bales	75.90	960
			1967-68	27	11 lakh bales	77.0	972
23.	Radios and Amplifiers	..	1962-63	119	10,000 radios	..	381
			1963-64	119	10,200 radios	..	385
			1964-65	120	10,500 radios	33.4	391
			1965-66	120	10,000 radios	30.0	350
			1966-67	144	11,080 radios	35.00	382
			1967-68	155	11,000 radios	23.15	392
24.	Food Products	..	1962-63	102		3.3	452
			1963-64	102		3.3	455
			1964-65	104		35.00	460
			1965-66	104		32.00	435
			1966-67	105		32.00	425
			1967-68	110		..	..
25.	Hosiery	..	1962-63	46		16.85	210
			1963-64	46		17.82	270
			1964-65	46		17.39	270
			1965-66	46		17.90	275
			1966-67	47		17.80	264
			1967-68	37		15.80	230
26.	Paints and Pigments	..	1962-63	15		33.7	147
			1963-64	20		35.1	162
			1964-65	20		35.27	165
			1965-66	23		42.10	252
			1966-67	30		44.50	270
			1967-68	21		32.38	183
27.	Automobile Parts	..	1962-63	2		2.80	29
			1963-64	2		2.82	31
			1964-65	2		2.85	31

INDUSTRIES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		1965-66	2		3.85	42
		1966-67	2		4.90	54
		1967-68	5		37.00	260
28. Dyes and Colours	..	1962-63	7		4.75	57
		1963-64	7		4.85	59
		1964-65	7		4.87	62
		1965-66	7		4.25	55
		1966-67	7		4.23	52
		1967-68	7	65 tonnes	10.32	54
29. Soap-Manufacturing	..	1962-63	262		1.58	1,140
		1963-64	262		2.00	1,144
		1964-65	236		1.95	1,024
		1965-66	236		1.85	960
		1966-67	244		80.00	1,505
		1967-68	190	29,250 tonnes	70.00	1,340
30. Lace-Manufacturing	..	1962-63	12		8.00	187
		1963-64	12		7.80	185
		1964-65	12		7.82	182
		1965-66	12		7.10	165
		1966-67	12		7.40	170
		1967-68	11		10.00	128
31. Rubber Industries	..	1962-63	10		25.30	170
		1963-64	10		26.30	185
		1964-65	10		25.40	182
		1965-66	12		22.80	165
		1966-67	16		22.95	170
		1967-68	13		19.68	154
32. Plastic Goods	..	1962-63	67		2.95	206
		1963-64	67		2.97	210
		1964-65	67		2.98	216
		1965-66	67		2.88	207
		1966-67	67		2.90	212
		1967-68	45		5.68	158

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33. Musical Instruments	..	1963-64	34		0.80	50
		1964-65	38		1.0	89
		1965-66	38		0.88	81
		1966-67	38		0.90	85
		1967-68	38		1.50	70
		(iii) Village Industries				
34. Handloom-Weaving	..	1962-63	1,501			9,800
		1963-64	1,507			10,200
		1964-65	1,510		465.0	10,280
		1965-66	2,128		330.0	8,911
		1966-67	2,128		310.0	8,813
		1967-68	2,050	70 lakh metres	43.4	9,706
35. Oils and Perfumes	..	1964-65	2		2.75	18
		1965-66	2		2.00	15
		1966-67	2		2.10	18
		1967-68	2		4.50	20
36. Shoes and Leather Goods	..	1962-63	328		22.5	895
		1963-64	432		26.37	1,033
		1964-65	434		36.25	1,040
		1965-66	551		38.00	1,130
		1966-67	551		38.10	1,140
		1967-68	580		37.55	953
37. Leather-Tanning		1962-63	85		1.70	230
		1963-64	90		1.75	254
		1964-65	93		1.90	260
		1965-66	93		1.95	275
		1966-67	93		1.98	280
		1967-68	90		31.50	275
38. Village Ghani-Oil	..	1962-63	52		0.47	200
		1963-64	52		4.72	204
		1964-65	52		4.85	207
		1965-66	52		4.80	205

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		1966-67	52		4.85	210
		1967-68	54		4.0	215
39. Ban-making and Rope-making		1962-63	54		0.64	109
		1963-64	65		0.69	152
		1964-65	..		..	..
		1965-66	216		3.22	217
		1966-67	216		3.32	223
		1967-68	219		3.58	221
40. Gur and Khandsari	..	1962-63	760		2.30	1,085
		1963-64	765		2.35	1,122
		1964-65	765		2.40	1,139
		1965-66	770		2.50	1,150
		1966-67	750		2.45	1,142
		1967-68	768		20.80	1,185
		Handicrafts				
41. Ivory Goods	..	1962-63	5		2.5	..
		1963-64	10		3.5	..
		1964-65	15		4.75	..
		1965-66	15		4.70	35
		1966-67	15		4.90	45
		1967-68	18		6.80	68
42. Pashmina Goods	..	1962-63	3		2.75	..
		1963-64	3		3.25	..
		1964-65	5		3.65	..
		1965-66	5		3.25	15
		1966-67	5		3.35	21
43. Other Handicrafts	..	1962-63	40		2.25	..
		1963-64	40		2.50	..
		1964-65	45		10.40	..
		1965-66	45		10.35	135
		1966-67	50		10.60	135
		1967-68	53		7.89	154

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

(A) Banking and Finance

(a) History of Indigenous Banking

Banking in various forms has been practised in India since time immemorial. In ancient literature, there are quite a number of references to the very efficient system of banking in India. This system financed trade and commerce in an age when the West had not even evolved the monetary system. This system continues working to the present day in spite of the opening of a large number of joint-stock banks on modern lines. Since very early times, the people have been accustomed to the use of credit instruments, e.g. *hundis*. Money-lending has also been going on from time immemorial. The Amritsar District, more particularly the Amritsar city, has always enjoyed special significance. Soon after its foundation, Amritsar became famous not only as the holiest seat of the Sikh religion but also as a great entrepot of trade and commerce in the whole of the north-west region. Through the efforts of the Sikh Gurus and because of the patronage of the Lahore Durbar, the city became the biggest clearing-house for the vast variety of products from the remote Himalayan fastnesses of Yarkand, Samarkand, Leh, Lahul and Spiti and from centres as far away as Afghanistan and Persia. Amritsar reached its heyday in religious and political ascendancy during the days of the valiant Sikh ruler, Maharaja Ranjit Singh. It continues to be a leading centre in trade and commerce and also maintains its supremacy in textiles. In the field of religion, too, Amritsar occupies a unique position, because the holiest Sikh religious seats, viz. the Akal Takht and the Golden Temple, which draw a perennial stream of its votaries and admirers from far and near, are located here. These religious seats are the most important historical factors which have promoted finance, trade and commerce and also money-lending in the district.

During the early period, money-lending was very simple, because it was the *sahukar* (indigenous money-lender) who was almost the sole source of finance. His clients were persons who were intimately acquainted with him. Money-lending involved very little of writing and functioned smoothly because of the personal contacts between the lenders and the borrowers. It is well known that in the early years of his kingship, Maharaja Ranjit Singh (as the head of the Sukarchakia Misl) had carried on his major financial transactions with Rama Nand¹, a famous banker of Amritsar, because he could not set

¹The locality known as Bagh Rama Nand is believed to have been the estate of Rama Nand Saraf who had come to occupy a prominent position among local bankers at Amritsar.

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up a State treasury or appoint a treasurer of his own. The arrangement was discontinued when he organized his Accounts Office at Lahore in 1811 or thereabout. Till then, the traditional type of banking facilities were provided by the local financiers² to the promising prince, who soon became the ruler of the whole of the Punjab. In the beginning, the money-lenders fulfilled the emergent needs of the borrowers and were respected for their wealth as well as for their position, but gradually some defects crept into the system. The instinct of greed turned the money-lenders into Shylocks. The practice of usury came into vogue and exorbitant rates of interest came to be charged. The money-lenders also resorted to the malpractice of fictitious entries. Apart from higher rates of interest, the borrower was under personal obligation to the money-lender till he was able to clear his debt. There were numerous instances where the interest multiplied many times the principal, and the borrower, being unable to pay the debt, had to part with his belongings, including land. Before the advent of the British, this problem of rural indebtedness was not very acute. The cases were handled by the village panchayats. The panchayats watched the interests of both the borrower and the money-lender, and never allowed the money-lender to resort to extreme measures like the attachment of land and property. They also prevailed upon the money-lender to be considerate towards the borrower. Being a shopkeeper as well as a money-lender, the *sahukar* generally preferred to get the produce, on which, without much effort, he could reap a double profit, one from the producer to whom he lent the money and the other from the consumer to whom he sold the produce. This continued to be the case during the first twenty years of the British rule. After 1870, circumstances changed. Land became a first-rate investment which was always rising in value. As soon as he realized this thing, the money-lender began to use it as an outlet for his rapidly accumulating capital, and, finding the investment more and more profitable, sought with increasing ingenuity to get the cultivator into his clutches and oust him from his land. He imposed such hard terms in his mortgages that a mortgage nearly always ended in sale. Land was, thus, becoming the property of the *sahukar* or money-lender.

The various abuses in money-lending attracted the attention of the Government, which came out with the requisite legislation to safeguard the interests of the borrowers, i.e. the agriculturists. The Government realized the gravity of the problem of rural indebtedness and felt that unless some antidote was given, the evil might altogether alienate the rights of the tillers of the soil and pass on the land to the money-lenders. This evil led to the passage of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900 (XIII of 1900). Since then, the

²As a result of the territorial expansion since 1799, Ranjit Singh's dominion suffered a huge deficit and its revenue amounting to nearly Rs 30,00,000 per annum, had been mortgaged to Rama Nand, the rich banker of Amritsar, who also kept Maharaja Ranjit Singh's accounts of revenue receipts and expenditure.

(V. N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present* (1967), pp. 33-34)

money-lender has been content with the produce, and a new class of agriculturist money-lender has come to the fore. The bulk of the usufructuary mortgage debt passed into their hands and they have rapidly increased their credit operations.

The passage of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900 (XIII of 1900), however, did not better the lot of the tillers. The *sahukar*, deprived by the Act of the security of the land, could only lend up to the limit of what could be repaid from the produce. But the agriculturist money-lender, to whom the Act did not apply, could afford to lend up to the value of the land. He was at liberty to offer attractive terms to the tillers. He was more merciless than the rural money-lender (*sahukar*) and was always on the look-out for the misfortunes of the borrowers. The Act, thus, aggravated the difficulties of the borrowers instead of alleviating them.

The passage of the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1930, the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1934, the Punjab Debtors' Protection Act, 1936, and the Punjab Registration of Money-lenders Act, 1938, adversely affected the village money-lenders. This created a scare in the minds of the money-lenders who restricted their credit operations. Consequently, a need was felt to create some agency for providing finance to the agriculturists. The Royal Commission on Agriculture recommended the development of co-operation as the only hope of rural India. The first Co-operative Societies Act was passed in 1904. Under this Act, the first Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society in the district was registered on 1st April, 1908, in the village of Pakharpura (Tahsil Amritsar) and the second society was registered in the village of Ramdewali (Tahsil Amritsar) on 3rd April, 1908. These credit societies were registered with unlimited liability and were successful in meeting the needs of the people of rural areas. Gradually, the membership of the co-operative societies increased. The co-operative experience revealed that the societies must have some central institution for the facility of finance. Accordingly, the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, was passed, and it widened the scope and permitted the registration of secondary societies. Thus, there came into existence the Chetanpur Co-operative Bank Union, which was registered on April 5, 1919, for providing finance for its member societies. It was followed by other Co-operative Bank Unions formed at Tarn Taran, Mud Khokar and Vachhoa in the district. These small banking unions were subsequently amalgamated into the Central Co-operative Bank, which caters to the needs of co-operative societies of various types in the district.

The passage of the various enactments by the Government also affected the agriculturist money-lender. He, therefore, explored other channels to invest his surplus funds, and, finally, he was effectively checked when the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900 (XIII of 1900), was repealed with the enforcement of the Constitution of the Republic of India on January 26, 1950.

(b) General Credit Facilities

(i) Indebtedness, Rural and Urban

By indebtedness we mean the amount borrowed by the people from various sources for investment in various fields. Rural indebtedness is the amount borrowed by the agriculturists from various sources. These borrowings are to be used for the improvements in agriculture, for the purchase of improved agricultural implements, better seeds, fertilizers, etc. But the amount thus borrowed is not generally used for the purpose for which it is borrowed. The funds are used for other purposes because of the extravagant habits, orthodox customs and heavy expenditure on ceremonies by the farmers.

The amount borrowed by the industrialists, traders and other business communities refers to the urban indebtedness. Contrary to the rural indebtedness, the amount borrowed is generally used properly in their respective establishments.

Rate of Interest.—The Co-operative Societies advance loans at rates of interest ranging from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The loans advanced under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, carry interest from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Joint-Stock Banks advance loans against jewellery, ornaments, etc., at the interest rates of 6 to 12 per cent. The indigenous money-lenders charge interest varying from 9 to 36 per cent. The loans advanced by the unregistered money-lenders carry much higher rate of interest, usually ranging from 60 to 100 per cent per annum. The scale of the rates of interest depends upon the nature of the loan and on the financial condition of the borrower. In some cases, the interest is recovered in kind and it is charged at harvest time. For instance, a *sahukar* lends a quintal of wheat and he recovers one quintal and a half at the time of harvest in lieu of the loan.

Usury has, however, become out of fashion nowadays, because people have become literate and adequate banking facilities are available to meet their demands. This system still exists in the remote corners of the district, where educational facilities are hardly available and the money-lenders are making the best use of the backwardness of the people.

(ii) Role of Private Money-lenders and Financiers

Money-lenders.—The supremacy of the *bania* or village money-lender is still unchallenged in the field of rural finance. This is due to inadequate funds at the disposal of the Co-operative Department, and also due to the fact that the rural people have not yet fully understood the meaning of co-operation. Moreover, they have not yet realized the benefit of thrift and saving. The whole co-operative structure is mainly based on credit, and thrift is there only in name. Nevertheless, co-operation has succeeded in lessening, if not in rooting out, the fraudulent practices hitherto adopted by the *bania* or *sahukar*.

There are several methods of advancing loans, such as loans on personal surety, against produce, land, ornaments, property, etc. The main business of the rural money-lender is to lend money to the needy and he is responsible for the largest amount of the banking credit available in the rural areas of the district. Generally, the money-lender has his grocery shop in the village and he advances loans to the people for consumption and at the time of harvest he takes the crops into his possession to clear his debt and disposes it of according to his own will. He does not charge a fixed rate of interest on all such loans. The rate of interest varies from person to person. He lends either on the security of ornaments or on the promise of payment at the next harvest. Generally, he advances sums which are 60 to 70 per cent of the face value of the property pledged against the loan advanced. The rate of interest is generally higher on a loan advanced on personal surety than that on a loan advanced against property. As the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1930, necessitates the maintenance of accounts, most of the transactions in the villages are made there orally or against ornaments. In times of famine, scarcity, at the birth of a son or at the marriage of a daughter, the rural money-lender is the refuge of the indigent cultivator. In fact, he is truly the custodian of the honour of the peasants and caters to their needs. The Punjabi proverb "*Guru bina gat nahin, shah bina pat nahin*" holds good in case of the money-lender.

The local money-lender played an important role in providing industrial rural finance. The passage of the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1930, affected the private money-lending business adversely. Some of the professional money-lenders gave up their trade and took to other professions. However, the hereditary money-lenders still continue their business, because they find it more profitable. Money-lending is regulated under the Punjab Money-Lenders Act, 1938, which requires the money-lenders to maintain regular accounts in the books prescribed under the Act. Besides, the money-lenders are required to get themselves registered with the Collector and get a licence under the provisions of the Punjab Registration of Money-Lenders Act, 1938. The number of registered money-lenders in the district in 1968 was 200. Besides, there are a number of unregistered money-lenders.

(iii) Government and Semi-Government Credit Agencies

Besides the local money-lender, loans are also obtained from Government institutional credit agencies, such as the Punjab Financial Corporation, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Joint-Stock Banks, and Co-operative Societies. The Punjab Financial Corporation and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission cater to the financial needs of large-scale and medium-scale, and Khadi and village industries, respectively.

The Government also advances loans to the agriculturists for the purchase of seeds, cattle, tractors, agricultural implements, etc. Loans are also

advanced under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935. Loans advanced by Government as *taccavi* loans and those under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, are detailed in the chapters IV and V, 'Agriculture and Irrigation' and 'Industries' respectively. The Co-operative Societies advance loans against promissory notes, whereas banks do so against gold, shares and securities, agricultural commodities and other easily marketable goods.

Amritsar is a big centre of trade and commerce. Among the urban areas of the district, it occupies a unique position. In the beginning, the mode of the joint-stock banks was unknown, and the main instrument of payment was the *darshani hundi*. This system was somewhat similar to the cheque system prevailing nowadays. The *hundi* was purchased by the traders at par, above par or below par, and this was a negotiable instrument. The major firm doing this business was Messrs Narain Dass Chella Ram, having its indigenous bank branches in the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and Sind. Besides the *darshani hundi*, there used to be *mudti hundi* for fixed days, i.e. thirty, sixty, ninety and one hundred and eighty days respectively. The interest was calculated and deducted beforehand and it was always drawn on self. Another instrument of credit was the stamp-paper which was a form of deposit.

The system of *mudti hundi* was very delicate and sensitive. If the *hundi* was not honoured, the purchaser party was declared bankrupt on the spot. In the rural areas, certain defects crept in this system, because the traders did not observe the rules and regulations properly. As a result, this system gradually became unpopular and paved the way for the joint-stock banks.

(iv) Joint-Stock Banks

Banking was known and practised in India at a time when the rest of the world had yet to evolve a medium of exchange in the form of money. However, the organized joint-stock banking institutions on Western lines began to develop in the country about the middle of the nineteenth century. In India, these banks have passed through varying fortunes. In the first decade of the twentieth century, there was a mushroom growth and consequently there were bank failures on a very large scale. The weeding out of the inefficient and uneconomic units and the merger of the weaker ones into the stronger ones helped to strengthen the banking structure.

The first joint-stock banks established at Amritsar were the Punjab National Bank and the People's Bank of India. The later withered away very shortly. The Punjab National Bank (floated in 1894) established its branches in 1901 and other banks followed suit. The collapse of so many banks during the last few months of 1913 was extremely bad for trade and entailed serious consequences to the depositors. It had, however, some good results.

Many of the banks which collapsed had failed to observe even the most elementary principles of banking and had merely attracted deposits by offering impossibly high rates of interest. The sounder banks reaped the benefit from very largely increased deposits.

Now the banking structure in the country is quite solid. Neither the depression of the thirties nor the World War II (1939—45), nor even the cataclysmic partition of the country in 1947 gave any serious set-back to the joint-stock banking in India, although it has not remained unscathed altogether.

The development of banking in India, during and after the World War II, presents an impressive picture, but it has not been free from certain undesirable features. Some of these defects were removed through suitable amendments of the Indian Companies Act, but there still remained an urgent need for comprehensive legislation to safeguard the interests of the depositors. This was done through the Banking Companies Act, 1949, and through subsequent amendments.

The number of banking offices at various places in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was as under :

	Number of banking offices		
	Total	Located in the rural area	Located in the urban area
State Bank of India ..	4	—	4
State Bank of Patiala	1	—	1
Punjab National Bank ..	9	1	8
Other Commercial Banks ..	26	1	25
Co-operative Banks ..	12	8	4
Total	52	10	42

(Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1969, p. 556)

The different leading joint-stock banks, including foreign banks, which have their branches in the district, are as under :

1. State Bank of India
2. State Bank of Patiala
3. Punjab National Bank
4. Central Bank of India
5. Allahabad Bank
6. United Commercial Bank
7. The National and Grindlays Bank Ltd.
8. Union Bank of India
9. Bank of India
10. Bank of Baroda
11. Dena Bank
12. Indian Overseas Bank
13. The Sahukara Bank Ltd.
14. The Chartered Bank Ltd.
15. The Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.
16. The New Bank of India Ltd.
17. The Punjab and Sind Bank Ltd.
18. The Gadodia Bank Ltd.
19. The National Bank of Lahore Ltd.
20. The Hindustan Commercial Bank Ltd.
21. The Amritsar Co-operative Bank Ltd.
22. The Tarn Taran Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.

The total deposits and bank credit in the district, as on June 30, 1970, amounted to 4,453 lakhs and 2,384 lakhs of rupees respectively.

(v) Co-operative Credit

The co-operative movement in the district was started after the enactment of the Co-operative Societies Act, 1904, and the subsequent Act of 1912.

The first two Co-operative Societies in the district were organized and registered in 1908 in the villages of Pakharpura and Ramdewali, Tahsil Amritsar. The movement gained momentum with the passage of the Acts of 1954 and 1961. Consequently, a number of co-operative societies came into being at various places in the district. On June 30, 1968, there were 2,086 Co-operative Societies in the district. Of these, 1,343 were Co-operative Credit Societies (1,163 agricultural and 180 non-agricultural). Besides, a Central Co-operative Bank also functions at Amritsar, with branches at Rayya, Patti and Tarn Taran.

Co-operative Credit Societies.—Ordinarily, the money-lender provided loans and other essential commodities to the borrowers on credit. For the recovery of his dues, he preferred to buy the produce himself at concessional rates. The exploitation of the peasants by the money-lender worked like a double-edged blade, a high rate of interest on the loans advanced to the poor agriculturists and the low price given for their produce. The Punjab Registration of Money-Lenders Act, 1938, curtailed to some extent the powers of the money-lenders. But the organization of the co-operative societies aims at eliminating the money-lender as a class.

There were 1,343 co-operative credit (agricultural and non-agricultural) societies in the district in 1967-68. The functions of these societies are to mobilize savings of the members and to advance loans at reasonable rates of interest for productive purposes.

The details regarding the membership and the working of the agricultural and non-agricultural co-operative credit societies, functioning in the district during 1963-64 to 1967-68, are given in Appendices I and II on pages 254-255.

(c) Insurance and Small Savings

Insurance.—Before the establishment of the Life Insurance Corporation in 1956, the following companies, covering life and other risks, were functioning at Amritsar :—

1. The Oriental Government Security Insurance Company Ltd.
2. The Bombay Mutual Life Insurance Company Ltd.
3. The New India Insurance Company Ltd.
4. The Bharat Insurance Company Ltd.
5. The Laxmi Insurance Company Ltd.
6. The Sunlight of India Insurance Company Ltd.
7. The Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Company Ltd.

8. The Jupiter Insurance Company Ltd.
9. The Hindustan Insurance Company Ltd.
10. The Empire of India Insurance Company Ltd.
11. The Bombay Life Insurance Company Ltd.
12. The Industrial and Prudential Insurance Company Ltd.
13. The Ruby General Life Insurance Company Ltd.
14. The Great India Insurance Company Ltd.
15. The New Asiatic Insurance Company Ltd.
16. The Metropolitan Insurance Company Ltd.
17. The Asian Insurance Company Ltd.
18. The Sterling Insurance Company Ltd.
19. The Sunlife Insurance Company Ltd.
20. The Indian Mercantile Insurance Company Ltd.
21. The Calcutta Insurance Company Ltd.
22. The Indian Globe Insurance Company Ltd.

The life insurance business in the district is, at present, carried on by the Life Insurance Corporation of India, whereas the general insurance business is done by The Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company Ltd., The National Security Insurance Company Ltd., The Calcutta Insurance Company Ltd., The Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Society, The Vulcan Insurance Company Ltd., The Jupiter Insurance Company Ltd., The British India Insurance Company, The Universal Insurance Company, the Howrah Insurance Company, The New India Insurance Company, The New Credit Insurance Company, The Anand Insurance Company, The National Insurance Company, The Great American Insurance Company, The Ruby Insurance Company, The Co-operative Insurance Company, The Hindustan General Insurance Society, The Concord of India Insurance Company, The Indian Trade and General Insurance Company, The Zenith Insurance Company, The Sterling General Insurance Company, The Indian Mercantile Insurance Company, The Pherex Insurance Company, and The Odeon Insurance Company, all functioning at Amritsar.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India covers the life risk, whereas the general insurance of every kind, except that of life is carried on by the other companies. The Life Insurance Corporation opened its first branch office at Amritsar on September 1, 1956. The jurisdiction of this branch extends to

the *thanas* of the Amritsar city, Cantonment and Sadr, Kathunangal, Majitha and the Ajnala Tahsil. With the expansion of business in the district, two additional branches to cater to the insurance needs were established at Amritsar proper on June 15, 1959, and on July 15, 1963. In order to intensify the drive for insurance in the rural areas, one branch at Tarn Taran was opened on March 21, 1960, with a network of Development Officers at various centres of the district. This branch office covers the Tarn Taran and Patti tahsils and *thanas* of Jandiala Guru and Beas. The Life Insurance Corporation on March 31, 1968, had 58 Development Officers at Amritsar (Units I, II and III) and 14 at the Tarn Taran Branch for securing business in the district. The number of agents in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 1,141.

The Life Insurance Corporation also advances loans at the rates of 6 and 7½ per cent against policies and houses respectively.

The following statement shows the branchwise business secured by the Life Insurance Corporation of India in the district during the five years from 1963-64 to 1967-68:—

Business secured by the Life Insurance Corporation of India in the Amritsar District, 1963-64 to 1967-68

Name of Branch	Year					
	1963-64		1964-65		1965-66	
	No. of policies	Amount (Rs)	No. of policies	Amount (Rs)	No. of policies	Amount (Rs)
Amritsar-I	3,659	2,01,26,000	2,234	1,57,18,000	2,179	1,36,40,000
Amritsar-II	3,107	1,86,68,500	2,011	1,33,23,000	1,871	1,31,93,000
Amritsar-III	857	57,33,250	994	77,68,000	1,369	97,32,500
Tarn Taran	1,894	68,18,000	1,567	62,67,000	1,804	90,66,750
					2,187	1,58,03,250
					2,034	1,62,96,750
					1,355	1,07,27,500
					1,844	1,01,98,000
					2,154	1,76,18,750
					2,311	2,18,28,250
					1,314	12,03,530
					1,882	11,80,750

(Source : Divisional Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Divisional Office, Jullundur)

Small Savings.—Small savings is a Central Government-sponsored scheme controlled by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs). The National Savings Commissioner for India, with his headquarters at Nagpur, is the Head of the Department of National Savings Organization. The Scheme has been primarily introduced for inculcating in the masses the habit of thrift and raising funds needed for the development of the country. The movement has become very popular, especially among the rural people, and has, thus, acquired a great significance. In the States of the country, the National Savings Organization is headed by the Regional Director, National Savings, Government of India. The Regional Office for the Punjab is located at Jullundur. The Regional Director, National Savings (Government of India), Punjab, Jullundur, has, under him, three Assistant Regional Directors, National Savings, at Jullundur, Patiala and Amritsar. In each district, there is a District Organizer, National Savings Scheme. But, in some of the important districts, like Amritsar, there are two District Organizers.

In order to have better co-ordination between the Central Organization and the State Governments, Directorates of Small Savings have been set up in various States. The Director, Small Savings, Punjab, Chandigarh, is at the head of the State Government Small Savings Department. At the district level, the District Organizers are the co-ordinating agencies between the Central Organization and the district authorities. They provide necessary assistance to the district authorities in the promotion and growth of the movement.

The number of accredited agents, who worked for small savings on commission basis in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 105.

The gross and net collections under the Small Savings Scheme in the district, during the period 1961-62 to 1967-68, are given below :—

Year	Gross investments (Rs)	Net investments (Rs)
1961-62	3,22,25,775	69,47,357
1962-63	3,24,53,503	14,14,574
1963-64	3,40,97,578	59,70,888
1964-65	3,64,16,546	44,71,999
1965-66	4,09,48,222	66,55,076
1966-67	4,16,54,378	82,48,688
1967-68	4,97,22,347	36,76,318

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

(d) Currency and Coinage

During the Mughal period, the mercantile affairs of the kingdom were generally transacted in round *mohars*, rupees and *dams*. The copper coin called *dam*, *paisa* or *fulus* formed the fortieth part of the silver rupee. For the purpose of accounts, the *dam* was divided into twenty-five parts, each of which was called *jital*. Up to A.D. 1616, the official rate of exchange was 40 *dams* for a rupee but, from A.D. 1627 onwards, the rupee was worth 30 *dams* or a little more or less.³

The coins under the Sikh Government consisted of the silver rupee and the gold *bugti* besides copper coins of smaller denominations. The gold *bugti* was equal to five rupees. During the Sikh period, mints existed at Amritsar and Lahore, besides those in the provinces of Multan, Kashmir, Derajat and Peshawar. The gold coins were usually minted at Lahore.⁴

Under the British and after the independence (1947) up to April 1, 1957, the coinage consisted of the silver rupee and eight-anna and four-anna pieces, the nickel two-anna and one-anna pieces, besides the copper pice and pies. A rupee consisted of 16 annas or 64 pice or 192 pies. An anna was equal to 4 pice or 12 pies, and a pice was equal to 3 pies.

The decimal coinage was introduced into the country from April 1, 1957. The new system has made calculations and the keeping of accounts easy and simple. The Government issued pamphlets and distributed posters among the public to acquaint them with the new system. Besides, the conversion tables were displayed at all prominent places of money transactions. Being a prominent centre of trade and commerce, the Amritsar District has been favourably affected by the reformed coinage system.

The decimal coinage completely replaced the old prevalent coinage with effect from April 1, 1964. In the beginning, the people, especially in the rural areas, felt some difficulty in transactions, as they were accustomed to counting under the old coinage system. But gradually, they started counting according to the new system, which became popular in the urban as well as in the rural areas. *Naya paisa*, named so in the beginning, is now called *paisa*. With the withdrawal of the old coinage from circulation, the prefix '*naya*' became redundant and was dropped from June 1, 1964.

(B) Trade and Commerce

For a long time, Amritsar has enjoyed a very high position as an entrepot of trade. Before the partition, it was the biggest centre in north-western India in the trade of textiles, woollens, etc. It used to be a feeding-point for the West Asian countries connected with India by land routes through Afghanistan. At one time, the chief imports of the city were cotton and woollen piece-goods from Lancashire and Yorkshire, but most of these requirements are now

³Sarkar, S. C. and Datta, K.K., *Modern Indian History*, Vol. 1 (Allahabad, 1942), pp. 298-99.

⁴Chopra, Gulshan Lal, *The Punjab as a Sovereign State (1799—1839)* (Hoshiarpur, 1960) pp. 152—55.

Article entitled "Coins of Lahore Durbar" by Ranjeet Singh, published in *The Sikh Review*, March, 1973 Vol. XXI, No. 232, pp. 15- 21

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supplied by the Bombay and Ahmedabad mills. Japan supplied the Amritsar market with a great variety of sundry articles, e.g. buttons, laces, ribbons, combs, cutlery, crockery, and electrical goods, in addition to large quantities of cotton, woollen and artificial silk piece-goods and woollen yarn. Other commodities, imported mostly from the European countries, were dyes, sewing-machines, chemicals, medicines and hardwares of various descriptions. The principal items of export from Amritsar were goatskins, sheepskins, cow and buffalo hides, wool, goat hair and seeds of various kinds. The largest market for goatskins was America, to which country considerable quantities of skins were exported. Hides were exported to England, Greece and the Near East and a small quantity to America. A certain quantity of wool was also exported to America, but the bulk of the wool collected in the district was exported to Liverpool (in England) where it was sold at the wool auctions held there once a month. Goat hair was also sent to the Liverpool auction and a certain amount to America. The seeds produced in or near the district were imported by America where oil was extracted from these for use in medicines.

In spite of the partition (1947), Amritsar continues to be the leading centre of trade and commerce and maintains its supremacy in textiles. It is the biggest manufacturing centre of textile goods, ruffles and shawls, and art-silk industry. Certain varieties of cloth, like *shaneel*, are manufactured only in Amritsar and Bombay. Amritsar also enjoys a unique position in the trade of dry fruits, being the main centre of imports from Afghanistan and Pakistan. As regards *papar-warrian*, it has almost a monopoly and the '*Amritsari papar-warrian*' are well-known throughout the country for their spicy flavour. Being the leading commercial centre, Amritsar fully represents the agricultural opulence of the Punjab, and exports wheat, gram, paddy, cotton, maize, etc. Though situated on the Indo-Pak border, the district is well connected by rail, road and air. With these communication facilities, it is possible to carry on trade and commerce without any difficulty with far-flung places within the country and also with those beyond its frontiers. It has a direct business sweep from Kabul to Bombay. Amritsar is popular for the trade of dry fruits and grapes which are imported from Afghanistan and Iran.

The principal items of import in the district are dry fruits, grapes, *karyana* commodities, cloth, millets, cardamom (*ilaichy*), *saugi*, almond, *pista* (pistachio), etc. The main items exported from the district include textile goods, nuts, bolts, nails, screws, machinery, woollen goods, *papar-warrian*, wheat, gram, cotton, paddy, maize, *toria*, etc.

(a) Course of Trade

The usual course of trade in agricultural produce in the district is through the dealers who are members of the regulated market committees. The farmers bring their agricultural produce to a nearby *mandi* and the dealers sell

it to the traders who export it by goods-carriers and rail to other *mandis*. A few transactions of foodgrains also take place in the villages, where *kachcha arhtias* charge cheaper rates. Besides being a big commercial and trading centre, Amritsar is also one of the leading districts of the State in respect of agricultural produce. It has eleven grain markets, where agricultural commodities are marketed on a large scale. These markets are at Amritsar, Ajnala, Rayya, Gehri, Patti, Verka, Bhikhiwind, Chogawan, Tarsikka, Majitha and Tarn Taran. Amritsar is the biggest grain market, where large quantities of wheat, maize, gram, rice, *gur*, etc. are marketed. Patti and Tarn Taran are also big markets in the district. The Rayya *Mandi* is in a developing stage and is likely to become one of the biggest markets in the district in the near future. The wholesale business centres exist only in the Amritsar city. Their names are: Katra Ahluwalia, Guru Bazaar, Bazaar Ghanta Ghar, Majith Mandi, Katra Mohar Singh, Vaishno Market and Krishna Market. The important retail marketing-centres of the district are at Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Patti, Ajnala, Chogawan, Majitha, Rayya and Bhikhiwind.

(b) Trade Centres

(i) Regulated and Unregulated Markets.—In order to save the cultivator from the evils of unhealthy market practices and to ensure a fair price for his produce, the State Government passed the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1939. The Act provides for the regulation of markets through market committees which represent growers, commission agents and traders, local bodies and the State Government. The market committees standardize various market practices and charges, and enforce the use of standard weights, thus ensuring a fair deal to the cultivator. The markets at Amritsar, Ajnala, Rayya, Gehri, Patti, Bhikhiwind, Tarn Taran and Khem Karan are notified as regulated under the Act.

The system of marketing is identical in all the regulated markets. The procedure is determined by the rules and regulations framed for the purpose by the local market committees. In brief, these relate to the hours of work, incidental charges to be collected from the sellers and the buyers of produce. In the regulated markets, offers of rates are determined either through open auction or through secret bids. The commission agents, in many cases, advance loans to the agriculturists who bring their agricultural produce to their shops for sale. All the transactions are affected by the brokers. The sellers, however, reserve the right not to sell their produce below a particular price, deemed fit by them. The commission agents charge 1.56% as commission and it includes sundry charges, such as commission, and weighing and threshing charges. Before May 1961, the sellers were liable to the payment of commission, but, with the passage of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961, the buyers are required to bear the commission charges.

The unregulated markets in the district are at Kairon, Khalra, Jhabal, Atari, Fatehabad, Ramdas, Kathunangal, Mahta, Jaintipura, Fatehpur Rajputan,

Khalchian, Khem Karan and Beas. Khalra occupied a prominent place before 1947. Being a border town, it has lost considerable trade since the partition in favour of Bhikhiwind. Still it is a well-known market for chillies. The remaining markets usually deal in foodgrains, *toria* and cotton.

In the unregulated markets, there are no rules and regulations for marketing. It is the buyer who dictates the terms and the seller has to agree to the wishes of the buyers. In most of the cases, the buyers (shopkeepers, etc.) make forward advances to the growers and others (cartmen, etc.) who enter into an agreement to bring the produce at the creditors' shops and, in such cases, the seller is bound by the conditions of sale as the buyer dictates.

The main commodities for which transaction usually take place in the regulated markets in the district are as under:

Amritsar	.. Wheat, barley, gram, maize, <i>gur</i> , <i>moong</i> , <i>jowar</i> , <i>bajra</i> , rice, <i>mash</i> , <i>masur</i> , onion and potato
Ajnala	.. Wheat, barley, gram, maize, <i>gur</i> , <i>bajra</i> , rice, <i>masur</i> , cotton, onion and potato
Bhikhiwind	.. Wheat, barley, gram, maize, <i>gur</i> , <i>bajra</i> , rice, cotton, onion and potato
Gehri	.. Paddy, wheat, maize, <i>toria</i> and gram
Patti	.. Wheat, barley, gram, maize, <i>gur</i> , <i>moong</i> , <i>jowar</i> , <i>bajra</i> , <i>mash</i> , <i>masur</i> , onion, potato, <i>khandsari</i> and paddy
Rayya	.. Wheat, barley, gram, maize, <i>gur</i> , <i>moong</i> , <i>jowar</i> , <i>bajra</i> , <i>mash</i> , <i>masur</i> , onion, potato, cotton and paddy
Tarn Taran	.. Wheat, gram, maize, <i>gur</i> , <i>jowar</i> , <i>masur</i> , onion and potato
Khem Karan	.. Wheat, gram, maize, <i>bajra</i> , and cotton

The Government exercises control in regulating the trade in agricultural produce with the help of the market committees, constituted in all the regulated markets for the implementation of the provisions of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961.

A statement showing the total arrivals of agricultural produce in the different regulated markets in the district during 1965-66 and 1967-68 is given in Appendix III on pages 256-257.

(ii) Fairs or Melas and Other Rural Marketing Centres

Fairs or Melas.—*Melas* and festivals have a special place in the Indian life. People are very enthusiastic about the celebration of festivals. Certain

festivals mark the changes in the seasons and generally one season ends on the day the festival falls and a new season commences. Some of the festivals are marked by colourful ceremonies that have come to be associated with them. *Melas* are held at particular places every year on the same day. People from neighbouring villages participate in it and, apart from the purchase of eatables, they make other purchases to meet their household requirements.

A number of fairs and festivals are held in the district. The notable among these are Diwali and Baisakhi, which are celebrated at Amritsar with exceptional pomp and show. People from all over the country visit Amritsar in large numbers on these festivals. *Melas* are held at Ram Tirth, Baba Bakala, Govindwal, Khadur Sahib and Ramdas on the "*Puranmashi*" of every month. A list of religious fairs and festivals held in the district is given in Chapter III, 'People' on pages 112-113.

The fairs and festivals which have some trade significance are as follows:

Fairs and festivals of trade significance in the Amritsar District

Town/village	Fair/festival	Date and duration	Significance and legend	Approximate number of visitors and radius covered	Castes/communities	Commodities sold
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Ajnala Tahsil						
Veroke	.. Mela Baba Ber Sahib, or, Babe di Ber	Maghar 7 (November-December) Three days	Religious	2,000 32 km	Sikhs and Hindus	General merchandise, clay pots, small agricultural implements
Lopoke	.. Martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev, or, Jor Mela	Jeth Sudhi 4 (May-June) Three days	Religious	6,000 32 km	Ditto	Small agricultural implements, clay pots
Dialpura	.. Mela Baba Buddha	Asuj 21 (September-October) Two days	Religious In memory of Baba Buddha. The legend goes that a sick man saw in his dream Baba Buddha who asked him to construct a temple in the name of the Baba.	1,500 8 km	All	Utensils
Amritsar Tahsil						
Rayya	.. Cattle fair	On the 5th of every Bikrami month six days	Commercial	2,000 16 km	All	Cattle and other animals
Baba Bakala	.. Guru Teg Bahadur fair	Sawan Purnamashi (July-August) Three days	Religious The fair is held in the sacred memory of Guru Tegh Bahadur who passed 26 years of his life in meditation here.	40,000 32 km	Sikhs and Hindus	Religious books, earthen pots, kirpans, agricultural implements, utensils
Amritsar	.. Diwali and Horse & Cattle fair	Katak Badi 10 (October-November) to Katak Sudi 6 (October-November) Twelve days	Religious, seasonal and commercial	40,000	All	Horses, cattle, mules
Tarn Taran Tahsil						
Basarke	.. Birthday of Guru Amar Das	Bhadon Purnamashi Two days	Religious	5,000	Sikhs and Hindus	Leather goods, general merchandise, earthen pots
Thatha	.. Mela Baba Buddha	Asuj 21 (September-October) Three days	Religious	50,000	Ditto	Leather goods, general merchandise
Tarn Taran	.. Massya	On Amavas of every Bikrami month two days	Religious	5,000	Ditto	Cattle, leather goods, general merchandise, stocks, pitchforks
	.. Diwali	Katak Amavas (October-November) One day	Religious	Several thousands	Ditto	Cloth, general merchandise, leather goods, utensils
	.. Baisakhi	Baisakh 1 (April 13) One day	Religious and seasonal	Ditto	Ditto	Leather goods, general merchandise, utensils
	.. Cattle fair	Every month One week	Commercial	20,000 80 km	All, men only	Cattle and other animals

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Patti Tahsil			
Gharyala ..	Mela Wali Sher Shah	March Four days	Religious In memory of a fakir, Wali Sher Shah	50,000	All, from all over the Punjab	Shoes, utensils, gene- ral merchandise
Sur Singh ..	Mela Guru Hargobind Sahib	Asarh 7 (June-July) three days	Religious To celebrate the birth- day of Guru Hargo- bind	25,000	Sikhs and Hindus	Bamboo sticks, utensils
Harike ..	Baisakhi	Baisakh 1 (April 13) One day	Seasonal and religious	12,000 64 km	Sikhs and Hindus	Animals, leather goods, utensils, general mer- chandise

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 13, Amritsar District, pp. 126-61)

Cattle Fairs.—The district is agriculturally very much advanced. Besides having good markets, it has a number of *mwaishi mandis* (cattle fairs), which are arranged on different dates at various places. Each such *mandi* is generally arranged for two to three days. Apart from *mandis* held on some special days, monthly *mandis* are held at Amritsar and Tarn Taran. A cattle show is held at Tarn Taran on the *Amavas* day. It is an important centre for the sale and purchase of cattle in the *ilaqa*. People from all over the *ilaqa* bring their cattle and buffaloes to the show. Sales and purchases of cattle are made on the spot. A cattle fair is also held at Rayya. On the Diwali and Baisakhi, big cattle shows are also held at Amritsar which last for a week. These are well-organized *mandis*, and the owners of the best cattle receive prizes. These *mandis* also attract many shops which cater to the tastes of the people who come to purchase or sell their livestock.

(c) Co-operation in Trade

(i) **Co-operative Marketing.**—There is a District Wholesale Co-operative Marketing and Supply Society at Amritsar. It was registered on September 30, 1953. It undertakes wholesale business of Government supplies of agricultural seeds, implements, insecticides, fertilizers and some other important goods, e.g. sugar and oil. Besides, there are the following registered co-operative marketing societies in the district :

	Name of the society	Date of registration
1.	The Tarn Taran Co-operative Marketing Society, Tarn Taran	7th June, 1955
2.	The Amritsar Co-operative Marketing Society, Amritsar	20th October, 1955
3.	The Gehri Co-operative Marketing Society, Gehri	7th August, 1957
4.	The Ajnala Co-operative Marketing Society, Ajnala	21st August, 1957
5.	The Patti Co-operative Marketing Society, Patti	12th November, 1957
6.	The Bhikhiwind Co-operative Marketing Society, Bhikhiwind	29th November, 1957
7.	The Rayya Azad Co-operative Marketing Society, Rayya	21st October, 1960
8.	The Verka Co-operative Marketing Society, Verka	14th March, 1966
9.	The Majitha Co-operative Marketing Society, Majitha	10th October, 1967
10.	The Chogawan Co-operative Marketing Society, Chogawan	17th July, 1968

Before the introduction of the co-operative marketing, the growers faced a number of difficulties in marketing their produce. The commission agents embarrassed the cultivators in several ways in regard to correct weight, fair rates and prompt payments. The marketing societies have, to a great extent removed the hardships of the cultivators. They charge a lower commission from the cultivator members. Many godowns have been constructed by the Co-operative Marketing Societies, both in the rural and urban areas, where storage facilities are provided to the members. The number of godowns owned by the co-operative marketing societies in the district as on June 30, 1968, was nine. These godowns are of much use in collecting the produce of the cultivators in the villages and arrangements are made for its transportation to the nearest marketing society. The storage charges in these godowns are quite nominal. If any member stores his produce for a week, no charges are made. If the storage facilities are availed of for more than a week, a nominal amount on account of storage at the rate of 5 paise per bag per month is charged. The marketing societies at Tarn Taran, Ajnala, and Rayya have started the processing of paddy.

The membership of Co-operative Marketing Societies covers primary societies and individual members. Besides the marketing of agricultural produce, these societies undertake the supply and distribution of agricultural necessities, such as improved seeds, implements, insecticides, fertilizers and other consumer goods, e.g. sugar, kerosene and salt, to the farmers. These societies are rendering useful service to the cultivators by giving a fair deal to them in all agricultural transactions. The societies do not accept lower bids and themselves purchase the produce of their members at reasonable rates. The farmers are now getting fair prices of their produce and are no longer at the mercy of the commission agents.

The work done by the co-operative marketing societies in the district during 1964-68 is shown in Appendix IV, on page 258.

(ii) **Co-operative Consumers' Stores.**—Before the introduction of the Centrally sponsored scheme for the organization of Co-operative consumers' Stores in big cities, Primary Co-operative Consumers' Stores were organized. These primary units did not make any appreciable progress owing to inadequate active membership, meagre share capital, lack of business experience and weak organizational structure. Consequently, a scheme was prepared by the Government of India. Under that scheme, a number of primary consumers' stores around separate wholesale stores were to be opened in all towns and cities, each with a population of 50,000 or above.

The Amritsar Central Co-operative Consumers' Store Ltd., Amritsar, was registered on January 25, 1963. It aims at ensuring equitable distribution of various kinds of articles to the consumers at competitive rates.

On March 31, 1968, it was running 17 branches in various localities of Amritsar. The membership of the store on June 30, 1968, stood at 12,450, with a paid-up share capital of 1.76 lakhs of rupees.

(d) State Trading

In order to provide the necessities of life at reasonable rates, the Government introduced the State-Trading Scheme in the district in 1958-59. The need for fair-price shops was felt in 1960, when there was scarcity of wheat-flour and sugar. Many fair-price shops were, therefore, opened to ensure fair prices to consumers and to curb black marketing. On March 31, 1968, there were 373 fair price shops functioning in the urban areas of the district. These shops are supplied with imported wheat, wheat-flour and other miscellaneous articles on fixed rates. These are necessary to check the abnormal rise in prices and to supply wheat or wheat-flour or both to consumers at reasonable rates and further to keep the prices under check in the lean months.

The State Trading of foodgrains (wheat) was introduced into the State during 1959. The total quantity of foodgrains purchased by the Food and Supplies Department under the scheme from the important markets in the district and by the Food Corporation of India, during 1968-69 and 1969-70, is given below :

Year	Particulars	Quantity purchased (Quintals)
1968-69	Wheat	10,21,000
1969-70	Wheat	11,52,528

(Source : District Food and Supplies Controller, Amritsar)

In order to ensure a fair price to the cultivators for their produce, the Government has introduced the price-support scheme. The price fluctuations in the market are watched to ensure that these do not fall below the prescribed limit. In the event of prices going downwards, the Government undertakes to purchase the wheat stocks at scheduled rates.

(e) Merchants' and Consumers' Associations and Organs for the Dissemination of Trade News

Merchants' Associations.—The various Merchants' Associations functioning in the district are as follows :

1. Galla Merchants' Association, Amritsar
2. Pacca Arhtias' Association, Amritsar

3. Kachcha Arhtias' Association, Amritsar
4. Gur Merchants' Association, Amritsar
5. Rice Merchants' Association, Amritsar
6. Karyana Merchants' Association, Amritsar
7. Karyana Commission Agents' Association, Amritsar
8. Dry Fruit Merchants' Association, Amritsar
9. Chakki Owners' Association, Amritsar
10. Kohlu Owners' Association, Amritsar
11. Oil Merchants' Association, Amritsar
12. Fruit Merchants' Association, Amritsar

These associations look after the interests of the member traders.

Consumers' Associations.—There are no consumers' associations in the district.

Market Intelligence.—For efficient marketing and proper co-ordination of supply and demand, authentic information about the volume of marketable surplus, prices, arrivals, stocks and movements of important agricultural commodities is essential. The buyer and the seller must be acquainted well with the demand and supply position in order to strike a fair bargain. The market news is, thus, disseminated to the public through handbills, posters, bulletins, calendars, circular letters, newspapers, magazines, window displays, etc. The co-operative marketing societies receive market-information cards from the allied societies. A few good market committees also send daily information cards to the Sarpanches of the villages covered by them.

(f) Weights and Measures

Before the introduction of the system of decimal weights, pucca and kachcha seers were in vogue in the district. The kachcha seer was prevalent usually in the rural areas. Two and a half kachcha seers equalled one pucca seer, i.e. 80 tolas.

There is another local measuring-unit for liquids, especially milk, viz. garvi, in the district. It roughly weighs 100 tolas or one seer and a quarter.

The Amritsar District Gazetteer, 1892-93, gives the following scales of the local units of the area:

9 sarsahis	.. 1 marla
20 marlas	.. 1 kanal
4 kanals	.. 1 bigha
2 bighas	.. 1 ghumaon

Sarsahis were too small to be taken notice of in the land records and were neglected. The measure of length in land mensuration was the karam or kadam, which was five feet long. A sarsahi was one square karam. Thus, a marla was 25 square yards, a kanal 500 square yards and a ghumaon 4,000 square yards. The Amritsar land-measure was in use all through the Bari Doab.

The standard maund of 40 seers or 82.27 pounds was known in the district as a *man pakka*, for the agriculturists used a different standard of weight. Their maund, or *kachcha man* was equal to 16 seers *pakka*, instead of 40, but it contained 40 kachcha seers like the standard measure. The following was the standard scale :

8 chawals	.. 1 ratti
8 rattis	.. 1 masha
12 mashas	.. 1 tola
5 tolas	.. 1 chhitank
16 chhitanks	.. 1 seer

But in arriving at the local seer, which was two-fifths of the standard seer, the scale was:

2 tolas	.. 1 sarsahi
16 sarsahis	.. 1 seer

Before 1941, there was no uniform standard of weights and measures, but this handicap was removed with the passage of the Punjab Weights and Measures Act, 1941. The metric weights and measures, under the Punjab Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, passed in pursuance of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956 (Government of India), were introduced into the district with effect from October 1958. In case of weights, the use of old weights was allowed for a period of two years and, from October 1960, the use of metric weights was made compulsory. In case of measures, a period of one year was allowed for the use of measures previously in vogue, and, from April 1962, metric measures were made compulsory. The use of metric units became obligatory from April 1962.

In the beginning, the people had some difficulty in understanding the system of new weights and measures. The clever shopkeepers availed themselves

of this opportunity and exploited the ignorant and uneducated masses. But in course of time, the people became accustomed to the new system. Now they experience little or no difficulty in making transactions in the metric measures.

The Inspector, Weights and Measures, verifies weights, scales, etc., used in the district for trade purposes.

(g) Storage and Warehousing

The State Government advances loans and subsidies for the construction of godowns in rural areas to Co-operative Agricultural Societies. Loans and subsidies are also given to Co-operative Marketing Societies for the purpose. Ordinarily in all *mandis*, the commission agents provide storing facilities for the produce brought to them for sale. The produce is usually stored in godowns. There is no particular system of storage at the railway stations. The produce is either stored in godowns or in sheds made of tin. In villages, the method of storage in *bharolas* and *bharolis* still exists. There are 10 stores in the Amritsar city and 4 in Chheharta. The Co-operative Societies have also constructed a number of godowns for storage at various places in the district.

Before the formation of the State Warehousing Corporation, the agriculturists were not provided with any facilities in regard to the scientific storage of their produce. Their indigenous stores or *kothas* (bins) in their houses, huts made of mud and matting were exposed to the ravages of rain and to the depredations of insects and rodents. The Warehousing Corporation came into being as a result of the recommendations made in 1954 by the All-India Rural Credit Survey Committee. The Agricultural Produce Development and Warehousing Corporation Act, 1956, has pioneered the formation of the Central Warehousing Corporation and a network of State Warehousing Corporations with the avowed object of providing scientific storage at low charges and arranging for cheap and quick credit facilities against the stored produce. The Punjab State Warehousing Corporation was constituted by the Government on January 2, 1958, under the Act. It is running its warehouse in hired accommodation at Tarn Taran. The Central Warehousing Corporation is also running its warehouse at Amritsar. The Corporation provides for the scientific storage of agricultural produce in the warehouses, and the Scheduled Banks make advances to depositors on the pledge of the Warehouse Receipts, according to the credit restrictions of the Reserve Bank of India. Furthermore, the Corporation also undertakes the fumigation of stocks under the Technical Advisory Scheme on the payment of the fumigation charges.

The Corporation also supplies on hire empty gunny bags on very nominal charges to the growers to enable them to store in the warehouses their produce brought in bulk from their villages. The best available godowns are selected

from the existing accommodation available at the *mandis* and are made ideal after applying scientific methods. These godowns are made rat-proof and insect-free. All the rat-holes are closed after cynogassing and the godowns are disinfected by spraying them. Besides these arrangements, the godowns and stocks are got insured against the risk of theft, flood, fire and burglary.

The Punjab State Warehousing Corporation accepts for storage even the stocks where infestation has started. Such stocks, immediately after acceptance, are disinfested and made free from living infestation, stopping thereby their further deterioration to the benefit of both the individual depositor as well as to the country at large.

The storage charges of warehouses have been kept as low as possible to cover the actual expenses incurred, because the scheme is designed to run on no-profit-no-loss basis.

APPENDIX I

Co-operative Agricultural Credit Societies in the Amritsar District, 1958-59 to 1967-68

(vide page 234)

Co-operative year ending June	Number of Co-op- erative Societies at the end of the year	Membership		Share Capital paid-up (in lakhs of rupees)	Loans advanced during the year (in lakhs of rupees)	Deposits (in lakhs of rupees)
		Societies	Individuals			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1958-59	..	1,135	—	76,680	18.47	35.45
1959-60	..	1,139	—	81,275	20.45	38.67
1960-61	..	1,140	—	82,460	23.78	39.78
1961-62	..	1,130	—	83,657	25.78	42.50
1962-63	..	1,159	—	87,825	26.60	43.55
1963-64	..	1,172	—	90,467	29.75	45.60
1964-65	..	1,160	—	95,360	31.80	49.70
1965-66	..	1,175	—	98,340	33.92	56.02
1966-67	..	1,165	—	1,05,955	38.53	111.75
1967-68	..	1,163	—	1,11,992	45.18	168.51

(Source: Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar)

APPENDIX II

Co-operative Non-Agricultural Credit Societies in the Amritsar District, 1958-59 to 1967-68

(vide page 234)

Co-operative year ending June	Number of Co-opera- tive So- cieties at the end of the year	Membership		Share Capi- tal paid- up (in lakhs of rupees)	Loans advanced during the year (in lakhs of rupees)	Deposits (in lakhs of rupees)
		Societies	Individuals			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1958-59	..	111	—	3,120	1.45	1.62
1959-60	..	119	—	3,372	1.61	1.88
1960-61	..	121	—	3,460	1.72	2.15
1961-62	..	127	—	3,555	1.88	2.35
1962-63	..	123	—	3,735	2.02	2.65
1963-64	..	124	—	3,940	2.42	2.88
1964-65	..	127	—	4,275	2.75	3.02
1965-66	..	129	—	4,492	2.97	3.17
1966-67	..	182	—	7,065	3.95	4.82
1967-68	..	180	—	7,209	4.36	5.42

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar)

APPENDIX III

Total arrivals of agricultural produce in the different regulated markets in the

Regulated Markets	Name of Agricultural Produce					
	Wheat	Gram	Barley	Maize	Bajra	Jowar
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Amritsar						
1965-66	1,70,170	41,971	7,441	18,969	1,096	—
1967-68	2,06,104	32,253	16,402	24,085	2,692	511
Ajaha						
1965-66	5,190	—	184	241	—	—
1967-68	4,055	321	651	168	—	—
Bhikhiwind						
1965-66	52,878	1,131	13	—	—	—
1967-68	17,346	4,021	390	1,693	120	135
Gehri						
1965-66	84,404	3,971	437	14,823	—	—
1967-68	77,489	9,311	745	33,061	128	—
Patti						
1965-66	41,545	13,160	572	6,935	945	869
1967-68	16,094	17,775	1,331	22,091	775	1,148
Rayya						
1965-66	58,001	5,109	113	11,590	87	83
1967-68	93,284	13,795	98	48,660	30	18
Tarn Taran						
1965-66	1,52,904	12,220	—	29,620	—	—
1967-68	1,19,300	34,779	774	48,713	46	1,502
Khem Karan						
1965-66	—	—	—	—	—	—
1967-68	38	106	—	43	122	—

Amritsar District, 1965-66 and 1967-68

(Vide page 242)

(Quintals)

Moong	Mash	Moth	Gur	Shakkar	Khand-sarl	Cotton		Onion	Potato	Ground-nut
						American	Desi			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
—	—	—	—	—	—	9,460	—	—	—	—
1,988	5,547	1,906	1,114	—	—	—	3,642	—	—	176
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	173	—	—	—
—	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	11,616	944	—	—	—
—	—	—	897	—	—	—	3,690	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	416	2,106	—	—	—
282	14	—	14	—	—	92	894	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	23,372	5,138	—	—	—
273	82	594	1,696	—	673	24,572	2,021	—	—	30
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
401	23	1	173	—	—	4,874	1,601	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	23,135	26,864	—	—	—
—	—	142	7,063	—	290	13,371	6,344	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	31,029	204	—	—	—

(Source : Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board, Chandigarh)

AMRITSAR
APPENDIX IV

Work done by Co-operative Marketing Societies in the Amritsar District, 1964-68

(Vide page 248)

Co-operative year ending June	Number of Societies	Membership			Paid-up share capital (in lakhs of rupees)	Working Capital (in lakhs of rupees)	Value of goods marketed (in lakhs of rupees)
		Societies	Individuals	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1964	..	8	309	1,578	1,887	2.17	12.25
1965	..	8	377	1,749	2,126	2.94	14.60
1966	..	9	415	2,209	2,624	4.69	19.11
1967	..	9	515	2,267	2,782	6.25	32.56
1968	..	11	575	2,725	3,300	6.90	44.88

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar)

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Old-time Trade Routes and Highways and Modes of Conveyance

The economic development of a country and the advancement of civilisation depend upon a good system of communications. Roads are essential for the development of industries and agriculture and help to solve other economic problems. There are a number of references in Indian history to the construction of roads in the past and to the road policy adopted by different rulers. Chandragupt Maurya, Ashoka, Muhammad Tughlaq and Sher Shah are particularly known for the construction and maintenance of roads. The Grand Trunk Road, constructed by Sher Shah, runs across the Amritsar District.

(b) Road Transport

The pace of road construction was accelerated with the advent of the British rule. During the eighties of the nineteenth century, the principal roads in the district were: the Grand Trunk Road, the road from Amritsar to Gurdaspur, that from Amritsar to Firozpur, that from Amritsar to Zira and Faridkot, that from Amritsar to Gujranwala (now in Pakistan), and that from Amritsar to Sialkot (now in Pakistan). Besides, there were unmetalled roads from Amritsar to Nawanpind and Saidoke towards Fatehgarh and Sri Hargobindpur (in the Gurdaspur District); and the road from Amritsar to Majitha.

In 1914, the district had about 186 km of metalled roads. The construction of new roads was increased during the World War II (1939-45) and a number of old roads were repaired. At the time of the partition of the country in 1947, the Public Works Department maintained about 333 km of roads in the district. In the post-partition period, there followed a rapid expansion of roads in the district as shown below:

Year	Metalled roads (km)	Unmetalled roads (km)	Total length of roads (km)
1950-51	.. 420	580	1,000
1960-61	.. 861	470	1,331
1967-68	.. 915	434	1,349

Roads are maintained by the Public Works Department, the Zila Parishad and the different municipal committees. Those maintained by the Public Works Department include the National Highway No. 1, State highways, the district major and minor roads and other district roads.

(i) Classification of Roads

The roads in the district are classified into the National Highway, the State highways, the district major roads, the district minor roads, other district roads, and the roads maintained by the Zila Parishad and the municipal committees.

The total road length maintained by the Public Works Department in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 1281.24 km out of which 974.17 km was metalled and 307.07 km unmetalled. Most of the roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department from the State funds, whereas the National Highway is maintained by it out of the Central Government funds. The Zila Parishad maintains village roads out of its own funds. The roads within the limits of the municipalities are maintained by the concerned municipal committees. A detailed description of each category of roads is given below:

National Highways.—These roads traverse the different States connecting ports, foreign highways, capitals of large States, large towns and industrial areas. The National Highways are constructed and maintained by the State Public Works Department out of the Central Government funds.

The total length of the Grand Trunk Road, the National Highway No. 1, passing through the district, is 77.68 km. This road in the Punjab is a continuation of that which runs through northern India to Delhi. From there, passing through Karnal, Ambala, Ludhiana and Jullundur, it extends to Amritsar and to the border with Pakistan.

State Highways.—The State highways are the main arteries of commerce and industry within a State and are connected with the National Highways, district headquarters and important towns within the State. The State Government maintains these roads out of the State funds. The State highways passing through the district measure 332.35 km.

District Major Roads.—The roads connecting the various areas of production and important marketing centres with the railways, the State highways and the National Highway in the district are called the district major roads. These roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department. The total length of the district major roads in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 238.96 km.

District Minor Roads.—These roads connect the towns, places of production, markets and villages within the district. They serve as important arteries

of communication among the different parts of the district. These roads are also maintained by the State Public Works Department. Their total length in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 87.50 km.

Other District Roads.—Their total length in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 621.90 km. These roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department.

Village Roads.—These roads connect one village with another or a group of villages with the district and other roads. These roads are generally approach or link roads from the main roads to the villages. Some of these roads have been constructed through co-operative efforts of the villagers also. The construction of link roads has been going on in the rural areas quite vigorously since the launching of this project in the State on January 21, 1968. These roads are maintained by the Zila Parishad, Amritsar. Their total length in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 420.99 km.

Municipal Roads.—The roads connecting the local markets, streets, State highways, the National Highway, the Railway Stations and other roads in the municipal area of a particular town are called municipal roads. These are maintained out of the municipal funds. Their total length in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 195.05 km, out of which 181.52 km was metalled.

(ii) Vehicles and Conveyances

The old type of vehicles and conveyances are used freely in the district. These include bullock-carts, tongas, *majjholis*, wooden *rehris*, animals, etc. Domesticated animals are used for transportation according to the local needs of the inhabitants. Bullock-carts, camels, donkeys, etc. are also used for carrying foodgrains from the nearby villages to the markets in the towns. Most of these are used in the areas where the roads are unmetalled or sandy. To carry bricks, wood and other goods such as cloth and raw material, *rehris* are generally used. Some vehicles, as *tamos* and tongas, are also used for carrying agricultural produce and passengers from the villages to the towns.

Tongas are quite popular in the towns for the transportation of passengers in the local area or to the nearby villages. A few well-to-do persons of Amritsar have their own tongas, which may even be occasionally driven by them for having a round in the city. Motor-vehicles are also becoming popular in the district with the development and extension of roads. Cycles are used by the people, in general, and also by businessmen and hawkers to go to the villages from the towns. A remarkable feature of the post-independence period has been the decline in the number of tongas and *ekkas* drawn by horses. This is primarily due to the emergence of cycle-rickshaws which are cheaper and easier to maintain. The horse-carts, however, still continue to be used in the countryside, though a few of these are seen

in the towns. The number of different types of motor-vehicles registered in the district during the last 5 years, i.e. 1964 to 1968, is given in Appendix I on page 269.

The Amritsar city and its suburbs are served by local buses, run by the Punjab Roadways, Amritsar.

Automobiles.—In the cities, motor-cycles, scooters, jeeps and cars are becoming very popular with the well-to-do section of the people. Auto-rickshaws and taxis are also used for quick transport and these are easily available and more convenient than the buses. The well-to-do people maintain their own cars.

Cycles.—This vehicle was introduced into India in the beginning of the twentieth century. Being a cheap and convenient means of transport, the cycle has become very common. It is used for covering short distances, according to local needs. It has increased the mobility of the people very much. The employees, teachers and students find in it a good and handy transport. The milk vendors use it to bring milk to towns from the nearby villages.

Cycle-rickshaws.—Introduced after the partition of 1947, the cycle-rickshaw has become quite popular. It is a cheap, convenient and easy type of transport. Some rickshaw-pullers purchase their own rickshaws, whereas others get it on hire. Owing to the popularity of this three-wheeled vehicle, the importance of tongas and *ekkas* has decreased. The development of roads has also increased the mobility of cycle-rickshaws from the towns to the adjoining villages and *vice versa*.

The persons who are physically fit and are between the age of 18 and 45 can ply this vehicle according to the bye-laws framed by the State Government. Only two persons are allowed to sit on a cycle-rickshaw.

Horse Carriages.—Horse carriages are used for transportation as well as for carrying passengers from one part of the city to another. These horse carriages, i.e. tongas and *ekkas*, are very useful means of communication for the villagers as well as for the local passengers in the towns. It is a cheap means of transport. These days, there is a keen competition between horse carriages, on the one hand, and the cycle-rickshaws, tampos, auto-rickshaws and buses, on the other. However, though an old type of conveyance, the horse-drawn carriages cannot be ousted completely.

(iii) Public and Private Transport

The introduction of passenger road transport is an important landmark in the history of the transport service. Before 1947, most of the major

routes of transport were in the hands of private owners. But, after the independence, owing to the development and extension of roads, the State Government gradually started nationalizing the road transport.

The growth of road transport in the State during the post-independence period has been remarkable owing to the increase in the mobility of the people and the development of roads. Although the major routes in the district are operated by the Punjab Roadways, yet a good many routes are operated by private transport companies. Owing to the increase in the passenger traffic, it would have been rather impossible for the railways to cope with the rush of passengers. Therefore, the development and extension of road transport were both natural and essential. The road transport has connected the rural and the urban areas.

Road transport has also increased with the rapid development of industries and agriculture. There has been an appreciable increase in the number of trucks which carry luggage and goods from one place to another.

State-owned Services.—Most of the major routes in the district are operated by the Punjab Roadways, Amritsar, the details of which are given in Appendix II on pages 270—274.

Private Bus Service.—A good many routes of the district are operated by private transport companies. The particulars regarding the routes operated by them are given in Appendix III on pages 275—277.

(c) Railways

Amritsar is an important railway junction on the Northern Railway, being connected by four branch lines, viz. Amritsar-Atari, Amritsar-Verka-Dera Baba Nanak, Amritsar-Patti-Khem Karan and Amritsar-Batala-Pathankot. The Amritsar-Atari railway starts from Amritsar and runs westwards to Atari. The stations located on it are Chheharta, Khassa, Guruser Sutlani, and Atari. The Amritsar-Verka-Dera Baba Nanak branch line has a junction at Verka on the way to Amritsar. It leaves the district at Fatehgarh Churian, and enters the Batala Tahsil of the Gurdaspur District, but re-enters the Ajnala Tahsil at Ramdas. The other stations on this line falling in the district are Majitha and Kotla Gujran. The Amritsar-Patti-Khem Karan branch line runs southwards from Amritsar and the stations located thereon are Bhagtanwala, Sangrana Sahib, Gohlwar Varpal, Dukhnwaran, Tarn Taran, Rure Asal, Jandoke, Kairon, Patti, Boparai, Gharyala, Valtoha, Rattoke Gurdwara and Khem Karan. The stations on the Amritsar-Batala-Pathankot branch line falling in the district are Verka, Kathunangal and Jaintipura. The main line from Amritsar to Delhi and onwards, viz. Amritsar-Saharanpur-Lucknow-Mughal Sarai, is a double line. The stations on this line falling in the district are Mananwala, Jandiala Guru, Tangra, Butari, Baba Bakala, Rayya and Beas.

The Appendices IV and V (pages 278 to 281) show the monthly average railway passenger and goods traffic and earnings during 1967-68.

Rail-Road Competition.—Before the advent of the motor transport in the beginning of the twentieth century, the railways enjoyed full monopoly in long-distance traffic. The road development was seriously retarded during the second half of the nineteenth century as roads were considered to be unprofitable. But the production of motor-vehicles on a large scale in the twentieth century gave rise to rail-road competition.

Competition between the railway and road transport has been more acute than the competition between other forms of transport. The railways began to lose financially owing to the development of the motor transport after 1920 and especially during the period of the world-wide trade depression. The Government of India appointed in 1933 the Mitchell-Kirkness Committee to study the problem and make suggestions. After making a thorough enquiry, the Committee reported that on account of the competition from passenger traffic alone, the railways were annually losing at the rate of two crores of rupees¹. It was feared that with the rapid expansion of motor transport, the earnings of the railways would be considerably reduced. During the World War II (1939-45), there was practically no rail-road competition, as a good number of motor-vehicles were requisitioned by the Government for military purposes and the railways catered for traffic far in excess of their capacity. After the war ended, the fear of rail-road competition was aroused again as was witnessed by the promulgation of a rigid code of principles and practices for regulating the plying of motor-vehicles. The measures aimed at protecting the railway interests as a result of the financial stake of the Government.

After the independence, the rail-road competition was reduced owing to the heavy taxation imposed on road vehicles and the nationalization of motor transport in several States. Motor transport is more flexible than the railways, as the former is capable of affording door-to-door service over short distances. It is also best suited to the transportation of certain types of commodities, e.g. eggs, vegetables and dairy products, to the nearby markets. The railways have to provide for their own permanent way, station buildings, platforms, cabins, bridges, etc. which lead to heavy investment. Moreover, the road transport has improved much these days, and people prefer to travel by bus than by rail, as the former is more convenient and serviceable than the latter.

There is a good deal more of traffic moving by road than by rail. This is more pronounced in case of shorter haulages. The reasons for diversion to road traffic are lower freight rates, proper supervision, the absence of irksome

¹S. K. Srivastava, *Transport Development in India* (1964), p. 461

formalities and door-to-door service. There has also been a greater expansion of roads than that of railways. However, for the transport of heavy machinery, bulky articles and also for long-distance haulages, there is a pronounced preference for railways.

(d) Waterways, Ferries and Bridges

Waterways.—The three types of inland water transport are canals, rivers and lakes. All these had received a set-back owing to the rail and road transports. In the past, these means were utilized for the transportation of timber, etc. but they have now gone out of use.

Ferries.—Ferries are maintained by the Zila Parishad, Amritsar, wherever necessary.

(e) Air Transport

This is the fastest, but the costliest means of transportation. Heavy investment has to be made on it. Raja Sansi is the only aerodrome in the district and is situated in the Ajnala Tahsil. It was taken over by the Director-General of Civil Aviation in 1947. Two airlines, viz. Indian Airlines and Ariana Afghan Airlines, operate flights to important places in the country and abroad.

(f) Travel and Tourist Facilities

Dharmshalas, serais and hotels are easily available in the important towns of the district for travellers, tourists and visitors. Thousands of visitors come to Amritsar to see the Jallianwala Bagh, Darbar Sahib, Durgiana Mandir and other places of interest in the city. Among the serais and *Dharmshalas* at Amritsar, Guru Ram Das Serai and Durgiana Committee *Dharmshala* are worth mentioning. Besides, there are rest-houses and dak-bungalows for the use of Government officers/officials.

Dak-Bungalows and Rest-Houses.—These are maintained by different departments for the use of their employees during their visits to these places. A list of rest-houses, etc. in the district is given in Appendix VI on pages 282-283.

(g) Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones

Posts.—The Head Post Office at Amritsar, situated on the Court Road, also houses the Telegraph and Telephone Offices. Up to the eighties of the nineteenth century, the dak was sent by horse-drawn or by bullock-drawn train in the district. Thereafter, it began to be carried by trains, buses and aeroplanes. At the important centres of the towns, letter-boxes have been affixed to provide postal facilities for the public and these are cleared at fixed timings, two or three times a day. In 982 villages in the district, dak is delivered daily, in 34 villages three times a week and in 176 villages two times a week.

On March 31, 1968, there were 2 head post-offices (one each at Amritsar and Tarn Taran), 71 sub post-offices, 332 branch post-offices and 5 extra-departmental sub-offices in the district. A list of these post-offices is given in Appendix VII on pages 284—295.

The Railway Mail Service Office, situated at the Amritsar Railway Station, serves as an intermediary for the exchange of mails with post-offices and the various running sections. The postal service in the district is quite fast and it is further improving day by day.

Telegraphs.—The Telegraph Office at Amritsar was established on March 1, 1930. It is located in the same building along with the Head Post-Office, Amritsar. The city area is also served by a good number of combined post and telegraph offices, the most important among which are Durgiana Mandir, Guru Bazaar, Gandhi Bazaar, Khalsa College and Majith Mandi. There are 22 key-fitted sub-offices and 24 phono-cum-sub-offices, but there is no phono-cum-extra-departmental sub-office or phono-cum-branch office in the district. The phonogram system is available to telephone subscribers, and telegrams are received from them on the telephone for onward transmission to the quarters concerned. There is a prompt delivery of telegrams in the district. Telegrams are also accepted round the clock from the people. Telegrams received for delivery are also telephoned to the subscribers.

On March 31, 1968, telegraph facilities were available in as many as 51 post-offices in the district, as detailed below :

Combined Post and Telegraph Offices

1. Ajnala
2. Atari
3. Amritsar Kachahri
4. Amritsar Basti Ram Dhab
5. Amritsar Durgiana Mandir
6. Amritsar Chawal Mandi
7. Amritsar Guru Bazaar
8. Amritsar Guru Ram Das Niwas
9. Amritsar Gandhi Bazaar
10. Amritsar Hide Market
11. Amritsar Hindu Sabha College

12. Amritsar Jawala Flour-Mills
13. Amritsar Katra Sher Singh
14. Amritsar Katra Karam Singh
15. Amritsar Kot Rallia Ram
16. Amritsar Khalsa College
17. Amritsar Lawrence Road
18. Amritsar Majith Mandi
19. Amritsar Medical College
20. Amritsar Nawan Kot
21. Amritsar Northern Railway Locomotive Workshop
22. Amritsar Rayon & Silk Mills
23. Amritsar Sadr Bazaar
24. Amritsar Sultanwind Gate
25. Baba Bakala
26. Beas
27. Bhikhiwind
28. Chheharta
29. Chabhal
30. Dera Baba Jaimal Singh
31. Distillery Khasa
32. Fatehabad
33. Jandiala Guru
34. Khem Karan
35. Khalra
36. Kairon
37. Khanna Nagar
38. Majitha
39. Mahta Chowk

40. Naushehra Pannuan
41. Prlt Nagar
42. Patti
43. Raja Sansi
44. Ramdas
45. Rayya
46. Sultanwind EDSO (Extra Departmental Sub-Office)
47. Sur Singh
48. Sirhali Kalan
49. Tarn Taran
50. Verka
51. Vairawal

Telephones.—In 1914, there was only one 50-line magneto exchange in the district, which was converted into 300-line central battery system in 1922. It was converted into an automatic system in 1925. By the end of 1970, there were ten telephone exchanges in the district at Ajnala, Amritsar, Bhikhiwind, Chheharta, Khem Karan, Lopoke, Majitha, Patti, Rayya and Tarn Taran, all functioning under the Sub divisional Officer, Telephones, Amritsar.

Almost all the important towns in the State are connected directly with the Amritsar Telephone Exchange, and also with the general telephone system in the country as a whole. A number of local public-call offices exist in the Amritsar city for the convenience of the public.

(h) Organizations of Owners and Employees in the Field of Transport and Communications

There is no organization of owners in the field of transport and communications in the district. The transport workers/employees working in various transport companies have, however, formed their unions to look after their service interests. A list of such unions functioning in the district is given below :

- (1) Roadways Employees' Association, Amritsar
- (2) New United Transport Workers' Union, Amritsar
- (3) Punjab, Himachal Pradesh Motor Transport Workers' Federation, Amritsar
- (4) Pathankot-Amritsar Transport Workers' Union, Amritsar
- (5) Transport Employees' Union, Amritsar

APPENDIX I

Number of different types of motor-vehicles registered in the Amritsar District, 1964-68, *(Vide page 262)*

Year	Cars	Jeeps	Trucks	Taxis	Tractors	Buses	Motor-cycles	Auto-rickshaws	Miscellaneous
1964	83	7	57	—	79	50	369	16	1
1965	82	8	50	2	80	45	370	16	1
1966	105	13	44	3	104	66	577	17	6
1967	107	14	40	4	102	68	580	16	10
1968	207	38	106	—	244	107	806	80	10

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1965 to 1969)

(Vide page 263)

Bus routes operated by the Amritsar Sub-Depot of the Punjab Roadways, Amritsar

Serial No.	Name of route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily service (km)
1.	Amritsar-Chandigarh	1	231	462
2.	Amritsar-Delhi	1	443	886
3.	Amritsar-Patiala (via Moga-Barnala)	1	269	538
4.	Amritsar-Ambala	1	251	502
5.	Amritsar-Ajnala	16	29	928
6.	Ajnala-Fatehgarh Churian	2	21	84
7.	Ajnala-Lopoke	3	22	132
8.	Ajnala-Bhindi-Saidan (via Bhindi-Aulak)	1	22	44
9.	Amritsar-Ajnala-Lopoke	1	51	102
10.	Amritsar-Dera Baba Nanak	5	61	610
11.	Amritsar-Jandiala Guru	14	18	504
12.	Amritsar-Vairowal	4	43	344
13.	Amritsar-Wagha Border	9	31	558
14.	Amritsar-Bhikhiwind	6	38	456
15.	Amritsar-Khalra	7	48	672
16.	Amritsar-Khalra-Patti-Harika	1	103	206
17.	Amritsar-Bhikhiwind-Harika	4½	70	630
18.	Amritsar-Khem Karan	8	64	1,024
19.	Khalra-Patti-Harika	1	54	108
20.	Amritsar-Kapurthala	3	67	402
21.	Amritsar-Sultanpur Lodhi	2	102	408
22.	Amritsar-Tarn Taran	15	21	630
23.	Tarn Taran-Pakhopura	3	29	174
24.	Amritsar-Sirhali Kalan	1	39	78
25.	Amritsar-Majitha	17	18	612
26.	Amritsar-Wachhoa	6	38	456
27.	Amritsar-Chogawan	7	23	322
28.	Amritsar-Chogawan-Saurian	1	28	56

Serial No.	Name of route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily service (km)
29.	Amritsar-Chuchakwal	4	33	264
30.	Amritsar-Lopoke	7	26	364
31.	Amritsar-Jhander	1	32	64
32.	Amritsar-Sarangra	2	40	160
33.	Amritsar-Ranian	3	43	258
34.	Tarn Taran-Jandiala Guru	15	17	510
35.	Tarn Taran-Jandiala Guru Railway Station	3	20	120
36.	Amritsar-Patti	2	45	180
37.	Tarn Taran-Patti	4	22	176
38.	Amritsar-Valtoha	2	69	276
39.	Tarn Taran-Patti-Khem Karan	1	58	116
40.	Patti-Khem Karan	1	32	64
41.	Amritsar-Rasulpur	1	36	72
42.	Tarn Taran-Chandigarh	1	261	522
43.	Amritsar-Firozpur (via Talwandi)	7	127	1,778
44.	Amritsar-Firozpur (via Patti)	2	144	576
45.	Amritsar-Firozpur (via Lohgarh)	4	117	936
46.	Firozpur-Fazilka	22	89	3,916
47.	Firozpur-Jalalabad	1	55	110
48.	Fazilka-Pacca	1	13	26
49.	Firozpur Cantonment-Hussainiwala Border	4	13	104
50.	Zira-Fatehgarh Panjtor	1	28	56
51.	Amritsar-Dera Baba Jaimal Singh	1	46	92
52.	Tarn Taran-Serai Amanat Khan	11	26	572
53.	Tarn Taran-Atari	2	40	160
54.	Amritsar-Fatehgarh Churian (via Sangatpura)	2	27	108
55.	Fazilka-Sirsa (via Abohar-Malaut)	1	159	318
56.	Amritsar-Hissar	1	401	802
57.	Amritsar-Chandigarh (via Moga)	1	266	532
58.	Amritsar-Bachiwind	3	35	210

Serial No.	Name of route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily service (km)
59.	Amritsar-Dera Baba Nanak-Gurdaspur	3	101	606
60.	Amritsar-Durangla-Bahrapur	1	128	256
61.	Gurdaspur-Dera Baba Nanak	1	40	80
62.	Amritsar-Faridkot	1	122	244
63.	Amritsar-Hanumangarh	2½	69	345
64.	Amritsar-Borwadala	1	72	144
65.	Malaut-Muktsar	11	33	726
66.	Firozpur-Muktsar (via Faridkot)	3	81	486
67.	Fazilka-Abohar	7	35	490
68.	Abohar-Malaut	2	32	128
69.	Dabwali-Malaut	6	32	384
70.	Dabwali-Giddarbaha	1	32	64
71.	Amritsar-Prit Nagar	2	42	168
72.	Amritsar-Prit Nagar (via Khohali)	2	27	108
73.	Firozpur-Mamdot	5	25	250
74.	Amritsar-Naushehra Dhala	2	43	172
75.	Tarn Taran-Sobraon (Sabhra)	1	42	84
76.	Tarn Taran-Toothangala	1	45	90
77.	Dera Baba Nanak-Batala	3	30	180
78.	Dera Baba Nanak-Fatehgarh Churian	1	56	112
79.	Batala-Fatehgarh Churian	1½	25	75
80.	Muktsar-Bhatinda	9	54	972
81.	Tarn Taran-Vairawal	2	30	120
82.	Muktsar-Giddarbaha	2	42	168
83.	Tarn Taran-Dera Sahib	1	21	42
84.	Amritsar-Mahta	7	40	560
85.	Amritsar-Radaur Kalan	6	16	192
86.	Muktsar-Jalalabad	6	29	348
87.	Dabwali-Sirsa	1	59	118
88.	Malaut-Fazilka (via Pahiwala)	11	53	1,166
89.	Firozpur-Zira	2	40	160

Serial No.	Name of route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily service (km)
90.	Fazilka-Chutala	1	128	256
91.	Amritsar-Govindwal	4	45	360
92.	Amritsar-Bhetinda	2	190	760
93.	Amritsar-Bhatinda (via Patti)	1	205	410
94.	Patti-Fatehabad	2	37	148
95.	Abohar-Ganganagar	8	43	688
96.	Tarn Taran-Govindwal	3	24	144
97.	Tarn Taran-Govindwal (via Khadur Sahib)	1	28	56
98.	Tarn Taran-Fatehabad	1	18	36
99.	Fazilka-Sirsa (via Pahiwala)	2	144	576
100.	Tarn Taran-Bhikhiwind	6	32	384
101.	Amritsar-Tarn Taran (via Dhand-Kasel)	2	40	160
102.	Amritsar-Qadian	1	58	116
103.	Amritsar-Harchowal	2	67	268
104.	Amritsar-Mahta (via Sathiala)	1	54	108
105.	Amritsar-Butala	1	35	70
106.	Amritsar-Raja Sansi	24	21	1,008
107.	Firozpur Cantonment-Firozpur City	24	6	288
108.	Tarn Taran-Ratta Gudha	1	34	68
109.	Abohar-Sangaria	2	53	212
110.	Sirsa-Hissar	1	90	180
111.	Firozpur-Muktsar (via Sadiq)	8	56	896
112.	Amritsar-Jalalabad	1	54	108
113.	Firozpur City-Jhoke Road Octroi Post	17	13	442

Local Routes

1.	Amritsar-Verka	24	9.0	432.0
2.	Amritsar-Gohalwar (via Varpal)	6	15.0	180.0
3.	Amritsar-Raipur Kalan	8	19.2	307.2
4.	Amritsar-Chheharta	70	11.0	1,540.0
5.	Islamabad-Kaimpura	40	12.8	1,024.0

Serial No.	Name of route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily service (km)
6.	Amritsar-Raja Sansi	.. 24	21.6	1,036.8
7.	Chowk Fawara-Sacred Heart High School	.. 31	12.0	744.0
8.	Chatiwind Gate-Gurdwara Chheharta Sahib	.. 28	11.2	627.2
9.	Amritsar-Jagdev Kalan	.. 1	19.2	38.4
10.	Amritsar-Kathunangal-Chawinda Devi	.. 7	22.4	313.6
11.	Amritsar-Chogawan	.. 15	23.2	696.0

(Source : General Manager, Punjab Roadways, Amritsar)

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 263)

Bus routes operated by private transport companies in the Amritsar District, as on March 31, 1968

Serial No.	Name of transport company	Name of route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily service (km)
1.	The Punjab Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Pathankot	6½	107	1,391
		Amritsar-Batala	½	35	35
		Amritsar-Serai Amanat Khan	1	29	58
		Amritsar-Bhatinda	½	190	190
		Amritsar-Dhand-Kasel	1	24	48
		Pathankot-Narot Jaimal Singh	1	40	80
		Amritsar-Dhand-Kasel-Tarn Taran	1	40	80
2.	The District Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Amritsar	Ajnala-Lopoke	3	22	132
		Amritsar-Gurdaspur (via Dera Baba Nanak)	2	101	404
		Amritsar-Dera Baba Nanak	5	61	610
		Amritsar-Ajnala	5	29	290
		Amritsar-Sarangdev	2	40	160
		Amritsar-Saurian (via Chogawan)	1	28	56
		Amritsar-Saurian (via Kotli)	1	22	44
		Amritsar-Naushehra Dhala	½	43	64.5
		Ajnala-Bhindi Saidan	1	17	34
3.	The New Suraj Transport Co. Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Pathankot	3½	107	802.5
		Amritsar-Madhopur	2	126	504
		Amritsar-Harchowal	1	67	134
		Amritsar-Batala	½	35	35
		Amritsar-Moga (via Patti)	1	117	234
		Amritsar-Moga (via Sirhali Kalan)	1	106	212
		Amritsar-Tarn Taran	2	21	84
		Amritsar-Patiala (via Moga)	1	269	538
		Amritsar-Bhatinda	1	190	380
		Pathankot-Jammu	1½	112	336

Serial No.	Name of transport company	Name of route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily service (km)
4.	The Amritsar Frontier Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Hariker	4½	56	504
		Khalra-Hariker	10	51	1,020
		Tarn Taran-Sabhra	1	38	76
		Tarn Taran-Kot Buddha	1	37	74
		Amritsar-Hissar	½	401	401
5.	The New Piya Bus Service (P) Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Rayya-Sri Hargobindpur	2	70.5	28.2
		Amritsar-Rayya-Mahta	3	51	306
		Amritsar-Batala	3	43	258
		Amritsar-Sathiala	3	42	252
		Amritsar-Vairowal	2	43	172
		Amritsar-Khadur Sahib-Vairowal	1	40.5	81
		Amritsar-Pathankot	7	107	1,498
6.	The New United Transport (P) Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Batala	1	35	70
		Amritsar-Qadian	1	58	116
		Amritsar-Dalhousie	½	187	187
		Amritsar-Khem Karan	15	64	1,920
7.	The New Majha Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Amritsar	Bhikhiwind-Tarn Taran	2	32	128
		Amritsar-Tarn Taran (via Dhand-Kasel)	1	40	80
		Amritsar-Rasulpur	1	35	70
		Khem Karan-Ludhiana	½	117	117
		Khem Karan-Patti	2	32	128
		Amritsar-Firozpur (via Patti)	1	144	288
		Amritsar-Firozpur (via Sirhali Kalan)	1	128	256
8.	The Azad Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Moga	1	106	212
		Amritsar-Bachiwind	1	35	70
		Amritsar-Prit Nagar	1	42	84
		Amritsar-Naushehra Dhala	1½	43	107.5
		Tarn Taran-Khem Karan	1	51	102
		Tarn Taran-Atari	1	40	80

Serial No.	Name of transport company	Name of route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily service (km)
9.	The Randhawa Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Mahta	9	40	720
		Amritsar-Wachhoa	6	38	456
		Amritsar-Sri Hargobindpur	2	70	280
		Amritsar-Jalalabad	1	54	108
		Amritsar-Fatehgarh Churian	2	19	76
		Amritsar-Tarsikka	2	29	116
		Amritsar-Tarsikka (via Chogawan)	2	29	116
		Amritsar-Dera Baba Jaimal Singh	1	46	92
10.	The Nishat and Malwa Bus (P) Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Pathankot	2½	107	588.5
		Amritsar-Qadian	1½	58	174
		Amritsar-Dalhousie	½	187	187
		Amritsar-Batala	½	43	21.5
11.	The Kisan Workers Transport Co-operative Society Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Firozpur	4	128	1,024
		Firozpur-Jullundur	1	128	256
12.	The Sandhu Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Amritsar	Amritsar-Bhatinda	1	190	380
		Amritsar-Govindwal	3	45	270
		Amritsar-Govindwal (via Khadur Sahib)	1	53	106
		Amritsar-Hariker	2	56	224
		Amritsar-Chohla	1	53	106
		Tarn Taran-Govindwal	4	24	192
		Tara Taran-Vairowal	2	30	120
		Tarn Taran-Ratta Gudha	1	33	66
13.	The Rohtak District Transport Co-operative Society Amritsar	Tarn Taran-Govindwal (via Khadur Sahib)	1	28	56
		Fatehgarh-Patti	1	37	74
		Amritsar-Pathankot	2	107	428
		Amritsar-Moga	2	106	424
		Amritsar-Firozpur	2	128	512
		Amritsar-Harchowal	2	67	268
		Amritsar-Qadian	2	58	232
		Amritsar-Tarn Taran	5	21	210
14.	The Sandhu Roadways Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Amritsar	Tarn Taran-Dera Sahib	1	21	42

(Source : Transport Companies concerned)

AMRITSAR
APPENDIX IV

(Vide page 264)

Railway passenger and goods traffic in Amritsar District, 1967-68

Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings	
	Outward (Nos.)	Inward (Nos.)	Passengers (Rs)	Parcels (Rs)
I. Amritsar-Saharanpur-Lucknow-Mughal Sarai				
1. Amritsar ..	19,55,956	13,14,847	1,16,07,382	16,25,041
2. Mananwala ..	5,216	3,876	2,593	10
3. Jandiala ..	13,404	10,337	18,916	3,964
4. Tangra ..	5,696	1,907	4,313	25
5. Butari ..	9,196	5,620	8,944	972
6. Baba Bakala-Rayya ..			Flag Station	
7. Beas ..	14,980	23,107	41,106	1,604
II. Amritsar-Atari				
1. Chheharta ..	6,113	4,640	2,157	3,716
2. Khasa ..	3,465	2,585	3,971	121
3. Gurusar Sutlani ..	3,024	2,997	1,103	2.5
4. Atari ..	6,209	3,235	3,337	97
III. Amritsar-Verka-Dera Baba Nanak				
1. Verka ..	11,738	9,465	5,910	211
2. Majitha ..	5,470	4,476	2,455	94
3. Kotla Gujran ..	5,849	1,337	2,848	2
4. Ramdas ..	5,437	5,082	3,014	55
IV. Amritsar-Patti-Khem Karan				
1. Bhagtanwala ..	8,603	7,716	6,099	5,564
2. Sangrana Sahib ..	1,463	1,181	660	17
3. Gohlwar Varpal ..	3,151	883	1,372	4
4. Dukhnewaran ..	2,648	1,699	1,025	2
5. Tarn Taran ..	32,796	24,194	28,181	1,212
6. Rure Asal ..	3,678	1,850	1,183	19
7. Jandoke ..	8,005	1,686	2,982	14

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Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings	
	Outward (Nos.)	Inward (Nos.)	Passengers (Rs)	Parcels (Rs)
8. Kairon ..	9,488	9,107	4,474	190
9. Patti ..	36,662	31,840	19,818	1,189
10. Boparai ..	7,516	2,407	3,236	63
11. Gharyala ..	1,18,375	67,839	73,218	838
12. Valtoha ..	211	129	173	15
13. Rattoke Gurdwara ..	3,840	2,825	2,460	1
14. Khem Karan ..	4,944	4,454	3,888	59
V. Amritsar-Batala-Pathankot				
1. Kathunangal ..	7,175	4,662	4,282	66
2. Jaintipura ..	41,882	6,764	6,005	56

(Source : Station-Masters)

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APPENDIX V

(Vide page 264)

Railway goods traffic in the Amritsar District, 1967-68

Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings	
	Outward (Quintals)	Inward (Quintals)	Outward (Rs)	Inward (Rs)
I. Amritsar-Saharanpur-Lucknow-Mughal Sarai				
1. Amritsar ..	4,99,654	24,82,944	41,27,008	1,76,57,721
2. Mananwala ..	—	—	—	—
3. Jandiala ..	8,999	17,820	10,883	11,310
4. Tangra ..	—	—	—	—
5. Butari ..	249.5	3,451	966	5,256
6. Baba Bakala-Rayya ..			Flag Station	
7. Beas ..	2,985	2,733	13,401	15,589
II. Amritsar-Atari				
1. Chheharta ..	8,838	56,955	6,703	1,89,483
2. Khasa ..	947	4,307	3,201	22,762
3. Guruser Sutlani ..	—	—	—	—
4. Atari ..	108	1,203	3	2,031
III. Amritsar-Verka-Dera Baba Nanak				
1. Verka ..	49,183	6,06,042	356	39,036
2. Majitha ..	1,444	3,238	4,667	14,571
3. Kotla Gujran ..	—	—	—	—
4. Ramdas ..	5,087	500	9,717	6,102
IV. Amritsar-Patti-Khem Karan				
1. Bhagtanwala ..	31,792	83,729	48,269	2,93,411
2. Sangrana Sahib ..	103	176	—	1,440
3. Gohlwar Varpal ..	—	1	—	2
4. Dukhnewaran ..	—	—	—	—
5. Tarn Taran ..	18,979	14,034	87,798	20,279
6. Rure Asal ..	—	—	—	—
7. Jandoke ..	—	275	—	79
8. Kairon ..	119	529	11	1,081
9. Patti ..	4,33,392	16,63,250	1,554	17,454

(contd.)

Railway goods traffic in the Amritsar District, 1967-68

Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings	
	Outward (Quintals)	Inward (Quintals)	Outward (Rs)	Inward (Rs)
10. Boparai ..	—	—	—	—
11. Gharyala ..	450	1,820	1,169	4,284
12. Valtoha ..	42	107	—	236
13. Rattoke Gurdwara ..	—	—	—	—
14. Khem Karan ..	163	5,470	1,105	3,250
V. Amritsar-Batala-Pathankot				
1. Kathunangal ..	29	739	139	41
2. Jaintipura ..	—	19	—	1,442

(Source : Station-Masters)

APPENDIX VI

(Vide page 265)

Dak bungalows, inspection-bungalows and rest-houses in the Amritsar District, as on March 31, 1968

Serial No.	Place	Number of suites	Name of reserving authority
Tahsil Amritsar			
1.	Amritsar Circuit-House	4	Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab
2.	Amritsar P.W.D. Rest-House	3	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B & R), Amritsar
3.	Majitha Civil Rest-House	2	Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar
4.	Beas Civil Rest-House	2	Ditto
5.	Bal Civil Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, P. W. D. (B & R), Amritsar
6.	Jandiala Guru Samiti Rest-House	2	Executive Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Jandiala Guru
7.	Amritsar Canal Rest-House	4	Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
8.	Kathunangal Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
9.	Dhingnangal Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
10.	Doburji Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
11.	Majjipura Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
12.	Ibban Canal Rest-House	3	Ditto
13.	Jandiala Guru Canal Rest-House	1	Executive Engineer, Jandiala Guru Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal
14.	Rayya Canal Rest-House	1	Ditto
15.	Athwal Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Madhopur Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Gurdaspur
16.	Gaggar Bhana Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Madhopur Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Gurdaspur
17.	Bholwal Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Jandiala Guru Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
18.	Amritsar Officers' Rest-House	3	Divisional Engineer No. II, Northern Railway, Firozpur
19.	Amritsar Subordinate Rest-House	5	Inspector of Works, Northern Railway, Amritsar
20.	Amritsar Class IV Rest-House	2	Ditto
21.	Beas Class IV Rest-House	4	Ditto
22.	Amritsar Sainik Rest-House	13	Secretary, District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, Amritsar
23.	Amritsar Golden Temple Rest-House	4	Manager, Golden Temple, Amritsar
24.	Chheharta Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar

Serial No.	Place	Number of suites	Name of reserving authority
Tahsil Tarn Taran			
25.	Tarn Taran Civil Rest-House	2	Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar
26.	Lalu Ghuman Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Majitha Division Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
27.	Muse Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
28.	Bhuchar Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
29.	Kasal Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
30.	Rasulpur Canal Rest-House	1	Executive Engineer, Jandiala Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
31.	Jaura Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
32.	Khawaspur Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
33.	Naushehra Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
34.	Tarn Taran Railway Rest-House	2	Divisional Superintendent, Northern Railway, Firozpur
35.	Tarn Taran Railway Rest-House	2	Assistant Inspector of Works, Northern Railway, Patti
Tahsil Patti			
36.	Harike P.W.D. Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, P. W. D. (B & R), Amritsar
37.	Patti Civil Rest-House	2	Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar
38.	Kakar Civil Rest-House	2	(Military)
39.	Atari Civil Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, P. W. D. (B & R), Amritsar
40.	Khalra Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
41.	Pohuwind Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Jandiala Guru Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
42.	Manhala Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
43.	Valtoha Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
44.	Dalwalpur Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
45.	Khara Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
46.	Khem Karan Canal Rest-House	2	Superintendent of Police, Amritsar
47.	Harike Canal Rest-House	3	Executive Engineer, Harike Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Makhu (District Firozpur)
Tahsil Ajnala			
48.	Ajnala Civil Rest-House	2	Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar
49.	Ramdas Civil Rest-House	2	Ditto
50.	Ranewali Canal Rest-House	2	Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
51.	Khohali Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto
52.	Lopoke Canal Rest-House	2	Ditto

(Dak Bungalows, Inspection-Bungalows, Rest-Houses and Tourist-Houses in Punjab, pp. 23-24)

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APPENDIX VII

Post-offices in the Amritsar District, as on March 31, 1968

(Vide page 266)

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
I. Amritsar	1. Chabha 2. Chatiwind 3. District Jail, Amritsar 4. Gaggo Bua 5. Gohalwar Varoal 6. Gilwali 7. Gumtala 8. Her 9. Kot Khalsa 10. Kot Mit Singh 11. Naushehra-Nangali 12. Pandori Waraich 13. Rataul 14. Tung Paien 15. Varpal
1. Ajnala S.O.	1. Ballarwal 2. Bhoewali 3. Chamiani 4. Dhariwal Kalan 5. Fatehwal 6. Gagomahal 7. Gureynangal 8. Gurala 9. Jafirkot 10. Jagdev Khurd 11. Jasraur 12. Jastarwal 13. Kamalpura 14. Karyal

COMMUNICATIONS

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
	15. Othian 16. Sarangdev 17. Tira Kalan 18. Thoba 19. Ugar Aulakh
2. Amritsar Kachahri Non-Delivery S.O.	
3. Atari S.O.	1. Asrapur 2. Bachiwind 3. Bhaini Rajputan 4. Dhanon Kalan 5. Mahawa 6. Mode 7. Rajatal 8. Rangarh 9. Shahura
4. Azad Nagar, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
5. Amritsar Bus-Stand Non-Delivery S.O.	
6. Basti Ram Dhab, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
7. Baba Bakala S.O.	1. Bhalaipur Purbian 2. Lakhuwal 3. Vadala Kalan 4. Vadala Khurd
8. Beas S.O.	1. Bhalaipur Dogran 2. Bhalojla 3. Dulongangal 4. Gagrewal 5. Kot Mehtab
9. Butala S.O.	1. Bolewal 2. Jamalpur 3. Khanpur 4. Sheron Baga

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
10. Chawalmandi Non-Delivery S.O.	
11. Chhebartia S.O.	.. 1. Basarke Gillan 2. Bohru 3. Dhand 4. Gumanpur 5. Kala Ghanupur 6. Kasel 7. Khapar Kheri 8. Kathanian 9. Sangnah 10. Thathgar 11. Vadali Guru
12. Chogawan S.O.	.. 1. Barar 2. Bhullar 3. Chawinda 4. Hardomore 5. Khihalla Kalan 6. Khohala 7. Khohali 8. Mandoke 9. Saurian 10. Vanleyke
13. Chowk Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
14. Dera Baba Jaimal Singh S.O.	.. 1. Bal Sarai 2. Jodha
15. Distillery Khasa S.O.	.. 1. Bhakna Kalan 2. Bhusse 3. Boparai 4. Chicha 5. Gharinda 6. Hushiarnagar 7. Paddri

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
16. Durgiana Mandir, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
17. Fatehgarh Churian S.O.	.. 1. Balbawa 2. Maduchhanga 3. Makowal 4. Mohan Bandari 5. Sidhar 6. Wachhoa 7. Fatehpur Rajputan 8. Nawarpind 9. Raipur Kalan 10. Rasulpur Kalan
18. Golden Temple, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
19. Gandhi Bazaar, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
20. Guru Bazaar, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
21. Guru Ramdas Niwas, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
22. Hide Market, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
23. Hindu College, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
24. Jawala Flour-Mills, Amritsar, S.O.	
25. Kathunangal	.. 1. Abdal 2. Babowal 3. Chaindadeviwala 4. Chogawan Rupowali 5. Jaintipur 6. Jethuwal 7. Mattewal 8. Pakharpurah 9. Ramdevali Mussalmana 10. Sialka 11. Uchoke Kalan 12. Waryam Nangal
26. Katra Sher Singh, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
27. Katra Karam Singh, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
28. Khalsa College, Amritsar, S.O.	
29. Khanna Nagar, Amritsar, S.O.	
30. Kot Rallia Ram, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
31. Lawrence Road, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
32. Majith Mandi, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
33. Khilchian S.O.	1. Allowal 2. Bharchi Rajputan 3. Dhulka 4. Kaleke 5. Lohgarh 6. Sidhar Rajputan 7. Muchhal 8. Thattian
34. Majitha S.O.	1. Bal Khurd 2. Begowal 3. Bhangali 4. Chetanpurah 5. Doburji 6. Jalalpur 7. Jhander 8. Khera 9. Khutrai Kalan 10. Kotla Gujran 11. Kotla Sultan Singh 12. Man 13. Marari Kalan 14. Nag Kalan 15. Parowal 16. Sangatpur 17. Sarchur 18. Sham Nagar 19. Sohian Kalan 20. Tarpai 21. Vadala Viram

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
35. Medical College, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
36. Mahta Chowk S.O.	1. Chananke 2. Jalalusman 3. Khabah Rajputan 4. Mahta 5. Mahsampur 6. Rajdhan 7. Saidoke 8. Uddonangal
37. Mewa Mandi, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
38. Mohan Nagar, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
39. Naraingarh (Chhehartar), Non-Delivery S.O.	
40. Nawankot Non-Delivery S.O.	
41. N.R. Locomotive Workshop, Amritsar, Non-Delivery, S.O.	
42. Prit Nagar S.O.	1. Bhilowal Pucca 2. Bhindi Aulak 3. Bhindi Saidan 4. Dag-Dogran 5. Kakar 6. Lopoke 7. Madhkhokar 8. Sarangra
43. Raja Sansi S.O.	1. Adliwala 2. Bagga 3. Bhalapind 4. Bhitteywad 5. Guruka Bagh 6. Harse Chhina 7. Jagdev Kalan 8. Loharka Kalan 9. Mehlanwala

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
	10. Mirankot Kalan
	11. Sansra
44. Ramdas S.O.	1. Gunnowal
	2. Hardowal
	3. Singhapura
45. Rani Ka Bagh, Amritsar, S.O.	
46. Rayya S.O.	1. Bhinder
	2. Chima Bath
	3. Jallupur Khaira
	4. Lidhar
	5. Mianwind
	6. Pheruman
47. Sadr Bazaar, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
48. Seth Jagat Bandhu Road, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
49. Steno House Agency, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
50. Sultanwind Gate, Amritsar, Non-Delivery S.O.	
51. Sathiala S.O.	1. Buttar Sivia
	2. Dhardeo
	3. Gaggar Bhana
52. Tarsikka S.O.	1. Akalgarh Dhapain
	2. Bhlilowal
	3. Chogawan Sadhpur
	4. Dehriwala
	5. Kot Khera
	6. Malowal
53. Verka S.O.	1. Fatehgarh Shukar Chak
	2. Khan Kot
	3. Makhanwindi
	4. Mudhal
	5. Valla
54. Rayon and Silk Mills, Amritsar, S.O.	
1. Raja Sansi Air port Extra Departmental Sub-Office	

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
2. Sultanwind Extra Departmental Sub-Office	
II. Tara Taran	1. Bagariyan
	2. Bharowal
	3. Dalleke
	4. Jathal Raju Singh
	5. Kadgil
	6. Kalla
	7. Khabe Dogran
	8. Manochahal
	9. Naurangabad
	10. Nurdin
	11. Palasaur
	12. Pandori Golah
	13. Pandori Takhtmal
	14. Rasulpur
	15. Sakhira
	16. Sheron
	17. Tharu
	18. Thathi Khara
	19. Vainpoin
	20. Pandori Ran Singh
1. Bhikhiwind S.O.	1. Pohuwind
2. Chabhal S.O.	1. Aima Kalan
	2. Baghiari
	3. Kot Dharm Chand Kalan
	4. Lalu Ghuman
	5. Malowal
	6. Panjwar
3. Chohla S.O.	1. Chamba Kalan
	2. Ghurka
	3. Pakhupura
	4. Runiwala

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
4. Chowk Darbar Sahib, Tarn Taran, Non-Delivery S.O.	1. Dhotian 2. Jamera 3. Kot Mohammad Khan 4. Lalpur 5. Philoke 6. Tur 7. Usman
5. Fatehabad S.O.	1. Bhail 2. Dhunda 3. Govindwal 4. Jauhal Dhaiwala 5. Khawaspur 6. Munda
6. Jandiala Guru S.O.	1. Bhangwan 2. Chhajjal Waddi 3. Devidaspura 4. Dharar 5. Ekalgadda 6. Jabbowal 7. Jandiala R.S. 8. Jandiala Guru Canal Bungalow 9. Jhita Kalan 10. Mallian 11. Mananwala Kalan 12. Mananwala Khurd 13. Mehrbanpura 14. Nangal Diyal Singh 15. Tangrah 16. Taragarh 17. Talwandi Dogran 18. Timoval 19. Vadala Jauhal

Head post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
7. Kairon S.O.	1. Gulalipur 2. Jaura 3. Lohka 4. Shahbazar 5. Sirhali Mandan 6. Sheikh
8. Kang S.O.	1. Bath 2. Deo 3. Dinewal 4. Jahangir 5. Pakhoke
9. Khaira S.O.	1. Basarke 2. Chhina Bidhi Chand 3. Dhala 4. Mari Kamboke 5. Mari Megha 6. Narli 7. Rajoke 8. Wan Tara Singh
10. Khadur Sahib S.O.	1. Nagokey 2. Sarli 3. Takhtu Chak 4. Viring
11. Khem Karan S.O.	1. Algon Khurd 2. Asal Uttar 3. Bhura Kunna 4. Bhagwanpura 5. Lakhana 6. Kalia Sankhatra 7. Makhi Kalan 8. Mastgarh 9. Muhamadpura 10. Mahaidipur 11. Rattoke Gurdwara

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
12. Naushehra Pannuan S.O.	1. Bathal Bhaike 2. Bahrampur 3. Mohanpura 4. Raniwala 5. Sangatpur 6. Thatian Mahantan
13. Patti S.O.	1. Bahamniwala 2. Bhaggupur 3. Bathe Bhaini 4. Bhangala 5. Boparai 6. Chuslewar 7. D.A.V. High School, Patti 8. Dhariwal 9. Dubli 10. Ghariaja 11. Harike 12. Kachcha Pakka 13. Kalsian Kalan 14. Kirtowal Kalan 15. Kullah 16. Mahneke Jand 17. Manjhala Jai Singh 18. Margindpura 19. Pingari 20. Ratta Gudha 21. Thakkarpura 22. Varnala
14. Sirhali Kalan S.O.	1. Gandiwind Thattal 2. Khera 3. Marhana 4. Sohawa

Head Post-Office/Sub Post-Office	Branch Post-Offices
15. Serai Amanat Khan S.O.	1. Chahal 2. Chhima Kalan 3. Gandiwind 4. Naushehra Dhala
16. Sur Singh S.O.	1. Bakipur 2. Banian 3. Bhuchar 4. Blair 5. Jiobala 6. Paddri Kalan 7. Singhpura 8. Sohal
17. Vairawal S.O.	1. Beharipur 2. Jalalabad 3. Pindiyan 4. Vairawal Bawian
1. Sabhra Extra Departmental Sub-Office	
2. Valtehs Extra Departmental Sub-Office	
3. Sandala Extra Departmental Sub-Office	
Total Head Post-Offices	2
Total Sub Post-Offices	71
Total Extra Departmental Sub-Offices	5
Total Branch Post-Offices	332

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Amritsar Division, Amritsar)

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The Amritsar District, like other districts in the Punjab State, is a predominantly rural district, about 70 per cent of its population residing in villages. The principal occupations of the people living in the countryside are agriculture and manual labour. As the land can hardly provide the ever-increasing population with full-time employment, a good number of people from the rural areas are shifting either to join the Armed Forces or to find some unskilled jobs in factories, etc. in the urban areas. The urban population is mostly non-agriculturist and depends upon industries, commerce, transport, miscellaneous services, manufacture of sundry hardwares, employment in art-silk mills, cotton mills and woollen mills as carders, spinners, weavers, etc.

The total population of the district was 15,34,916 (8,27,821 males and 7,07,095 females) in 1961 as against 13,67,040 (7,42,421 males and 6,24,619 females) in 1951. According to the 1961 Census, 10,70,892 persons were living in the rural areas, and 4,64,024 persons in the urban areas. The total number of workers was 4,58,000 (3,15,502 rural and 1,42,498 urban). Of these, 2,10,691 were cultivators and agricultural labourers, and the remaining 2,47,309 other workers. Of the total working force of the district, 82,080 were engaged in 'Other Services', which included services, like the generation and supply of electricity and water, besides sanitary, medical and public-health, legal, business, recreational and personal services. They also included general labourers engaged in other miscellaneous occupations. After the partition (1947), the new national set-up in the country and the rapidly developing economy have opened up vast avenues of employment. Consequently, as the lure of the city life has spread to the countryside, there has been an appreciable increase in employment in these occupations.

Persons in services and earning through miscellaneous sources form a very small proportion of the total population of the district. They include Government or semi-Government servants and persons employed in education, law, medical, engineering, personal and domestic services, etc.

(a) Public Administration

Central, State and Local Government Services.—There has been a rise in the number of Government employees during the recent years, especially after independence, as several new departments have been created in connection with the implementation of various development schemes. According to the 1961 Census, the number of Government employees in the district was 10,889 (10,832 males and 57 females). These comprised 8,016 (8,002 males and 14 females).

Central Government employees ; 947 (933 males and 14 females) State Government employees ; 1,862 (1,834 males and 28 females) village officials ; and 64 (63 males and 1 female) miscellaneous workers.

The security of service, pension and other similar amenities enjoyed by the Government employees attract people to the Government service. The Central, State and Local Governments provide various amenities to their employees in the form of dearness and house-rent allowances, provident fund benefit, free medical service, loans for the construction of houses and for the purchase of vehicles, advances for the purchase of wheat, etc. The Government gives rent-free accommodation to the police officials. The railway authorities provide quarters on nominal rent and issue free and privilege passes for travel to the employees and their families. They are provided with uniforms also. Class IV employees under the State and Central Governments are also given free liveries. In tahsils, where there are Government quarters built in the compound of the tahsil office, no rent is charged from the Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars for the buildings occupied by them for residential purposes. However, 10 per cent of the pay is charged as house-rent from the officials residing in Government buildings constructed outside the premises of the tahsil. Patwaris are paid house-rent at the rate of Rs 6 per month.

Public Employees' Organizations.—The following public employees' organizations function in the district. These unions have been formed by the employees to safeguard their service interests and for recreational and cultural purposes :

1. E.S.I. (Employees State Insurance) Employees' Union, Amritsar
2. Cantonment Board Employees' Union, Amritsar
3. Allahabad Bank Employees' Union, Amritsar
4. Central Bank of India Employees' Association, Amritsar
5. Chartered Bank Employees' Union, Amritsar
6. National and Grindlays Bank Employees' Union, Amritsar
7. Amritsar Central Co-operative Bank Employees' Union, Amritsar
8. Punjab Co-operative Bank Employees' Union, Amritsar
9. The New Bank of India Employees' Union, Amritsar
10. The Bank of Baroda (Punjab) Employees' Union, Amritsar
11. Amrit Bank Employees' Union, Amritsar
12. Punjab Government Canal Workers' Union, Verka

13. Punjab Irrigation Mechanical Workers' Union, Amritsar
14. Fire Brigade Employees' Union, Amritsar
15. Zila Parishad Employees' Union, Amritsar
16. Punjab Board Teachers' Union, Amritsar
17. Punjab P.W.D. Inspectors' Association, Amritsar
18. Mental Hospital Employees' Association, Amritsar
19. Punjab Medical Employees' Association, Amritsar
20. Class IV Medical and Health Employees' Union, Amritsar
21. Hospital Class IV Employees' Union, Amritsar
22. Ayurvedic Employees' Association, Amritsar
23. Amritsar Clerks' Association, Amritsar
24. Nagar Palika Karamchari Sangh, Amritsar
25. Municipal Employees' Union, Chheharta
26. Chheharta Nagar Palika Karamchari Sangh, Chheharta
27. Municipal Employees' Union, Jandiala Guru
28. Municipal Lower-Grade Employees' Union, Tarn Taran

(b) Learned Professions

Educational Services.—The district has all through been in the forefront in the field of education. The Khalsa College, Amritsar, is one of the oldest institutions of its type and was started in 1899. On May 15, 1968, besides professional and technical institutions, there were 9 colleges (Arts and Science), 40 higher secondary schools, 105 high schools, 103 middle schools and 1,000 primary schools (including pre-primary schools) in the district.

The number of teachers working in the primary, middle, high, higher secondary and J.B.T. schools in the district, as on May 15, 1968, was 8,304. The pay-scales of the teachers are now fairly good and attractive. In spite of this fact, there is a shortage of trained teachers, especially women teachers, who may be willing to be appointed in schools in the rural areas. The non-availability of residential accommodation for teachers in the villages causes a set-back to the teaching profession, because the teachers have to reside in the urban areas and have to travel daily to, and back from, the schools. These daily journeys also greatly hamper the extra-curricular and social activities of the schools.

Medical and Health Services.—These services include persons employed in public-health and medical services in Government and semi-Government hospitals, nursing-homes, maternity and child-welfare clinics, and also in the Unani, Ayurvedic, allopathic and homoeopathic private institutions. There are also persons rendering maternity service. In the past, people in the rural areas could not have medical aid during illness. With the spread of literacy and the increased provision of health and other medical facilities all over the district, the people visit hospitals and avail themselves of the necessary medical facilities in larger numbers. Amritsar is known for the maximum specialized medical facilities available throughout the Punjab. Besides a full-fledged Medical College and the Punjab Government Dental College and Hospital, there are six notable hospitals at Amritsar, viz. V.J. Hospital, Ram Lal Eye-Ear-Nose & Throat Hospital, the Prince of Wales Zanana Hospital, the Military Dental Unit (Amritsar Cantonment), the Mental Hospital, and R.B. Sir Gujjarmal Kesra Devi T.B. Sanatorium. Besides, there are also State Civil Hospitals at Amritsar, Ajnala and Tarn Taran.

The associations formed by the members of the medical profession in the district are : the Amritsar Branch of Indian Medical Association, the District Chemists' and Druggists' Association and the Amritsar District Ayurvedic and Unani Sabha.

The number of persons engaged in the medical profession, according to the 1961 Census, was 3,913. These persons included physicians, surgeons, dentists, homoeopaths, nurses, pharmacists, midwives, health visitors, nursing attendants, some allied workers, etc. There are also a large number of private medical practitioners in the district. They generally have their small clinics and dispense their own prescriptions.

On the veterinary side, there is a network of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the district to prevent and cure diseases of livestock and to improve their breeds.

Legal Services.—The legal profession is an important and paying one in the district. The profession includes barristers, advocates, pleaders and *munshis*. It has attracted an increasing number of persons during the recent years. According to the 1961 Census, the number of legal practitioners and advisers was 275. There are four bar associations in the district, one at the district headquarters and three at the tahsil headquarters at Tarn Taran, Ajnala and Patti. These associations are rendering useful service and are responsible for maintaining professional conduct and discipline among the members.

Engineering Services.—The engineering services are quite well represented at the district headquarters as well as at the sub-divisional level. There are

a good number of offices in the district, representing these services. The details of the persons employed in the engineering services of the Government departments are given in Chapter XIII 'Other Departments'. In addition to these persons, there are a number of persons who are engaged in allied professions as contractors, architects or consulting engineers. According to the 1961 Census, the number of architects, engineers and surveyors in the district was 407. This number also included overseers.

(c) Personal and Domestic Services

Personal Services.—These services include barbers, washermen, laundrymen, tailors, water-carriers, weavers, cobblers, carpenters and the like, and provide employment to a considerable number of persons as detailed below :

Barbers.—The total number of barbers, including hairdressers, in the district was 1,414 in 1961 as against 1,329 in 1951.

The old practice of family barber (*nai*) visiting the houses of his customers is still in vogue in some of the villages, but it is becoming altogether obsolete in the urban areas. In the rural areas, the barber is still required to be present on certain religious ceremonies, besides attending to clients at their houses. The wife of the barber, called *nain*, does some sort of periodical hair-cleaning and hairdressing of the womenfolk of the families to which the barber is attached. The barber gets his remuneration in kind at the times of harvests.

In the urban areas, the hairdressing saloons are becoming popular and the practice of visiting the houses of their customers by the barbers is fast disappearing. The customers, too, find it more convenient and cheap to visit the hairdressing saloons for a shave or a haircut. Some of the barber shops are provided with modern equipment for haircutting and hairdressing. The charges range from one rupee to one rupee and a quarter for a haircut and from 25 to 30 paise for a shave. The charges for hairdressing, however, vary according to the hair style.

The barbers in the towns have formed their unions, which enjoin upon them to follow certain rules and regulations concerning their economic and social welfare. Tuesday is usually observed as a holiday by the barbers.

Washermen.—The total number of washermen, launderers, drycleaners and pressers in the district, according to the 1961 Census, was 2,036.

Washermen mostly live in towns or in their suburbs. Their work has been adversely affected by laundries which have become quite popular. Although the charges of the laundry-men are higher, yet their services are more prompt and efficient than those of the washermen. Usually, the laundries employ washermen for washing, and pressing is done at the shops. The

average rates charged by washermen for washing are 20-25 paise per garment and those for pressing are 10 paise per garment.

There are also a good number of dry-cleaning shops in the towns. Most of these have set up modern dry-cleaning plants. Their charges vary from 3 to 4.50 rupees for the dry-cleaning of a woollen suit.

Tailors.—The total number of tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers in the district, according to the 1961 Census, was 6,602, out of which 3,933 were urban tailors. The urban tailors stitch pants, trousers, coats, skirts, bushirts, men's and women's woollen suits, jackets, nightgowns, *achkens*, ladies' skirts, ladies' coats, *shalwars* and blouses. In the rural areas, tailors generally stitch *kurtas*, *pyjamas*, shirts, bushirts, underwears, *shalwars*, *ghagras*, etc. The rates charged by the tailors in the urban and rural areas vary considerably.

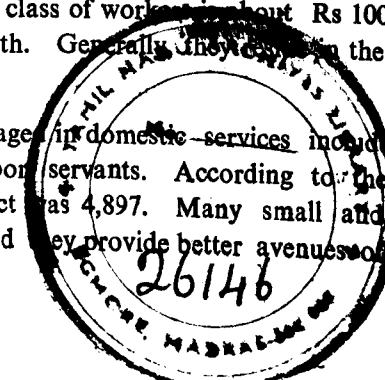
Previously, in the rural areas, the tailors were paid stitching charges in kind, but, nowadays, like their urban counterparts, they are paid in cash. Most of the tailors have their own sewing-machines and work independently. They also work on a commission basis with reputed concerns. The old practice of the tailors working at the houses of their customers is still in vogue in the villages on the occasions of marriages. But, in the towns, the tailors go to the houses of well-to-do persons only when engaged on marriage occasions.

Self-employed Persons.—These services include persons, like weavers, shoemakers, potters, sweepers, handcart-pullers, porters at railway stations and bus-stands, vendors, and hosiery-weavers. They are spread all over the district. Most of them in the rural areas help their families to perform agricultural operations, marriage ceremonies, etc. In the Amritsar city, Chheharta and Verka, the weavers have taken to power-looms.

The sweepers in the urban areas are engaged in scavenging and other sanitary services. Those engaged for scavenging in the urban areas get about Rs 3 per month, per family, in addition to a *chapati* daily and other gifts on auspicious occasions. They usually get employment in hospitals, dispensaries, etc. In the rural areas, they work as agricultural labourers.

The average monthly income of this class of workers is about Rs 100 per month and they live from hand to mouth. Generally, they live in the slums.

Domestic Services.—The persons engaged in domestic services include cooks, housekeepers, maids and other indoor servants. According to the 1961 Census, their total number in the district was 4,897. Many small and medium-scale industries have sprung up, and they provide better avenues of



employment to domestic servants. Thus, there has been a fall in the number of domestic servants. Moreover, with the rise in the wages of domestic servants and that in the cost-of-living index, the middle-class families have been forced to dispense with their services. The wages of domestic servants vary from 40 to 50 rupees per month, in addition to food, clothing and shelter. They frequently change their masters and generally leave for their homes during the harvesting and sowing seasons to assist their families and relations in these operations in the villages.

The female domestic servants (*mais*) are also available in the towns for whole-time or part-time employment. Usually, widows and other poor women adopt this profession for supplementing their meagre income. They wash clothes, sweep houses, clean utensils and cook food and do some other jobs. Such female servants are paid 10 to 30 rupees per month, in addition to sundry facilities given by their employers.

(d) Miscellaneous Services

Transport Services.—Transport plays an important role in the social and economic life of the people. After the partition of 1947, the district has developed into a nerve-centre of transport. In 1968, besides the Punjab Roadways, Amritsar, there were 14 private transport companies operating through the length and breadth of the district. Owing to the rapid industrialization of the district, the goods transport, too, has received a considerable fillip.

The transport workers employed in various transport companies include drivers, conductors, etc. According to the 1961 Census, 1,439 persons were engaged in transport and communication services in the district.

Besides the motor-vehicle companies, there are rickshaw-pullers, tonga-drivers and auto-rickshaw-drivers. The rickshaw-owners invest money on the purchase of the vehicles and hire them out to rickshaw-pullers. Some rickshaw-pullers have their own rickshaws also. According to the 1961 Census, the number of rickshaw-pullers in the district was 3,115. After the partition, the tongas received a great set-back owing to a keen competition with rickshaws and automobiles. A few tongas are still seen plying on the city roads. They carry passengers mostly to the countryside. The growing use of buses and tampos (three-wheeled vehicles) by the villagers in the recent years has adversely affected the income of the country *tongawalas*.

A few owners of cars in the district can afford to keep drivers. Transport workers, like drivers, conductors and cleaners, are employed by the transport companies. They are provided with various facilities, viz. free uniforms, bonus and allowance for overtime. They have formed their unions to safeguard their interests. Their income and social status are decidedly better than those of the rickshaw-pullers and tonga-drivers.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Economic trends serve as an index of the economic stability and progress of a district. These also indicate the state of its economy. Progressive and dynamic trends bring about fundamental and significant changes in the whole structure of its economy.

(a) Livelihood Pattern and the General Level of Prices and Wages

Livelihood Pattern.—The Amritsar District comprises four subdivisions/tahsils, viz. Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Patti and Ajnala. It is situated in close proximity to the territory of Pakistan, and in shape it is rectangular, being a section of the tract known as the Bari Doab lying between the Ravi and the Beas. Ever since the achievement of independence, a great many changes have taken place in the economic sphere. Irrigation facilities have increased manifold. The district is extensively served by a network of canals taking off from the four main branches of the Upper Bari Doab Canal, which runs through the entire length of the district.

The rural economy of the district differs fundamentally from the urban economy inasmuch as the former is predominantly agricultural, whereas the latter is mainly non-agricultural. The rural population of the district is predominantly agricultural, whereas the urban population is mainly engaged in industry, transport, construction work, trade and commerce, and other vocations. After the partition of 1947, the livelihood pattern in the district has undergone radical changes in the villages, in general, and in the towns, in particular.

The classification of workers in the district, according to the 1961 census, is as follows :

Classification of Workers in the Amritsar District according to the 1961 Census

Classification of workers according to their professions	Number of persons according to the 1961 Census					
	Rural			Urban		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1. Cultivators	1,61,782	2,195	1,64,921	3,139	52	3,191
2. Agricultural labourers	40,682	1,216	42,274	1,592	33	1,625
3. Mining, quarrying, livestock-keeping, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, etc.	4,531	92	4,623	998	34	1,032
4. Household industry	20,388	4,411	24,799	3,347	1,011	4,358
5. Manufactures other than those of the household industry	12,470	775	13,245	42,252	584	42,836
6. Construction	4,878	16	4,894	4,319	49	4,368
7. Trade and commerce	12,930	90	13,020	33,010	157	33,167
8. Transport, storage and communications	5,439	11	5,450	13,384	53	13,437
9. Other services	35,801	7,795	43,596	34,082	4,402	38,484
Total workers	2,98,901	16,601	3,15,502	1,36,123	6,375	1,42,498
10. Non-workers	2,71,543	4,83,847	7,55,390	1,21,254	2,00,272	3,21,526
Total population	5,70,444	5,00,448	10,70,892	2,57,377	2,06,647	4,64,024

(Census of India, 1961, Vol. XVII, Punjab, Part II-B (i) General Economic Tables, pp. 18-19)

At the time of the 1961 Census, for every 1,000 persons in the district, 702 were non-workers and only 298 workers. From amongst these 298 workers, 137 were cultivators and agricultural labourers, 4 were working in mining, quarrying, etc., 56 in household industry and manufacturing, 6 in construction work, 30 in trade and commerce, 12 in transport and 53 in other services.

The dwellings in the urban areas are almost entirely pucca. Facilities of bathrooms, latrines, etc. are mostly available. The houses in the new townships/colonies are provided with all modern amenities. In the rural areas, however, the dwellings comprise *kachcha* as well as pucca portions. The houses generally have a big *dalan* (a rectangular room) which has no partition. In certain cases, the houses are provided with a *baithak* (sitting-room) for guests, etc. The cattle fodder is generally kept by the villagers in a separate portion or *haveli* built for the purpose of keeping cattle. The total number of dwellings in the district, according to the 1961 Census, was 2,62,216 (1,78,253 rural and 83,963 urban).

According to the 1961 Census, the total number of households in the district was 53,060 of which 36,041 were rural and 17,019 urban. The households in the urban and rural areas comprise 5-6 members on the average. The break-up of the households, classified according to the number of members and according to the number of rooms occupied, on the basis of the 1961 Census, is given in Appendix I on pages 315-316.

The Economic and Statistical Organization, Punjab, conducted the middle-class family living surveys¹ of the cities of Amritsar, Ludhiana and Patiala during 1965-66. The main objects of the surveys were to provide weighting diagrams for the construction of consumer-price indices for the middle-class families and also to ascertain their conditions of work and levels of living. Out of 7,697, 6,241 and 3,250 estimated numbers of the middle-class families of Amritsar, Ludhiana and Patiala, 960, 720 and 480 were surveyed. It was estimated that the average monthly income of a family in Amritsar, Ludhiana and Patiala was Rs 337, 302 and 397, and the expenditure on current living was Rs 336, 320 and 368 respectively. The average size of a family was 5.32, 5.29 and 5.60 persons. An average employee earned Rs 250.80 per month at Amritsar as compared with Rs 212.11 at Ludhiana and Rs 282.27 at Patiala.

¹ Report on the Middle Class Family Living Survey, 1965-66 (Issued by the Economic and Statistical Organization, Punjab, Publication No. 75).

The income per head of the district compares favourably with that of the other districts in the State. Figures regarding the district-wise income per head for the year 1966-67 of the reorganized Punjab are given below :

District		Income per head (in rupees)
1.	Gurdaspur	614
2.	Amritsar	738
3.	Kapurthala	832
4.	Jullundur	704
5.	Hoshiarpur	615
6.	Ropar	586
7.	Ludhiana	869
8.	Firozpur	877
9.	Bhatinda	797
10.	Sangrur	751
11.	Patiala	752

(Source: Economic and Statistical Adviser to Government, Punjab, Chandigarh)

After the partition of the country in 1947, the entire economic structure of the district underwent a radical change. Much change has taken place in the food, dress and manners of the villagers. The villages and the towns have been linked together with motorable roads. Almost all the urban amenities are being increasingly brought within the reach of the rural people. Literacy is rapidly increasing in the villages, with the result that there has been a significant awakening among the rural folk. The Amritsar city, a big trading and commercial centre, attracts a good number of skilled labourers, with the result that a considerable shortage of skilled labour in the villages is being experienced. There is a general tendency among the landless labourers to shift to the towns from the villages in order to avail themselves of better employment opportunities.

Prices and Wages.—In order to assess the economic condition of the people belonging to a particular region, the comparative study of the prices

and wages is vitally important. Besides the variations in the prices of silver and gold, the increase in population, the condition of production, the extent of inflation, exports and imports play an important part. The changes in the seasons, rainfall and other physical factors also produce temporary fluctuations in the prices. From the beginning of the twentieth century, there has been a marked change in the purchasing power of the rupee. Even though detailed statistics are not available, it is true that the prices of land during the first two decades of the twentieth century rose more than the wages of the labour. The wages of labour also rose far in excess of the cost of production. The First World War (1914-18), however, had a salutary effect on all sections of the Indian society. The labourer was more a gainer, as his wages rose more rapidly than the cost of production. Then followed a general depression of the twenties and it brought in its wake slumps in the market and unemployment and downward trends in the prices of agricultural produce.

The conditions during the third decade of the present century (1921-31) were partially the after-effects of the previous decade that witnessed the culmination of adverse circumstances on an unprecedented scale. On the outbreak of the World War II in September 1939, the people in the district were also affected by this catastrophe. The prices of all goods rose high as a result of the scarcity conditions created by the war. Wages also increased and have shown a continued rise since then. Even after the partition (1947), the steep rise in prices and wages could not be effectively checked. This trend was not much perceptible during the First and Second Five-Year Plans (1951-56 and 1956-61). From the middle of the Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66), the price index has shown a sudden and unprecedented rise in the prices without any corresponding rise in wages.

As a direct repercussion of the Chinese invasion in 1962 and that of the Indo-Pak Conflict in 1965, the prices have been soaring rapidly to the detriment of the economic life of the people. The wages have not kept pace with the increase in the price level. The increase in wages and salaries from time to time has not been enough to make up the vast difference.

The table below gives the consumer-price index for the industrial workers of Amritsar for the period 1961-68 : (Base 1960=100)

Year	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Index	102	106	110	126	136	151	196	209

The index number of the retail prices given above for the last 8 years shows the trend of the prevailing prices.

The trend of prices of a few agricultural commodities during 1966-67 and 1967-68 may be seen from the table given below :

Serial No.	Name of agricultural commodity	Price per quintal	
		1966-67	1967-68
1.	Wheat	82.22	86.75
2.	Paddy	38.36	46.75
3.	Maize	71.51	72.00
4.	Toria	148.14	174.00

(Source : District Statistical Officer, Amritsar)

The wages for various workers in the rural areas of the district are paid either in cash or in kind or both. A casual labourer is usually paid in cash whereas the smith, the carpenter, the water-carrier (*jhlwar*) or the potter is usually paid in kind. Domestic servants both in the urban and rural areas are paid partly in cash and partly in kind. However, the practice of paying wages in kind is on the wane and people prefer to pay and receive wages in cash.

The rates of pay per month fixed for Class IV Government servants employed in various departments in the Amritsar District, for 1967-68 and 1968-69, are given in Appendix II on pages 317-318.

(b) Employment Situation

The employment situation in the Amritsar District has of late developed in accordance with the general pattern in the State and in the country as a whole. The number of job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchange has been on the increase.

While there is a surplus of teachers, engineers, fresh graduates and post-graduates, trainees of the industrial training institutes, sweepers, *beldars*, etc., there is an acute shortage of good typists, stenographers, accountants, Hindi teachers, experienced salesmen, etc.

Employment Exchange.—The Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Amritsar, was set up in 1946 primarily to promote the resettlement and rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen released from the army after the end of the Second World War in 1945. Gradually, it expanded its activities and undertook to give employment assistance to others as well. The main functions

of the Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Amritsar, are : to register applicants and to offer employment assistance, to impart vocational guidance to the youths and adults to choose a better career, to collect employment-market information to assess the employment trends and impact of Government plans on the employment situation and to collect employment statistics for the Planning Commission of India.

As a result of the increase in the volume of work at the Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Amritsar, a District Employment Exchange was opened at Amritsar in September 1961. It registers and gives employment assistance to technically trained persons. Similarly, to provide employment assistance for the rural people, a rural man-power unit was started at Patti in 1963. It covers the employment needs of the people living in the Patti Block.

The statements showing the work done by the Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Amritsar, and the District Employment Exchange, Amritsar, are given in Appendices III and IV on pages 319 and 320 respectively.

The number of unemployed persons aged 15 and above by sex and educational levels, both in the urban and rural areas in the district, as per 1961 Census is given below :

Unemployment in the urban areas by sex and educational levels

	Total unemployed		
	Persons	Males	Females
Total	3,513	3,349	164
Illiterate	651	646	5
Literate (without educational level)	462	440	22
Primary or Junior Basic	1,069	1,043	26
Matriculation or Higher Secondary	1,037	976	61
Technical diploma not equal to a degree	31	29	2
Non-technical diploma not equal to a degree	32	26	6
University degree or post-graduate degree other than a technical degree	189	163	26
Technical degree or diploma equal to a degree or post-graduate degree :	42	26	16
(i) Engineering	3	3	—
(ii) Medicine	4	4	—
(iii) Agriculture	—	—	—
(iv) Veterinary and Dairying	—	—	—
(v) Technology	—	—	—
(vi) Teaching	26	10	16
(vii) Others	9	9	—

Unemployment in the rural areas by sex and educational levels

	Total unemployed		
	Persons	Males	Females
Total	2,261	2,226	35
Illiterate	425	425	—
Literate (without educational level)	158	158	—
Primary or Junior Basic	742	731	11
Matriculation and above	936	912	24

(Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIII, Punjab, Part II-B(i), pp.402 and 410)

Employment Market Information Scheme.—The scheme for the collection of employment market information was introduced as one of the developmental schemes under the Second Five-Year Plan (1956–61). It has been designed to ensure that adequate man-power data is made available to the Planning and Development Departments, authorities concerned with technical education and vocational training, bodies responsible for imparting vocational guidance and the employment service itself to serve as a basis for its continued development. It is also intended to supply comprehensive information to persons seeking work and to employers seeking workers. It gives on a continuing basis an appraisal of trends and conditions in an employment-market area, the relationship between the supply and demand for workers, the occupational and industrial disposition of the labour force and the type of personnel that are persistently in short supply.

Introduced into the State in 1957-58, the scheme is operated under the Director of Employment, Punjab, Chandigarh. Initially, it covered only the public sector, but, from 1960-61, it was also extended to the private sector.

Under the Employment Market Information Scheme, the data is collected from all the public-sector establishments and those employing 10 or more persons in the private sector (but including all registered factories, irrespective of the number of their employees). In case of construction activity, the coverage is restricted to only those engaged in contract work on public account. The information is, however, limited to only whole-time employees; part-time employees or independent workers are not covered.

A comparative analysis relating to the volume of employment, both in private and public sectors, as in December 1967 and December 1968, is given below :

Industrial Division	No. of establishments		No. of employees	
	December 1967	December 1968	December 1967	December 1968
Manufacturing	475	472	14,939	14,483
Trade and Commerce	40	41	1,607	1,511
Transport, Storage and Communication	28	29	6,452	6,476
Services	297	303	22,471	23,155

The above table reveals that with the exception of transport, storage, communication and services, the employment decreased in manufacturing, trade and commerce. The maximum increase, as shown under services, was due to the expansion in the educational, medical and health services. The decrease in employment relating to manufacturing was effected in the art-silk industry as a result of the shortage of raw material needed by the industries.

Vocational Guidance Scheme.—Vocational guidance is a development of the twentieth century and is typical of the complicated pattern of modern civilization. In India, the need for vocational guidance has been felt since long. In order to give it a concrete shape, a committee headed by Shri Shiva Rao, popularly called the Shiva Rao Committee, was appointed. It submitted its report on April 28, 1954. The Training and Employment Service Organization Committee, *inter alia*, recommended a wide range of functions for the Employment Exchanges, viz. the collection of employment-market information, employment-counselling, occupational research and analysis and occupational testing. The recommendations of this committee were implemented in the Punjab in the Second Five-Year Plan. Each District Employment Exchange, functioning at the district headquarters, has a Vocational Guidance Section, which functions under the immediate supervision of an Employment Counsellor. The Vocational Guidance Unit at Amritsar was set up on February 1, 1961.

The vocational guidance programme is jointly operated by the Directorate of Employment Exchanges of the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Directorates of Employment in the States. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, through the Director of Employment Exchanges,

is responsible for the general policies and procedures. The Director is also responsible for the training of special staff, the preparation of tools and materials for the services and for co-ordinating the service at the national level with the Guidance Service under the educational authorities. The State Directorate of Employment administers the service through Employment Exchanges, co-ordinating it with the Guidance Service of the Education Department of the State Government.

The functions of the Vocational Guidance Unit are : to provide vocational guidance and employment counselling for the youth and adults in groups and individually, to assist in the placement of the youth in institutions or establish training centres, apprenticeship or entry jobs and to follow up and review the progress of the guided youth and adults. It also assists in collection and compilation of up-to-date and accurate information on occupations, training facilities, educational courses, employment trends and employment outlook for disseminating to adults and other groups. It maintains a regular and well-equipped occupational information room for the use of applicants and visitors seeking information, and educates the public by undertaking publicity measures in vocational guidance principles with a view to encouraging community consciousness.

The Employment Counsellor, on invitation, visits schools and colleges to give talks on different careers. These talks cover educational and training facilities and job opportunities available in the area and emphasize the importance of vocational planning. He renders all possible assistance to the educational authorities in organizing career conferences, career exhibitions, parents' meetings and other guidance programmes.

The following table shows the work done by the Vocational Guidance Unit at Amritsar during 1965 to 1968 :

Year	Number of individuals provided for		
	Group guidance talks	Individual guidance cases	Individual information
1965	146	142	967
1966	148	111	149
1967	89	47	214
1968	20	6	32

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(c) Planning and Community Development

Planning.—The rural life in India has been organized on the community basis since very early times. The British discovered a powerful community organization in the villages functioning from time immemorial. Under the British rule, however, the old pattern of rural life in India disintegrated. The development of transport removed the isolation and economic self-sufficiency of the rural community organizations. The partition of the country in 1947 and the consequent wholesale migration of the non-Muslim population from the West Punjab (Pakistan) gave another serious jolt to the rural community life. The whole economy of the district was seriously shattered. An acute shortage of labour and capital was felt in the industrial sector. The newly constituted State of Punjab (India) experienced deficit in agricultural production, because the fertile and surplus areas were left behind in Pakistan. In order to check the economic deterioration effectively, planned development on a country-wide scale was undertaken by the Government. The Planning Department of the Government of India was entrusted with the task of drawing up the Five-Year Plans. Due stress was to be laid on the improvement of all the sectors, especially agriculture, in view of the pressing food problem created in the country as a result of the partition. During the period of planned development, from 1951-52 to 1960-61, covering the first two Five-Year Plans, the district regained its stability in a large measure. Against this background, it became possible for the Government to lay more stress on industry in the Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66). Considerable surplus and waste-lands were brought under the plough. With the provision of extensive agricultural facilities and the use of improved types of implements and fertilizers, there has been a tremendous increase in the production of various agricultural commodities. With the introduction of modern agricultural implements, new scientific techniques and fertilizers, agriculture has been revolutionized in the district.

The Community Development Project Scheme owes its origin to the recommendations of the Planning Commission. The main object of the scheme, according to the Planning Commission, is to secure the fullest development of the material and human resources of the particular area of a district. The scheme makes a comprehensive approach to the social and economic aspects of rural life and includes within its scope activities relating to agriculture, education, co-operation, animal husbandry, minor irrigation, communications, employment, housing, cottage industries and social welfare.

Community Development.—The Community Development Programme was started to raise the living standard and to ameliorate the lot of the rural population. Amritsar is a progressive district in the field of agriculture. The entire district has been brought under the Community Development Programme and has 15 Blocks, viz. Verka, Jandiala Guru, Majitha, Rayya, Tarsikka, Patti, Bhikhiwind, Valtoha, Tarn Taran, Khadur Sahib, Naushehra

Pannuan, Chohla, Gandiwind, Ajnala and Chogawan. Appendix V on page 321 gives the category of the 15 Community Development Blocks along with the area, villages and population covered by each of these.

The people in the district have extended commendable co-operation and have also contributed liberally, as and when they were required to do so. The organization of the Community Development Scheme has been largely responsible for bringing about a change of outlook in all spheres of life in the rural areas of the district. The farmers are now greatly enlightened about the latest methods of cultivation and improved agricultural practices. The community development has infused the spirit of self-help and self-reliance among the rural folk and widened their outlook.

The details regarding the people's contribution to the Community Development Programme in the different blocks in the Amritsar District, up to March 31, 1968, are given in Appendix VI on pages 322-323.

The physical achievements of the Community Development Blocks in the Amritsar District, from the time of the inception of the scheme, are shown in Appendix VII on pages 324-325.

APPENDIX I

Sample household classification by the number of members and by the number of rooms occupied in the Amritsar District, as in 1961

(Vide page 305)

Total Rural/ Urban	Total number of house- holds	Total number of members		Total number of rooms	Households with no regular room			Households with one room			
		Males	Females		Number of house- holds	Number of members of		Number of house- holds	Number of members		
						Males	Females		Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Rural	..	36,041	1,11,774	97,362	83,800	87	254	218	12,683	31,567	26,712
Urban	..	17,019	48,390	39,759	33,876	54	134	58	8,514	20,481	15,761
Total	..	53,060	1,60,164	1,37,121	1,17,676	141	388	276	21,197	52,048	42,473
(contd.)											

(contd.)

APPENDIX I—concl.

(Continued from pre-page)

Households with two rooms			Households with three rooms			Households with four rooms			Households with five or more rooms		
Number of house-holds	Number of members		Number of house-holds	Number of members		Number of house-holds	Number of members		Number of house-holds	Number of members	
	Males	Females		Males	Females		Males	Females		Males	Females
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11,016	33,397	29,385	6,033	21,106	18,585	3,169	12,163	10,521	3,053	13,287	11,941
4,501	13,277	11,473	1,963	6,599	5,650	975	3,564	3,118	1,012	4,335	3,738
15,517	46,674	40,858	7,996	27,705	24,235	4,144	15,727	13,639	4,065	17,622	15,679

(Census of India, 1961, Volume XIII, Punjab, Part IV-B, Tables on Housing And Establishments, pp. 414-415)

APPENDIX II

(Vide page 308)

Rates of pay fixed for the class IV Government servants working in the Amritsar District during 1967-68 and 1968-69

Serial No.	Name of post	Rate fixed for 1967-68	Rate fixed for 1968-69	Pay	D. A.	Remarks
		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	
1.	Bhishti	84.50	84.50	15.00	69.50	
2.	Sweeper	114.50	114.50	45.00	69.50	
3.	Pankha coolie	114.50	105.50	35.00	69.50	
4.	Tailor	143.50	143.50	62.50	81.00	
5.	Head cook	114.50	114.50	45.00	69.50	
6.	Assistant cook	109.50	109.50	40.00	69.50	
7.	Head mochi	136.00	136.00	55.00	81.00	
8.	Assistant mochi	119.50	119.50	50.00	69.50	
9.	Lampman	114.50	114.50	45.00	69.50	
10.	Bearer	117.50	117.50	48.00	69.50	
11.	Head dhobi	119.50	119.50	50.00	69.50	
12.	Assistant dhobi	114.50	114.50	45.00	69.50	
13.	Mate khidmatgar/cartman	99.50	99.50	30.00	69.50	
14.	Cartman with his own bullock	119.50	119.50	50.00	69.50	
15.	Kahar/oiltman/cleaner/dye attendant/dak runner	99.50	99.50	30.00	69.50	
16.	Weaver	163.50	163.50	82.50	81.00	
17.	Barber/waterman/mali	114.50	114.50	45.00	69.50	
18.	Chowkidar	104.50	104.50	35.00	69.50	
19.	Boatman	95.00	95.00	fixed		As recommended by the L.A.C., Amritsar
20.	Chainman	99.50	130.00	fixed		
21.	Sweeper/store boy/mali/ploughman/grease man/cleaner/waterman/gatekeeper/chowkidar/khalasi/mortar khalasi/assistant welder/coaltar-sprayer/labourer			3.00 per day (now 3.50)		As recommended by the Railway Department

(contd.)

Serial No.	Name of post	Rate fixed for 1967-68	Rate fixed for 1968-69	Pay D. A.	Remarks
22.	Carpenter/painter/mechanic/ .. mason/borer/electrician/radio repairer/blacksmith/turner/ tinsmith/driver/donkeyman with four donkeys/driver	..	6.00 per day	7.00 per day	As recommended by the Railway Department
23.	Tyreman/vulcanizer/starter/ .. dent beater/upholster/battery attendant/fitter	..	5.00	5.50	As recommended by the Railway Department
24.	Hammerman/conductor/assistant painter/assistant mason/welder/ caner	..	4.00	4.50	As recommended by the Railway Department
25.	Ticket verifier	..	4.50	4.50	As recommended by the Railway Department
26.	Moulder/aligner/aligner mistry/ .. mate/skilled labourer/waterman	..	3.50	4.00	As recommended by the Railway Department
27.	Ploughman with bullocks and .. plough	..	7.50	7.50	

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

Work done by the Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Amritsar,
1958-59 to 1967-68

Year	Number of registration during the year	Number of vacancies notified	Number of applicants placed in employment during the year	Applicants on the live register at the end of the year	Monthly number of employers using the Exchange	Number of vacancies being carried over at the end of the year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1958-59	14,570	4,149	2,297	4,794	84	390
1959-60	15,736	3,763	2,126	5,201	96	797
1960-61	16,243	3,090	2,042	5,389	58	695
1961-62	18,843	4,239	3,179	5,279	72	416
1962-63	21,548	3,986	2,915	7,502	91	409
1963-64	21,045	5,522	3,682	4,831	97	412
1964-65	21,655	6,135	4,525	6,832	81	383
1965-66	17,138	4,296	2,640	6,267	94	488
1966-67	18,942	5,569	3,454	6,203	71	611
1967-68	23,671	5,604	3,570	8,760	74	777

(Source : Sub-Regional Employment Officer, Amritsar)

AMRITSAR
APPENDIX IV

(Vide page 309)

Work done by the District Employment Exchange, Amritsar

Year	Number of registration during the year	Number of vacancies notified	Number of applicants placed in employment during the year	Applicants on the live register at the end of the year	Monthly number of employers using the Exchange	Number of vacancies being carried forward at the end of the year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1961	511	167	30	245	7	15
1962	1,229	417	195	270	7	15
1963	810	327	120	201	5	13
1964	1,672	427	142	403	9	59
1965	2,493	653	288	820	15	110
1966	2,609	615	309	814	12	136
1967	3,299	794	478	1,383	16	170
1968	4,396	954	612	1,421	18	144

(Source : Sub-Regional Employment Officer, Amritsar)

APPENDIX V

Population, area, village and panchayats covered by the Community Development Blocks in the Amritsar District, as on March 31, 1970

(Vide page 314)

Serial No.	Subdivision/Tahsil/Block	Date of start	Present stage	Population 1961	Area (sq. km.)	Number of villages	Number of panchayats
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Amritsar Subdivision							
1. Verka	..	1st October, 1962	II	1,03,873	318.00	71	67
2. Jandiala Guru	..	1st October, 1962	II	72,071	281.90	68	64
3. Majitha	..	1st April, 1962	II	68,917	264.33	89	79
4. Rayya	..	2nd October, 1961	II	68,538	172.80	78	67
5. Tarsikka	..	1st October, 1960	II	63,257	251.60	81	71
Patti Subdivision							
6. Patti	..	1st October, 1957	III	53,111	355.30	74	54
7. Bhikhiwind	..	1st October, 1957	III	65,197	307.55	60	53
8. Valtoba	..	1st April, 1959	II	49,652	147.00	68	45
Tarn Taran Subdivision							
9. Tarn Taran	..	2nd October, 1953	II	77,803	307.49	76	72
10. Khadur Sahib	..	1st April, 1957	III	66,954	307.23	75	62
11. Naushehra Pannuan	..	1st April, 1956	III	62,634	272.51	64	56
12. Chohla	..	1st April, 1957	III	56,532	294.16	50	45
13. Gandiwind	..	2nd October, 1961	III	64,120	342.25	74	66
Ajnala Subdivision							
14. Ajnala	..	1st October, 1958	III	77,376	388.50	200	119
15. Chogawan	..	1st October, 1959	II	87,254	525.44	189	89

ECONOMIC TRENDS

(Annual Administration Report of the Development and Panchayat Department, Punjab, For 1969-70)

APPENDIX VI

People's Contribution to the Community Development Programme in the

Serial No.	Name of the block	Agri-culture and animal husbandry	Irrigation and reclama-tion	Health and rural sanitation	Education	Social education	Com-munity recreation centres
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1.	Verka ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Jandiala Guru ..	25,580	10,120	22,220	23,920	22,620	—
3.	Majltha ..	—	—	20,000	5,000	13,500	1,250
4.	Rayya ..	2,236	—	6,707	36,106	—	—
5.	Tarsikka ..	—	3,000	—	30,762	3,470	—
6.	Patti ..	—	—	—	1,350	—	—
7.	Bhikhiwind ..	1,82,456	75,482	2,85,983	1,45,419	75,681	15,420
8.	Valtoha ..	—	24,500	41,600	31,930	25,600	—
9.	Tarn Taran ..	2,060	—	3,500	7,550	2,800	9,800
10.	Khadur Sahib ..	22,870	—	1,23,479	1,07,257	18,459	13,567
11.	Naushehra Pannuan	6,689	—	32,067	55,120	5,005	—
12.	Chohla ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Gandiwind ..	—	10,000	42,500	—	—	—
14.	Ajnala ..	10,620	—	4,000	4,000	3220	—
15.	Chogawan ..	64,855	6,060	43,484	88,098	13,331	—

different Blocks in the Amritsar District up to March 31, 1968

(Vide Page 314)

Communica-tions	Village and small industries	Housing	Other works programme	Total	Cash and other contri-butions	Labour
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000
22,920	17,000	—	—	1,44,380	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
47,308	—	—	59,273	1,51,632	1,21,306	30,326
—	—	—	—	37,232	19,851	25,375
15,000	—	—	—	16,350	—	120
1,82,425	64,585	—	—	10,27,451	—	—
27,400	23,000	—	—	1,74,030	—	—
4,000	75,000	—	—	1,04,710	—	8,975
87,936	—	—	94,870	4,68,438	2,42,578	28,567
15,322	—	—	—	1,14,203	1,19,399	12,870
—	—	—	—	5,000	—	—
16,400	—	—	—	68,900	50,000	18,200
6,280	—	—	13,274	41,394	21,530	19,864
13,916	—	—	—	2,29,744	—	—

APPENDIX VII

Physical achievements of the Community Development Blocks in the Amritsar District up to March 31, 1968

(Vide Page 314)

Serial No.	Name of the block	Chemical fertilizers distributed (quintals)	Number of agricultural demonstrations held	Improved seeds distributed (quintals)	Number of maternity and child-welfare centres	Number of rural latrines constructed	Number of wells sunk (km.)	Number of Pucca drains constructed (km.)	Number of schools converted into basic ones
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Verka	..	7,413	—	1,020	3	6	—	15	—
2. Jandiala Guru	..	89,039	30	945	1	—	120	—	64
3. Majitha	..	20,581	805	3,720	5	2	809	3.6	3
4. Rayya	..	49,650	399	1,129	2	25	—	1,785	2
5. Tarsikka	..	9,18,920	—	923	2	36	—	1,773	1
6. Patti	..	2,895	—	1,758	6	—	—	480	1
7. Bhikhiwind	..	1,50,485	945	30,485	15	208	3,476	151	1
8. Valtola	..	2,94,500	205	4,750	1	—	—	1,750	—
9. Tarn Taran	..	53,408	394	4,279	52	16	6	—	—
10. Khadur Sahib	..	1,26,946	3,920	23,051	—	11	163	2.01	—
11. Naushehra Pannuan	..	50,600	26	867	2	5	2	3,877	—
12. Chohla	..	56,360	2	482	—	3	—	900	—
13. Gandiwind	..	48,500	10	380	1	85	—	5,886	—
14. Ajnala	..	72,500	—	940	6	2	1	4,000	—
15. Chogawan	..	2,19,489	1,040	10,410	—	7	32	9.3	—

(contd.)

APPENDIX VII—concl.

(continued from pre-page)

Serial No.	Name of the block	Number of literary centres started	Number of adults made literate	Number of Community Centres started	Number of new co-operative societies	Pucca roads constructed (km.)	Kachcha roads constructed (km.)	Existing roads improved (km.)	Number of demonstration-cum-training centres started
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1. Verka	..	9	54	—	—	2	15	3	—
2. Jandiala Guru	..	8	180	2	60	—	7	15	1
3. Majitha	..	—	—	2	114	—	33	21	—
4. Rayya	..	11	262	53	—	26	2	22	1
5. Tarsikka	..	4	96	2	83	—	36	21.5	—
6. Patti	..	1	6	12	93	2.75	20	40	10
7. Bhikhiwind	..	12	1,585	42	108	56.4	51.8	3.6	2
8. Valtola	..	1	—	—	27	—	4.5	12	—
9. Tarn Taran	..	8	256	—	—	4.8	10.75	11	—
10. Khadur Sahib	..	45	943	43	71	27	248	237	—
11. Naushehra Pannuan	..	7	150	—	—	—	17	3	7
12. Chohla	..	—	—	2	—	—	11	36.1	—
13. Gandiwind	..	—	—	—	—	18	51.5	45	3
14. Ajnala	..	—	—	1	1	4	5	—	1
15. Chogawan	..	—	—	1	166	58	24	9	—

CHAPTER X GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(a) Historical Background and the Divisions of the District

The British rule had been fairly well established in the rest of India when the Punjab was annexed in 1849. The blue print of the administrative set-up for the Punjab had already been prepared during the governance of the cis-Satluj territory. Variations, if any, were made to suit the local conditions and the special requirements of the trans-Satluj territories. The entire administration of the district revolved round the Deputy Commissioner. In case of big districts, a miniature Deputy Commissioner, i.e. a Subdivisional Officer (Civil), was also posted by the British in other provinces. This latter practice was, however, not generally resorted to in the Punjab and very few tahsils were raised to the status of subdivisions. Thus, before the partition of 1947, the Amritsar District had no subdivision. But, thereafter, all the four tehsils of the district were made subdivisions one after another.

The traditional revenue organization was *not materially* changed by the British. The lowest public servant in this field was the patwari or village accountant. The Deputy Commissioner as Collector was the highest revenue officer in the district and the same arrangement continues to this day.

The British Indian administration had primarily been organized for collecting revenues and maintaining law and order. Extensive plans for the development of the Indian economy were discounted. Instead the British authorities paid greater attention to the departments of Police, Jails, Judiciary, Land Revenue, etc. The only other department which received attention was the Public Works, but here again the activities of construction and maintenance, apart from the roads and irrigation works, were confined to buildings required by the Government. The irrigation works were taken up to raise revenues, reduce famines, rehabilitate people and reduce the incidence of crime. It was only under the Reforms Scheme of 1919 that emphasis began to be laid on beneficent departments like Education, Health and Agriculture. With the introduction of provincial autonomy in 1937 (under the Government of India Act, 1935), the development departments received greater attention. It is certainly after the independence in 1947 that new ideas of public welfare have come to inspire the administration for all-round welfare of the people.

After the independence, the developmental activities have been extended to the village—hitherto overlooked. New circles, called blocks, have been carved out for purposes of development. On October 2, 1952, the Community Development Programme was undertaken for intensive rural development.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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In the following year, the National Extension Service was inaugurated. The movements had identical aims and were merged into a single organization in 1956. The object of the Community Projects was to undertake development work in a selected rural area for three years—to construct roads, make better arrangements for sanitation, expand education and cultural life and stimulate in every possible way local initiative and the sense of responsibility for the general development of the local community life. The National Extension Service is a permanent organization set up to bridge the gulf between the results of modern research in the fields of agriculture, co-operation, public-health, cottage industry and rural housing and the old-time practices and habits in rural life.

This development work has greatly added to the workload of the District Officer. It has also immensely changed the pattern of administration in the new democratic set-up, pledged to achieve the ideal of a modern welfare State. With the above background in view, the administrative set-up of the Amritsar District is detailed hereunder :

Administrative Divisions.—Administratively, the district is divided into 4 subdivisions, viz. Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ajnala and Patti. Some of the areas, previously forming part of the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (now in Pakistan), were transferred to the Amritsar District in 1947. These were formed into a sub-tahsil with headquarters at Patti. The sub-tahsil was made a full-fledged tahsil in 1952, and a Resident Magistrate was posted there for effective administration. At present, all the four tahsils are subdivisions. The Patti Tahsil was made a subdivision in 1955¹, Ajnala in 1962, Tarn Taran in 1964 and Amritsar in 1965.

The number of police-stations and police-posts in each sub-division is given below :

Subdivision	Number of villages	Police-stations	Police-posts
Amritsar	389	1. Police-station A Division	1. Police-post Islamabad
		2. Police-station B Division	2. Police-post Lohgarh
		3. Police-station C Division	3. Police-post Durgiana
		4. Police-station D Division	4. Police-post Cantonment
		5. Police-station E Division	5. Police-post Majitha Road
		6. Police-station Civil Lines	6. Police-post Albert Road
		7. Police-station Sadr Amritsar	7. Police-post Chheharta

¹The Patti subdivision actually started functioning with effect from 20th July, 1965.

Subdivision	Number of villages	Police-stations	Police-posts
		8. Police-station Beas 9. Police-station Jandiala Guru 10. Police-station Kathunangal 11. Police-station Majitha	8. Police-post Khasa 9. Police-post Verka
Ajnala ..	347	1. Police-station Ajnala 2. Police-station Ramdas 3. Police-station Lopoke	
Tarn Taran	340	1. Police-station City Tarn Taran 2. Police-station Sadr Tarn Taran 3. Police-station Verowal 4. Police-station Sirhali Kalan 5. Police-station Jhabal 6. Police-station Gharinda	1. Police-post Gharinda 2. Police-post Sur Singh
Patti ..	200	1. Police-station Bhikhiwind 2. Police-station Khaira 3. Police-station Valtaha 4. Police-station Patti	1. Police-post Kitem Karan 2. Police-post Sabhra 3. Police-post Kahangarh 4. Police-post Kafron

The strength of Subdivisional Officers (Civil), Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars in the district is as under :

Number of posts			
Subdivision	Subdivisional Officer (Civil)	Tahsildar	Naib-Tahsildar
Amritsar	1	1	5
Tarn Taran	1	1	5
Ajnala	1	1	2
Patti	1	1	2

(b) District Authorities

Deputy Commissioner.—The general administration of the district is vested in the Deputy Commissioner. For administrative purposes, he is under the control of the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, Jullundur.

The Deputy Commissioner has a triple role to play which, as such, is unique in character :

- (i) As Deputy Commissioner, he is the executive head of the district in the sphere of civil administration, development, panchayats, urban local bodies, co-ordination of all governmental activities, etc.
- (ii) As Collector, he is the highest officer of the revenue administration in the district. He is responsible for the collection of land revenue, other kinds of government taxes, and fees, and all dues recoverable as arrears of land revenue. He is the highest revenue judicial authority in regard to revenue cases in the district and hears certain types of revenue appeals. He is the appointing authority for most of the important subordinate revenue staff in the district and supervises and controls the work of all of them. He is responsible for the management of large Government estates. He is the Court of Wards for the management of private estates which are held in trust by the State for minors and other disqualified persons. He is responsible for the grant and eventual recovery of certain types of loans for agricultural improvement.
- (iii) As District Magistrate, he enjoys first-class magisterial powers, though he actually tries a few cases. He supervises all executive magistrates in the district, controls the police and supervises their work. He is concerned to some extent with the administration of jails and sub-jails. He is responsible for issuing permits and licences for fire-arms, explosives, petroleum and cinemas. He is also responsible for issuing passports, extending visas and controlling the foreigners. Above all, he is responsible for the maintenance of law and order, the prevention and suppression of crime and the preservation of peace and tranquillity in the district.

This District Officer is the chief instrument of government in the district. He has many executive duties and responsibilities, the details of which vary from district to district and from season to season. By and large, he is responsible for the implementation of beneficent schemes, which

are initiated by the Revenue Department or by any Government department having field officers working in the district. Accordingly, he is the chief co-ordinating authority on behalf of the State Government at the district level. He is expected to keep watch over the activities of all local authorities in the district and is generally responsible for their supervision and control. He pays particular attention to the implementation of various schemes under the Five-Year Plans and Community Development Programme. He keeps the State Government informed of the condition of the district in general in respect of all notable occurrences ranging from the meetings of political parties to village fairs. He is responsible for the compilation of returns of prices, crop forecasts, weather reports, etc. He is responsible for the proper conduct of national, State and local elections. He maintains general control over the supply and distribution of controlled articles. He is also concerned with the rehabilitation of displaced persons and famine and flood relief, if and when necessary.

In addition to all his specific duties and responsibilities, the Deputy Commissioner holds residual powers as the State Government's representative in the district.

Sub-divisional Officers (Civil).—The Sub-divisional Officers (Civil) exercise direct control over the Tahsildars and their staff in their respective sub-divisions. All correspondence between the Deputy Commissioner and the Tahsildars is routed through the respective Sub-divisional Officers.

The Sub-divisional Officers have been given the powers of a Deputy Commissioner in regard to the co-ordination work in their respective sub-divisions without affecting the Deputy Commissioner's position, authority and effectiveness as the executive head of the district. This decentralization of powers has been effected in accordance with the policy of the Government to execute the work speedily and to afford substantial relief to the Deputy Commissioner in order to enable him to concentrate on other important items of work in the district. The Sub-divisional Officer is a miniature District Magistrate in the sub-division. He performs the same kind of work as the District Magistrate. He is the co-ordinating authority among departmental officers posted in the sub-division for the smooth running of the administration and for the successful implementation of the developmental schemes. He can even correspond direct with Government on routine matters. He is to perform executive duties in the sub-division in respect of development, local bodies, market committees, motor taxation, passport, renewal of arms licences, revenue duties, executive and judicial (original and appellate) duties, and to maintain law and order.

Tahsildars and their Staff.—Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars exercise the powers of Assistant Collector 2nd Grade. In partition cases, however, the Tahsildars exercise the powers of Assistant Collector 1st Grade.

Being primarily entrusted with the work of revenue collection, Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars have to undertake intensive touring in their areas. They play an important role in the execution of development plans, construction of roads, drains and embankments and in soil conservation and reclamation, in paving the streets, filling of depressions and in attending to sundry matters connected with rural re-construction. They are called upon to enlist active public co-operation for the development work and, as such, render substantial help and co-operation to the Block Development and Panchayat Officers.

Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars are assisted by a Sadr Kanungo and a Naib-Sadr Kanungo, in charge of the records, at the district headquarters. The Tahsildar, Amritsar, is assisted by 5 Naib-Tahsildars, 1 Office Kanungo, 6 Kanungos, 114 Patwaris and 2 Naib-Patwaris. The Tahsildar, Ajnala, is assisted by 2 Naib-Tahsildars, 1 Office Kanungo, 5 Kanungos, 95 Patwaris and 5 Naib-Patwaris. The Tahsildar, Tarn Taran, is assisted by 5 Naib-Tahsildars, 1 Office Kanungo, 5 Kanungos, 107 Patwaris and 7 Naib-Patwaris. The Tahsildar, Patti, is assisted by 2 Naib-Tahsildars, 1 Office Kanungo, 3 Kanungos, 49 Patwaris and 4 Naib-Patwaris.

The Patwaris prepare and maintain village revenue and revenue statistical records. The district is divided into 364 Patwar Circles.

The *zaildari* system was abolished in 1948. Before that, the villages were grouped to form a *zail*, each of which was placed under a *Zaildar*. In the field of general administration also, he assisted the Government.

A *Lambardar* is an important functionary in the village administration. Besides land revenue collection, he is required to keep watch over law and order position in his area and report any breach thereof to the nearest police-station. He is assisted in his work by the village *chowkidar*. A *Lambardar* is paid *pa-chotra*, i.e. 5 per cent of the land revenue collection, which is, in fact, an extra charge on land revenue.

(c) Development Organization

The district is divided into 15 Development Blocks, viz. Jandiala Guru, Majitha, Rayya, Tarsikka, Verka (Tahsil Amritsar), Ajnala, Chogawan (Tahsil Ajnala), Bhikhiwind, Patti, Valtola (Tahsil Patti), Chohla, Gandiwind, Khadur Sahib, Naushehra Pannuan and Tarn Taran (Tahsil Tarn Taran). The minimum number of villages in a block is about 60. The Block Development and Panchayat Officer is in charge of a block.

The Block Development and Panchayat Officer is under the administrative control of the chairman of the respective Block Samiti, Sub-divisional Officer (Civil) of the respective sub-division, and the District Development and Panchayat Officer at the district level, besides being under the overall control of the Deputy Commissioner.

The Block Development and Panchayat Officer is primarily responsible for the successful implementation of the Community Development Programme. He is assisted by a Social Education and Panchayat Officer, a Lady Social Education Organizer, an Overseer (popularly known as Extension Officer), 10 Gram Sevaks and 2 Gram Sevikas, besides ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff. The other Extension Officers, belonging to the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation and Industries, assisting the Block Development and Panchayat Officer and posted in the block are the employees of their respective departments. They have been, however, put under the administrative control of the Block Development and Panchayat Officer for running the work smoothly. This arrangement was made after the introduction of the Panchayati Raj in the State for effecting the co-ordination of activities of the various departments.

(d) Panchayati Raj

The Panchayati Raj is a system of decentralization and delegation of authority to local agents of the State Government and to set up such democratic institutions for the welfare of the people as may be chosen by them and would be answerable to them. It is a three-tier system which consists of panchayats at the village level, panchayat samitis at the block level and zila parishad at the district level.

Panchayats.—The setting up of panchayats is a bold step forward in the process of democratic decentralization. A panchayat is the basic unit of the Panchayati Raj, and the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 (as amended up to August 1961), provides for the establishment of a panchayat in every village with a population of not less than 500 persons, and a joint panchayat for a village with a smaller population by grouping it with some contiguous village or villages, so that the population of the villages, so grouped, is not less than 500. As many as 1,011 panchayats were formed, covering the rural area of the district—Verka Block (67), Majitha Block (79), Rayya Block (68), Tarsikka Block (72), Jandiala Guru Block (64), Tarn Taran Block (70), Khadur Sahib Block (62), Naushehra Pannuan Block (56), Chohla Block (45), Gandiwind Block (66), Ajnala Block (119), Chogawan Block (89), Patti Block (54), Bhikhiwind Block (55) and Valtaha Block (45).

Though the panchayats have administrative and executive, criminal judicial, and civil and revenue judicial functions, yet the role assigned to them

under the Panchayati Raj is one of all-round development, with particular emphasis on increased agricultural production.

The Panchayati Raj is, thus, a pyramidal structure with the panchayat at the base level, the panchayat samiti at the intermediate level and the zila parishad at the apex of the structure. Virtually, all programmes of economic development are to be channelled through this organization.

Panchayat Samitis.—There are 15 panchayat samitis in the district, i.e. one in each block. Each panchayat samiti consists of 16 members elected by panches and sarpanches of gram panchayats in the block from among themselves; two members, representing the co-operative societies within the jurisdiction of the panchayat samiti, elected from amongst the members of these societies; associated members, comprising M.L.As, M.L.Cs, and M.Ps, representing the constituency; and the co-opted members, comprising two women and four persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, besides the Block Development and Panchayat Officer and the respective Sub-divisional Officer as *ex-officio* members. The associated members and *ex-officio* members are not entitled to vote in the meeting. The term of a member was, in the first instance, fixed for three years, but was subsequently raised to five years. A panchayat samiti has its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman, besides the respective Block Development and Panchayat Officer as its Executive Officer. A meeting of the samiti is held at least once in three months.

A panchayat samiti is expected to make arrangements for the integrated development of the area within its jurisdiction in respect of agriculture, public-health and rural sanitation, animal husbandry, fisheries, communications, social education, co-operation, and miscellaneous items, such as organization and management of panchayat samiti fairs, establishment and management of cattle pounds, and the management of public ferries.

A panchayat samiti has three standing committees, meetings of which are held every month.

Zila Parishad.—Under the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961, the District Board, Amritsar, was replaced by the Zila Parishad, Amritsar, in 1962. Besides its Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, the membership of the Zila Parishad comprises two members out of the primary members of each Panchayat Samiti to be elected by the Panchayat Samiti, Chairman of, each Panchayat Samiti, Deputy Commissioner, members of the Lok Sabha, the Vidhan Sabha and the Vidhan Parishad, representing district or any part thereof, and co-opted members including two women and five other persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The term of the members was in the first instance, fixed for three years, but was subsequently raised to five years. The meeting of the Zila Parishad is held once in three months.

The Zila Parishad has three standing committees, meetings of which are held every month.

(e) **General Arrangement for the Disposal of Business.**—In addition to the Sub divisional Officer (Civil), Tahsildars, and Block Development and Panchayat Officers, the Deputy Commissioner is assisted by 2 General Assistants, 1 Public Grievances Officer, 1 District Development and Panchayat Officer, 1 Civil Defence Officer, 4 Executive Magistrates, and 2 Assistant Commissioners (under training). Out of these, the Assistant Commissioners are from the Indian Administrative Service and the rest are from the Provincial Civil Service.

General Assistants.—They are the Deputy Commissioner's personal executive officers and assist him in his executive and administrative functions. They are in charge of the office work. All the branches of the Deputy Commissioner's office, except the Low-Income-Group Housing, the Minimum Income-Group Housing, Civil Defence, District Revenue Accounts and Sadr Kanungo Branches, are entrusted to them. They also attend to the court work concerning security cases. The General Assistant II also attends to the registration work in respect of the Amritsar city.

Public Grievances Officer.—He is meant for removing the grievances of the public and expediting action on the complaints received in his office from the public relating to all the departments. He also acts as a co-ordinating officer in the disposal of the complaints of the public.

District Development and Panchayat Officer.—He is in-charge of the work relating to development, panchayats, Community Development Programme, Five-Year Plans, local development, etc. He controls the Block Development and Panchayat Officers in the district in respect of the implementation of the Community Development Programme.

Civil Defence Controller.—The Deputy Commissioner is the *ex-officio* Civil Defence Controller of the district. He is responsible for civil defence. He has multifarious duties to perform at the time of aggression, conflict or war. In addition to the other duties, his main functions pertain to the maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment, proper functioning of sirens, digging of trenches, alternative arrangements for electricity, control over vehicles, first-aid, extension of hospital facilities by arranging additional beds, replacement of police by home-guards, etc.

In the performance of these duties, the Deputy Commissioner is assisted by a Civil Defence Officer, who has no distinct duties attached to his office.

Executive Magistrates.—There are four Executive Magistrates in the district. They attend to the court work relating to the security/revenue cases.

The criminal executive work relating to the police-stations in the district is attended to by the Executive Magistrates, District Development and Panchayat Officer/ General Assistant/Civil Defence Officer/Sub-divisional Officers (Civil), etc.

Assistant Commissioners.—There are two Assistant Commissioners (under training) in the district. The number of trainees varies from time to time. They also help to run the administration and attend to the court work regarding security cases.

Registration.—The Deputy Commissioner is the Registrar and, in that capacity, is responsible for the registration work in the district. Contrary to the old practice, he does not hold his post in an *ex-officio* capacity. The registration work in the Amritsar Tahsil is done by the Tahsildar and a Naib-Tahsildar assisted by 3 Clerks. However, the work in respect of the Amritsar city is entrusted to the General Assistant II. In the Tarn Taran Tahsil, registration work is performed by the Tahsildar and a Naib-Tahsildar, assisted by 2 Clerks. In the Patti Tahsil, registration is done by Tahsildar and Naib-Tahsildar, assisted by 1 Clerk, and, in the Ajnala Tahsil, this work is done by the Tahsildar and a Naib-Tahsildar, assisted by 1 Clerk.

At the district headquarters, there is 1 Head Registration Clerk and an Assistant Superintendent Revenue and Records who compile the information for the entire district.

Official Receiver.—There is one Official Receiver at Amritsar appointed by the Government on the recommendations of the District and Sessions Judge. He is in charge of the insolvency estates. On the receipt of application by any person for solvency, his property is put under his charge and he disposes it of according to the orders of the Insolvency Court. He keeps $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the proceeds as his remuneration. He also acts as the Court Auctioneer and gets 4 per cent commission on the auction proceeds.

Oath Commissioners.—There are 27 Oath Commissioners in the district: 21 at Amritsar, 3 at Tarn Taran, 1 at Ajnala and 2 at Patti. They charge one rupee as attestation fee for an affidavit attested by them.

Notary Publics.—There are two Notary Publics in the district: one appointed by the Central Government, and the other by the State Government on the recommendations of the Legal Remembrancer. The one appointed by the State Government is authorized to attest all documents, wills, special power of attorney and copies of all documents on receiving charges approved by the Government. He is also authorized to translate documents on payment. His tenure of office is three years, and it may be extended for another term.

District Attorney.—Formerly designated as Public Prosecutor or Government Pleader, the District Attorney is appointed by the Home Secretary to

Government, Punjab. He is assisted by 5 Assistant District Attorneys, besides ministerial and allied Class IV staff.

The District Attorney and the Assistant District Attorneys are not allowed to engage in private practice.

(f) District Committees

The following District Committees, which meet at the district headquarters, have been constituted to accelerate the disposal of business :

Committee	Chairman	Secretary
Monthly Meetings		
1. District Vigilance Committee		
(i) Officers	.. Deputy Commissioner	Public Grievances Officer
(ii) Public		
2. Agricultural Committee	.. Ditto	District Development and Panchayat Officer
3. Revenue Officers	.. Ditto	Officer in Charge Revenue
4. House Allotment Committee	.. Ditto	General Assistant II
Quarterly Meetings		
1. District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, District Attorney	.. Ditto	General Assistant I
2. District Magistrate, District and Sessions Judge, Senior Superintendent of Police and Chief Judicial Magistrate	.. District and Sessions Judge	General Assistant I

(g) Other Important Officers

Police.—The Senior Superintendent of Police is the head of the police organization in the district and ranks only next to the Deputy Commissioner for the maintenance of law and order. This item has been discussed in detail in Chapter XII, 'Law and Order and Justice.'

Judiciary.—The separation of the judiciary from the executive was effected from October 2, 1964. This item is dealt with in detail in Chapter XII, 'Law and Order and Justice'.

(h) Other State and Central Government Officers

State Government Officers

1. Director, Land Reclamation, Irrigation and Power Research Institute, Punjab, Amritsar
2. Superintending Engineer, PWD (B&R), Amritsar
3. Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
4. Superintending Engineer, Amritsar Drainage Circle, Amritsar
5. Superintending Engineer, Punjab State Electricity Board, Amritsar
6. Principal, Medical College, Amritsar
7. Principal, Punjab Government Dental College and Hospital, Amritsar
8. Medical Superintendent, V.J. Hospital, Amritsar
9. Principal, Government College for Women, Amritsar
10. Medical Superintendent, Punjab Mental Hospital, Amritsar
11. Principal, I.T.C. Dayanand Polytechnic Institute, Amritsar
12. Principal, Punjab Institute of Textile Technology, Amritsar
13. Dean of Hygiene and Vaccine Institute, Punjab, Amritsar
14. Executive Engineer, Amritsar Provincial Division, PWD, Amritsar
15. Executive Engineer, Jandiala Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
16. Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar
17. Executive Engineer, Satluj Canalization Circle, Amritsar
18. Executive Engineer, Drainage Investigation Division, Amritsar
19. Executive Engineer, Bridges, Amritsar Drainage Division, Amritsar
20. Executive Engineer, Amritsar Public-Health Division, Amritsar
21. Executive Engineer, PWD (B&R), Amritsar
22. Executive Engineer, Amritsar Division, Punjab State Electricity Board, Amritsar
23. Executive Engineer, Maintenance and Test Division, Punjab State Electricity Board, Amritsar

24. Executive Engineer, PWD (B & R), Construction Division, Amritsar
25. Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 2, Amritsar
26. Divisional Town Planner, Amritsar Division, Amritsar
27. Divisional Forest Officer, Amritsar Forest Division, Amritsar
28. General Manager, Punjab Roadways, Amritsar
29. Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar
30. District and Sessions Judge, Amritsar
31. Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar
32. General Manager, Milk Plant, Verka
33. District Excise and Taxation Officer, Amritsar
34. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar
35. District Food and Supplies Controller, Amritsar
36. District Food and Supplies Officer, Amritsar
37. District Agricultural Officer, Amritsar
38. District Animal Husbandry Officer, Amritsar
39. Conciliation Officer, 1st Circle, Amritsar
40. Conciliation Officer, 2nd Circle, Amritsar
41. Senior Technical Officer, Quality Marking Centre, Amritsar
42. Senior District Industries Officer, Amritsar
43. Secretary, Zila Parishad, Amritsar
44. Commandant, 33rd BN, Punjab Armed Police, Amritsar
45. District Commandar, Punjab Home Guards, Amritsar
46. Station Battalion Commandar, Punjab Home Guards 131/CN, Amritsar
47. Land Acquisition Collector, Amritsar Improvement Trust, Amritsar
48. Cantonment Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, Amritsar.
49. General Manager, Amritsar Central Co-operative Consumers' Store, Amritsar

50. Treasury Officer, Amritsar
 51. District Public Relations Officer, Amritsar
 52. Superintendent, District Jail, Amritsar
 53. District Education Officer, Amritsar
 54. Sub-Regional Employment Officer, Employment Exchange, Amritsar
 55. District Attorney, Grade I, Amritsar
 56. District Statistical Officer, Amritsar
 57. Textile Officer (Marketing), Punjab, Amritsar
 58. Additional Superintendent of Police, Amritsar
- Central Government Officers (excluding Military Officers)**
1. Textile Commissioner, Amritsar
 2. Senior Superintendent of Post-Offices, Amritsar
 3. General Manager, Locomotive Workshops, Amritsar
 4. Divisional Engineer, Telephones, Amritsar
 5. Assistant Director, Intelligence Bureau, Amritsar
 6. Inspecting Assistant Commissioner, Income-Tax, Amritsar
 7. Appellate Assistant Commissioner, Income-Tax, Amritsar
 8. Deputy Collector of Land Customs, Amritsar
 9. Assistant Collector, Land Customs, Amritsar
 10. Controller of Imports and Exports, Amritsar
 11. Assistant Collector, Central Excise, Amritsar

(i) History of Land Revenue Assessment and Management

Early History of the District.—During the medieval period, the Amritsar District was attached to the Province of Lahore and was ruled by the Mughal Governor whose headquarters were at Lahore. Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of the Sikh faith, was born in 1469, but it was a century later that Amritsar was established as the seat of the Sikhs and they began to add secular interests to spiritual occupations. On the decline of the Mughal Empire, the tract now included in the Amritsar District was gradually taken possession of by the more powerful of the Sikh chiefs and confederacies. But it was not until the beginning of the nineteenth century that the Sikhs, under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, established themselves as a political force. Amritsar was divided into *talukas*, each with its separate *kardar* or Governor, who paid a fixed sum into the Maharaja's Treasury at Lahore and took from the people as much as he safely could. After the two Anglo-Sikh Wars, the Punjab was annexed by the British in 1849.

Amritsar was constituted as a British district in 1849, with four tahsils or *parganas*, viz. Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Saurian (now Ajnala) and Talwandi (later Rayya and now the Narowal Tahsil of the Sialkot District of Pakistan). The Talwandi *pargana* was withdrawn in 1869 and only three tahsils were left in the district, viz. Tarn Taran, Amritsar and the present Ajnala. During the first regular settlement of 1852-54, substantial changes were made in the boundaries of these tahsils by the redistribution of estates among them and the accession of estates from the Lahore and Gurdaspur districts.

With the partition of the country in 1947, 186 revenue estates of the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (Pakistan) were transferred to India and included in the Amritsar District. These estates, with headquarters at Patti, were declared a separate sub-tahsil of the Tarn Taran Tahsil in this district. Later on, 67 more estates from the Tarn Taran Tahsil were transferred to the Patti Sub-Tahsil and it was notified as a separate full-fledged tahsil *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 3899-R/51/4041, dated the 14th August, 1952. Out of these, 52 villages were returned to the Tarn Taran Tahsil from the Patti Tahsil *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 101-SM-56/3177, dated the 25th June, 1956. One more village was excluded from the Patti Tahsil and included in the Tarn Taran Tahsil *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 2551-R-IV-62/3463, dated the 26th June, 1962. Since 1854, the Amritsar Tahsil has remained unchanged, except that two villages were transferred to it from the Tarn Taran Tahsil in 1958-59. Some minor changes were also effected in the Ajnala Tahsil—five estates gained and the whole of one and part of

another lost in the fourth regular settlement of 1910-14, and one gained during the settlement of 1936-40. All these transfers took place among the riverine estates.¹

Summary Settlement of 1849-50.—The summary settlement was carried out by Major Lake in 1849-50. Confused statistics and subsequent changes in the boundaries left no clear record of the assessment. But this at least can be said that it was based on the records of the collections made by the Sikhs under their system of appraisal of produce and that it was on the whole unsatisfactory. In the Tarn Taran Tahsil, the demand was lenient, but unevenly distributed. In the Amritsar Tahsil, it was not only unequal but, in many cases, oppressively heavy. In the Ajnala Tahsil, the burden was just as heavy, but more equitably distributed. Similar was the case of the Patti Tahsil, though its settlement was made along with that of the Lahore District. Information about the amount of the demand was incomplete, but its incidence on the cultivated area is known to have been one rupee in Tarn Taran, Rs 2/1/3 in Amritsar, Rs 2/9/9 in Ajnala, and Re 1/14/8 over the whole district. Information in respect of the Patti Tahsil was not available, as it was not in existence at the time. However, it was fortunate that the first regular settlement came quickly to the relief of the landowners.

First Regular Settlement, 1852-54.—This was done by R.H. Davies between 1852 and 1854. He was apparently instructed to impose a demand equal to one-fourth of the value of the gross produce. This settlement showed the beginning of a modern approach to the problems of assessment—arrangement of estates in assessment circles, classification of estates according to their fertility, and dry and wet rates of assessment. So far as can be gathered from the incomplete data available at this distant date, the new assessments were a reduction of 11 per cent in Amritsar Tahsil and an increase of 7 per cent in the Tarn Taran Tahsil. The actual demands were as under² :

Tahsil	Demand in rupees	Rate per cultivated acre		
		Rs	As	Ps
Tarn Taran	2,75,687	1	0	9
Amritsar	4,32,446	1	15	11
Ajnala	2,74,260	2	3	5
Total District	9,82,393	1	10	1

¹Two new sub-tahsils, viz. Khem Karan and Baba Bakala, were created in the Amritsar District with effect from April 1, 1970.

²The amount is given according to the old coinage system of rupees (Rs), annas (As) and pies (Ps), prevalent before the introduction of the decimal coinage in 1957. A rupee consisted of 16 annas or 64 paise or 192 pies, an anna consisted of 4 paise or 12 pies, and a paise consisted of 3 pies.

In terms of the new decimal coins, a rupee is equal to 100 paise, an anna equal to 6 paise, four annas equal to 25 paise and eight annas equal to 50 paise.

Prices, which had been falling while the settlement was in progress, continued their downward trend and it soon became apparent that the new demand in Ajnala Tahsil was too severe. Cultivators began to abandon their holdings and the balances accumulated. In 1859, a revision of the assessment was undertaken and that gave relief to 128 villages and, with the reduction sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner in 1858, permanently reduced the demand by some thirty-six thousand rupees in that tahsil.

Second Regular Settlement 1862—65.—The term of Davies' settlement was ten years and its revision was undertaken in 1862 by E.A. Prinsep, Settlement Commissioner, whose assessment was imposed from *kharif* 1865. New records and maps were made for each estate, assessment circles were recast and rates framed for each. But Prinsep wrote no assessment or final reports on his operations and his inspection notes were generally based on statistical information and rarely on a personal visit to the estate concerned. He undertook his task with the impression that the expiring settlement had worked very fairly but that its distribution was faulty owing to the mechanical treatment of villages which had been produced by excessively minute classification, and its irrigated villages were too highly assessed owing to undue optimism about the capacity of wells. His broad classification of estates was based on his regarding them as fully or fairly cultivated or backward, and lenient treatment of wells was a feature of the settlement. The assessment was imposed in the form of a soil rate on land in unirrigated aspect plus a lump sum per well. In addition, a water-advantage rate was imposed on the land irrigated from the Upper Bari Doab Canal (which had been opened in 1860) at the rate of one rupee an acre for irrigation in one harvest of the year with eight annas (fifty paise) more for land irrigated in the second harvest. The principle followed in assessing was that Government was entitled to a share equivalent to one-half of the landlord's net assets, which were supposed to be 50 per cent of the gross produce. The reassessment resulted in an immediate reduction of the demand and even when the deferred assessments amounting to Rs. 33,821 came into effect ten to twenty years later, the ultimate demand was very little more than the revised demand of the first regular settlement. The actual figures, exclusive of water-advantage rate, were :

Tahsil	Demand in rupees	Rate per cultivated acre
	Rs	Rs As Ps
Tarn Taran	.. 2,92,323	0—15— 8
Amritsar	.. 4,15,315	1—10— 8
Ajnala	.. 2,42,624	1—10—11
Total District	.. 9,50,262	1— 5—11

Deferred assessments were imposed on estates classified as not fully cultivated and backward, i.e. those in which there was a large area of waste which Prinsep anticipated would come under the plough. In many cases, this anticipation did not prove correct. Land watered by the canal was assessed in its unirrigated aspect, but a fluctuating owner's rate or water-advantage rate of one rupee per acre was imposed on all fields receiving canal water for the *kharif* harvest. If the same field received canal water again for the *rabi* harvest, it paid a further rate of eight annas (50 paise) per acre. The settlement was ultimately sanctioned for a term of 20 years, dating from the *kharif* of 1865, but was actually in force for as long as 27½ years in the Ajnala Tahsil.

This settlement aroused considerable controversy and, though it worked well on the whole, had to be revised in thirty-nine estates in the Sailab and Hithar circles of Ajnala where a permanent reduction of Rs 5,338 was sanctioned in 1880. The inelasticity of the water-advantage rate and insufficient differentiation from circle rates in the assessment of wells were flaws in the settlement, but the major difficulty was the progressive enhancements which were in many cases utterly misconceived. Optimism about the potential expansion generated by statistics was falsified by infertile soil which was not worth the trouble of cultivation.

Third Regular Settlement, 1888-93.—Prinsep's settlement was sanctioned for twenty years but ran for several years more. The third regular settlement was carried out by J.A. Grant between 1888 and 1893. The feature of this settlement was the introduction of a differential soil rate known as *nahri parta* to represent the advantage conferred on unirrigated land by the canal. This method of assessing irrigation has held the field ever since. Apart from this, J.A. Grant seems to have followed the general principles of assessment then approved without any special orders for the district, except a bias on moderation. The assessment actually imposed increased the demand which, for various reasons, had by this time risen to Rs 10,26,681, i.e. by 22 per cent and was :

Tahsil	Demand in rupees	Rate per cultivated acre
	Rs	Rs As Ps
Tarn Taran	.. 4,00,483	1— 3—10
Amritsar	.. 5,38,644	1—14— 6
Ajnala	.. 3,17,088	1—14— 9
Total District	.. 12,56,215	1—10— 1

This settlement, which was sanctioned for a term of twenty years, worked smoothly in the Tarn Taran and Amritsar tahsils and in the Nahri Circle of the Ajnala tahsil. Some of the weaker villages in the Uthar Circle found occasional difficulty in paying their demand and, in the Hithar and Sailab Circles, it was constantly in arrears. This tract experienced a series of misfortunes which it was impossible for the settlement officer to foresee but it appeared that even in a normal year their demand was relatively severe. It is, however, only fair to J. A. Grant to point out that the assessment he proposed was considerably lighter than that actually announced as his rates were substantially enhanced by the higher authority.

Fourth Regular Settlement, 1910—14.—It was carried out by Mr. (afterwards His Excellency Sir Henry) Craik between 1910 and 1914. He came to the settlement armed with very definite instructions from the Central Government about the enhancement he should make and, as he implies in one of his assessment reports, the Government's share of the net assets was so much more than he was permitted to take that his only problem was the equitable distribution of this smaller enhancement over the three tahsils. Unfortunately, a misinterpretation of the orders of the Government of India, which was not corrected until the demand in Tarn Taran had been announced, left the other two tahsils (and in particular Amritsar) to bear rather more than their fair share of the increase, though not by any means nearly as much as could have been taken, had the settlement officer's discretion been restricted by the letter of the law alone. The Government of India had directed that whatever enhancement the net assets might justify, the old demand should be increased by more than 25 per cent. The misunderstanding arose about the figure to which this enhancement was to be related and, when the Government of India ruled that it might be calculated on the initial and not on the ultimate new demand, provided that the total assessment did not exceed Rs 16,07,000, the Punjab Government naturally did not wish to lose the additional revenue which this decision gave them and directed that Rs 11,000 more be taken in the Amritsar Tahsil (which Craik regretted) had been a factor in determining the pitch of his reassessment of this tahsil. The ultimate demand imposed on the district was an increase of 26 per cent on the expiring demand distributed as follows :

Tahsil	Demand in rupees	Rate per cultivated acre
	Rs	Rs As Ps
Tarn Taran	5,39,816	1—11—3
Amritsar	7,07,721	2— 8—5
Ajnala	3,50,394	2— 4—6
Total District	15,97,931	2—2—1

The settlement, sanctioned for twenty years, worked well. The moderation of the demand in the Tarn Taran Tahsil was always recognized and the revenue was paid with ease so long as agricultural prices remained above the level of communication prices. In the Amritsar Tahsil too, until the exceptional fall in agricultural prices, no remissions were required on account of the severity or faulty distribution of the demand. In the Ajnala Tahsil, the real test of the working of the settlement was suspensions and not remissions. These were more liberal than in the other tahsils but, for Ajnala, comparatively light. There is, however, reason to suspect that more flexibility, or failing this, a lighter assessment is expedient in the weaker parts of this tahsil. The people are reluctant to accept suspensions even at some hardships to themselves, because their recuperative ability is so slight that the subsequent addition to their liabilities will be intolerable.

Fifth Regular Settlement, 1936—40.—The term of the Fourth Regular Settlement of 1910—14 was for 20 years and it was due to be completed in 1932-33. However, a forecast report was prepared in 1929 on the basis of which Government found some temporary conditions which required consideration in determining when to start reassessment: "the first of these is the fact that the district has recently passed through a series of bad or sub-normal harvests; and from this point of view the present time is inopportune for starting reassessment operations. The second feature is the fact that the pitch of the occupiers' rates, which was light in the schedule formerly applying to this district, was substantially raised in 1924-25. This change has naturally reacted in the rental arrangements of irrigated lands in the district, which from the point of view of reassessment is an important class of soil in this district. These two factors combine to point out the desirability of allowing some further period of time to elapse so as to allow rental arrangements to become more stabilized and to give surer data for determining the amount of additional advantage which the landholder derives from the higher range of prices."³ Political opposition to resettlement was also a formidable factor from landowners. Resettlement should have commenced in 1930 when the reasons for postponement were not appreciated by the people and it was thought that further agitation would lead to indefinite postponement. Every settlement had increased the assessment of the district and it was assumed that this would be no different. It was, therefore, decided to postpone reassessment for five years; and operations were actually not begun until October 1936. Caution was perhaps never quickly justified of her child, for agricultural prices broke badly soon after these orders were passed and were still low when settlement operations started.

³A. MacFarquhar, *Settlement Report of the Fifth Regular Settlement of the Amritsar District*, p.22

The Fifth Regular Settlement, which still continues to be in force, was begun in October 1936 and completed in December 1940 by A. MacFarquhar, I.C.S., Settlement Officer.

The assessment of the Amritsar urban, Amritsar suburban and Tarn Taran urban assessment circles which were remeasured but not reassessed at the time of the Fifth Regular Settlement of the Amritsar District by A. MacFarquhar, between 1936 and 1940, was done during 1955-56⁴. The Amritsar urban and suburban and Tarn Taran urban assessment circles comprise 23 estates in 112.64 sq. km. These circles were demarcated by A. MacFarquhar although he retained the arrangement of assessment circles approved in the Fourth Regular Settlement, 1910-14, except insofar as he found it necessary to provide for urban circles at Amritsar and Tarn Taran and to extend suburban circle in conformity with development in the neighbourhood of the Amritsar city. These assessment circles constitute the most valuable part of the district. It is well connected, by both rail and road, with the interior of the district and other parts of the State. The Amritsar city continues to be an important centre of trade in wheat, rice, cotton and cloth in spite of its proximity to the Indo-Pakistan border. The assessment imposed, which is subject to a sliding-scale remission when the prices fall, in the Amritsar urban and suburban and the Tarn Taran urban circles is Rs 82,327, Rs 70,164 and Rs 4,946 respectively. The percentage of true net assets absorbed is 19.4, 5.8 and 22.8 respectively. There is an increase of Rs 71,928 over the previous assessment in these three circles. The assessment came into force from *rabi* 1958. The term of the new assessment is 40 years from *rabi* 1958.

Mechanics of Assessment

The assessment of land revenue is based on the average value of the net assets of the unit under assessment. These net assets are defined by statute as the estimated average annual surplus produce remaining after the deduction of the ordinary expenses of cultivation, as ascertained or estimated. The explanation appended to this definition leaves no doubt that these assets are determined not on the profits of cultivating occupancy but on rentals. The rules require that two estimates of net assets shall be framed, one based on grain rents and the other on cash rents. Before the stage is reached, two preliminary points have to be settled—the units to be recognized for estimates and the classes of land within those units whose return in grain or cash is sufficiently different to require separate ascertainment.

Assessment Circles

The unit is the assessment circle, a group of estates sufficiently homogeneous to admit of a common set of rates being used as a general guide in calculating the land revenue to be assessed upon them.

⁴Dalip Singh, *Settlement Report of the Fifth Regular Settlement of the Urban and Suburban of Amritsar and Tarn Taran Urban Assessment Circles, 1955-56*, (Patiala, 1967)

The revenue law permits urban assessment circles to be created within the administrative boundaries of local bodies. These authorities, however, have had no regard for field boundaries in determining their own limits which frequently do not even coincide with the boundaries of the revenue estates.

It is not practicable or convenient to show the built-up areas in a continuous series with agricultural land either on the maps or in the records. At the same time, it is necessary to preserve for the built-up areas the presumption of truth which the revenue record carries and to have them readily traceable in the agricultural record. In the urban areas of the Amritsar District, therefore, the revenue maps carry field numbers and boundary outlines in proper sequence for all residential and industrial areas. Similarly, the record-of-rights includes these numbers and a description of the *abadi* by its name or other distinguishing designation. Subsidiary records for each of these areas contain all necessary details for assessment under their own series of numbers which are linked to maps carrying the same series of numbers and attached to the main map of the estate as insets.

The usual unit of measurement (the *karam*) has been used, as far as possible, e.g. in measuring large bungalow or factory sites and only in congested areas has measurement in feet been done. These small plots are often very valuable. In addition to the usual agricultural classes of land, the subdivision of uncultivable land (*ghair mumkin*), into bungalows, houses, factories, shops, combined houses and shops, potential building plots (*qabil tamir*), and other buildings such as hospitals and schools, was recognized for purposes of assessment.

Some difficulty was caused by the dissection of ten estates which fall partly within the urban circle and partly in the suburban circle. Each of the separated portions has been furnished with a complete genealogical table (*shajra nasab*) and notes have been given under the names of owners who do not happen to hold land in the separate estate but are still shareholders in its common land (*shamlat*). For rights in the latter, a reference has also been made to the record-of-rights of the last settlement.

These remarks are directed to the Amritsar urban area but are more or less true of the Tarn Taran urban area as well. These include the whole of the estates of Tarn Taran and the municipal parts of the estates of Muradpur and Jodhpur which have been shown in the record-of-rights of the new estate as separate units (*tarfs*)⁵.

⁵*Ibid.*, p. 11.

The following table gives the assessment circles and the estates in them :

Tahsil	Assessment circle	Number of estates
Tarn Taran	Upper Majha	160
	Central Majha	167
	Bet Bangar	28
	Tarn Taran Urban	1
	Total, Tahsil	356
Amritsar	Bet Bangar	86
	Jandiala Guru	124
	Nahri	128
	Mirankot	27
	Suburban	12
	Amritsar Urban	10
	Total, Tahsil	387
Ajnala	Sailab	78
	Hithar	79
	Uthar	117
	Nahri	73
	Total, Tahsil	347
	Total, District	1,090

Classes of Land

Within these circles, it is necessary to determine what classes of land should be recognized. Distinctions based on irrigation or lack of it have always been recognized as suitable in this district and the definitions approved for this settlement followed tradition. These are :

Chahi.—Land regularly irrigated from a well. In case of doubt, if a field is shown by the *khasra girdawari* to have been so irrigated in two or more out of the last eight harvests and a permanent source of irrigation exists, it will be recorded as *chahi*.

Nahri.—Land regularly irrigated from the Upper Bari Doab Canal. In case of doubt if a field is shown by the *khasra girdawari* to have been so irrigated in two or more out of the last eight harvests, it will be recorded as *nahri*, provided that in no case will land be recorded as *nahri* if it comes within the definition of *chahi*.

Abi.—Land watered from tanks, *jhils*, ponds or drainage channels.

Sailab.—Land usually flooded in the rains by the Beas, the Ravi or the Sakki, or their branches, or the land near these rivers and is always moist.

Barani.—All cultivation not included in the above classes.

Land in the Hithar Circle of the Ajnala Tahsil regularly irrigated from the Kiran Canal has been shown in the record as *nahri-Kiran*, but this distinction is of no practical importance for assessment, as the small area involved has always been rated as *barani*. The usual uncultivated classes—*banjar jadid*, *banjar qadim*, and *ghairmumkin* as defined in rule 2(2) of the Land Revenue Assessment Rules 1929—also appear in the record.

Estimate of Net Assets Based on Gross Rents

The estimate of the net assets [of each class of land in each assessment circle depends on the average acreage of each crop on it, the average yield per acre of such crops, the average price obtainable for them, and the share of the gross produce taken by the landowner.

The average acreage is determined by using the cropping statistics of a selected period of years, of which the harvests are a fair sample of the ordinary fluctuating characteristic of the agriculture of the tract. Other things being equal, the longer the period the more likely is the average to be a fair one and to neutralize the abnormalities of the seasons. In this district, the uniformity of other factors was lacking, for since the last settlement of 1910—14 there has been a progressive expansion of artificial irrigation. This development became important about ten years after the last settlement and, after a further five years of uncertainty, settled down to a comparative stability in the decade ending 1935-36.

From the acreage, the yield and the price, gross assets are ascertainable. Before the value of the owner's share can be determined, a deduction has to be made on account of the menials' dues which are taken out of the common heap of grain before its division between the landlord and the tenant. Taking all these aspects into account, true net assets are calculated.

Assessment of the Tarn Taran Tahsil

(1) **General Considerations.**—The operation of section 51(3) of the Land Revenue Act, 1887, restricted the permissible new demand to 14.1 per cent of the net assets. The tahsil had advanced considerably in security, with 81 per cent of its cultivated area protected by irrigation and considerable miscellaneous resources, but there were unmistakable signs of a recession from prosperity. Tenthousand acres had gone out of cultivation since the settlement of 1910—14, rainfall had dwindled and canal supplies had been reduced. The population had increased by 35 per cent.

(2) **Upper Majha Circle.**—This circle is, on the whole, the strongest in the tahsil. It is advantageously situated on the canal channels; wells are generally sweet; and communications are good. The effect of the reassessment will be clear from the following figures:

Old demand		Rs 2,46,956
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 3,05,052
	{ sanctioned	Rs 3,05,052
	{ imposed	Rs 2,99,020
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Re 1—15 annas—11 pies
	{ new	Rs 2—7 annas—1 pie
Percentage of increase		21
Percentage of true net assets absorbed		15

(3) **Central Majha Circle.**—This circle is not so well situated in respect of canal irrigation or rainfall. It shows a greater decline in its cultivated area and a greater deterioration from *kallar* than the Upper Majha. Well water is very brackish in parts of the circle. The following statistics show the result of the reassessment:

Old demand		Rs 2,62,425
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 3,19,044
	{ sanctioned	Rs 3,19,044
	{ imposed	Rs 3,21,950
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Re 1—9 annas—9 pies
	{ new	Rs 2—0 anna—3 pies
Percentage of increase		23
Percentage of true net assets absorbed		13

(4) **Bet Bangar Circle.**—This circle is much weaker than the rest of the tahsil. The river makes agriculture unstable and the soil on the cliffs immediately above is distinctly inferior. A little more than half of the cultivated area received

irrigation; wells were deep; the pressure of population was heavy; and the proprietary body was weak. A lenient assessment was obviously desirable and has been given, as the following figures show:

Old demand		Rs 39,952
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 40,630
	{ sanctioned	Rs 40,630
	{ imposed	Rs 41,305
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Re 1—6 annas—9 pies
	{ new	Re 1—10 annas—1 pie
Percentage of increase		3
Percentage of true net assets absorbed		12

Assessment of the Amritsar Tahsil

(1) **General Considerations.**—The incidence of assessment in the Amritsar Tahsil has always been heavier than that in Tarn Taran. The difference in prosperity between Amritsar and Tarn Taran does not justify the perpetuation of this inequality in assessment and its elimination was one of the major considerations affecting the pitch of the new demand. There were other indications of the necessity for a cautious assessment. Some part of the addition of one hundred and sixty-four lakhs of rupees to the mortgage debt of the tahsil since the last settlement of 1910-14 represented greater economic embarrassment. The cultivated area, including the new fallows, had contracted by some 3,500 acres since the previous settlement. Of these, in the absence of scientific reclamation, some fifteen hundred acres could be regarded as a permanent loss. Regular and adequate rain was essential in a tahsil where a quarter of the cultivated area still depended on natural precipitation and where other considerable areas, irrigated by wells and *kharif*-channels, needed some supplementation from nature. Population had increased by 19 per cent and had brought with it a contraction in the average size of the holdings. An upheaval in the system and agency of rural credit also dictated caution. On the other hand, the tahsil had considerable investment in land in the Punjab Colonies (now in the Punjab, Pakistan) and outside the province, and a steady income from pensions and remittances. The section 51 (3) of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, would have permitted the taking of 17.3 per cent of the true net assets. An assessment of Rs 6,94,990, absorbing 15.3 per cent of the true net assets, was recommended. All the proposals were accepted by the Government. The new demand was to be introduced with effect from *kharif*- 1945.

(2) **Bet Bangar Circle.**—This circle had lost twelve hundred cultivated acres since the previous settlement and nearly a quarter of what remained was unirrigated. Its population shows the highest rate of increase and its holdings were smallest in the tahsil. On the other hand, the soil, though light, is generally fertile. The irrigated cropping was nearly half as much again as it was at the last settlement. The proprietary body was strong and the statistics of transfers showed a smaller area of land mortgaged than in any other circle and revealed the greatest improvement in the value of the land since the settlement. A fairly full assessment was possible. The following figures show what was done:

Old demand		Rs 1,41,317
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 1,54,442
	{ sanctioned	Rs 1,54,442
	{ imposed	Rs 1,54,485
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Rs 2—2 annas—8 pies
	{ new	Rs 2—6 annas—3 pies
Percentage of increase	..	9
Percentage of true net assets absorbed	..	17

(3) **Jandiala Guru Circle.**—The soil of this circle varies from a good sandy loam to very poor sand. Only twelve estates received canal water, and as much as 41 per cent of the cultivated area was unirrigated. Agricultural results were, therefore, apt to be uncertain. The circle was sparsely populated, but even so a cautious assessment was expedient. The following statistics show that the necessary moderation was exercised:

Old demand		Rs 1,92,868
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 1,97,592
	{ sanctioned	Rs 1,97,592
	{ imposed	Rs 1,98,150
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Rs 2—3 annas—6 pies
	{ new	Rs 2—4 annas—5 pies
Percentage of increase	..	3
Percentage of the true net assets absorbed	..	16

(4) **Nahri Circle.**—Defective drainage is the bane of this circle and considerable stretches of land are impregnated with *kallar*. Thirteen hundred

acres had gone out of cultivation since the settlement and further deterioration was possible. The pressure of population was heaviest in the tahsil. On the other hand, only four out of 128 estates were without canal water and only 10 per cent of the cultivated area was unirrigated. There had been a steady improvement in cropping, and the value of land as a commodity was well ahead of anything obtainable elsewhere. The circle was, on the whole, strongest in the tahsil and a fairly full demand was possible. The following statement shows the actual results of reassessment:

Old demand		Rs 2,50,510
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 2,99,638
	{ sanctioned	Rs 2,99,638
	{ imposed	Rs 2,97,325
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Rs 2—13 annas—0 pie
	{ new	Rs 3—4 annas—10 pies
Percentage of increase	..	19
Percentage of the true net assets absorbed	..	14

(5) **Mirankot Circle.**—This is by far the poorest circle in the tahsil. Where the soil is not light and sandy, it is often not sour and *kalrathi*. Half of the estates received no canal water and a quarter of the cultivated area was unirrigated. There had been no improvement in agricultural results. Holdings were comparatively large, but sales and mortgages had been very considerable. The value of land was low and the expiring assessment, tested by the consideration paid for mortgages, relatively heavy. A lenient assessment was necessary and, as the following figures show, the demand took account of this state of affairs:

Old demand		Rs 40,817
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 43,318
	{ sanctioned	Rs 43,318
	{ imposed	Rs 43,050
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Rs 2—5 annas—8 pies
	{ new	Rs 2—6 annas—9 pies
Percentage of increase	..	5
Percentage of true net assets absorbed	..	15

Assessment of the Ajnala Tahsil

(1) **General Considerations.**—The assessment of Ajnala Tahsil has always been the most difficult problem in the fiscal arrangements of the district. Nature's caprice has time and again falsified man's mathematics and taught him how little he knows of moderation. The demand which over a series of seasons is well within the capacity of the people to pay may prove so harsh in a single bad year that a return to solvency is almost impossible. Such distress is not universal, for certain areas are comparatively prosperous, but the cogent arguments of experience requiring an abandonment of the soothing theory are concerned with broad practical issues. The cultivated area had increased by some eight thousand acres since the last settlement, but was at the time of the new settlement no more than it was fifty years ago; and half of the increase since the last settlement had to be discounted in assessing the permanent progress, for it depended on the whim of the river. With some 65,000 acres (24 per cent of the total area of the tahsil) still "available for cultivation", it might be imagined that there was a margin of safety in potential development. But this fallacy was exposed in Prinsep's settlement of 1862-65 and his severe assessments on "backward" villages (i.e. estates in which there was much uncultivated land) were unlikely to be repeated. Much of the land which still awaited the plough is inferior stuff and scientific advice should have preceded its reclamation. There were other weaknesses. The tahsil was less protected by artificial irrigation than its neighbours and it had no advantage in rainfall which would have justified confidence in its ability to do without artificial supplies of water. Communications were poor and the access to markets difficult for the trans-Sakki tract. The pressure of population was heaviest and the holdings smallest in the district. Where agricultural conditions were least favourable, the proprietary body was least able to cope with them. More land had been sold and mortgaged than in each of the other tahsils; more of it had passed into the hands of the non-agriculturists and prices were much lower. The mortgage debt had increased threefold since the settlement. A considerable measure of leniency was thus expedient in determining the assessment of the tahsil as a whole with a considerable discrimination between the strong cis-Sakki portion and the wretched trans-Sakki circles. An assessment of Rs 4,09,973 was recommended, and it would have absorbed 15.6 per cent of the true net assets against a permissible of 17.9 per cent. As explained in the assessment report, some of the figures were provisional, as the measurement had not been completed when the report was submitted. On the final figures, the permissible demand under section 51(3) of the Punjab Land Revenue Act (Rs 4,74,350), i.e. 18 per cent of the true net assets, and the demands brought out by the proposed soil rates became Rs 1,46,084 in the Nahri circle, Rs 1,58,458 in the Uthar, Rs 55,883 in the Hithar and Rs 54,437 in the Sailab—a total of Rs 4,14,862 for the tahsil.

It was recognized that the proposals involved a considerable sacrifice of revenue—they took for the State only 87 per cent of the permissible demand—but with the adoption of the produce estimate as the true net assets (and their consequent reduction by some Rs 15,000) even greater generosity was thought to be demanded by the condition of the tahsil and its comparative taxable capacity. Instructions were, therefore, given to work to a demand of Rs 3,99,000 round, and complete discretion was given in the distribution of the reduction. In consequence of these orders, soil rates were not altered, but their advantage was taken to reduce the provisional demand in peculiarly weak estates and in the estates where the enhancement would otherwise have been steep. The new demand was to be introduced with effect from the *kharif* of 1945.

(2) **Nahri Circle.**—This was the strongest circle in the tahsil. The cultivated area had increased since the settlement and there were nearly three thousand more irrigated acres. As much as 94 per cent of the cultivated area was protected by canals or wells. The proprietary body was strong and the holdings were larger than those in other circles. On the other hand, the pressure of population exceeded anything found in any other circle of the district. The effect of reassessment will be clear from the following figures:

Old demand		Rs 1,20,025
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 1,46,084
	{ imposed	Rs 1,40,600
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Rs 2—12 annas—8 pies
	{ new	Rs 3—1 anna—5 pies
Percentage of increase	..	17
Percentage of the true net assets absorbed	..	15

(3) **Uthar Circle.**—The circle is somewhat inferior to its eastern neighbour. The soil is lighter. The facilities for irrigation were not so good. The wells, on which half of the cultivated area relied, were deep and part of the canal supply was non-perennial. The pressure of population was lighter, but still heavy. The following statement shows what was done:

Old demand		Rs 1,30,456
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 1,58,458
	{ imposed	Rs 1,49,055
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Rs 2—7 annas—2 pies
	{ new	Rs 2—9 annas—7 pies
Percentage of increase	..	14
Percentage of true net assets absorbed	..	15

(4) **Hithar Circle.**—This is a much weaker circle. There was no regular canal irrigation. One-third of the cultivated area was *barani*. Much of the

soil is inferior and *kalrathi*. The sown area had declined and there was little or no variety in the cropping pattern. Holdings were small and the stock was poor. The proprietary body was neither strong nor homogeneous. It would not have been prudent to go too near the permissible demand and actually the soil rates were all lower than those of the last settlement. The increase in demand, which the following figures show, was due entirely to an increase in the cultivated area—the incidence per cultivated acre was actually less than before:

Old demand		Rs 51,569
New demand	{ proposed	Rs 55,883
	{ imposed	Rs 54,425
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	Re 1—14 annas—7 pies
	{ new	Re 1—14 annas—3 pies
Percentage of increase		6
Percentage of true net assets absorbed		17

(5) **Sailab Circle.**—This was unquestionably the weakest circle in the district. A few estates were strong and fairly prosperous, but the majority were poor places where existence was precarious and poverty obvious. More than half of the cultivated area relied for moisture on the river which is unfettered by any natural embankment in this district. The sown area was four thousand acres less than it was at the last settlement; failure was heavy and there was no variety in the pattern of cropping. Communications were poor, the proprietary body was weak and the holdings were small. The only error in assessment should have been leniency.

As regards the fixed system of assessment in force, no change was recommended.

The result of reassessment is shown by the following figures, from which it will appear that the new demand is lighter than the old one in its incidence on cultivation:

Old demand	..	Rs 52,857
New demand	{ proposed	.. Rs 54,437
	{ imposed	.. Rs 53,500
Incidence per cultivated acre	{ old	.. Re 1—11 annas—2 pies
	{ new	.. Re 1—9 annas—5 pies
Percentage of increase	..	1
Percentage of the true net assets absorbed	..	16

Financial Results of Reassessment

The following statement shows that reassessment increased the annual revenue of the district at commutation prices by Rs 2,22,077. The new demand appears as reduced on objection or appeal up to the Commissioner.

Tahsil	Old demand (in rupees)	New demand (in rupees)	Amount of increase (in rupees)	Percentage of increase	Percentage of the true net assets absorbed	Percentage of the per- missible demand under section 51 of the Land Revenue Act
Tarn Taran ..	5,49,333	6,61,299	1,11,966	20.4	13.9	98.5
Amritsar ..	6,25,572	6,93,010	67,438	10.8	15.3	88.3
Ajnala ..	3,54,907	3,97,580	42,673	12.0	15.4	83.8
Total District	15,29,812	17,51,889	2,22,077	14.5	14.7	90.7

The new demand consumed 5.3 per cent of the gross assets of the district, as determined on the basis of the produce estimate (at the last settlement 8.8 per cent was taken), and its incidence on the area was :

Tahsil	Rate per cultivated acre		
	Rs	As	Ps
Tarn Taran	..	2	2 5
Amritsar	..	2	10 9
Ajnala	..	2	6 6
District	..	2	6 3

Forecast and Fact

These results were broadly in line with the forecast of what the district might have been expected to yield. In the light of the absolute limit of one-fourth of the net assets imposed by section 48-B

of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, an assessment absorbing only 14.7 per cent might seem unduly generous. This was where the independent limit set by section 51 of the Act came in to prevent the average rate of incidence on the cultivated area of the new demand exceeding the old rate of incidence by more than one-fourth (except in special circumstances which did not affect the rural Amritsar). The Government had voluntarily foregone 9.3 per cent of the maximum levy permissible under this provision. It was only this voluntary sacrifice of revenue which required comment. In the Tarn Taran Tahsil, the Settlement Officer had gone near enough to the permissible to make no odds. In Amritsar, which was of much the same strength, the major consideration in pitching the demand so much further below the permissible was the expediency of reducing the disparity in the incidence of assessment between the two tahsils. It would be seen that although the percentage of increase over the old demand was in Amritsar a little more than half of what it was in Tarn Taran, Amritsar would still pay out more of its net assets to meet the new demand. In Ajnala, the forecast recognized that it would be impossible to take the maximum throughout the tahsil; and whereas the Settlement Officer had gone within fifteen per cent of it in the two strong circles, the two weaklings paid less than eighty per cent of what might have been demanded of them. This leniency needed no justification in view of their circumstances.

The Sliding Scale

It was in fact difficult to convince the landowners of the district that there was any generosity in the proposals at all. Conditions had so completely changed since the forecast report was written in 1929 that its statistical rise of seventy and its effective rise of thirty per cent in prices had given place to current agricultural prices poorer by some six per cent than those adopted for the last settlement twenty-five years before in 1910. The commutation prices stood at rather more than 178 per cent of the current market prices and it was not easy for the people to accept the assumption made in the Land Revenue Assessment Rules that the range of future prices, on which the settlement would be paid, would not be dissimilar to the average prices of the past which these commutation prices represented. To cover the disparity without impairing the law or surrendering the potential revenue, the sliding scale was adopted as a feature of the settlement and came under very detailed examination, of which discussions may be seen in the assessment and final reports and in the orders of the Government.

The assessment of land revenue was subjected to the sliding-scale method for the first time in 1935, but the procedure for determining remissions under it varied from time to time. With a view to simplifying the calculations of the remissions, the method of 5 per cent units of annual remissions was replaced by the use of half-anna units in every harvest.

Term of Settlement

The term of settlements had been fixed by statute at forty years. Accordingly, the settlement runs for forty years from the actual introduction of the new assessment, i.e. from the *rabi* of 1945 in the Tarn Taran Tahsil and from the *kharif* of 1945 elsewhere. Originally, the new assessment was to begin from 1940. The postponement from 1940 to 1945 was the Government's fulfilment of its pledge that for the first five years after reassessment nobody should pay more.

Settlement of the Patti Tahsil

On the partition of 1947, Patti was formed a sub-tahsil out of the 186 villages including Patti, of the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (Pakistan) transferred to the Amritsar District. It was raised to a tahsil in 1949. On August 14, 1952, 67 villages of the Tarn Taran Tahsil were transferred to the Patti Tahsil. Out of these, 52 villages were transferred back to the Tarn Taran Tahsil on June 25, 1956, and one more village in 1962. The Patti Tahsil was made a subdivision in 1955.

The villages transferred from the Lahore District had been assessed along with that district. Their history of settlement is, therefore, somewhat different from the history of settlement of the rest of the Amritsar District. On the annexation of the Punjab by the British in 1849, a summary settlement was carried out by Captain Tytler. The First Settlement of 1852—56 was also a summary one. This was followed by the Regular Settlement of 1864—68. The Third Regular Settlement of the area was made in 1888, in which almost all the estates were remeasured and a new record was prepared. The Fourth Settlement was done by R. C. Bolster in 1912—16. The assessment circles constituting this tahsil are Majha, Mitha, Khara, Uthar and Bet Bangar.

The Fifth Regular Settlement, which is in force, was made in 1935—39. It was almost on the same principles as in other tahsils, narrated above, but for the deviation that the areas within the municipal limits were constituted as separate urban assessment circle and assessed separately. In this case, the Patti town area was assessed separately. The areas, put to non-agricultural use, were assessed at higher rates.

The Bet Bangar Circle includes the villages lying on the Dhaya of the River Satluj. Nine revenue estates of Tahsil Patti lie across the river towards the Ferozpur District⁶.

6. Nine villages of Tahsil Patti, viz. Bala Megha, Muthianwala, Jama Megha, Kamalwala, Nihala Lavara, Debra Ghara, Tali Ghulam, Bandala and Kaleke Hithar, were transferred to the Tahsil and District Ferozpur, vide Punjab Government, Revenue Department, Notification No. 564-Rg-I-70/727, dated the 17th March, 1970.

The Hithar Circle is on the bank of the Satluj. A good number of villages were included in the fluctuating rate system as there was every likelihood of diluvion and alluvion. Some parts of the villages have now permanently come under the lake area above the Harike Headworks.

The Majha Mitha Circle has very small holdings but the cultivation is fairly intensive. The soil is very fertile. Most of the land is irrigated by the Upper Bari Doab Canal. The rates for the various circles of assessment are as under :

Name of the Assessment Circle		Rate per cultivated acre		
		Re	As	Ps
Hithar	..	0	15	1
Bet Bangar	..	1	9	5
Majha Mitha	..	1	13	0

The 15 villages of the old Tarn Taran Tahsil, which now form part of the Patti Tahsil, were assessed in the Central Majha assessment circle. This assessment circle has been discussed under the Tarn Taran Tahsil.

The fluctuating rates for the diluvial area are as under :—

Villages partly or wholly in the diluvial area

Assessment circle	Name of estate	Rate per <i>ghumaon</i> (matured) per year												
		<i>Chahi and Chahi Sailab</i>			<i>Sailab</i>			<i>Barani</i>			<i>Banjar</i>			
		Re	As	Ps	Re	As	Ps	Re	As	Ps	Re	As	Ps	
Hithar	1. Jhugian Nur Mohamad	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	2. Jhugian Natha Singh	..	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	1	6
	3. Muthianwala	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	4. Jama Megha	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	5. Bala Megha	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	6. Kamalwala	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6

Assessment circle	Name of estate	Rates per <i>ghumaon</i> (matured) per year												
		<i>Chahi and Chahi Sailab</i>			<i>Sailab</i>			<i>Barani</i>			<i>Banjar</i>			
		Re	As	Ps	Re	As	Ps	Re	As	Ps	Re	As	Ps	
	7. Nahala Vohra	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	8. Dhira Gora	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	9. Tali Ghulam	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	10. Bundala	..	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0	1	6
	11. Ram Singh Wala	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	12. Rasul Pur	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	13. Bhangala	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	14. Tut	..	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	1	6
	15. Raḍhal Ke	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	16. Jhugian Pir Bakhsh	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	17. Bhojo Ke	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	18. Baho Wal	..	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0	1	6
	19. Bangla Rai	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	20. Kot Budha	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	21. Balhar Ke	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	22. Kaleke Hithar	..	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0	1	6
	23. Jalloke	..	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0	1	6
	24. Gaggar Ke	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	25. Bhane Ke	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	26. Dumani Wala	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	27. Gadai Ke	..	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0	1	6
	28. Bhura Hithar	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	29. Malahanawala	..	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0	1	6
	30. Gholi Wala	..	0	14	0	0	13	4	0	10	0	0	1	6
	31. Kutti Wala	..	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0	1	6
Bet Bangar..	32. Marar	..	1	0	0	0	12	0	0	10	0	0	1	6
	33. Harike	..	1	0	0	0	12	0	0	10	0	0	1	6
	34. Bhoh	..	1	0	0	0	12	0	0	10	0	0	1	6
	35. Kirtowal	..	1	0	0	0	12	0	0	10	0	0	1	6
	36. Sabhra	..	1	0	0	0	12	0	0	10	0	0	1	6

The Patti town forming part of the Urban Assessment Circle was separately assessed. In this case, special assessment rates were proposed for areas occupied by buildings, such as shops, residential houses, factories, and potential sites. They were assessed and categorized into different standards. The following table gives the different assessment rates :

Class of land	Area	Rate of assessment		
		K. M. Feet	Rs As Ps	
Shops 1st Class	.. 16—17—223	2 14 0	per marla	
A Class	.. 4—12—38	2 0 0	Do	
B Class	.. 18—4—33	0 12 0	Do	
Shops 2nd Class	.. 18—4—33	0 12 0	Do	
Houses 1st Class, Shops 3rd Class and godowns	.. 57—1—164	0 4 0	Do	
Houses 2nd Class	.. 65—17—198	0 3 0	Do	
Houses 3rd Class	.. 195—0—191	0 1 0	Do	
Factories	.. 93—13—142	40—0 0	per acre	
Bungalows	.. 65—1—9	12 0 0	Do	
Potential building sites 1st Class	.. 50—17—120	0 2 0	per marla	
Potential building sites 2nd Class	.. 18—4—159	0 1 0	Do	
Potential building sites 3rd Class	.. 187—6—108	0 0 6	Do	

The demand fixed and announced is Rs 2,951 on the residential area and Rs 1,350 on the cultivated area, amounting to Rs 4,301.

In this tahsil, the unit of measurement at the time of assessment was the *karam*. In the villages of the Uthar Circle, the *karam* was 5½ feet with a *kill* measuring 40 x 36 *karams*, whereas in other circles the *karam* was of 5 feet and the *kill* of 40 x 40 *karams*. After the partition (1947), consolidation operations were taken up in this tahsil and a uniform *karam* was adopted.

Working of the Fifth Regular Settlement

After a few years of the settlement and particularly on account of the World War II (1939—45), followed by the partition of the country and its independence in 1947 and with the development activities, the prices of

agricultural commodities had risen greatly. The charges of land revenue, fixed at the time of the settlement (1936—40) under the conditions then prevailing, had lost their contact with the income arising from the land. The Government expenditure had also vastly increased, particularly since the independence, on account of the expansion of Government establishment and because of the introduction of various development plans. To meet this ever-growing demand, the State Government tapped different sources of revenue. As regards land revenue, in addition to the assessed demand of land revenue of 1936—40, Surcharge, Special Assessment, Special Charge and Additional Charge are being levied in accordance with the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954, the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Assessment) Act, 1956, the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charges) Act, 1958, and the Punjab Land Revenue (Additional Charges) Act, 1960.

(ii) Collection of Land Revenue

The revenue collection is the responsibility of the *lambardar* (village headman). At the time of the First Regular Settlement in 1852—54, the total number of *lambardars* in the district was 3,968, i.e. one for every 63 landowners. All the *lambardars*, wherever possible, were appointed headmen to compose the claims of rural claimants in the regular settlement. They were different from the local leaders such as *tholedar* and *pattidar*, but in the First Regular Settlement, a good number of *tholedars*, who were representatives chosen by the people in their own councils as distinct from *lambardars*, got themselves recorded as *lambardars* and so obtained hereditary status and remuneration.

The institution of *zaildars* was introduced in the seventies of the last century to assist the *lambardars* in the realization of the arrears of land revenue. The *ala lambardars*, appointed in 1879, had been a failure amongst the democratic people like Jats of this district. In 1909, it was decided to do away with this institution gradually. In its place, *sufedposhes* were appointed.

The agencies of *zaildari* and *sufedposhi inams* continued to supervise, and assist in, the collection of land revenue till 1948, when these age-old institutions were abolished. These were revived in 1950, but again abolished in 1952.

Now only *lambardars* are responsible for the revenue collection on payment of *pachotra*, a cess charged at the rate of 5 per cent of the land revenue. In case the *lambardar* is unable to collect the land revenue, he makes a written complaint to the Tahsildar who helps him to effect the recovery.

Along with the land revenue, the *lambardar* also collects *abiana* and water-advantage rate, for which he is paid 3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively as collection charges.

Lambardars are authorized to remit land revenue by post ; but the system is not very popular because majority of them generally find it more convenient and economical to visit the tahsil headquarters personally for depositing the land revenue in the tahsil treasury than sending it by money-order.

(iii) Organization for Purposes of Land Administration

For purposes of revenue management, the State is divided into various districts, each in the charge of a Deputy Commissioner, also known as Collector, indicating his responsibility for the realization of all Government revenues. The district is divided into a number of tahsils, to each of which a Tahsildar and one or two Naib-Tahsildars, according to the work load, are appointed. The position of a Naib-Tahsildar, with reference to the Tahsildar, is that of the former Revenue Assistant or the present Subdivisional Officer *vis-a-vis* a Deputy Commissioner. Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars exercise administrative and revenue judicial functions within their jurisdictions.

The unit of revenue administration is an estate which is usually identical with a village. Of these estates, large and small, a tahsil, as a rule, contains two to five hundreds. Each of them is separately assessed for land revenue and has a separate record-of-rights and register of fiscal and agricultural statistics, which the Tahsildar maintains. All its proprietors are jointly responsible for the payment of land revenue, and in their dealings with Government they are represented by one or more headmen or *lambardars*. These headmen are paid by the communities they represent, by a surcharge of 5 per cent on the revenue. Together they form a valuable unofficial channel through which the Deputy Commissioner and the Tahsildar convey the orders of the Government to the people and secure compliance. There is also an official chain connecting the village with the tahsil. Estates are grouped into small circles, to each of which a patwari is appointed. About 20 of these circles form the charge of a kanungo whose duty is to supervise the work of patwaris.

Accordingly, the district has been subdivided into tahsils, kanungo circles and patwar circles as follows :

Tahsils, Kanungo Circles and Patwar Circles in the Amritsar District

Tahsil	Revenue Estates	Kanungo Circles	Patwar Circles	Naib-Patwar Circles
Amritsar ..	389	1. Beas	21	1
		2. Tarsikka	20	1
		3. Jandiala Guru	20	—
		4. Majitha	21	—
		5. Verka	20	—
		6. Amritsar	12	—
			114	2

Tahsil	Revenue Estates	Kanungo Circles	Patwar Circles	Naib-Patwar Circles
Tarn Taran	340	7. Tarn Taran	21	1
		8. Khadur Sahib	22	—
		9. Naushehra Pannuan	22	5
		10. Atari	21	1
		11. Lohka	21	—
Ajnala	347	12. Ramdas	20	2
		13. Ajnala	20	—
		14. Raja Sansi	19	1
		15. Jastarwal	18	1
		16. Lopoke	18	1
Patti	191	17. Bhikhiwind	16	1
		18. Patti	16	2
		19. Valtoha	16	1
Amritsar District	1,267	19	364	18

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

The staff employed for revenue work in the different tahsils of the district, as on March 31, 1968, was as under:

Tahsil	Number of Tahsildars	Number of Naib-Tahsildars	Number of Office Kanungos	Number of Patwaris	Number of Naib-Patwaris
Amritsar ..	1	5	1	6	114
Tarn Taran	1	5	1	5	107
Ajnala ..	1	2	1	5	95
Patti	1	2	1	3	48
Amritsar District	4	14	4	19	364

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

A Collector is the steward of the district and is bound to respect and preserve from encroachment every private right in the land which has been created or confirmed by the State. Where the revenue has been fixed for a term only, he is not only to collect it but also to look forward to a time when it will be revised and, hence, he is to record, in a systematic manner, statistical information which will facilitate its equitable reassessment. He must ensure and adopt measures to prevent the loss of crops from causes which are in any degree controllable by man. He must encourage and assist every effort made by a right holder for the development of his estate. In the discharge of his duties, a Collector is assisted by Subdivisional Officers, Tahsildars, Naib-Tahsildars, Kanungos and Patwaris. The post of the Revenue Assistant, first created in 1883, has since been abolished, and his duties have been assigned to the Subdivisional Officers in respect of their subdivisions.

The Tahsildar, an important functionary, is in charge of a tahsil. The duties of a Tahsildar within his tahsil are almost as manifold as those of a Collector within his district. He has to control the patwar and kanungo agency, to collect revenue punctually, to point out promptly to the Collector any failure of crops or seasonal calamity which renders suspension or remission necessary, and to carry out within his own sphere the other duties connected with land revenue administration. He is a touring officer and his tours afford him ample opportunities to deal, on the spot, with partition cases and other matters connected with the appointment of *lambardars*, lapses of land revenue assignments, etc.

A Tahsildar is assisted by Naib-Tahsildars, of whom in 1968, there were 14 in the district—5 in Amritsar Tahsil, 5 in Tarn Taran Tahsil, 2 in Ajnala Tahsil, and 2 in Patti Tahsil.

The patwari is an inheritance from the village system of old days. Under section 3 of the Land Revenue Act, 1887, a patwari was a 'Village Officer' and was paid from the village officers' cess, but in 1906 (*vide* Punjab Government, Department of Revenue and Agriculture/Revenue Notification Nos. 268 and 269, dated November 22, 1906), the liability of the landowners for the payment of patwar staff was abolished.

A patwari is appointed for a circle consisting of one or more villages. Besides the proper upkeep of records entrusted to his charge, a patwari is required to report to the Tahsildar any calamity affecting land, crops, cattle or the agricultural classes, and to bring to his notice alluvial and diluvial action of the rivers, encroachments on Government lands, the death of revenue assignees and pensioners, progress of works made under the Agricultural Loans and similar laws and the emigration or immigration of cultivators. He undertakes surveys and field inspections, aids in other government activities, like the distribution of relief, prepares the *dhal bachh* papers, showing the demand due

from each landowner to the village *bachh*. When revenue collections are in progress, he must furnish any information that may be required to facilitate the collections. He himself is not permitted to take any part in the collection of the revenue, except when any *lambardar* refuses to accept the *dhal bachh* and no immediate alternative arrangement can be made.

The patwari is under the immediate supervision of a circle supervisor known as kanungo, the title of the old Muhammadan functionary having been retained. The kanungo establishment in the district consists of 19 kanungos and 4 office kanungos in the tahsils, besides a *sadr kanungo* and a *naib-sadr kanungo* at the district headquarters.

The office kanungo is the Tahsildar's revenue clerk. His chief work is the maintenance of the statistical revenue records. He has also the charge of the forms and stationery required by the patwaris, keeps the account of mutation fee, records the rainfall and maintains the register of assignees of land revenue and other miscellaneous revenue registers. He is the custodian of all the records received from the patwaris and a well-ordered kanungo's office is an important factor in the revenue management of a tahsil.

At district headquarters, there is a district or *sadr kanungo*, assisted by a *naib-sadr kanungo*. The *sadr kanungo* is responsible for the efficiency of both the office kanungos and the kanungos and should be in camp inspecting their work for at least 15 days in every month from October to April. He is the keeper of all records received from the kanungos and patwaris and maintains, with the help of his assistant, copies of the prescribed statistical registers for each assessment circle, tahsil and the whole district. The responsibility of Tahsildar and Naib-Tahsildars for the inspection and correctness of the work of the kanungos and the patwaris is, however, not affected by the duties of the *sadr kanungo*. The kanungos are supervised by the Tahsildar and the Naib-Tahsildar who are to inspect at least 25 per cent of the entries in the record of titles of each estate.

(iv) Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses

Land Revenue.—The land revenue fixed in the Fifth Regular Settlement, 1936—40, is realized to this day. It is realized twice a year, i.e. for the *kharif*, by 15th December, and for *rabi* by 15th June. The details of income from land revenue and remission, during 1958-59 to 1967-68, are given below :

Income from land revenue and remissions, etc. in the Amritsar District, 1958-59 to 1967-68

Year ending <i>rabi</i>	Previous year's balance	Demand	Total amount for recovery	Actual recovery	Remis- sion	Suspen- sion	Balance
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1958-59	6,74,570	31,39,524	38,14,094	21,96,328	2,44,067	35,884	13,37,815
1959-60	13,73,699	31,29,948	45,03,647	28,04,129	64,932	1,63,116	14,71,470

Year ending <i>rabi</i>	Previous year's balance	Demand	Total amount for recovery	Actual recovery	Remis- sion	Suspen- sion	Balance
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1960-61	16,34,586	28,44,503	44,79,089	26,45,530	4,589	9,18,924	9,10,046
1961-62	18,28,970	38,34,643	56,63,613	25,43,467	7,33,672	7,83,737	16,02,737
1962-63	23,86,350	31,29,534	55,15,884	26,00,416	14,48,036	3,32,202	11,35,230
1963-64	14,67,807	39,32,097	53,99,904	35,99,882	1,43,955	3,08,036	13,48,031
1964-65	16,56,067	26,83,614	43,39,681	21,64,203	6,27,233	3,08,036	12,40,209
1965-66	15,48,330	27,04,098	42,52,428	20,88,909	6,32,022	7,32,521	7,98,976
1966-67	15,31,497	22,90,826	38,22,323	13,78,442	5,82,777	3,37,024	15,24,080
1967-68	18,61,104	27,33,261	35,94,365	22,87,515	69,928	2,91,817	19,45,105

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

In 1961, the Punjab Land Revenue (*thur*, *sem*, *chos* and sand) Remission and Supervision Rules, 1961, were enforced under which land revenue of all lands rendered uncultivable on account of *thur* and *sem* is remitted.

Special Cesses.—The following cesses are levied on the landowners:

Village Officers' Cess

Normally, this cess used to include the patwar cess also. In the earlier settlements, a normal rate for the patwar cess was considered to be 6 pies per rupee of land revenue, equivalent to surcharge of $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent, an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent being taken on account of the patwari's stationery. Later it was found impossible to meet the expenditure which the new standards of revenue work demanded, with so light a cess, and the rate was increased, $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent being commonly taken. The patwar cess was entirely remitted in 1906, the village officers' cess being reduced to 5 per cent of the land revenue, where the *pachotra* of the ordinary village headmen had to be provided, and 6 per cent where there were also chief headmen. The *zaildars* and *sufedposhes* were paid from the deduction of 1 per cent made from the land revenue collection.

At present, only *pachotra* at the rate of 5 per cent of land revenue is charged as the village officers' cess.

Local Rate

It has grown from small beginnings. It was usual in early settlements to levy a road cess at 1 per cent of the land revenue. Subsequently, education and postal cesses amounting to 1 per cent and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent respectively were added. But, by the Punjab Local Rate Act (XX) of 1871, a local rate amounting to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the land revenue was imposed. The local rate was raised by the Punjab Local Rates Act (V) of 1878 from $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for giving relief to the famine-stricken people.

With the passage of the Punjab District Boards Act (XX) of 1883, the road, education and postal cesses were merged into the local rate, and the legal limit of the rate was raised to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the land revenue and the owners' rate, and, under this Act, the whole of the local rate was credited to the district board.

Later on, the local rate was reduced to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It was raised to $9\frac{3}{8}$ per cent, *vide* Notification No. 1393-L6-45/9263, dated May 29, 1945, enforced from April 1, 1945. But, before the recovery could be effected, it was further raised to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent *vide* Notification No. 3497-L6-45/26559, dated October 5, 1945, enforced retrospectively from April 1, 1945.

The local rate was further increased to 25 per cent of the land revenue, *vide* Notification No. 4393B & C-48/22423, dated April 26, 1948, enforced from *kharif* 1947. It was still further raised from *kharif* 1948 to 50 per cent of the land revenue which continues to be enforced.

The following table shows the amount of local rate collection in the Amritsar District, during the period 1962-63 to 1967-68 :

Year ending <i>rabi</i>	Local rate collections (Rs)
1962-63	8,82,956
1963-64	11,92,298
1964-65	8,96,425
1965-66	7,38,455
1966-67	9,57,027
1967-68	11,60,617

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

Surcharge on Land Revenue

The assessments of land revenue in the Punjab made during the settlements in the different districts in the first quarter of the twentieth century were based on the then prevailing prices of agricultural produce. With the passage of time, the prices greatly increased. On the basis of the increase in prices, there would be a corresponding increase in the net assets of a circle which would, in the ordinary course, have meant an increase in the assessment of land revenue. To meet the ever-increasing expenditure on administration and development, the Government immediately needed more revenue. It was, therefore, decided to levy a surcharge on the existing land revenue.

Accordingly, the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954, was enacted for the levy of a surcharge with effect from the *rabi* harvest of the agricultural year 1953-54. This Act did not apply to the Amritsar District on the ground that assessment in this district had been made only about a decade and a half back during the Fifth Regular Settlement of the Amritsar District of 1936-40. Subsequently, however, it was noticed that the assessment of the Amritsar Urban and Suburban and the Tarn Taran Urban Assessment Circles of this district had been made as far back as 1911-12. It was, therefore, decided that the provisions of the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954, should also be made applicable to these circles. For this purpose, the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) (Amendment) Act, 1956, was passed. However, with the enforcement of the Fifth Regular Settlement of the Urban and Suburban of Amritsar and Tarn Taran Urban Assessment Circles, 1955-56, the surcharge on land revenue ceased to be levied even on the above-mentioned two circles with effect from the *rabi* of 1958.

Special Assessment on the Land Put to Non-agricultural Use

Special assessment on the land put to non-agricultural use was levied under the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Assessment) Act, 1956. It was, however, stopped from the *kharif* of 1964.

The income from the recovery of special assessment in the Amritsar District, during 1958-59 to 1967-68, is given below :

Year	Collection of Special Assessment	
	<i>Ad hoc</i> (Rs)	Regular (Rs)
1958-59	..	17,640
1959-60	..	21,128
1960-61	..	31,139
1961-62	..	12,927
1962-63	..	2,42,570
1963-64	..	93,648
1964-65	..	37,527
1965-66	..	12,530
1966-67	..	15,986
1967-68	..	6,952

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

Special Charge on Land Revenue

In order to meet heavy financial obligations created by various development schemes, it was necessary to augment the State revenues in every possible way and, hence, a special charge on land revenue was levied under the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charges) Act, 1958, with effect from the *rabi* harvest of the agricultural year 1957-58. The rate of special charge is based on the income-tax pattern with different slabs for different categories of landowners. The slab rates are such that the incidence of special charge falls on those who can afford to pay it. Whereas the landholders paying land revenue up to Rs 50 have been exempted from the provisions of the Act, those paying more than Rs 1,000 have been subjected to 300 per cent increase in the land revenue.

The income from the special charge on land revenue in the Amritsar District, during 1960-61 to 1967-68, is given below :

Year ending <i>rabi</i>	Collection of the special charge (Rs)
1960-61	.. 4,917
1961-62	.. 58,401
1962-63	.. 89,353
1963-64	.. 2,74,465
1964-65	.. 1,56,911
1965-66	.. 95,585
1966-67	.. 1,16,115
1967-68	.. 2,14,537

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

The Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954, and the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charges) Act, 1958, were repealed with effect from the *kharif* harvest of the agricultural year, 1974-75, by the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1974, which instead levied additional land revenue on every land-owner who paid land revenue in excess of twenty rupees, as per rates specified in the schedule appended on page 386.

Abiana.—*Abiana* is charged on the area irrigated by canals. The income under this head, during 1963-64 to 1967-68, is given below :

Year	Collection from <i>abiana</i> (Rs)
1963-64	.. 55,89,230
1964-65	.. 40,25,950
1965-66	.. 39,42,527
1966-67	.. 42,28,031
1967-68	.. 67,21,997

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

(b) Land Reforms

The main cause of social instability in the predominantly agricultural societies is the agrarian discontent due to the continuance of a system of land tenure which is completely out of place in the modern world. Thus land reforms are undertaken in order to promote, on the one hand, the well-being and contentment of the individual owner and, on the other, the stability of the society. Generally, land reforms impinge upon a number of agrarian problems such as the methods of farming, land use, the distribution of land ownership and the legal and customary institutions of land tenure, and the rural social conditions and the political forces which work for and against social change. These land reforms in the end aim at bringing about a better distribution of income and a broader social equality.

The relationship between the landlord and the tenant, based on old-time traditional beliefs, had been, for a long time, getting strained to the detriment of both agriculture and the cultivator. Attempts have, therefore, been made to put the relationship on a statutory basis, eliminating altogether the intermediaries. Thus, the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887 (Act XVI of 1887) was enacted. It provided for the regularization of the right of occupancy. This right was, however, restricted to a small number of tenants. Under the provisions of the Act, a tenant, to qualify for the right of occupancy, must have held at revenue rates for 30 years, or be the third generation of a family which held at revenue rates for 20 years or be an ex-proprietor or heir of an ex-proprietor with proprietary and tenant-at-revenue rates status of 20 years' standing. Only a few could, therefore, qualify for the right of occupancy. At the same time, whereas the occupancy right was inalienable, in the Punjab it could be mortgaged, sold or given away. The other tenants who did not have a right of occupancy and did not hold it for a fixed term under a contract or a decree or on order of competent authority could be ejected at the end of any agricultural year. The security of tenure assured to the Punjab tenant was, therefore, nominal.

The distribution of land among the various classes of cultivators/landholders in the Amritsar District, during 1967-68, is given in the following table:

Class of cultivators/landholders	Area (hectares)
Total cultivated area	.. 3,78,119
Tenants-at-will	.. 2,62,201
Owners	.. 1,15,918
Tenants with rights of occupancy	.. —

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

After the independence (1947), the State Government introduced agrarian reforms, in pursuance of which the following enactments were made :

1. The East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949 (East Punjab Act XXXVIII of 1949)
2. The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1952 (Punjab Act VIII of 1953)
3. The Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Act, 1952 (Punjab Act IX of 1953)
4. The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953 (Punjab Act X of 1953)
5. The Punjab Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955 (Punjab Act 45 of 1956)
6. The Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957 (Punjab Act 39 of 1957)
7. The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961 (Punjab Act 18 of 1961)

Under the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Act, 1952, all rights, title and interest of an *ala malik* in the land held under him by an *adna malik* were extinguished and the latter was required to pay compensation to the former. The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1953, declared all the occupancy tenants as owners of the land.

Security of Land Tenures.—The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953, as amended up to date, has not only reduced the acreage which can be reserved but has also specifically prohibited the ejectment of tenants from all unreserved areas, except in cases of default in payment of rent or in proper cultivation⁷. Rent has been limited to a third of the crop or its value or to the customary rent if that is lower. However, payment for services provided by the landlord is excluded from the computation of rent. The Act further extends the opportunities for tenants to become owners. A tenant of 4 years' standing acquires a right of pre-emption at sales or fore-closure; but more important, tenants of 6 years' standing are allowed to buy non-reserved area from their landlords at three-quarters of the 10 years' average of prices of similar land.

Government have been further empowered to utilize the surplus area of both landowners and tenants for the resettlement of ejected tenants, landless

⁷ The Punjab Act XI of 1955 adds *vide* Section 9-A that no tenant liable to ejectment shall be dispossessed of his tenancy unless he is accommodated on a surplus area or otherwise on some other land by the State Government.

labourers and small landowners. All areas owned by a local owner above 30 standard acres and by a displaced person above 50 standard acres would be considered 'surplus area'. A small owner, who owns upto 30 standard acres, cannot eject a tenant under the Act from 5 standard acres unless the tenant has been settled by Government on surplus area.

By March 31, 1968, 2,647 cases of surplus area were decided and 21,074 standard acres of land was declared surplus in the Amritsar District. By the same date, 5,644 eligible tenants had been resettled on a surplus area of 12,612 standard acres. Proprietary rights were given to the tenants in an area of 1,398 acres.

The State Government gives financial assistance for reclamation to those tenants and landless agricultural workers who are resettled on a surplus area, and also advance loans for building houses and sinking wells.

Utilization of Lands.—Under the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949, the Government enforced the utilization of every inch of available cultivable land for growing more of food and other essential crops. Under this Act, a notice to take over the land is served on every landowner who allows his land to remain uncultivated for 6 or more consecutive harvests and the land, thus, taken over is leased out to others for a term ranging from 7 to 20 years, priority being given to Harijans. Under the provisions of this Act, 3,409 acres of land was taken over in the district, the whole of which was leased out by March 31, 1968.

Three other laws complete the reform of the tenancy system. The Punjab Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955, created a Bhoodan Yagna Board to receive land gifts and to allot land to the landless. Under the Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957, all *jagirs*, *muafis* and *jagir* pensions, except military *jagirs* granted on, or after, August 4, 1914, any pension as defined in clause (17) of Article 366 of the Constitution and any grant made in favour of religious and charitable institutions, were resumed on November 14, 1957. The compensation to the extent of 7 times the annual *jagir* was paid to the holders in lump sum or in instalments with interest at 2 per cent per annum. The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961, provides for giving the village common land to landless persons.

Consolidation of Holdings.—The process of bringing together small and fragmented pieces of land is known as consolidation of holdings. The systematic and large-scale development in agriculture is not possible in case the holdings are small and the fields lie scattered. It is only through the consolidation of holdings that land lying scattered in tiny strips assumes a compact and standard shape. Uneconomic, neglected and inaccessible holdings are regrouped into consolidated, composite and homogeneous blocks. The regular sizeable fields enable the use of new and extensive agricultural techniques. Circular

approach roads increase the mobility between field and villages, and the land set apart for institutions, like *panchayat ghar* and schools, helps to initiate the social welfare programme. The work of consolidation of land-holdings had been carried on by the Co-operative Department since 1930, i.e. long before the partition of the Punjab in 1947, but in the absence of the necessary legislation, the work did not make much headway. Realizing the importance of the work, the State Government enacted the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act, 1948 (East Punjab Act L of 1948) and created a separate Consolidation Department in 1949.

The consolidation of land is a great boon to the agriculturist. The tiller is saved to a great extent from the labour of supervision and irrigation which he has to put in when his holdings are scattered. The tiller generally finds it difficult to look after his crops scattered at different places and it is also cumbersome to maintain long channels and watercourse intact. But the consolidation of holdings makes it possible for one man to irrigate the field and keep a close watch over it. He can avail himself of the facilities of modern agricultural implements and take to cultivation with a tractor if his holdings are consolidated. A lot of virgin land is also reclaimed by the Government as a corollary to the consolidation scheme. In fact, consolidation revolutionizes and improves the economic condition of a tiller of the land.

The work of consolidation of land holdings, started in the Amritsar District in 1951-52, has since been completed.

Bhoodan.—The Punjab Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955, was passed to promote the movement initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave. Though no land has so far been given in Bhoodan in the district, yet the spirit behind the movement has been appreciated by the people.

Rural Wages and Condition of Agricultural Labour.—The condition of agricultural labour is considerably low. This category of labour is not organized. Though wages for agricultural labour have increased during the past few years, yet favourable conditions of work or benefits of service do not exist.

The wages paid to agricultural and skilled workers (men) in a selected village, viz. Gehri (Tahsil Tarn Taran) in the Amritsar District, during the period 1961 to 1968, are given in the following statement :

*Wages paid to agricultural and skilled labourers (men) in the selected village of Gehri in the Amritsar District, 1961-68

Year	Agricultural Labour						Skilled Labour	
	For ploughing	For sowing	For weeding	For harvesting	For picking of cotton	For other agricultural operations	Blacksmith	Carpenter
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1961	1.50	1.50	2.00	..	..	2.46	4.50	4.50
1962	1.50	1.50	2.00	..	..	2.43	4.62	4.62
1963	3.10	3.10	1.71	..	2.00	1.79	5.56	5.10
1964	3.50	2.75	2.50	..	..	2.60	5.50	5.50
1965	3.38	3.42	3.22	3.00	..	3.32	5.77	5.77
1966	3.75	3.55	3.47	3.50	..	3.55	6.75	6.90
1967	4.07	4.07	4.08	5.50	..	4.11	8.30	8.30
1968	4.88	4.86	4.86	6.92	..	4.92	9.25	9.25

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1961 to 1968)

*For a normal working day of eight hours

(c) Other Sources of Revenue, State and Central

The revenues of India were classified into Indian, Provincial and Divided heads until 1920 when, following the introduction of the Montague-Chelmsford reforms, the divided heads were abolished and a complete separation took place between the Central and Provincial revenues. From this time, two types of revenues, viz. Central and Provincial (now State), have been current in the country.

(i) Other Sources of State Revenue

The other sources of State revenue, besides the land revenue, are : Stamp Duty, Registration Fee, Professions Tax, Excise, Property Tax, Entertainments Duty, Motor-Spirit Tax, Passengers and Goods Tax, Cinema Show Tax, Central Sales Tax and Electricity Duty.

Stamp Duty.—The Indian Stamp Act (No. II) of 1899 came into force on July 1, 1899. It was amended by the Punjab Act VIII of 1922. The second amendment was made by the Indian Stamp (Punjab Second Amendment) Act (No. 34) of 1960.

Stamp revenue is derived from two classes of stamps—Judicial or Court fee and Non-judicial or Revenue Stamps. The Judicial Stamps represent the fee payable by persons resorting to courts of law or public offices, whereas the Non-Judicial Stamps are levied on commercial transactions which are recorded. These duties are administered by the Collector (Deputy Commissioner) who ensures that the documents are properly stamped according to the schedule.

The treasuries in the district serve as depots for the custody and the sale of stamps of all denominations. Stamps are also sold by authorized vendors on commission basis.

The collection of stamp duty in the district, during 1960-61 and 1965-66 to 1967-68, was as under :

Year	Judicial (Rs)	Non-Judicial (Rs)	Miscellaneous (Rs)	Total (Rs)
1960-61	8,31,518	16,33,065	2,31,361	26,95,944
1965-66	10,86,385	29,37,892	3,15,261	43,39,538
1966-67	8,05,162	17,73,235	9,57,017	35,35,414
1967-68	10,47,636	23,94,486	19,29,471	53,71,593

(Source : Treasury Officer, Amritsar)

Registration Fee.—Under the Indian Registration Act (XVI) of 1908, all documents pertaining to immovable property should be registered according to the nature of the document. The chief items of receipts collected by the Registration Department are in respect of registration of documents, making or granting of copies, searching the registers and the authentication of powers of attorney. A few classes of documents have, however, been exempted from the payment of fee in whole or in part, e.g. (a) mortgage deeds executed by Government servants in respect of advances for building, (b) documents relating to co-operative societies and land-mortgage banks, (c) encumbrance certificates issued in connection with loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

The Deputy Commissioner is the Registrar in the district. He is assisted by Tahsildars as Sub-Registrars in their respective tahsils. The senior Naib-Tahsildar in a tahsil is the *ex-officio* Joint Sub-Registrar and he undertakes the registration work only when the Sub-Registrar is on leave or is away from the headquarters. The State Government is authorized to appoint any Cantonment Magistrate as Joint Sub-Registrar temporarily. The Sub-Registrar and the Joint Sub-Registrar do registration work in addition to their own duties and get an honorarium @ Rs 50 and Rs 35 per mensem respectively.

The Sub-Registrar registers the documents pertaining to the properties situated within his jurisdiction. The Registrar is, however, empowered to register any document from any tahsil of his district. The appeals against the orders of the Sub-Registrar are heard by the Registrar. The Registrar, Amritsar, is under the Inspector-General of Registration, Jullundur.

The number of registrations, the value of the property registered and the receipts in the district, during 1961-62 to 1967-68, are given in the following statement :

Particulars of registration in the Amritsar District, 1961-62 to 1967-68

Year	Number of registrations		Aggregate value of property registered	Amount of ordinary fees	Other receipts	Total receipts
	Immovable property	Movable property				
			(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1961-62	20,250	1,968	3,51,34,897	3,38,511	9,227	3,47,738
1962-63	24,307	2,132	4,12,89,883	4,08,488	9,050	4,17,538
1963-64	..	..	..	..	..	..
1964-65	..	..	..	..	..	..
1965-66	18,245	2,906	5,40,06,654	5,50,907	..	5,50,907
1966-67	21,636	2,111	6,87,70,849	11,23,077	..	11,23,077
1967-68	26,430	2,211	9,16,26,523	14,83,060	..	..

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar)

Excise Tax.—For the administration of Excise and Taxation Acts, the district is under the charge of the Excise and Taxation Officer, Amritsar, who is assisted (as in March 1968) by 3 Additional Excise and Taxation Officers, 11 Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers, 31 Tax Inspectors, 12 Excise Inspectors, besides other miscellaneous staff. The Amritsar District falls within the jurisdiction of the Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Jullundur.

The State and Central Acts, enforced in the State on the excise side, are : The Indian Opium Act, 1878; The Punjab Excise Act, 1914; The Punjab Local Option Act, 1923; The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930; The Punjab Molasses (Control) Act, 1948; The Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948; The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955; and the Spirituous Preparations (Excise Duties) Central Act, 1955.

Copying Fees.—These are levied under the Punjab Copying Fees Act, 1936. Copies of orders, etc. are supplied to the public on ordinary and urgent bases, the charges for which are Rs 2.25 and Rs 4.25 respectively. Copies on ordinary basis are to be supplied in seven days, whereas those on urgent basis are to be delivered within 24 hours.

Motor-Spirit Tax.—It is levied under the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) Act, 1939 (Act I of 1939). The rate of tax, which remained 3 annas per imperial gallon till July 14, 1957, has been changing thereafter from time to time. In 1970, it was 9 paise per litre.

Urban Immovable Property Tax.—This tax was levied under the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940. It was charged at the rate of 10 per cent of the annual rental value of the buildings and lands, situated in the rating area, which was determined after 15 per cent deduction for repairs from the gross annual rent. The Government abolished the tax in four yearly stages from 1969-70 to 1972-73.

Sales Tax.—It is levied under the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, which repealed the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1941, on May 1, 1948.

Passengers and Goods Tax.—The Punjab Passengers and Goods Tax Act, 1952 (Act XVI of 1952) was enforced on September 1, 1952. The Act provides that tax shall be levied on all fares and freights in respect of passengers carried and goods transported in motor-vehicles in the Punjab. The rate of the tax has been enhanced from time to time. In 1967-68, the rate was 25 per cent of the fare and freight. The annual rate of tax per truck in 1970 was in plains within the Punjab Rs 810 and in hilly areas Rs 1,215.

Entertainments Tax.—The Punjab Entertainments Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1954 (Act VIII of 1954) was enforced on May 4, 1954. The tax is levied for every show on the number of occupied seats of a cinema hall. The Act provides that the tax shall not exceed Rs 10 per show in any case and shall be charged proportionately for a fraction of 100 seats.

Entertainments Duty.—The Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936, was repealed by the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955 (Act XVI of 1955) with effect from November 4, 1955. The rates of duty change from time to time. The Act provides that entertainments duty shall not exceed in any case 50 per cent of the payment for admission; and in the case of complimentary tickets, the rate of duty shall be 50 per cent of the payment for admission to the particular class.

Professions Tax.—Every person who carries on trade, either himself or through an agent or representative, or who follows a profession or calling or is in employment either wholly or in part, within the Punjab State, is liable to

pay, for each financial year or part thereof, a tax under the Punjab Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Act, 1956 (Act 7 of 1956). The maximum limit of the tax payable by any person is Rs 250 in a financial year. The Excise and Taxation Officer, Amritsar, implements the Act in the district. Before 1965, the Treasury Officer, Amritsar, was the Assessing Authority for the purpose.

Central Sales Tax.—The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, came into force in January 1957, enabling the State Governments to tax inter-State sales of goods. The States have been authorized to administer this tax on behalf of the Government of India, the entire collections being appropriated by the States.

Electricity Duty.—It was levied with effect from April 1, 1958, under the Punjab Electricity (Duty) Act, 1958, as part of the education cess to meet the additional financial burdens undertaken by the State on account of the introduction of free education and provincialization of the local-body schools. The duty is levied on the energy supplied by the Punjab State Electricity Board to a consumer or a licensee and it is collected by the Board along with the bills for the energy thus supplied. On realization, the proceeds are deposited by the Board in the Government Treasury, Sub-Treasury or in the State Bank of India.

The collections from the above-mentioned taxes in the Amritsar District, from 1958-59 to 1967-68, are shown in the following statement.

**Collections from other sources of State revenue in the Amritsar District,
1958-59 to 1967-68**

Collections from other sources of State revenue in the

Tax	1958-59 (Rs)	1959-60 (Rs)	1960-61 (Rs)	1961-62 (Rs)
1. Excise Tax	..	..	45,81,700	52,35,451
2. Copying Fee	1,711	1,933	4,517	4,077
3. Motor Spirit Tax	3,46,256	4,11,125	4,75,748	5,34,033
4. Urban Immovable Property Tax	9,83,822	10,26,518	10,56,590	14,94,903
5. General Sales Tax	40,11,954	48,86,159	54,16,247	63,11,082
6. Passengers and Goods Tax	17,16,654	15,35,508	16,80,409	19,31,486
7. Entertainments Tax	49,438	52,493	45,281	49,094
8. Entertainments Duty	7,24,088	7,15,060	8,63,388	11,50,022
9. Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Tax	2,16,482	2,93,389	3,75,923	3,86,204
10. Central Sales Tax	13,70,985	13,61,115	16,37,113	18,21,623

Amritsar District, 1958-59 to 1967-68

1962-63 (Rs)	1963-64 (Rs)	1964-65 (Rs)	1965-66 (Rs)	1966-67 (Rs)	1967-68 (Rs)
47,32,376	60,92,149	88,90,988	1,02,41,713	1,14,00,252	1,57,981
2,967	3,090	3,879	5,937	13,780	2,714
5,89,729	6,20,604	6,25,856	6,21,937	8,27,018	10,49,499
15,78,322	20,80,821	16,22,876	12,23,648	11,93,838	7,52,653
71,02,491	1,01,44,368	1,26,34,349	1,32,92,836	1,88,84,258	2,41,48,264
24,04,991	35,91,914	40,17,604	41,44,551	50,42,665	55,40,448
50,263	56,065	61,932	1,18,660	1,07,868	1,10,940
12,83,150	16,83,132	19,97,754	18,84,148	23,84,429	23,59,789
8,64,382	11,15,104	7,99,788	5,57,671	9,19,295	3,66,959
20,61,887	30,39,185	33,72,000	34,07,730	49,19,158	80,47,680

(Source : Excise and Taxation Officer, Amritsar ; Chief Electrical Inspector to Government, Punjab, Patiala)

(ii) Central Sources of Revenue

Central Excise Duties.—The Assistant Collector, Central Excise M.O.D., Amritsar, is in charge of the Central Excise Division, Amritsar, which comprises the Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts. The jurisdiction of the Amritsar District is divided into five ranges, viz. the Chheharta Range, the Putlighar Range, the City Range, the Gold Range and the Cheel Mandi Range, which are supervised by the Superintendent, Central Excise M. O. R., Amritsar. The range offices are situated at the G. T. Road, Chheharta, Islamabad, Gopal Nagar, Chourasti Atari, and Cheel Mandi respectively.

The main sources of Central Excise duty in the district include woollen fabrics, woollen yarn, wool tops, art-silk fabrics, aerated water, rayon synthetic yarn, paints and varnishes, vegetable products, food products, sodium silicate, embroidered goods, and coal tar dyes.

The Acts under which the duty is collected are : the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944; the Produce Cess Act, 1966; the Khadi and Other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953; the Cotton Fabrics (Additional Excise Duty) Act, 1957; and the Additional Duty of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957.

Income-Tax.—The Indian Income Tax Act, 1922, was replaced by the Income Tax Act, 1961, on April 1, 1962. The income-tax is levied in accordance with the rates specified in the Finance Act of the relevant year passed by the Parliament.

Wealth Tax.—It is levied under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957, which came into force from April 1, 1957. In the case of an individual, the tax is leviable if the net wealth exceeds rupees one lakh, and, in the case of a Hindu undivided family, if it exceeds rupees two lakhs. One house or a part of a house subject to a maximum of rupees one lakh in value, belonging to the assessee and exclusively used by him for residential purposes, is exempted from the payment of the tax.

The agricultural land has also been included in the net assets for the purpose of wealth tax with effect from April 1, 1971. The tax is, however, not payable in respect of agricultural land belonging to an assessee up to a maximum of rupees one and a half lakh in value.

Gift Tax.—The Gift Tax Act, 1958, was enforced on April 1, 1958. It is leviable on all gifts made after April 1, 1957 (i. e. from the financial year 1957-58 and the assessment year 1958-59) if the total value of the gift (movable or immovable) exceeds Rs 10,000. This limit was lowered to Rs 5,000 with effect from 1963-64.

Estate Duty.—The Estate Duty Act, 1953 (Act 34 of 1953) was enforced on October 15, 1953. The duty is leviable on the estates of persons dying after this date. Proceedings for this levy are to be initiated within 5 years of the death but no time limit has been fixed for the completion of the assessment. For the levying of estate duty, the Amritsar District falls within the jurisdiction of the Assistant Controller of Estates Duty, Jullundur.

The collections from the above-mentioned taxes in the Amritsar District, from 1958-59 to 1967-68, are given in the following statement :

Collections from Central sources of revenue in the Amritsar District, 1958-59 to 1967-68

Year	Central excise duties	Income- tax	Wealth tax	Gift tax	Estate duty
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1958-59	53,12,566	1,59,77,805	2,87,048	200	64,563
1959-60	63,14,922	1,58,65,097	2,58,461	23,636	1,12,089
1960-61	57,06,840	2,02,93,090	1,12,308	15,794	1,96,760
1961-62	1,03,58,650	1,93,15,503	1,17,516	23,758	2,71,609
1962-63	1,40,94,019	3,21,53,264	1,65,156	88,279	1,00,633
1963-64	2,56,47,651	3,83,59,437	2,95,950	41,072	45,211
1964-65	2,18,29,345	4,09,75,951	1,21,931	50,377	99,936
1965-66	1,29,41,963	3,40,62,715	4,75,923	1,74,997	89,495
1966-67	1,83,92,134	5,08,02,774	5,79,184	1,44,479	80,125
1967-68	1,84,95,316	5,64,02,986	6,85,757	1,31,856	87,218

(Source : Treasury Officer, Amritsar; and Assistant Controller of Estate Duty, Jullundur Circle, Jullundur)

APPENDIX

Schedule specifying rates of additional revenue levied under the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1974

(vide page 371)

Under the Act, every land-owner who pays land revenue in excess of twenty rupees shall be liable to pay an additional land revenue in accordance with the rates specified in the following schedule. The Act, however, provides that in respect of land situated in the Ropar Tahsil of Ropar District, Batala Tahsil of Gurdaspur District, urban assessment circle of Tarn Taran or the urban or suburban assessment circles of the Amritsar Tahsil of Amritsar District additional revenue shall be payable at a rate which shall be twenty-five per cent less than the rates mentioned in the schedule.

Schedule

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Where the total land revenue exceeds twenty rupees but does not exceed fifty rupees annually. | Two hundred per cent of the amount by which the total land revenue exceeds twenty rupees. |
| 2. Where the total land revenue exceeds fifty rupees but does not exceed one hundred rupees annually. | Sixty rupees plus two hundred and fifty per cent of the amount by which the total land revenue exceeds fifty rupees. |
| 3. Where the total land revenue exceeds one hundred rupees, but does not exceed two hundred rupees annually. | One hundred and eighty-five rupees plus three hundred per cent of the amount by which the total land revenue exceeds one hundred rupees. |
| 4. Where the total land revenue exceeds two hundred rupees annually. | Four hundred and eighty-five rupees plus three hundred and fifty per cent of the amount by which the total land revenue exceeds two hundred rupees. |

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

(a) Incidence of Crime in the District

The mass of the people of the Amritsar District, which presents the appearance of a continuous level plain, unbroken by hills or valleys, may fairly be said to be contented and law-abiding. The crimes of violence are not numerous and riots are rare. Murders, when they occur, are usually the outcome of sudden quarrels, land disputes, sex relations, and sometimes are committed under circumstances of peculiar atrocity. The weapons employed are mostly spears, *kirpans*, *gandas* or *takwas*. Homicide cases in rural tracts occur frequently as a result of quarrels about the possession of land or building sites, or about cattle trespass. Of the serious crimes against property, house-breaking and theft are commonest. It can safely be said that the bulk of the people of the district are law-abiding.

The district has a conspicuous name for illicit distillation and for the smuggling of opium from across the border. The police have adopted severe and stringent measures to detect this type of crime. However, in such cases it is difficult to obtain evidence, for the whole village is usually found in league with one another to conceal the breach of law.

From the view-point of law and order, the Amritsar District is the heaviest and most difficult charge in the whole State. The headquarters of most of the well-organized political parties are located at Amritsar. The city has always been the nerve-centre of political activity, where rival parties have, now and then, launched agitations and measured their strength, presenting the most complicated problems to the district administration, especially the police. All political movements and agitations find their seed in the city and also flourish here. Even before the partition (1947), a stir in the political atmosphere at Lahore found the man-power and finance in Amritsar to carry it through.

In the rural areas of the district, there are strong and sturdy Jats who are ready to take law in their own hands at the slightest pretext. The proximity of the border affects adversely the temperament of the inhabitants of the area, who become more desperate and too much prone to crime. In towns, there is a very intelligent, shrewd and far-seeing business community, which would calculate everything in terms of profit and loss. In view of the ever-changing course of the River Ravi, the district has to face floods almost every year. On account of the social, economic, political and geographical importance of the district, there are innumerable visits of the V.I.Ps' and an endless stream of foreigners and tourists pouring into the district. These visits place an additional burden

on the police. In order to appreciate the various problems of crime in the district, one cannot afford to ignore its historical and geographical background. This is a district of the Golden Temple and of saints and martyrs, along with its richness of the soil for agriculture, besides a flourishing trade and industry. All these present their own problems to the administration. The partition of the country (1947) gave a new geography to the district. In consequence, four new police-stations, viz. Patti, Valtoha, Bhikhiwind and Khalra, formerly part of the Lahore District, were added to it. These four police-stations were already notorious for crime, and provided the major portion of the work to the pre-partition Kasur Subdivision. This gave new problems of crime to the police.

The partition of the Punjab (1947) plunged the newly constituted East Punjab State into carnage, with all its dire consequences. Even though the communal frenzy died down in the wake of mass migration, the resulting disequilibrium created a number of problems for the police. Along with the refugees, a large number of confirmed bad characters and members of the criminal tribes came across the border and took full advantage of the disturbed conditions. A special staff was accordingly organized to spot out the criminals who had crossed the border before they could establish local contacts. The police found the task to be very difficult, because all the important files and records of these criminals were left at Lahore. Apart from the grim background and the unfortunate aftermath of the partition, a large number of other factors were also responsible for the sudden increase in the incidence of crime, coupled with a decline in the efficiency of the police force. The communal disturbances and the widespread rioting and violent crime had produced in the public mind a diminishing respect for law and moral values. Consequently, some unimportant local quarrels, which could easily have been checked in the past by the local authorities, no longer subsided very early and even led to greater violence. The wholesome fear of law was no longer a restraining force. Whereas in the past a *thanedar* could deal with the situation single-handed, even senior officers found themselves seriously handicapped or even helpless as a result of the unhealthy local influence.

With the abolition in 1948¹, of the non-official agencies, like Honorary Magistrates, *Zaildars* and *Sufedposhes*, which rendered useful assistance to the Government, the police was deprived of a valuable support in its work in the rural areas. Their removal was, however, inevitable under the new democratic set-up established in the country. Consequent upon the establishment of the Panchayati Raj in the Punjab in 1961, the Sarpanches and Panches are expected to play their full part in the day-to-day work of the administration and in the maintenance of law and order.

¹The institutions of *Zaildari* and *Sufedposhi* were revived in 1950, but were again abolished in 1952.

An idea regarding the trend of crime of all kinds brought to trial in the district, during the period 1959—1968, may be had from the following table^a :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	5,667	5,500
1960	5,394	4,995
1961	5,948	6,030
1962	6,202	5,499
1963	7,051	6,083
1964	7,316	7,131
1965	7,748	7,289
1966	8,121	6,201
1967	7,950	6,286
1968	8,134	6,544

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

The notable categories of crimes may be described below :

Murder.—This offence is committed owing to many reasons and under varied circumstances. The important motives behind a murder are usually the traditional “*zan, zar and zamin*”, i.e. woman, money and land. Illicit sexual relations, domestic quarrels, blood feuds, land disputes, lure of property canal-water disputes, personal enmity and party factions are the common causes of the crime in the district. Sometimes, murders are committed after a thoughtful planning and the culprits take care to leave no clues behind. Thus it becomes difficult for the police to trace them. The incidence of murder is mainly confined to the rural areas where party factions and disputes over women and land culminate in the commission of this heinous crime. Once the game is started, its chain of revengeful action often continues for decades, despite strict surveillance by the local police. It is also a fortuitous crime and is sometimes committed over minor and trifling issues in a sudden outburst of anger.

^aReported cases are those which are reported during a particular year, whereas true cases may also include the balance of cases reported during the previous year. This accounts for the number of true cases exceeding the number of reported cases in any year.

The following table illustrates the incidence of murder in the district, during the period 1959—1968 :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	25	46
1960	37	37
1961	37	38
1962	41	36
1963	35	41
1964	41	47
1965	58	40
1966	81	77
1967	89	62
1968	91	61

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Dacoity.—No case of dacoity was reported in the district during the decade, 1959 to 1968.

Robbery.—As in case of dacoities, the district has shown considerable improvement in the incidence of robberies. Systematic *naka bandis* and an extensive patrolling of strategic points are mainly responsible for keeping this crime under effective control.

The following table depicts the position of the crime during the period 1959—68 :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	3	3
1960	2	5
1961	—	1
1962	3	—
1963	1	1
1964	3	1
1965	1	1
1966	2	1
1967	—	—
1968	4	4

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Burglary.—There was not much fluctuation in the incidence of this crime in the district during the period 1959—68. The incidence of the crime ranged from 267 (in 1959) to 288 (in 1968). Most of these cases remained untraced, perhaps because the possible clues, which were of value in tracing such cases, had generally been destroyed inadvertently by the ignorant people who had gathered at the spot after the occurrence. In some cases, the complainants lay suspicions on innocent persons on account of their personal enmity or disputes. Vigilant patrolling by the police, the rounding up of the untraced criminals and bad characters and intelligent and efficient investigation by the district Central Intelligence Agency have effected considerable reduction in the incidence of the crime.

The incidence of burglary in the district during 1959 to 1968 is given below :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	267	277
1960	180	159
1961	157	142
1962	153	127
1963	195	149
1964	211	199
1965	134	172
1966	260	197
1967	327	188
1968	288	204

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Rioting.—Riots generally take place in the rural areas. Disputes over land and personal rivalries on account of party factions are responsible for the incidence of this crime. It has, however, been observed that the parties, which generally fall out on momentary passions, come to their senses after sometime and patch up their differences by the time the cases are put up in court. The results of prosecutions in such cases are, therefore, poor.

The following table gives the incidence of riots in the district during the period 1959 to 1968 :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	6	2
1960	2	6
1961	—	1
1962	2	2
1963	2	—
1964	2	2
1965	—	1
1966	11	3
1967	7	7
1968	1	—

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

The above figures show that there has been an appreciable decline in the incidence of this crime. Only one case was reported during 1968.

Theft.—The incidence of ordinary theft has shown an upward trend in the district and mostly the increase has been reported from the urban areas of the district. A tremendous increase in the population of the Amritsar city, Chheharta and Verka because of rapid industrialization, resulting in the influx of a large labour force of unknown antecedents without any corresponding increase in the strength of the police force, are the main causes leading to an increase in the number of thefts. Thefts in the rural areas of the district take place in small numbers, first, because the village *abadis* are small and the inhabitants know one another, and, second, the rural population is generally well off.

The following table gives the incidence of theft in the district from 1959 to 1968 :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	364	361
1960	267	273
1961	242	204
1962	232	215
1963	327	248
1964	327	339
1965	337	371
1966	641	487
1967	675	500
1968	498	357

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Cattle-lifting.—This crime is mostly prevalent in the rural areas and its incidence has shown a progressive increase, as borne out by the following table for the decennium 1959 to 1968 :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	41	32
1960	20	27
1961	33	27
1962	40	33
1963	47	36
1964	44	48
1965	34	35
1966	45	30
1967	43	21
1968	53	30

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Traffic in Women.—The crime under this head did not show any noticeable variation during the decade 1959 to 1968. The greatest difficulty in curbing this crime is that most of the cases are ultimately found to be of consent in which the young girls willingly elope with their paramours in order to enjoy gay and romantic time. Some of the cases are, however, registered simply on administrative and moral grounds, even though the girls are known to be above the age of consent (i.e. 18 years) and to have willingly gone with their paramours. In such cases, the primary concern of the police is to restore the kidnapped girl to the parents.

Kidnapping is a social evil and the police can hardly play an effective role in curbing it. In rare cases, economic distress may lead to kidnapping, but mostly it takes place for immoral purposes. The laxity of moral values, the lack of education, and the allurements of voluptuous life sometimes result in the elopement of innocent girls. The reported cases of kidnapping and abduction were isolated in character, and not the work of any organized gang operating in the district.

The table below shows the incidence of crime under this head from 1959 to 1968 :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	31	30
1960	42	33
1961	37	31
1962	39	36
1963	34	25
1964	51	29
1965	29	32
1966	39	22
1967	75	17
1968	66	16

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Cheating.—With the rapid industrialization and urbanization of Amritsar and other towns in the district, the incidence of cheating has shown a marked increase. Most of the cases are reported to the police by the parties in order to settle certain disputes of civil nature. A good number of these cases are ultimately compromised by the parties and this factor accounts for the low percentage of convictions.

The following table gives the incidence of cheating in the district during 1959 to 1968 :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	18	19
1960	8	14
1961	14	5
1962	19	9
1963	20	9
1964	18	7
1965	37	30
1966	60	23
1967	47	20
1968	30	13

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Offences under Local and Special Laws.—The offences under this head comprise cases under the Police, Arms, Excise, Opium, Gambling, Essential Commodities, Railways, Prevention of Corruption Act, etc. The number of cases reported under this head are given below :

Year	Reported cases	True cases
1959	4,171	4,094
1960	4,109	3,804
1961	4,681	4,412
1962	5,002	4,526
1963	5,611	4,967
1964	5,828	5,776
1965	6,196	5,868
1966	5,727	4,606
1967	5,289	4,766
1968	5,782	5,149

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Incidence of Motor-Vehicle Accidents.—With the rapid industrial and commercial development of Amritsar, the population of the city has increased enormously, with the result that there is a great congestion on the roads. The vehicular traffic, particularly on the G.T. Road, has vastly increased. Amritsar is a big business and trading centre and, as such, there is an endless flow of people visiting this city.

All these factors have resulted in an increase in the number of accidents. The prosecutions for traffic offences, launched under the Indian Motor-Vehicles Act, 1939, in the district, during the period 1959 to 1968, are given below :

Year	Prosecutions launched
1959	4,990
1960	4,390
1961	4,921
1962	6,867
1963	8,247
1964	8,939
1965	5,823
1966	6,079
1967	6,140
1968	7,264

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

Road Traffic.—Besides the Indian Motor-Vehicles Act, 1939, sections 279, 337, 338 and 304-A of the Indian Penal Code, the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, and the Municipal Bye-Laws, the Stage Carriages Act, XVI of 1961, the Police Act of 1888, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890, the Punjab Motor-Vehicles Taxation Act, 1924, and the Hackney-Carriage Act, 1879,

regulate the road traffic. The prosecutions launched in the district under the various Acts, during 1959 to 1968, are shown below :

Name of the Act	Year									
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Indian Penal Code	17	14	14	29	48	50	50	27	66	59
Municipal Act and Municipal Bye-laws	3,722	3,076	3,136	2,764	—	27	—	—	—	—
Stage Carriages Act	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Police Act	3,458	2,595	2,599	2,688	401	538	1,844	1,519	336	219
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab Motor-Vehicles Taxation Act	215	175	161	165	440	547	500	590	—	—

(Source: Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

(b) History and Organization of Police

History of Police

From an early period, the necessity for some agency for ensuring the safety of life and property and for enforcing law appears to have been felt in all organized communities or groups of persons. In India, the law-enforcement organization has been traditionally associated with the administration of justice.

In the Punjab, the police force in the modern sense of the term was organized by the British after the annexation of the Punjab in 1849. The police system was reorganized from time to time with the recommendations of the different commissions and committees, e.g., the Police Commission of 1861, the Second Police Commission of 1902, and the Punjab Provincial Police Committee of 1925.

The partition of the Punjab in 1947 and the mass migration of population in its wake not only created an unprecedented problem of law and order, but also completely paralysed the police organization in the State. The police force had to bear the brunt of the after-effects of the partition. It had to combat unprecedented lawlessness in order to restore law and order.

Under the new national set-up after the independence of the country, the duties and functions of the police have to be reorientated. They have to assume the new role of the servants of the people and the guardians of law and order. The changed conditions, therefore, called for a review of the needs and

the problems of the police as well as of the reorientation of their outlook and administration. Accordingly, the Punjab Police Commission of 1961 was constituted to inquire into, and report on, the role of the police in the context of the democratic set-up consistent with the paramount need for the security of the State, in the context of the measures for controlling meetings and demonstrations and for securing the police-public co-operation and cognate matters. Although the report of the Commission was not released, yet its recommendations were out in May, 1962 and are being implemented by the Government.

Organization of Police

For the purpose of police administration, the district falls under the charge of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Jullundur Range, Jullundur. The police force of the district is controlled by the Senior Superintendent of Police, who is assisted by 1 Superintendent of Police, 6 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 9 Inspectors, 70 Sub-Inspectors, 137 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 265 Head Constables and 2,117 Constables. Besides, the village watchmen (*chowkidars*) are in position in all such villages as have no municipal or notified area committees. *Thikri paihra* on voluntary basis is also carried out in the rural areas of the district. This arrangement is of immense help in controlling the crime against the people and their property.

The main duty of the police is to combat crime and the criminals in order to keep the law-and-order situation well under control and, thus, ensure the safety of the public. Their working and nature of duties differ with their postings. Officers and men posted in the police-lines, offices, court duties, standing guards, police-stations and police-posts have different duties to perform according to the nature of the work assigned to them.

The strength of the police in the district, as on March 31, 1968, is given in the following table :

Police strength in the Amritsar District, as on March 31, 1963

	Senior Superintendent of Police	Superintendent of Police	Deputy Superintendent of Police	Inspectors	Sub-Inspectors	Assistant Sub-Inspectors	Head Constables	Constables
Civil/Armed Police								
Permanent	1	1	4	7	40	127	207	1,751
Temporary	—	—	1	1	12	10	56	346
Mounted Police								
Permanent	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	20
Temporary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prosecution Staff								
Permanent	—	—	1	1	17	—	—	—
Temporary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	6	9	70	137	265	2,117

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar)

The various police-stations and police-posts in the district have already been mentioned in the chapter on 'General Administration' on pages 327-328.

Civil Police.—The civil police is employed on duty at the district headquarters and in the various police-stations. There are two police subdivisions in the district, each under a Deputy Superintendent of Police, one at Tarn Taran and the other at Patti. There are 24 police-stations and 15 police-posts in the district. Each police-station is under the charge of a police officer, known as the Station-House Officer, assisted by one or more Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, 1 Moharrir Head Constable as Station Clerk, 1 Constable as Assistant Moharrir or Assistant Station Clerk and a number of Constables. It is the duty of the Station-House Officer to keep the law and order situation well under control in the area within his jurisdiction and to investigate the offences occurring in it.

Punjab Armed Police and Mounted Police.—One P.A.P. Reserve is stationed in the district for anti-dacoity operations. Mounted Police has also been posted in the district.

Prosecution Staff.—Formerly, the prosecution staff was drawn from the regular police force of the district. The selected personnel were from among those who had passed the law examination from the Police Training School, Phillaur ; but this wing of the force has been reorganized and officers, with the requisite legal qualifications, are directly recruited to it.

The Prosecution Branch is under the charge of a Prosecuting Deputy Superintendent of Police, who is assisted by 1 Prosecuting Inspector and 17 Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors.

Criminal Investigation Department.—There is a unit of the Criminal Investigation Department at Amritsar. It started functioning after the partition (1947), mainly to prevent the foreigners from entering or residing in the district. The staff consists of 1 Superintendent of Police, 1 Deputy Superintendent of Police, 6 Inspectors, 26 Sub-Inspectors, 42 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 44 Head Constables and 88 Constables.

There is no Finger-Print Bureau in the district, but the single-digit system of finger-prints is worked by the Central Information Bureau staff where the records regarding professional criminals are maintained.

Vigilance Police.—A unit of the Vigilance Police, under the charge of an Inspector, is posted in the district. Its main job is to make inquiries into the complaints of corruption and other irregularities committed by government employees. If they so desire, they can get such cases registered and the investigations of these cases are carried out by the Vigilance staff themselves. It is after the completion of an inquiry or investigation that they decide whether the accused is to be proceeded against departmentally or tried judicially.

Anti-Smuggling Staff.—The problem of smuggling raised its ugly head after the partition (1947), because this district has land borders with Pakistan. A special anti-smuggling staff from among the members of the district police was, therefore, created. Its work is supervised by a Deputy Superintendent of Police and other staff working under him. This staff has been working there since 1956. It carries out surveillance of smugglers, their financiers and other helpers in the trade. The Amritsar city provides a ready market for the exchange of smuggled articles, and the plain-clothed members of the staff carry on patrolling in the markets of the city.

Police Wireless Station.—The wireless organization has a unique significant usefulness. It provides the quickest means of transmission of messages and is the only source for the purpose when other means of communication, i.e., telephone and telegraph, break down.

Railway Police.—A police-station of the Government Railway Police is situated in the Amritsar Railway Station premises. It attends to crime and other police duties on the railway lines and other buildings connected with the working of the railways. Whereas the Police-Station maintains liaison with the district police, it works under the control of the Assistant Inspector-General, Government Railway Police, Punjab, with headquarters at Patiala. The jurisdiction of the Police-Station extends from the Indo-Pak Border, Wagha, up to Beas on the main line and on branch lines up to Khem Karan, Ramdas and Jaintipura. There are Government Railway Police-Posts at Tarn Taran, Verka and Patti Railway Stations.

The staff of the Railway Police consists of 3 Sub-Inspectors, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 8 Head Constables and 51 Constables.

Excise Police Staff.—It consists of 1 Sub-Inspector, 2 Head Constables and 24 Constables, who are on deputation from the Police Department.

Village Police.—The institution of *chowkidari* is very old. Even in the remote past, every village had one such official who used to receive as his remuneration a share from each cultivator's produce. This remuneration was paid by the community equally and was reckoned on the basis of the number of hearths. The village *chowkidar* formed the lowest rung of the police organization. Before the abolition of the institutions of *zaildari* and *sufedposhi* in 1948, the village *chowkidar* rendered a useful service by assisting these officials in maintaining law and order in the village.

At present, the *chowkidars* form a regular class and are paid out of the levy called *bash* assessed from the landowners of the villages, which have no municipal or notified-area committees. The utility of this institution has diminished to some extent owing to the general apathy of the villagers towards

rendering assistance to the administration for keeping watch and ward. The people are generally averse to performing *thikri paihra* and have an impression that the maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the police only.

Punjab Home Guards

The Punjab Home Guards Act was passed in 1948. It empowered the Government to raise on voluntary basis a disciplined and self-reliant force of citizens, known as Home Guards, in order to supplement the police force in the maintenance of law and order and other essential services during emergencies and affording relief in the event of natural calamities like flood and fire. A voluntary organization, under the name of Home Defence, was also started in 1950. Only the members of its administrative and instructional staff were government-paid. The organization was given a new name in 1960, when it was renamed the Punjab Volunteers Corps. The Civil Defence staff was also adjusted in the new set-up. It was reorganized in 1963 under the nomenclature of the Punjab Home Guards.

(c) Jails and Lock-ups

The institution of jails is essentially of British origin and forms a part of the judicial system introduced by them. Under the British regime, the jails formed the punishing-cells and, on release, there was little improvement in the mental attitude of the prisoners whose approach to society remained unchanged. Consequently, they remained emotionally unbalanced and continued to be a menace to society.

After independence, a tremendous change has been effected in the working of the jails, which now function as reformatories. Utmost care is taken in respect of the diet, health, education and emotional set-up of the prisoners. Steps are taken to enable them to earn their livelihood as labourers on release and to become useful and respectable members of society.

There is a Central Jail at Amritsar and a Sub-Jail at Patti.

Central Jail, Amritsar.—The Central Jail, Amritsar, is situated on the Ajnala Road near the village of Gumtala. It was established on August 15, 1958. Its staff consists of 1 Superintendent, 1 Deputy Superintendent, 3 Assistant Superintendents, 2 Sub-Assistant Superintendents, 1 Welfare Officer, 1 Medical Officer, 1 Matron, 1 Teacher, 1 Storekeeper, 1 Tractor-Driver, 1 Pharmacist, 4 Clerks and Class IV staff. Besides, there are 4 Head Warders and 79 Warders.

The authorized accommodation of the Jail is for 999 prisoners. The total admissions during the year, the average daily population and the maximum population on any one day during the year in the jail for the period 1966 to 1968 are given in the following table :

	1966 (1st June to 31st December)	1967	1968
1. Total admissions during the year ..	3,401	6,264	8,276
2. Average daily population ..	566.9	815.6	1,162.4
3. Maximum population on any one day during the year ..	866	1,140	1,496

(Source : Superintendent, Central Jail, Amritsar)

The number of convicted prisoners, released on different grounds during the period 1966 to 1968 was 1,097, 2,073 and 2,964 respectively. The prisoners sentenced for terms of seven years or less are kept in this jail.

Educational, Recreational and Medical Facilities

This jail has a paid teacher on a permanent basis, and four convict teachers, out of the educated prisoners, have been put on the teaching duty. Academic, spiritual, social and religious education is regularly imparted to the prisoners. A library, with plenty of books on all subjects also exists in the jail for the use of prisoners. Daily newspapers in Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and English are also available to the prisoners. An examination is held for the prisoners and, those who pass this test, are granted special remission by the Superintendent of Jail, in addition to the Literacy Certificates granted by the District Education Officer, Amritsar.

The provision of games, e.g., *kabaddi* and volley-ball, for the prisoners also exists. Matches are held, off and on, in the jail. A dramatic club is also run by the prisoners. Dramas and recreational programmes are arranged from time to time. Films are also shown to the prisoners occasionally. The jail has a radio-set and a loud-speaker for the recreation of the inmates.

A canteen is also run by the prisoners on co-operative basis under official supervision. The prisoners can purchase articles through coupons, which are issued to them against cash deposits. The profits earned from the canteen are spent on the welfare of the prisoners. There is a Prisoner's Panchayat, which helps the jail authorities in routine jail administration. It also looks after the interests of the prisoners.

Arrangements for medical aid also exist in this jail. A hospital is run, under a full-time M.B., B.S. Doctor and two Pharmacists, to look after the health of the prisoners. In case of serious illness, the patients are immediately sent

to the V.J. Hospital, Amritsar, where better medical facilities are available. Minor operations are conducted in the jail hospital.

Jail Industries

The industries carried on in the Central Jail, Amritsar, comprise the making of *ban* from *munj*, the making of ropes from hemp, the making of *chicks*, the weaving of *durries*, *niwar* and tape, the manufacturing of soap and phenyl, the keeping of poultry, etc. The average number of prisoners employed in various industries and production projects of the Jail, are given in the following statement :

Statement showing the average number of prisoners employed in various industries and production projects of the Central Jail, Amritsar, 1964 to 1968

Year	Ban and Hemp		Carpentry		Chicks		Durrries		Nihar and Tape	
	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)
1964	55.88	31,832.60	44.30	1,34,465.88	7.11	6,232.00	8.07	6,576.92	3.99	2,492.80
1965	42.62	23,146.27	55.77	1,35,457.61	4.29	7,833.23	4.34	3,933.83	8.60	7,352.36
1966	23.10	19,433.99	47.10	1,27,274.45	5.50	5,006.65	6.74	6,936.08	4.00	2,409.00
1967	60.29	28,471.10	35.33	65,883.06	14.88	8,360.62	23.12	10,150.12	17.15	3,971.60
1968	—	253.36	21.10	43,312.53	6.05	1,930.82	35.30	10,076.00	28.91	9,730.50

Year	Soap		Phenyl		Miscellaneous		Poultry		Profit	
	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)	Average (Number)	Production (Rs)
1964	2.61	6,054.14	0.83	11,520.00	54.97	11,328.16	1.00	1,066.44	56,635.06	
1965	1.05	6,200.62	1.29	20,081.45	36.54	16,848.56	1.00	841.43	93,372.79	
1966	0.86	4,548.70	0.98	13,015.00	17.13	13,254.78	1.00	8,133.08	78,799.97	
1967	1.92	12,127.50	2.38	21,624.00	42.37	23,265.61	1.00	8,750.32	13,064.62	
1968	1.42	20,318.75	0.37	21,600.69	69.74	13,610.90	1.00	6,543.14	23,627.73	

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Official and Non-official Visitors

The agency of official and non-official visitors is beneficial to the jail administration to the extent that practical and easy-of-implementation suggestions are preferred for incorporation in the jail programme. Reformatory and benevolent measures are given due consideration so as to achieve the desideratum of a reformed prisoner at the time of release. Humane treatment by the institutional staff in co-operation with official and non-official visitors goes a long way in achieving the desired results of a normal prisoner during his stay in the jail. The visits by the official and non-official visitors contribute to a great degree to the achievement of the object in view and, to that extent, their visits are beneficial to the jail administration.

Sub-Jail, Patti.—The Judicial Lock-up at Patti was converted into a sub-jail in 1958. Its strength of the staff on April 1, 1968 comprised 1 Assistant Superintendent, 1 Medical Officer, 1 Head Warder and 15 Warders. The total admissions to the sub-jail during the period 1964 to 1968 were 4,891. The average daily population of the sub-jail was 45.12 and the maximum population on July 2, 1968 was 104. The total number of convicted prisoners, released on different grounds during the period 1964 to 1968, was 990.

There is a radio-set in this sub-jail provided for the recreation of the prisoners. Recreational and educational programmes are relayed to the inmates through a loud-speaker fitted in the barracks. There is, however, neither any paid teacher at this jail nor any industry is carried on here. A Medical Officer attached to the jail for providing the prisoners with medical facilities.

District Crime-Prevention Society, Amritsar.—It has done commendable work at the Central Jail, Amritsar. The funds of the society are limited and mainly consist of voluntary cash donation made at the time of interviews. Despite this handicap, the society does useful work in aiding and financing a primary school run on the jail premises for educating the children of the jail staff. Moreover, it also runs a sewing-centre for teaching various crafts to the female students of the area. It organizes various functions inside the jail on national occasions, so that the inmates of the jail may participate in the cultural activities. The society also does some useful work in really deserving cases in the post-release period of the prisoners released from the jail.

The Deputy Commissioner, who is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Crime-Prevention Society, evinces a great deal of personal interest in its activities.

District Probation Officer, Amritsar.—The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, was enforced in the Amritsar District on June 1, 1967, and the District Probation Officer assumed the charge on June 22, 1967. The District Probation

Officer is under the control of the Chief Probation Officer, Chandigarh, who supervises and directs the probation work in the entire State, under the overall administrative control and guidance of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, Chandigarh.

Under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, a Central enactment, any offender, who is held guilty of an offence, not punishable with death or imprisonment for life, can be released on probation of good conduct with or without supervision of the Probation Officer up to a maximum period of three years. In case of an offender below the age of 21 years, the courts have been restricted not to pass any sentence of imprisonment unless such an offender is considered undesirable for release on probation. It has been further laid down in the said Act that for the purpose of satisfying itself whether it would not be desirable to release on probation an offender under 21 years of age, the court shall call for a report from the concerned Probation Officer and consider it before the award of the sentence.

The District Probation Officer is to inquire into the circumstances, home surroundings, character and general antecedents of a person accused of an offence, in accordance with the direction of a judicial court, with a view to assisting the court in determining the most suitable method of dealing with the accused, and is also to submit the social investigation report of the offender. The District Probation Officer is supposed to perform multifarious duties and has to act as a friend, philosopher and guide in case of all offenders under his supervision. He has to render all necessary assistance to the probationer and explain to him the terms and conditions of supervision order and also to advise him how he should conduct himself in society. The probationer has to report to the Probation Officer, periodically, as per rules, and, in turn, the Probation Officer has to visit the probationer periodically in his home surroundings and occupational environment in order to watch the progress made by him.

(d) Organization of Civil and Criminal Courts

Before the separation of the executive from the judiciary, the District Magistrate, in his capacity as head of the district criminal administration, was overall in charge of the magistrates and the police. Immediately under him, there was also an Additional District Magistrate who normally exercised powers under section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Besides, there was one or more Magistrates 1st Class who disposed of the entire criminal work.

For the disposal of the civil work, there was a separate Senior Subordinate Judge and a number of Subordinate Judges who were under the administrative control of the District and Sessions Judge.

Since the separation of the executive from the judiciary in the State from October 2, 1964, the administration of both civil and criminal justice in the district has been controlled by the District and Sessions Judge, Amritsar, as described below:

Civil Justice.—On the civil side, the District and Sessions Judge, Amritsar, is assisted by the Additional District Judge, Amritsar, Senior Subordinate Judge, Amritsar, and five Subordinate Judges—three for Amritsar, one for Tarn Taran and Patti and one for Ajnala and Amritsar. Out of the five Subordinate Judges, four are 1st class and one 3rd class. A small cause court is also provided for the Amritsar city, of which the present staff consists of one Subordinate Judge. There is no Honorary Subordinate Judge at present in the district.

The civil courts try all types of cases of civil nature up to the powers with which the Senior Subordinate Judge and each of the Subordinate Judges have been invested. The Senior Subordinate Judge and the Subordinate Judges are also invested with magisterial powers and they are allotted some criminal work as well.

Additional District Judge, Amritsar

On the civil side, the Additional District and Sessions Judge is known as the Additional District Judge. He hears appeals against the judgements and decrees of Sub-Judges of all classes up to Rs 10,000 and hears cases under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (Act 25 of 1955). He is also the Chairman of the Special Tribunal which is invested with the powers to try cases under the Defence of India Rules, 1962.

Senior Subordinate Judge, Amritsar

The Senior Subordinate Judge exercises civil appellate powers and enjoys exclusive jurisdiction under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The control of the Process-serving Agency, which consists of a Civil Nazir, 8 Naib Nazirs, 8 Bailiffs and 71 Process Servers, is vested in the Senior Subordinate Judge.

The nature of civil suits generally is regarding money suits, declaratory suits, suits under the torts, suits under the Contract Act, etc.

Sub-Judge 1st Class

All the Sub-Judges are subordinate Judges exercising jurisdiction to try suits of any value. They are Rent Controllers and also try cases under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

The statement below shows the number of cases tried by civil courts in the district during the period 1964 to 1968 :

Number and nature of cases tried by Civil Courts in the Amritsar District, 1964-68

Year	Number of suits instituted
1964	.. 3,356
1965	.. 3,509
1966	.. 3,081
1967	.. 3,379
1968	.. 3,821

Criminal Justice.—On the criminal side, the District and Sessions Judge, Amritsar, is assisted by the Additional Sessions Judge, Amritsar, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Amritsar, and 6 Judicial Magistrates—3 posted at Amritsar and one each posted at Tarn Taran, Patti and Ajnala subdivisional headquarters.

With the separation of the executive from the judiciary, the powers of the District Magistrate, on the criminal side, have been vested in the Chief Judicial Magistrate, under the control of the District and Sessions Judge. The Chief Judicial Magistrate supervises the criminal judicial administration of the district. He allots the police-stations to the Judicial Magistrates with the approval of the District and Sessions Judge.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate and Judicial Magistrates deal with all types of cases relating to the crime, except security cases. All Judicial Magistrates try cases under the Indian Penal Code, Punjab Excise Act, 1914, Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and other special Acts, relating to their police-stations. The Chief Judicial Magistrate is vested with the powers to try summary cases. All criminals apprehended by the police are produced before the Judicial Magistrate, within whose jurisdiction the criminals may have been apprehended or in whose jurisdiction the crime may have been committed.

After investigation, the *challans* are put in by the police in the courts of Judicial Magistrates who also act as *Ilaqa* Magistrates and watch the investigation of the criminal cases. A case generally takes two months for a trial, but cases of inter-district or inter-State nature may extend even up to 6 months or so. The Judicial Magistrates have also been vested with the powers of Sub-Judges with varying jurisdiction.

With the separation of the executive from the judiciary, cases of security for keeping peace and security for good behaviour under the Criminal Procedure Code are tried by the following courts:

Subdivisional Magistrate, Amritsar	.. cases relating to the Amritsar Tahsil
Subdivisional Magistrate, Ajnala	.. cases relating to the Ajnala Tahsil
Subdivisional Magistrate, Patti	.. cases relating to the Patti Tahsil
Subdivisional Magistrate, Tarn Taran	.. cases relating to the Tarn Taran Tahsil

The Subdivisional Magistrates are also called upon to perform executive functions in addition to the trial of cases of the above types.

Petty criminal judicial cases relating to minor thefts, trespass, encroachment on public property, public nuisance, damages to property of the value not exceeding Rs 250, etc., are entrusted to gram panchayats under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. Besides, the panchayats have also been empowered to try judicial cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, e.g. in matters concerning the issue of summons, the production of documents, the oath and affirmation by a public servant, the promulgation of orders, etc.

On the civil and revenue judicial side, the panchayats can try suits for the recovery of moveable property or the value of such property, suits for the money or goods due on contracts or price thereof, suits for compensation for wrongfully taking or damaging moveable property, and suits mentioned in clauses j, k, l and m of sub-section (3) of section 77 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887. The pecuniary limits of panchayats with ordinary powers is Rs 100 in criminal cases, Rs 200 in civil cases and Rs 100 in revenue cases, whereas this limit is up to Rs 200 to Rs 500 and Rs 200 respectively for panchayats with enhanced powers. The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act do not apply to the proceedings before a panchayat, except to the extent mentioned in the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952.

Petty cases of criminal nature are entrusted to a gram panchayat under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. The panchayats being elected bodies generally do not consist of persons having adequate knowledge of law, and usual formalities of procedure are generally not observed in the trial of cases by the panchayats. Revisions against the decisions of the panchayats are heard by the Judicial Magistrate to whom the powers are delegated by the Chief Judicial Magistrate.

The judicial work done by the panchayats during the period 1963-64 to 1967-68 is given in the following statement:

Judicial work done by the Panchayats in the Amritsar District during 1963-64 to 1967-68

	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
Revenue Cases					
1. Cases pending at the beginning of the year ..	795	922	829	665	624
2. Cases instituted ..	995	1,174	892	638	547
3. Cases received by transfer ..	45	34	27	32	13
4. Cases transferred from panchayats and cases returned for presentation to courts and panchayats ..	32	38	27	12	20
5. Cases decided ..	881	1,263	1,056	699	678
(a) Cases dismissed ..	176	370	265	195	210
(b) Cases compounded ..	449	628	498	370	319
(c) Cases decreed ..	256	265	293	134	149
6. Cases pending at the end of the year ..	922	829	665	624	486
Criminal Cases					
1. Cases pending at the beginning of the year ..	488	356	431	441	300
2. Cases instituted ..	752	1,029	599	440	315
3. Cases received by transfer ..	55	57	45	27	27
4. Cases transferred from panchayats for presentation to courts and panchayats ..	34	52	31	9	26
5. Cases decided ..	905	1,390	603	599	410
(a) Cases dismissed ..	261	229	208	227	139
(b) Cases compounded ..	517	605	324	299	213
(c) Cases convicted ..	127	125	71	73	58
6. Cases pending at the end of the year ..	356	431	441	300	206

The statistics regarding the different types of cases tried by the criminal courts, during the period 1965 to 1968, are given below:

Year	Regular cases	Security cases
1965 ..	25,983	5,068
1966 ..	25,398	4,259
1967 ..	30,371	6,087
1968 ..	15,530	3,311

(Source: Chief Judicial Magistrate, Amritsar)

(e) Bar Associations

Bar associations have been formed in various districts of the State in order to encourage and promote the study of scientific law, to promote and maintain a higher standard of professional conduct, and to promote the interests of the lawyers. They also help the courts to administer justice and to promote a sense of respect for law and order in the public mind.

The Amritsar Bar Association is one of the biggest and oldest Bar Associations in the State. It is said to have been established before 1900. It claims to have on its rolls a number of eminent lawyers. Its strength in 1968 was 241. The Bar Association, Tarn Taran, is also an old one. It is stated to have been formed in 1900 or thereabout. Its strength in 1968 was 21. The Bar Association, Patti, was formed after the independence. Its strength in 1968 was 20. The Bar Association, Ajnala, had only 3 members in 1968. These Bar Associations are rendering a useful service to the cause of the legal profession. They endeavour to maintain the dignity of the profession, besides promoting the best possible relations between the Bench and the Bar.

The departments, which have not been mentioned elsewhere in the gazetteer, have been dealt with in this chapter in regard to the scope of their activities, jurisdiction and the strength of the staff posted in the district. Their account will also explain the general administrative set-up in the district.

(a) Public Works Department

The activities of the Public Works Department may be mainly divided into drainage, public-health, construction of buildings and roads, and irrigation. The jurisdiction of the circles/divisions of the department are not necessarily confined to a district. However, the circles/divisions, having the Amritsar District within their jurisdiction, are discussed here.

(i) **Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Amritsar Drainage Circle, Amritsar.**—He has four divisions under him, viz. the Amritsar Drainage Division, Amritsar; the Diversion Division, Amritsar; the Mechanical Drainage Division, Amritsar; and the Jullundur Drainage Division, Jullundur. Besides the Amritsar District, the jurisdiction of this circle extends to the Gurdaspur, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur and Jullundur districts.

The Superintending Engineer is assisted by a Superintendent, a Head Clerk, a Circle Head Draftsman, 5 Draftsmen and other technical, ministerial and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Amritsar Drainage Division, Amritsar.—Started in January, 1957, the division is under the charge of an Executive Engineer, who is assisted by five Subdivisional Officers, a Head Draftsman, a Draftsman, 31 Sectional Officers, Artificers, Ziladars, a Head Clerk, an Accountant and other miscellaneous ministerial Class III and allied Class IV staff.

This division is entrusted with the construction of drainage and flood-control works in the district. Drains, about 500 kilometres in length, have been constructed and are being maintained. The flood-control works, along the River Ravi, below Dera Baba Nanak, are also under the control of this division. A part of the Amritsar District is within the jurisdiction of this division, whereas the rest is within that of the Executive Engineer, Diversion Division, Amritsar.

The construction of village roads, bridges and link roads has been taken up for facilitating the movement of traffic. Link drains connecting low depressions are also to be taken up by the division to remove stagnant water and to improve the land for cultivation.

Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Diversion Division, Amritsar.—Started on March 1, 1966, the division is entrusted with the work connected with drainage, flood protection and flood control, and bridges on the drains and on the rivers Ravi and Beas.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 Subdivisional Officers, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, 1 Head Draftsman, 2 Draftsmen, 3 Tracers, and other ministerial/technical Class III and allied and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

(ii) **Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Amritsar Public-Health Division, Amritsar.**—Opened in 1944, the division is entrusted with the work of providing public-health amenities to Government institutions. In addition to this work, the construction of sewers and the laying of water-supply pipelines, on behalf of the municipal committees, is also an important function of the division.

The Executive Engineer is under the Superintending Engineer, Public-Health Circle (North), Jullundur city. The strength of the division comprises 2 Subdivisional Officers, 1 Head Draftsman, 9 Sectional Officers, 1 Apprentice Draftsman, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, besides other miscellaneous technical and ministerial Class III, and technical and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

(iii) **Superintending Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings and Roads), Amritsar.**—Opened in 1956, this office has four divisions under it, viz. the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, Amritsar; the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. I, Amritsar; the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. II, Amritsar; and the Executive Engineer, Bridges Investigation Division, Amritsar.

The Superintending Engineer is under the administrative control of the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings and Roads), Punjab, Patiala. He is assisted by 1 Superintendent, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Circle Head Draftsman, 3 Assistant Draftsmen, 2 Tracers, besides other ministerial/technical Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff for exercising administrative control over the above-mentioned divisions.

Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Amritsar Provincial Division, Amritsar.—The Construction Division No. I, Amritsar, was opened, in 1964. The division is entrusted with the construction work of village roads under the "Crash Road Programme", the construction and maintenance of public buildings in Patti and Tarn Taran sub divisions, the construction of Chheharta labour quarters, the construction and maintenance of public buildings at Amritsar, viz. Medical College and Mental Hospital, and the construction of Dharam Singh Market and Islamabad labour quarters.

The Executive Engineer, in charge of the division, is assisted by 3 Subdivisional Officers (each having four Sectional Officers and ministerial and

Class IV staff under him), 1 Head Clerk, 1 Head Draftsman, 1 Accountant, besides other ministerial/technical Class III and allied and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Construction Division No. II, Amritsar.—The Construction Division No. II, Amritsar, was started in February 1969. The Executive Engineer is entrusted with the construction of strategic and plan works of the Ajnala Subdivision. The construction of roads and bridges over the Sakki Nala and the Sakki Diversion has been entrusted to him. The construction of village roads under the "Crash Road Programme" in the Jandiala Guru Subdivision has also been entrusted to him.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 Subdivisional Officers (each assisted by 4 Sectional Officers and ministerial staff), 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, 1 Head Draftsman, 2 Assistant Draftsmen and other ministerial/technical Class III and allied and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Bridges Investigation Division, Amritsar.—The Bridges Investigation Division, Amritsar, was started in 1968 and is entrusted with the construction/maintenance of bridges on roads. In addition, the division has to attend to the construction of buildings at Bhikhtwind and Khem Karan and that of some buildings at Amritsar.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 3 Subdivisional Officers (each assisted by 4 Sectional Officers and ministerial and Class IV staff), 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, 1 Head Draftsman, 4 Assistant Draftsmen and other ministerial/technical Class III and allied Class IV staff.

(iv) **Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar.**—Started in 1859, the circle has five divisions under it, viz. the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar; the Executive Engineer, Jandiala Guru Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar; the Executive Engineer, Madhopur Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Gurdaspur; the Executive Engineer, Gurdaspur Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Gurdaspur; and the Land Reclamation Officer (North), Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar.

The Superintending Engineer is assisted by a Superintendent, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Circle Head Draftsman, 3 Draftsmen, besides other ministerial/technical Class III and allied and miscellaneous Class IV staff. He exercises administrative control in matters concerning the running and maintenance of the Upper Bari Doab Canal and also Shah Nahar Canal, Mukerian (Hoshfarpur District).

The Upper Bari Doab Canal Divisions, whose jurisdictions fall in the Amritsar District, are discussed below:

Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar.—He is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer,

Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar. He exercises control over the running and maintenance of canals from Kunjar Fall RD. 7500 MBU to the border in between the Kasur Nala and the Kiran Nala. He has five subdivisions under his charge, viz. Amritsar, Khaira, Chheharta, Remodelling and Aliwal subdivisions. The headquarters of the last subdivision are at Aliwal in the Gurdaspur District. Each subdivision is under the charge of a Subdivisional Officer, assisted by 4 Sectional Officers and Ziladari staff, besides ministerial and Class IV staff. A Deputy Collector and seven Ziladars also assist the Executive Engineer.

The main function of each subdivision is to control the areas of the respective beats in regard to the area of the Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle falling within its jurisdiction and to attend to revenue work. The Remodelling Subdivision is engaged in the remodelling of Mananwala Distributary, Basarke Distributary and the Amritsar Distributary.

For running his office, the Executive Engineer is assisted by a Head Clerk, a Divisional Accountant, a Head Draftsman, 2 Draftsmen, 11 Signallers and 82 Patwaris, besides other miscellaneous ministerial Class III and allied Class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, Jandiala Guru Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar.—He is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar. There are three subdivisions under his charge, viz. Jandiala Guru, Rayya and Tarn Taran. A Deputy Collector, assisted by 8 Ziladars, is also attached to the division. The Deputy Collector attends to revenue work. The Subdivisional Officer, Jandiala Guru Subdivision, is assisted by 2 Ziladars and 4 Sectional Officers; and the Subdivisional Officers, Rayya and Tarn Taran Subdivisions, each by 3 Ziladars and 5 Sectional Officers, besides other ministerial and Class IV staff.

In addition to the above, the Executive Engineer, Jandiala Guru Division, is assisted by a Head Clerk, a Divisional Accountant, a Head Draftsman, a Draftsman, 3 Signallers and other ministerial/technical Class III and miscellaneous and allied Class IV staff. He exercises control over the running and maintenance of canals in the Amritsar District from K.B.L. RD. 1000 to Tail (Khem Karan).

Land Reclamation Officer (North), Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar.—Opened in 1961, the office of the Land Reclamation Officer (North) was previously under the Director, Land Reclamation, Irrigation and Power Research Institute, Amritsar. From 1st September, 1967, it has been attached to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar. His main duties comprise the reclamation of saline and alkaline land in the Upper Bari Doab Canal tracts.

The Land Reclamation Officer is assisted by 2 Assistant Land Reclamation Officers, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Head Revenue Clerk, 1 Divisional Head Draftsman, 2 Draftsmen, 3 Sectional Officers, 1 Research Assistant, 1 Ziladar, besides other ministerial/technical Class III and allied and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

(b) Public Relations Department

At the district level, the department is represented by the District Public Relations Officer, with headquarters at Amritsar. His duties include press coverage and organizing of public meetings/conferences/*kavi darbars*/dramas/cinema-shows to propagate the activities of Government and distribution of publicity materials on various aspects of administration. He also receives tourists from within the country and from abroad and, for this additional work, a subordinate office, viz. the Tourist Information Centre, was established at Amritsar in April 1962.

The department maintains the Information Centre and the Tourist Information Centre at the district headquarters, and eight reading rooms in eight different villages. It has also installed 697 radio-sets in the district.

The District Public Relations Officer, Amritsar, is assisted by a drama party, comprising actors and vocal and instrumental music players; a cinema-unit, comprising an operator and other miscellaneous staff; field publicity staff, manned by 3 Publicity Assistants; tourist staff, consisting of a Reception Officer, 2 Guides, etc.; and other ministerial/technical Class III and allied miscellaneous Class IV staff.

(c) Co-operative Department

The Co-operative Department is represented at the district level by four Assistant Registrars, viz. the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar; the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Tarn Taran; the Industrial Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar; and the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Consumers' Stores, Amritsar. They are under the administrative control of the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jullundur Circle, Jullundur, and under the overall control of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Chandigarh. The jurisdiction of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar, extends to the Amritsar and Ajnala tahsils and that of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Tarn Taran (office established in 1960), to the Patti and Tarn Taran tahsils. The jurisdiction of the Industrial Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar (office established in 1962), extends to the Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Bhatinda and Firozpur districts. The Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Consumers' Stores, Amritsar (office established in 1966), is to ensure the equitable distribution of consumer goods at fair prices to the consumers through the consumers' stores.

The functions of the Assistant Registrars, Co-operative Societies, Amritsar and Tarn Taran, are to advance loans to the farmers and others. Loans are also advanced in the form of fertilizers, seeds and agricultural implements. The main duties of the Industrial Assistant Registrar are to organize Industrial Societies under various schemes and to co-ordinate the work of arranging financial assistance to Industrial Co-operative Societies through the Reserve Bank and the Central Co-operative Banks.

(d) Food and Supplies Department

The Food and Supplies Department is represented at the district level by the Food and Supplies Controller who is assisted by the District Food and Supplies Officer, 3 Assistant Food and Supplies Officers, a Superintendent, a Senior Auditor, a Head Analyst, an Accountant, 32 Food and Supplies Inspectors, and 25 Sub-Inspectors, besides other miscellaneous ministerial and Class IV staff.

The main functions of the department are: the procurement of foodgrains and the distribution of sugar, rice, wheat-flour and *vanaspati ghee* in the urban as well as in the rural areas, through fair-price shops and the branches of Co-operative Consumers' Stores. The department also issues licences to the wholesale/retail dealers for kerosene, *vanaspati ghee*, foodgrains, rice, yarn, fire-wood, cotton, sugar, *gur*, *khandsari*, and rice-shellers and rice-hullers, and also brick-kilns. The department also checks the accounts of licensees.

The department has built its own godowns for the storage of foodgrains.

(e) Finance Department

The Finance Department is represented in the district by the Treasury Officer, in charge of the District Treasury, Amritsar. He is assisted by 3 Assistant Treasury Officers, in charge of the Sub-Treasuries, Patti, Tarn Taran and Ajnala, one Assistant Superintendent, one District Treasurer, and 4 Assistant/Sub-Treasurers, besides ministerial and Class IV staff.

Previously, the District Treasury was under the control of the Extra Assistant Commissioner (Revenue Department), who could not devote whole-time attention, being mainly concerned with magisterial work. The treasury work was, as such, in addition to his normal duties. Under the scheme of the Re-organization of Treasuries, introduced in 1955, the treasuries were transferred to the Finance Department. Since then, the post of Treasury Officer has been held by the officers from the cadres of the Punjab Finance and Accounts Services.

The duties of the Treasury Officers and Assistant Treasury Officers are to receive Government revenues, and to disburse pay, pension, other charges, etc. to Government employees and retired personnel, both Central and State.

They are also responsible to the Accountant-General, Punjab, for the regular submission of monthly accounts and allied returns.

(f) Planning Department

The Planning Department is represented in the district by the District Statistical Officer, assisted by a Technical Assistant and other ministerial and Class IV staff. The additional staff, comprising an Inspector, National Sample Survey, and 4 Junior Field Investigators, was provided for the National Survey Scheme.

The main functions of the District Statistical Officer are to co-ordinate the statistical activities of different departments at the district level and to publish the statistical data, to undertake *ad hoc* socio-economic surveys, to compile, analyse and interpret the data, and to publish the reports to acquaint the Government with the results, to collect price data for supplying to different Central and State agencies, to collect weekly retail prices and to act as a store-house of statistics to Government institutions and the interested public.

(g) Language Department

The Language Department is represented at the district level by the District Language Officer, who is assisted by one Inspector, besides ministerial and Class IV staff.

The main functions of the District Language Officer are to popularize the Punjabi language in the district, to hold classes for teaching Punjabi/Hindi to Government employees, to organize classes in Punjabi type-writing and shorthand, and to assist the Government offices in translating pamphlets/books in Punjabi.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

(a) Evolution of Local Self-Government in the District

Any detailed discussion about the evolution of the municipal administration during ancient, medieval and Mughal periods will be beyond the scope of this gazetteer. However, it may be said that the municipal administration was not altogether non-existent in the country during these periods. The Amritsar District had no important town, worth the name, that could boast of having ever enjoyed in the past the benefits of local self-government in the modern sense of the word. Moreover, the district was so close to Lahore—an important and powerful provincial capital in north-west India—that Amritsar, or any other town in the district, could hardly rival its importance.

Amritsar was founded by Guru Ram Das during the time of Akbar. The town was developed by the successive Gurus as the holiest Sikh religious place and as an important trading-centre.

The municipal administration in the Punjab in the present form owes its origin to the British. Municipalities were not constituted in the towns on merits. The introduction of municipal administration also did not signify any marked change in the pattern of British administration by associating the local population with the running of local self-government. The British constituted municipalities, keeping many factors in view. The main factor, *inter alia*, at least in the towns of the Punjab was of military nature. The British army, while crossing or entering the towns of the Punjab on expeditions or otherwise, faced considerable difficulties in getting clean drinking-water. Consequently, the soldiers contracted infectious diseases which affected their health and efficiency. The Government of India Act XXVI of 1850, therefore, permitted the formation of local committees to make better provisions for public health and sanitation and to raise taxes for the said purpose. The legislative provision, however, was conditioned by the fact that the action should be taken on the application of the inhabitants. The Royal Army Sanitary Commission in its report in 1863 invited pointed attention to the unhealthy conditions of the towns. Prompt action was taken by the Punjab Government in pursuance of the recommendations and, under the Punjab Act XV of 1867, the voluntary provision for the constitution of municipalities was dropped and the Provincial Government assumed necessary powers to set up committees to look after water-supply, lighting, sanitation, etc. of the towns. The said Act further permitted the election of a number of members of the municipal committees with the permission of the Provincial Government. The measures proved useful in improving the sanitary conditions in the towns. The Amritsar Municipality was formed in 1868 under the said Act.

Lord Mayo's resolution on provincial finances, which encouraged the general application of the principle of election to the local bodies, was another step in the development of local self-government in India. The Punjab Act of 1873, passed in pursuance of the above resolution, made the membership of the municipal bodies permissive by elections.

During the initial stage, the system of local self-government could by no means be said to be fully democratic. The predominance of the official control gave little chance for effective local representation or initiative. In fact, during this phase, the accent was more on the 'local' rather than on the 'self-government' aspect of the municipal administration.

The review of the local self-government done by the Royal Commission on Decentralization in 1907—1909 did not embody any progressive municipal policy. The introduction of communal electorates under the Government of India Act, 1909, proved to be a great impediment in the growth and development of municipal administration in the Punjab. The Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, did not introduce any substantial changes in the municipal administration. In 1912, at the direction of the Government of India, the appointment of a Health Officer was made compulsory in large towns. During the period 1909—1919, there was no significant change in the municipal administration. The Deputy Commissioner continued to be the king-pin. The municipal committees continued to suffer from chronic financial stringency, rigid official control and mal-administration. The outbreak of the World War I (1914—18) adversely affected the working of the municipalities. The goal of 'political and popular education' remained as elusive as ever. By and large, the local self-government in the district continued to be one of the functions of the district officer.

Under the system of dyarchy, 1919—1937, the official control was gradually relaxed and local bodies were made completely elective. It was desired to establish local self-government, whereby the people would be free to manage their own affairs. The new policy accepted the principle that the political education of the public must take precedence over departmental efficiency. The Government of India Act, 1919, prescribed a new scheme of taxes, which could be levied by, or for, the local bodies. This measure not only enlarged the sphere of taxation but also enabled the local bodies to feel relatively independent.

The Punjab Small Towns Act, 1922, simplified the machinery for the municipal administration of small towns, each with a population of less than 10,000. Under the new scheme, the town committees consisting of not less than 5 members, 3/4 of whom were to be elected, were proposed for all such towns. The Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Act, 1931, invested the Provincial Government with powers to appoint Executive Officers in the municipalities.

After independence, the concept of local self-government was further changed. The municipalities were called upon to shoulder greater responsibilities for the municipal administration and to give the towns/cities a modern look. In the cities, the municipalities were required to work in collaboration with the Divisional Town-Planners/Improvement Trusts. The municipalities were asked to take necessary steps for town-planning, keeping in view the future expansion of the cities and avoiding the creation of slums.

(b) Organization and Structure

Functions and Duties of the Municipal Committees.—Under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the municipal committees are required to make reasonable provision within the limits of the municipality for (i) the lighting of public streets, places or buildings ; (ii) the cleaning of public streets, places and sewers and all spaces not being private property, which are open for enjoyment by the public ; (iii) the providing of safe and sufficient water-supply for all domestic purposes ; (iv) the extinguishing and preventing of fires ; (v) the regulating or abating of offensive or dangerous trades or practices ; (vi) the controlling of public and private buildings and thoroughfares ; (vii) the establishing and managing of cattle pounds ; (viii) the making of dangerous or insanitary buildings or places secure ; (ix) the constructing, maintaining and altering of public streets, culverts, markets, veterinary dispensaries, slaughter-houses, latrines, urinals, baths, washing-places, drains, sewers ; (x) the providing of public facilities for drinking-water ; (xi) the controlling of infectious diseases ; (xii) the scavenging and house-scavenging ; (xiii) the acquiring, maintaining and regulating the burial-places and burning-places for the disposal of the dead, unclaimed corpses and corpses of paupers ; (xiv) the disposing of mad and stray dogs and other animals ; (xv) the disposing of the dead animals ; (xvi) the arranging of public vaccination ; (xvii) the registering of births and deaths ; and (xviii) the naming of streets and the numbering of houses.

Before 1957, elementary education was one of the obligatory functions of the local bodies in the Punjab. But this system was not working satisfactorily. Charges of apathy, incompetency, ill-treatment of teachers, religious and political bias, nepotism and other forms of graft were levelled against the local bodies. Generally, the municipal bodies had not developed an adequate sense of civic responsibility in the field of education. In view of these factors, all municipal schools—primary, middle and high—in the State were provincialized in October 1957. The municipalities have since been required to pay a fixed contribution to the Government in lieu of this obligation.

Amritsar Municipality

[Area : 33.67 sq. km. Population (1961) : 3,76,295]

At the time of the annexation of the Punjab by the British in 1849, Amritsar was the biggest town in the Punjab. In 1867, municipalities were formed

all over the province. The Amritsar Municipal Committee was constituted as a First-Class Municipal Committee, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 950, dated the 6th April, 1868. The municipality was governed by the Act XV of 1867.

The municipal committee, as formed at that time, consisted of an *ex-officio* member (*vide* Punjab Government circular No. 16-1003 of 1867), together with 24 non-official members, of whom 6 were nominated from among the European residents of the town, 6 from among the native residents and 12 were elected. Minor changes were introduced in the municipal administration by the Acts of 1872 and 1882. The Act XIII of 1884 provided a vital basis for the municipal election system. The Acts of 1891 and 1911, however, did not introduce any material changes in the basic principles of municipal administration.

After independence, new election rules were framed in 1952 (known as the Municipal Election Rules, 1952) to make municipal committees wholly elective bodies. In 1969, the Amritsar Municipality consisted of 45 elected members.

The municipality has an Executive Officer who is appointed at a meeting, specially convened for the purpose, by a 5/8 majority of the members and after the formal approval of the Government. This is a tenure post, but is renewable for a period of 5 years.

The different branches of the Municipal Committee, Amritsar, under the administrative control of the Executive Officer, are : the General Branch under the Office Superintendent ; the Accounts Branch under the Head Accountant ; the Octroi Branch under the Octroi Superintendent ; the Tax-Collection Branch under the Tax Superintendent ; the Municipal Press under the Press Superintendent ; the Municipal Library under the Librarian ; the Municipal Gardens under the Garden Superintendent ; the official in charge Water Section ; the Health Branch under the Medical Officer of Health ; the Legal Branch under the Legal Adviser ; Municipal Magistrate ; the Fire Brigade Section under the Assistant Divisional Fire Officer ; the City Water Works under a Superintendent ; the Head Water Works under the Assistant Superintendent (Public Health) ; the Electricity Department under the Chief Electrical Engineer ; the Municipal Zanana Hospital under the Medical Superintendent ; and the Dispensaries under the Medical Officers.

The limits of the Amritsar Municipality were extended in 1908 and 1936, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 329, dated May 28, 1908 and No. 3032-C-36/29632, dated October 31, 1936 respectively. The municipal bye-laws were enforced from 1912. A list of these is given in Appendix I on pages 444-45. The water-supply system was introduced in 1904; the drainage

system was introduced in the city in 1912 ; the supply of electricity was undertaken in 1915; and the underground drainage was introduced in 1951.

Water-Supply.—The Amritsar Water-Supply Scheme, using wells, was approved in 1902 at an estimated cost of Rs 1,25,000 for supplying 1½ million gallons of water per day.

The sites of the wells were approved and selected between the two railway lines, viz. the Amritsar-Pathankot and the Amritsar-Delhi lines. Forty wells were sunk, 12 along the Amritsar-Delhi railway line and 28 along the Amritsar-Pathankot railway line. Each well is 12 feet in diameter, 124 feet apart from one another and were sunk up to the depth of 60—70 feet below the ground surface. The total supply was nearly 1½ million gallons per day for the estimated population of 1,60,000. The average supply of eight gallons per person per day stood gradually decreased consequent upon the increase in population. New tube-wells had, therefore, to be installed. At present, there are 40 shallow wells and 52 tube-wells. Apart from these, there are 580 public water hydrants. The water-supply position in the Amritsar city is quite satisfactory. The annual expenditure of the municipality on the maintenance of the water-supply system in the city comes to over 9 lakhs of rupees.

Paving of Streets.—Before the partition of 1947, most of the streets in the new *abadis* were *kachcha*. By 1967, almost all of these were made pucca. The streets inside the city had already been paved with bricks. A few of them were paved with cement concrete. New colonies improved by the Improvement Trust have also paved streets. The streets of the areas developed by certain persons in their lands, however, remain unpaved.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Originally, the drainage of the city was effected with central surface drains. The straight drains of the houses fell into the central surface drain. The streets were extremely narrow and sloped to the centre. This drainage system was the result of indigenous effort. The city of Amritsar was almost remodelled during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. During this period, people had developed new outlook and had started constructing houses outside the walled city, as the ditch along the wall had been filled up with debris. People also started constructing the side-surface drains by giving slopes on both the sides of a street. It was, however, after 1912 that the side drains were constructed by the municipality in the city. The new *abadis*, however, had no drainage system. Up to 1951, no steps were taken by the Municipal Committee to introduce underground drainage. After 1951, underground drainage was introduced into the new *abadis* of the city, Civil Lines and the Lawrence Road. By 1969, most of the new *abadis* and the city outside the walled city were covered. The municipality has chalked out a master plan of trunk sewer and some important

branch sewers have been prepared. By 1969, the municipality had laid 80 km. of sewers. In some of the area of the city, viz. the Race-Course Road up to the Mental Hospital, R.C.C. Sewers (well-sinking) have been laid below the spring level, and they have cost abnormally high. On laying 80 kilometres on 6" to 15" SW pipes and R.C.C. sewers from 24" to 57", the expenditure has exceeded Rs 50,00,000. At present, the final method is by broad irrigation and the treatment works will be installed after the trunk main sewer is laid.

Electricity Department/Street Lighting.—The municipality is a licensee. It has been holding a licence since 1915 under the Indian Electricity Act for the supply of electric energy to the city. The area of the supply, however, is not coterminous with the municipal area like the extended areas, viz. Putlighar, Khalsa College, Reformatory, areas beyond the Ram Lall Eye & E.N.T. Hospital and certain areas beyond the Mental Hospital have been excluded from the Committee areas. The Municipality purchases the energy (A.C.) from the Electricity Board in bulk and supplies it to the industrial and domestic consumers. A part of the city and the Civil Lines are fed with the D.C. supply by converting the A. C. supply with rotary converters. A reference to the supply of electricity to the city by the municipality has already been made above. The total capacity of the Electricity Department of the Amritsar Municipality is 32,670 K.V.A. The area getting this facility is 18 square miles (46.62 sq. km.).

Before the electrification of Amritsar, streets were lighted with big lanterns using kerosene. These were fixed at main places according to traffic requirements. From 1915 onwards, bulbs were installed. Amritsar had one of the best street lighting arrangements in the State. The civil disturbances in 1947 considerably damaged the street lighting of the city. Thereafter, the municipality rearranged the system. In 1969, there were 1,468 fluorescent tubes and 8,247 bulbs installed for lighting within the municipal area.

Public Health.—The Municipality has a Medical Officer in charge of the Municipal Health Department. The conservancy staff consists of 843 sweepers, 149 refuse cart-drivers, 49 *jamadars*, 29 refuse lorry-drivers, 87 truck trolleys and 92 refuse carts and night-soil carts.

The Amritsar Municipal Committee has regular arrangements for the removal and disposal of the night-soil and city waste. Rubbish from the city is removed to the depots and, after conserving, manure is sold to the farmers. The watering of roads is done regularly with watering-lorries and hand-driven sprinklers. There are 21 sets of flush-type latrines with 196 seats and 14 sets of dry latrines with 148 seats, besides 64 sets of public urinals.

Formerly, there was a tramway around the city and it carried rubbish in the trolleys attached to the engines from the filth depots in the walled city

to the filth depots situated outside the city at a long distance. This system was a great nuisance and was responsible for spreading infectious diseases in the city. The filth depots being too near the city were closed. Rubbish is now taken direct to the filth depots quite away from the city.

Roads.—The municipality has made good progress regarding the construction of roads. There are 151.21 km of *kachcha*/pucca metalled roads, for the maintenance of which about 10 lakhs of rupees are spent annually.

Plan for beautifying Amritsar.—The Amritsar Municipality has chalked out a special programme for beautifying the city. The central-verge street lights and automatic signals have been installed at all the crossings on the Mall. The various gardens and parks around the city are being renovated. The fountains, and also the lights in the rose plots and over the rockery within the historic Ram Bagh have been renovated. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukerji Park (formerly known as Gol Bagh) has also been renovated, underground street lights have been provided and multi-coloured fountains have been fitted.

Lohgarh Project.—The double-road and the central-verge street lighting and automatic traffic signals, just as on the Mall, have been completed from the Lohgarh Gate crossing towards the Durgiana Temple and also towards the Beri Gate. This system has also been extended to the Lahori Gate.

Besides, many other roads, viz. Dr. Surat Singh Road, the Joshipura Road, the Fatehgarh Road, the Ibban Road, the Putlighar Road, the Islamabad Road, etc. have been widened, raised and tarred.

There are certain roads on which the traffic was so heavy that the tarred roads could not be maintained. The road along the Punjab Roadways Office, the Dhab Wasti Ram Road, the Nimak Mandi Road, the Swank Mandi Road, and the Kaulsar Road have, thus, been constructed with cement concrete.

Foot-paths in the Putlighar Bazaar, along the Jwala Flour-Mills, on the Lawrence Road, the Serai Bhagwan Dass Road, the Cemetery Road, the Putlighar, the Inner Circular Road, the Khazana Gate and the Ram Bagh Gate Road have all been constructed with cement concrete.

Municipal Parks.—The municipality maintains the historic Ram Bagh, the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Hall and several subsidiary buildings in which clubs are housed. Ram Bagh, popularly known as the Company Bagh, is the best garden in the State and the municipality spends over 2 lakhs of rupees on its maintenance. The other important parks maintained by the municipality are the Seth Radha Kishan Park outside the Chatiwind Gate and the Gol Bagh outside the Hath Gate and the Hall Gate. The municipality also maintains a number of parks along the Circular Road.

Libraries.—The municipality maintains a library in the Hall Bazaar and 24 reading-rooms in different parts of the city. Pandit Moti Lal Nehru Municipal Library, stocking about 30,000 books, is the biggest municipal library in the State.

The income and expenditure of the Municipality are given below :

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1960-61	..	1,24,77,531	1,09,68,759
1961-62	..	1,26,44,266	1,29,68,254
1962-63	..	1,51,60,757	1,46,52,042
1963-64	..	1,46,49,398	1,48,69,466
1964-65	..	1,63,73,687	1,61,52,555
1965-66	..	1,45,44,789	1,52,21,398
1966-67	..	1,85,61,985	1,75,66,099
1967-68	..	1,97,45,250	2,04,18,795

Khem Karan Municipality

[Area : 2.59 sq. km. Population (1961) : 7,142]

A second-class municipality was constituted at Khem Karan in 1868. The municipal committee consisted of 6 members in 1914-15, 2 nominated (including one of the Kamboh owners), and 4 elected. Before the Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965, the town was divided into eight wards, each of which was represented by an elected member. From November 1967, the town has been divided into ten wards, one of which forms a double-member constituency. The number of elected members has, thus, been raised to 11, out of which one is elected President and another Vice-President.

Previously, the town had three pucca bazaars and a boundary wall, with eight gates. The town was almost completely destroyed during the Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965. Through self-help and with Government grants,

the residents have practically reconstructed the town. The Government buildings have also been rebuilt. The town was re-electrified in May 1966. The municipality has installed 135 lighting points in the town. The State Public Health Department has also completed waterworks in Khem Karan at a cost of Rs 7,00,000.

The municipality levies only octroi and house tax. It maintains a 1.5 km. length of roads. The side-surface drainage system was introduced in 1914. After the Indo-Pak Conflict, underground drainage was introduced into Government buildings. The municipality has opened a small library-cum-reading room in the town.

For cleanliness, the municipality has employed 9 scavengers and 8 hand-carts for the disposal of refuse.

The income and expenditure of the municipality are given below :

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1961-62	..	35,074	34,852
1966-67	..	64,059	32,196
1967-68	..	39,808	53,221
1968-69	..	73,991	60,773

Patti Municipality

[Area : 2.59 sq. km. : Population (1961) : 15,833]

Patti, formerly a part of the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (Pakistan) and transferred to the Amritsar District in August 1947, was a second-class municipality from 1874 to 1912-13, when it was reduced to the status of a notified area. Its boundaries were fixed by Government Notifications, dated September 25, 1912, and May 3, 1913. It was again raised to a second-class municipality, *vide* Notification No. 24253/LSG, dated August 26, 1926. The boundaries were also again fixed, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 24093, dated August 25, 1926. Bye-laws were introduced in 1927. A list of these is given in Appendix II on page 446.

In 1913, the Notified Area Committee, Patti, had five members appointed by the Government, whereas in 1962, the Committee had 9 elected members

(including one Scheduled Caste elected from the double-member constituency). In 1969, there were 13 elected members. The term of election is 3 years.

The municipality employs 31 scavengers for the disposal of refuse. It maintains a tractor trolley and two carts for the purpose.

Patti was electrified in 1951. The municipality has installed 386 lighting points in the streets. It maintains 6.53 km. of roads within the municipal limits.

The main taxes imposed by the municipality are octroi, house tax, cinema-show tax, toll tax, building-application tax, etc.

The Patti Municipal Committee runs a Civil Dispensary, a Maternity Hospital and a Family-Planning Centre. The annual expenditure on these comes to over Rs 20,000. The municipality has constructed a bus-stand at Patti and 21 shops at three places. These are a regular source of income.

The income and expenditure of the municipality are as under :

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1960-61	..	1,71,272	1,55,794
1961-62	..	1,84,904	1,93,945
1962-63	..	1,70,619	1,89,317
1963-64	..	1,95,900	1,95,178
1964-65	..	2,39,487	1,86,803
1965-66	..	2,50,792	2,32,590
1966-67	..	2,64,929	3,20,190
1967-68	..	2,51,594	2,58,842
1968-69	..	3,62,294	3,17,412

Jandiala Guru Municipality

[Area : 4.04 sq. km. Population (1961) : 11,915]

The municipal fortunes of Jandiala Guru have considerably varied. A full-fledged municipality in 1912, it was reduced to a notified area in 1916; but it again became a second-class municipality in 1929 and comprised 12 members, of whom 9 were elected and 3 were nominated. In 1964, the strength of the elected members was raised to 13.

The limits of the municipality fixed in 1927 were revised in 1937. These were again revised in 1962, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. S.O. 1969/PA-3/II/S.7/62, dated August 6, 1962. The bye-laws were introduced in 1936. A list of these is given in Appendix III on page 447.

Previously the streets of Jandiala Guru were paved with old-type small bricks. The municipality has now taken up the reflooring of the streets with standard bricks.

Previously, the streets of Jandiala Guru had central surface drains. In 1952 the municipality began the construction of side-surface drains. By 1969, all the streets were remodelled with side-surface drains at a cost of over two lakhs of rupees.

The sullage water is collected in a tank and, through pumping-sets, it is used for irrigation. The municipality realizes annually over Rs 6,000 from its auction.

The street lighting was provided in Jandiala Guru by the municipal committee in 1946 with 100 lighting points. By 1969, the number of points was raised to 236.

The municipal committee employed 28 scavengers for scavenging. Four bullock-carts are maintained for removing the rubbish. After preparing the compost from the night-soil, the municipality sells it for more than Rs 5,000 annually.

The municipal committee has also set up a library.

In 1965, the municipality constructed a building at a cost of Rs 61,000 (including Rs 45,000 as grant from the Government) on the land donated by the public. In that building, the Government have started a Civil Maternity Hospital with 25 beds. The municipality has also constructed a bus-stand at a cost of Rs 18,000.

The taxes levied by the municipality comprise octroi, toll tax, house tax, vehicle tax and cinema-show tax.

The income and expenditure of the municipality are given below :—

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1961-62	..	2,46,228	1,40,307
1962-63	..	2,63,770	1,44,640
1963-64	..	2,88,279	1,69,376
1964-65	..	2,35,832	1,53,285
1965-66	..	2,24,400	1,94,204
1966-67	..	1,85,486	1,87,885
1967-68	..	1,80,023	1,57,749

Tarn Taran Municipality

[Area : 12.95 sq. km. Population (1961) : 20,961]

Tarn Taran has had a chequered municipal history. It was made a municipality as long ago as 1886, but was reduced to the status of a notified area in 1915 and to that of a small town in 1924. It became a second-class municipality again after ten years in 1934, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 1429, dated November 1, 1934. Its limits were also enlarged in 1934. The bye-laws were introduced in 1939, *vide* Notification No. 123. A list of these is given in Appendix IV on page 448.

In the beginning, the municipality had 9 members, of whom 2 were nominated. By 1969, their number had been raised to 15.

A water-supply scheme was introduced in 1961 at a cost of 5.05 lakhs of rupees. The water-supply system has been extended to three-fourth of the town.

The town was electrified in 1934. The municipality has installed 496 electric points for street-lighting. It has employed 68 scavengers for the cleanliness of the town. For the removal of refuse and night-soil, one tractor, three trollies and one bullock-cart are used. The night-soil is deposited in compost pits and sold by auction fetching an income of Rs 3,500 per year. A road length of 9 kilometres (7 km. pucca and 2 km. *kachcha*) is maintained by the municipality.

There is no underground drainage system in the town. The Government buildings have, however, been provided with underground drainage at a cost of rupees two lakhs.

The main taxes levied by the municipality are house tax, cinema-show tax, rickshaw tax, hand-cart tax, pilgrim tax and the building-application tax. Tarn Taran is a historical town and a place of pilgrimage because of the famous *gurdwara* constructed by Guru Arjan Dev. People visit it in large numbers every month on the *Amavas* to have a dip into the holy tank. The municipality levies a pilgrim tax at the rate of two paise per pilgrim. The amount is realized through the railway authorities and comes to about Rs 7,000 per annum. Besides, the municipality has constructed 92 shops in the town and their annual rent amounts to about Rs 35,000.

The municipality runs a library in the town. The income and expenditure of the municipality are given hereunder :

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1960-61	..	4,61,637	4,82,156
1961-62	..	4,99,017	5,18,133
1962-63	..	4,56,755	4,39,265
1963-64	..	4,53,000	3,96,256
1964-65	..	4,29,425	3,84,875
1965-66	..	4,76,720	5,35,679
1966-67	..	5,47,398	4,72,038
1967-68	..	5,44,012	5,86,599
1968-69	..	6,57,357	6,30,932

Majitha Municipality

[Area : 0.21 sq. km. Population (1961) : 6,973]

The Municipal Committee, Majitha, was constituted in 1924, as a second-class municipality. Even though Majitha had a previous municipal history, the bye-laws were introduced in 1957. A list of these is given in Appendix V on page 449.

The Committee has 11 elected members, out of which one is elected President and another Vice-President.

The municipality has employed 12 scavengers for the cleanliness of the town. For removing the refuse and night-soil, a bullock-cart and five wheelbarrows are maintained. The night-soil is deposited in the compost pits and later sold by auction which fetches an annual income of Rs 3,000 to 4,000.

Majitha was electrified in 1957-58. For street-lighting, 136 lighting-points have been installed.

Most of the streets of the town still have central surface drains. The new streets and the bazaars have side surface drainage. The sullage water is not properly utilized and is released into low-lying lands outside the town.

The Municipal Committee has also introduced underground drainage in the bazaars of the town, but it has not yet started functioning.

The municipal committee runs a library. It also maintains one kilometre of metalled roads.

The income and expenditure of the municipality are as under :

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1960-61	..	34,829	33,678
1961-62	..	1,89,152	1,75,076
1962-63	..	1,32,963	1,30,984
1963-64	..	53,494	64,447
1964-65	..	47,618	42,362
1965-66	..	49,886	45,543
1966-67	..	28,077	26,899
1967-68	..	81,001	61,781
1968-69	..	55,374	59,520

Ramdas Municipality

[Area : 1.30 sq. km. Population (1961) : 3,153]

Constituted in 1924 as a small-town committee, it was converted into a second-class municipality in 1954. It has six wards, three of which form double-member constituencies. The Ramdas Municipal Committee has, thus, nine elected members.

The streets and bazaars of the town have been paved with old-type small bricks. More than half of the streets have central surface drains and the rest side surface drains.

Previously, there was no proper street-lighting arrangement in the town. Kerosene lamps were fixed at different points. Subsequently, on the electrification of the town, 35 electric bulbs were fixed.

The municipality runs a reading-room on the premises of the municipal office.

The Committee has employed seven part-time sweepers for the cleanliness of the town and one whole-time cart-man for the removal of rubbish. Night-soil is deposited in the compost pits and sold by auction, which fetches about Rs 1,000 a year.

The taxes levied by the Committee are octroi, toll tax, house tax, etc.

The income and expenditure of the municipality are given below :

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1960-61	..	10,391	10,418
1961-62	..	9,421	8,877
1962-63	..	10,311	10,449
1963-64	..	9,240	9,545
1964-65	..	13,293	11,215
1965-66	..	10,926	11,796
1966-67	..	13,961	13,097
1967-68	..	15,126	15,832
1968-69	..	16,332	15,918

Chheharta Municipality

[Area : 12.95 sq. km. Population (1961) : 13,760]

The only notified area in the district was Chheharta. It was constituted in 1938 from those parts of the revenue estates of Wadali Guru and Kala Ghanapur which had become urbanized as a result of industrial expansion. Its boundaries were fixed, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 6541-L.G. Bds.-38/34758, dated October 19, 1938. The boundaries were extended, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 921-C-44/20389, dated March 17, 1944, by which parts of the revenue estates of Hamidpur, Gumanpur and Kathanian were brought within the jurisdiction of the notified area. Its status was raised to that of a second-class municipality in 1952, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 1437-LB-57/11/957, dated March 13, 1952.

The municipality has eleven wards, with 13 elected members, two wards forming double-member constituencies. The Executive Officer is elected from

amongst the elected members. A list of bye-laws framed by the Chhcharta Municipal Committee is given in Appendix VI on page 449.

Some streets in the Nanakpura and Hargobindpura *abadis* have been paved in the area beyond the railway crossing. In some areas, the drainage facilities have also been provided. Fifteen more streets had been paved through piecemeal action by 1969.

The town is electrified. Three hundred electric points have been installed for street-lighting.

The municipality has employed 22 whole-time sweepers, including cartmen and 20 part-time sweepers for the cleanliness of the town. A Sanitary Inspector and a Sanitary Supervisor have also been employed by the committee. Arrangements have been made for depositing rubbish in compost pits. The compost is sold by auction which fetches an annual income of about Rs 2,500.

The municipality runs a library and 6 reading-rooms.

The taxes levied by the municipality are house tax, professional tax, licence fee, etc. Octroi has also been imposed from 1969-70.

A Children's Park has been constructed by the municipality at a cost of Rs 5,000 at the crossing of the Subhash Road and the Azad Road.

The municipality maintains about one kilometre of metalled road and one and a half kilometre of *kachcha* road within the municipal limits.

The municipality runs a dispensary, a branch dispensary, a family-planning centre and 3 child-welfare centres.

The income and expenditure of the municipality are as under :

Year	Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1960-61	81,460	84,746
1961-62	95,421	91,439
1962-63	91,439	94,878
1963-64	88,784	89,480
1964-65	93,783	93,346
1965-66	99,784	1,01,684
1966-67	1,07,615	1,01,777
1967-68	1,29,559	1,34,595
1968-69	1,26,982	1,24,471

(c) Town-Planning and Housing

In the Punjab, till very recent times, people resided within the city walls on security grounds. They constructed houses abutting one another and the locality generally consisted of *mohallas* with narrow streets, each *mohalla* having its own security arrangements. The only vacant space left was the courtyards of the houses. With the passage of time and with the increase in population, further construction was made in the courtyards, most of which disappeared, resulting in the growth of slums. Moreover, with the introduction of heavy and fast moving traffic, the small streets became unsuitable and it became imperative to have wider and better streets. The compelling need of security within the walled city gradually disappeared with the prevailing peaceful conditions.

In the opening decades of the twentieth century, it was felt imperative to have proper town-planning for the developing towns. Necessary provisions were, as such, made in the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

The town-planning schemes are regulative and, as and when the owners construct or reconstruct houses, they are obliged to leave space for streets. These streets develop very slowly, their development depending on the quickness with which new houses come up. Open spaces for gardens and public buildings are also provided for to avoid the growth of slums.

The Amritsar Municipal Committee first took up the preparation of the town-planning schemes in 1935 and, since then, 32 schemes have been sanctioned for the various areas, mainly outside the walled city. Out of these, the areas falling under the remaining schemes have not yet been developed to the desired extent. The width of the roads in the localities under these schemes varies from 20 to 60 feet.

To avoid haphazard development, causing congestion in the urban core and sporadic development on the outskirts, confused land use, acute shortage of housing, overcrowding, slums and blighted areas, traffic bottlenecks, sluggish drainage and poor sanitation, and inadequate public amenities and utility services, the need for the planned development of the city was urgently felt. For this work, the office of the Assistant Town-Planner, Amritsar Division, Amritsar was established in March 1960. In 1963, it was replaced by the Divisional Town-Planner's Office. Its jurisdiction, *inter alia*, covered the Amritsar District. From November 1, 1966, the jurisdiction of the Divisional Town-Planner, Amritsar, was extended to the Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts, but from December 2, 1968, its jurisdiction has again been limited to the Amritsar District alone.

The Divisional Town-Planner is entrusted with the preparation of a comprehensive master development plan of the Amritsar urban area and its environs. The master plan covers 10,522 hectares, including the Amritsar city and the Cantonment areas, Chheharta and the villages of Sultanwind, Kala Ghanapur, Ganda Singh Wala, Tung Bala, Mustafabad, Verka, Tung, Tung Palen, Mohkampur, Bharariwal, Kot Khalsa, Dhabhal and Dhupsari. The population of the planned areas was 4.42 lakhs in 1961.

The major works entrusted to the Divisional Town-Planner, *inter alia*, are the creation of a city centre and the widening and improving of the approach roads to the Golden Temple and the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial. The areas outside the municipal limits have been declared as controlled areas and a development plan for these areas has also been included in the framework of the master plan. The Divisional Town-Planner also prepares development and town-planning schemes for the improvement trusts and the municipal committees of the district and also advises them on all matters relating to building controls and town-planning. He also advises all the departments of the State/Central Government as well as the local bodies in the district on matters relating to siting and detailed planning of their building projects and also co-ordinates the activities of the various departments in this connection. He also tenders advice on defence projects, road alignments, the location of new grain markets, the siting of hospitals, colleges, schools, residential colonies, industrial areas, etc., whenever proposed to be set up in the district.

Amritsar Improvement Trust, Amritsar.—It was formed in 1945-46, but was suspended later on. It was reconstituted in 1949.

The trust comprises seven trustees, including a Chairman, appointed by the Government for a period not exceeding three years at a time. Of the remaining six trustees, three are appointed by the State Government for three years and three are elected by the Municipal Committee, Amritsar. Their term as trustees is also for three years, subject to their holding office as members of the Municipal Committee.

The functions of the trust are twofold. The trust acquires the land outside the municipality, develops it according to the plan and thereafter hands it over to the municipality. The more important function, however, is to develop certain areas within the city. As the city was considerably affected by the large-scale arson during 1947, the trust got ample scope for remodelling the burnt-out and demolished buildings. This was done for developing the areas properly, beautifying the city and checking haphazard construction, leading to overcrowding. Normally, the development of the areas within the city is the function of the municipality, but, owing to one reason or another, it is unable to do so or the pace of development is slow. The trust has, on the

contrary, greater powers to develop the areas more speedily. Another important work, i.e. of face-lifting undertaken by the trust, is the widening of the various roads and crossings as part of different schemes. This project will eliminate serious traffic hazards and bottlenecks.

In the last 20 years, the trust prepared 126 schemes, of which 68 were sanctioned and 3 were deferred. Out of the remaining schemes, the trust has completed 23 projects.

(d) Panchayati Raj

Gram Panchayats and their Historical Background.—The panchayat system has been quite popular in the Punjab from very early times. The village enjoyed full autonomy for administering its own affairs. Even after the advent of the Muslims, the panchayat system continued, though it ceased to have the State patronage. The Muslim rulers were essentially urban by nature. Their main interest in the rural sphere lay in the collection of land revenue and ensuring general peace. They did not bother much about the manner of its administration. The problems of ordinary nature were amicably settled by the sarpanches. In the Amritsar District, the village panchayats were called *parreys*. A new lease of life was given to these bodies under the Sikh rulers who recognized them as competent bodies for rural administration.

With the advent of the British in the Punjab in 1849, the *parreys* practically went into oblivion. Under the District Boards Act, 1883, steps were taken for the revival of local self-government. The subject was also reviewed during 1907-1909 by the Royal Commission on Decentralization. The Village Panchayats Act, 1912, was enacted to establish panchayats to assist the Government in the administration of civil justice. However, the panchayats did not take root, as these had neither the administrative and executive powers nor the funds to meet the expenditure. Under the Punjab Village Panchayats Act, 1921, the panchayats were assigned specific administrative and judicial functions. This Act was repealed by the Punjab Village Panchayats Act, 1939, whereby the panchayats were given administrative, criminal, judicial and civil judicial functions. Their revenues were to be derived from the grants made by the Government or the local bodies and the sums other than judicial fees and fines. The panchayats were allowed to levy taxes with the prior approval of the Provincial Government. Even under the Provincial Autonomy (1937-47), the working of the panchayats continued to be more or less the same, as during the period of dyarchy (1919-37).

The above types of panchayats existed in the Amritsar District at the time of the partition of 1947. Universal suffrage was introduced in 1953. In pursuance of the all-India policy, the State Government enacted the Punjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952, which replaced the Punjab Village Panchayats Act,

1939. Amended from time to time, this Act forms a landmark in the history of the panchayat system in the State.

The Gram Panchayat forms the base of the pyramidal structure of the panchayati raj. Its jurisdiction extends over a village or a group of contiguous villages, generally with a minimum population of 500. All persons, entered as voters on the electoral rolls for the Vidhan Sabha, are members of the Gram Sabha. The Sabha has all the attributes of a municipal corporation. The institution of the Gram Sabha and the role assigned to it are calculated to secure popular identification and participation not only with the village local government but also with the general economic planning in the rural area.

A Gram Sabha elects from among its members a Chairman, called Sarpanch, and an executive committee, called the Gram Panchayat, consisting of 5 to 9 members (including the Sarpanch), called Panches. Provision has been made for the representation of women and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Gram Panchayat. The term of office of the Panches and Sarpanch is 5 years.¹

The functions of Gram Panchayat may be grouped under two broad categories, viz. administrative and executive, and judicial, both of which are discharged by the same body.

There are 1,011 panchayats in the Amritsar District. The main sources of the income of panchayats are Government grants, income from the village common (*shamlat*) lands, assignment of 10 per cent of land revenue and voluntary contributions. They are also empowered to impose a variety of taxes, e. g. house tax, professional tax, etc. and raise fees. The Sarpanch is responsible for maintaining the Gram Sabha funds. The income of the panchayats in the district, during 1963-64 to 1967-68, was as under:

¹In 1964, the tenure of office of Panches and Sarpanches of Gram Sabhas was raised from 3 years to 5 years.

Income of Panchayats in the Amritsar District during 1963-64 to 1967-68

Serial No.	Item	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	House Tax	2,30,799.81	1,65,922.68	2,52,451.29	2,09,354.25	3,12,951.98
2.	Grants-in-aid	7,01,892.76	4,50,693.82	4,00,459.48	3,36,508.04	5,20,390.42
3.	Voluntary contribution	28,300.98	48,456.32	83,451.82	65,697.69	74,081.27
	Total	9,60,993.55	6,65,072.82	7,36,362.59	6,11,559.98	9,07,423.67

Panchayat Samitis.—The most composite and effective units in the hierarchy of the panchayati raj are the panchayat samitis, whose jurisdiction is coterminous with that of the Development Blocks. Each Block has at least 60 villages under it, with a total population of 60 to 70 thousands. The Block has, as such, become the principal unit of rural local government and administration. In the Amritsar District, there are 15 panchayat samitis, one in each of the 15 blocks.

The constitution of a panchayat samiti is multiplex and broad-based. It comprises four distinct categories of members as under:

- (i) Nineteen primary members to be elected as follows :
 - (a) Sixteen by Panches and Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats in the block from amongst themselves ;
 - (b) Two members elected by co-operative societies within the jurisdiction of the Panchayat Samitis, from amongst themselves ; and
 - (c) One member elected by the market committees in the block, from amongst producer members residing within the jurisdiction of the Panchayat Samiti.
- (ii) Associate members, viz. every member of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha representing the constituency of which the block forms part, provided he is not a primary member ; and such member(s) of the Punjab Vidhan Parishad as the Government may specify.
- (iii) Every Panchayat Samiti must have at least 2 women and 4 members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as its members.
- (iv) *Ex-officio* members consisting of the Subdivisional Officer (Civil), having jurisdiction over the block and the Block Development and Panchayat Officer.

Every Panchayat Samiti elects its Chairman and Vice-Chairman from amongst its primary and co-opted members. The normal term of office of primary and co-opted members as also of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman is 5 years.²

The Block Development and Panchayat Officer is the *ex-officio* Executive Officer of the Panchayat Samiti. The executive power of a Panchayat Samiti is, however, divided between the Chairman and the Executive Officer, the residuary executive powers vesting in the former. The Samiti exercises administrative control over the different categories

²In 1964, the tenure of office of Chairman/Vice-Chairman of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads was raised from 3 years to 5 years.

of staff working under it. The Samiti has also dealings with the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner who are required to exercise certain statutory powers of supervision and control over it.

The Panchayat Samiti plays an active role in the all-round development of the villages. Its functions may be grouped into the following three broad categories : (i) obligatory functions relating to agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, health and rural sanitation, communications, social education, co-operation and other miscellaneous and additional matters ; (ii) optional functions which a Samiti may, with the approval or at the suggestion of the Zila Parishad, provide for any matter other than those set out above; and (iii) agency functions, i.e. functions entrusted to Panchayat Samitis by the Government.

The Panchayat Samiti has wide administrative powers of which the most important are : power to frame bye-laws on a variety of subjects ; power to acquire land or other immovable property; power to contribute to joint works and undertakings ; powers under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, which the Government may authorize the Samiti to exercise ; power to delegate to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Executive Officer or any other Government servant, all or any power conferred upon the Samiti, except the power to frame bye-laws ; and supervisory powers over the panchayats.

The financial resources of the Samiti consist of a composite Samiti Fund which comprises: (i) apportionment made by the Government out of the balance of district fund at the credit of the Zila Parishad concerned; (ii) all proceeds of local rate allotted to the Panchayat Samiti under section 63 of the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961; (iii) the proceeds of all taxes, cesses and fees imposed by the Panchayat Samiti under the Act; (iv) all funds allotted to the Panchayat Samiti and income arising from all sources of income placed at its disposal under section 62 of the Act; (v) all rents and profits accruing from property vested in, or managed by, the Panchayat Samiti; (vi) all sums contributed to the Samiti by the Central or State Governments or by any local authority including Gram Panchayats or any private person ; (vii) all sums received by the Panchayat Samiti in the discharge of the functions exercised by it under the Act; (viii) all sums paid by the Government to the Panchayat Samitis to meet expenses for the performance of agency functions ; (ix) all grants made by the Government for the implementation of Community Development Programme; and (x) the proceeds of all sources of income which the Government may order to be placed at the disposal of the Panchayat Samiti.

Zila Parishad.—At the apex of the structure of the panchayati raj stands the Zila Parishad. Before 1871, each district in the Punjab had a District Committee, which was merely an advisory body. Under the rules framed by the Punjab Government in pursuance of the Local Bodies Act, 1871, these Committees were made administrative bodies, and consisted of nominated officials

and non-officials in the proportion of $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ respectively. The District Committees were required to control the funds raised under the Punjab Local Rates Act, 1871, and certain land cesses imposed at the time of land settlements for expenditure on roads, schools and other sundry local purposes. In their actual working, these committees were not found very useful.

The District Boards Act, 1883, provided for the establishment of regular District Boards which were generally called upon to take measures for the safety, health and convenience of the people within their jurisdiction. The powers of discretion, superintendence and control were vested in the Deputy Commissioner, the Commissioner, and the Provincial Government. The main source of income of the District Board was the local rate, which was to be levied on the annual value of land.

The Local Boards were to be the agents of, and subject to, the control of the District Boards. They were required to perform specific functions entrusted to them by the parent Board.

The District Board, Amritsar, was constituted on February 17, 1885,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 2020, dated August 13, 1884. It consisted of 40 members, of whom 30 were elected, 6 nominated and 4 (Deputy Commissioner, Civil Surgeon, District Medical and Health Officer, and Inspector of Schools) *ex-officio*.

The position and working of the District Boards was reviewed in the Government of India resolution of 1897. The dictum of centralization and efficiency followed by Lord Curzon (1898—1905) proved a serious set-back to local self-government.

The Government of India Act, 1919, contained specific provisions for the improvement of local self-government, both in the rural and urban spheres. The Punjab Legislative Council framed rules for the District Board under the Punjab Act XX of 1922, which were later replaced by the rules adopted in 1933. Under the Provincial Autonomy introduced into the Punjab in 1937, the development of local government received fresh impetus, and legislation was enacted for its further democratization.

On the eve of independence in 1947, the rural local bodies were far from being in a satisfactory position. Even though the parent Act of 1883 was amended in 1953 to provide for completely elected District Boards, the old-style organizations proved to be too stagnant to be revived for their proper working. The makeshift machinery, however, continued till the enactment of the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961, which replaced the District Boards by the Zila Parishads.

The Zila Parishad consists of elected members (two members per block out of the primary members of all the panchayats in a block, elected by the Panchayat Samiti concerned) ; Chairman of every Panchayat Samiti in the district ; the Deputy Commissioner ; associate members (comprising members of the Lok Sabha, Punjab Vidhan Sabha and Punjab Vidhan Parishad^a, representing the district or any part of it) ; and co-opted members (confined to women and members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes). The term of the Zila Parishad, like that of a Panchayat Samiti, is five years. The Zila Parishad has a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, elected by members (excluding associated members, i.e. M.P.s., M.L.A.s, M.L.C.s and the *ex-officio* member, i.e. the Deputy Commissioner, who have no right to vote at any meeting of the Zila Parishad) from among themselves.

The total number of the members of the Zila Parishad, Amritsar, in 1968, was 68, comprising 45 elected members, 1 *ex-officio* member, 7 co-opted members, 11 M.L.A.s, 2 M.L.C.s, and 2 M.P.s. The tenure of their office is 5 years.

The main financial resources of the Zila Parishad are Government grants, the share of the local rate and the funds allotted to it for implementing the department's schemes. It has no independent powers of taxation. The income and expenditure of the Zila Parishad, Amritsar, during 1962-63 to 1967-68, were as under :

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1962-63	..	6,44,848	7,84,206
1963-64	..	14,41,223	5,75,874
1964-65	..	9,61,762	7,34,955
1965-66	..	9,12,622	8,44,205
1966-67	..	8,39,025	9,00,350
1967-68	..	8,87,040	8,01,515

(Source : Zila Parishad, Amritsar)

^aThe Punjab Vidhan Parishad was abolished in January 1970.

AMRITSAR
APPENDIX I

(Vide Page 421)

List of the Bye-Laws framed by the Municipal Committee, Amritsar

1. Hawkers' Hand-cart Bye-laws
2. Country carts Bye-laws
3. Bye-laws Fixing the Maximum Load for Country Carts
4. Bye-laws for the Licensing of Private Horse-Drawn Vehicles
5. Traffic Bye-laws
6. Rickshaw Bye-laws
7. Bye-laws for the Regulation and Control of Cycles
8. Bye-laws for Water-Supply
9. Bye-laws for the Inspection and Proper Regulation of Places Licensed under section 121 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911
10. Bye-laws for the Control of Discharge of Fire-Arms and Certain Kinds of Fireworks
11. Dhobi-Ghat Bye-laws
12. Building Bye-laws
13. Horse and Cattle Fairs Bye-laws
14. Bye-laws for Carrying and Exhibiting Boards or Placards
15. Bye-laws for the Control of Sale of Milk, Butter, Cream, etc
16. Kite-Flying Bye-laws
17. Ice Factory, Ice Candy or Aerated-Water Factory Bye-laws
18. Bye-laws for the Control of the Sale of Fruits, Vegetables or Sugarcane Wholesale or by Auction
19. Cooked-Food Bye-laws
20. Bye-laws for Licensing of Premises Where Adulterated Ghee, Vanaspati Gharbini and Ghee are Kept for Food and Sweetmeats Prepared with Them are Sold
21. Bye-laws for the Maintenance and Management of Slaughter-House
22. Meat Bye-laws
23. Bye-laws for the Control of Sale of Fish

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

24. Bye-laws for the Registration of Births and Deaths
 25. Bull Bye-laws
 26. Burial-ground and Burning-ground Bye-laws
 27. Dog Registration Bye-laws
 28. Bye-laws for the Control of Tanks, Ponds, Wells and *Baolies*
 29. Bye-laws for the Registration of Nurses
 30. Bye-laws regarding the Duties of Chief Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors
 31. Cinema Bye-laws
 32. Garden Bye-laws
 33. Compulsory Education Bye-laws
 34. Copying Bye-laws
 35. Piggery Bye-laws
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AMRITSAR
APPENDIX II

(Vide page 427)

List of Bye-Laws framed by the Municipal Committee, Patti

1. Birth and Death Bye-laws
2. Weights and Measures Bye-laws
3. Aerated Water Bye-laws
4. Prohibition of Two Persons on Bicycle
5. Business Bye-laws
6. Building Bye-laws
7. Slaughter-House Bye-laws
8. Bye-laws of Pure Food Act
9. Kite-Flying Bye-laws
10. Bye-laws for the Control of Fairs
11. Bye-laws of Nurses Registration Act, 1932
12. Bye-laws of Vaccination
13. Municipal Committee, Patti, Servants Conduct Bye-laws, 1950
14. Bye-laws for Working as a Sweeper within the Limits of a Municipality
15. Vehicles or Tongas Bye-laws
16. Hand-carts Bye-laws
17. Bye-laws regarding Regulating the Sale of Ice under Sections 188, 197 and 199(1) of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911
18. Bye-laws regarding Regulating the Sale of Fruits, Vegetables and Sugarcane by Wholesale, Auction and Retail under sections 188, 197 and 199 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911
19. Bye-laws regarding Regulating the Manufacturing and Sale of Articles of Food and Drink under sections 197 and 199 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 428)

List of Bye-Laws framed by the Municipal Committee, Jandiala Guru

1. Business Bye-laws
2. Bye-laws regarding the Dangerous and Offensive Trades
3. Bye-laws regarding Permanent Encroachments
4. Bye-laws regarding the Sale of Fruits and Vegetables
5. Building Bye-laws
6. Bye-laws regarding Registration of Births and Deaths
7. Hawkers' Hand-cart Bye-laws
8. Rickshaw Bye-laws
9. Swine Bye-laws

AMRITSAR
APPENDIX IV

(Vide page 430)

List of Bye-laws framed by the Municipal Committee, Tarn Taran

1. Slaughter-House Bye-laws
2. Traffic Bye-laws
3. Building Bye-laws
4. Weights and Measures Bye-laws
5. Business Bye-laws
6. Marriage Bye-laws
7. Milk and Butter Bye-laws
8. Kite-Flying Bye-laws
9. Bye-laws for the Registration of Nurses
10. Bye-laws for the Control of Vehicles
11. Octroi Barrier Bye-laws
12. Bye-laws regarding the Removal of Night-soil
13. Sweeper Bye-laws
14. Swine Bye-laws
15. Death and Birth Bye-laws
16. Betel Bye-laws
17. Bye-laws for the Sale of Ice
18. Bye-laws under section 121 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911
19. Bye-laws regarding the Appointment of Agents
20. Bye-laws for the Sale of Kerosene
21. Bye-laws for the Control of Rickshaws
22. Hackney-carriage Bye-laws
23. Municipal Employees' Conduct and Service Bye-laws

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

APPENDIX V

(Vide page 431)

List of Bye-laws framed by the Municipal Committee, Majitha

1. Building Bye-laws
2. Hand-cart Bye-laws
3. Birth and Death Bye-laws
4. Bill Poster Advertisement, Placard and Notice Bye-laws
5. Agent Bye-laws
6. Sale of Ice and Aerated-water Bye-laws
7. Country-cart Bye-laws
8. Slaughter-House Fee Bye-laws
9. Cooked-Food Bye-laws
10. Offensive and Dangerous Bye-laws
11. Meat Bye-laws
12. Cycle Bye-laws
13. Stable Bye-laws

APPENDIX VI

(Vide page 433)

List of Bye-laws framed by the Municipal Committee, Chheharta

1. Birth and Death Bye-laws
2. Building Bye-laws
3. Sweeper Service Rules
4. Business Bye-laws
5. Dog Bye-laws

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(a) Historical Background

There is no ancient or medieval centre of learning in the district. Some education was imparted through *gurdwaras* or *mandirs*, and this education was only of religious type. The primary object of education in the olden days appears to have been the religious initiation of the pupil. The teacher had to teach the pupil as to how to perform the religious duties in the prescribed manner. This teaching, however, included some general knowledge, grammar, mathematics and mythology. This system of education appears to have been followed all through the Middle Ages.

Under the Mughals, an attempt was made to follow a systematic educational policy in order to promote learning among the masses. The personal and religious character of education in any case was maintained throughout this period. Individual teaching was practised, especially among the higher classes and the nobility. Education was looked upon as a personal or a family process. The teacher had to live with his pupils, talking and listening to them, observing them or being observed by them. Since the earning of livelihood had not yet become the principal aim of education, this less business-like but certainly more scientific attitude was consistently followed.

In Ranjit Singh's time, there were some well-known schools maintained by state endowment. In Amritsar, for instance, there was Bhai Juna Singh's school, a fairly large one, where both the *Adi-Granth* and the *Dasam Granth* and *Gur Bilas* and other religious books, along with arithmetic, *Vyakaran* and *Puranas*, were taught. Meals were served to the students by the school and no fees were charged. Similarly, there was Bhai Lakhna Singh's school which the teacher held in his own house teaching religious books. Bhai Ram Singh, widely known for his learning, had a flourishing school to which students from distant parts of the country came to take lessons in the higher departments of learning such as the scriptures, *vyakaran*, *kavya*, *Alankar*, *pingal*, literature, history, *niti*, arithmetic and astronomy.¹

The first Punjab Administration Report of 1849-50, which was prepared after the Punjab became a British province in 1849, throws valuable light on the kind of the educational system, then in vogue in the Punjab. The pattern of education in the Punjab had its parallels in many parts of country, though there were local variations. The indigenous schools were of the following five types :

1. *Pathshalas* in which writing and the rudiments of Arithmetic were taught in Hindi.

2. *Maktabas* in which the *Koran* was taught in Arabic, along with *Gulistan* and *Bostan*, the didactic and poetical works of Sadi in Persian.
3. Schools in which Gurmukhi was taught, together with the study of the *Adi-Granth*, the repository of the Sikh faith.
4. Mahajani schools in which various tachygraphic forms of *Landa* and *Sarafi* were taught, in addition to the multiplication tables (*Pahare*). In particular, these schools were popular with the business community for their special emphasis on accounts.
5. Miscellaneous schools in which different languages, e.g. Sanskrit and Persian, were taught.

The mode in which teachers were remunerated varied from donations on festivals to offerings of grain or grants of land.

Amritsar remained for long the chief seat of Sikh learning. Education owed much to the system of rent-free grants and endowments made under the Sikh Government. Dr. G.W. Leitner, at one time the Principal, Government College, Lahore, who worked for the foundation of the Panjab University, at Lahore, produced a book entitled, *History of Indigenous Education in the Punjab since Annexation and in 1882*. This book describes especially the number of educational institutions existing at that time in the Amritsar city. It suggests that, besides the Golden Temple and *Bungahs* attached to it, there were about 300 schools in the city where Gurmukhi was taught, and rhetoric studied. The number of Gurmukhi schools, however, was showing a downward trend.

Dr. Leitner was an ardent protagonist of the traditional system of education in the Punjab. He has paid a glowing tribute to the popular attitude towards education in the pre-British Punjab in these words :

"Respect for learning has always been the redeeming feature of 'the East'. To this the Punjab has formed no exception. Torn by invasion and civil war, it ever preserved and added to educational endowments. The most unscrupulous chief, the avaricious money-lender, and even the free-booter, vied with the small landowner in making peace with his conscience by founding schools and rewarding the learned. There was not a mosque, a temple, a *dharamsala* that had not a school attached to it, to which the youth flocked chiefly for religious education. There were few wealthy men who did not entertain a Maulvi, Pandit or Guru to teach their sons, and along with them the sons of friends and dependents. There were also the secular schools,

¹Harbans Singh, *Beginnings of Modern Sikh Education*, (an article published in the *Punjab Past and Present* Vol. VII, Part I, Serial No. 15, April 1974, pp. 127-44)

²V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, p. 153

frequented alike by Mohammadans, Hindus and Sikhs, in which Persian or *Lande* were taught. There were hundreds of learned men who gratuitously taught their co-religionists, and sometimes all comers, for the sake of God, 'Allah'. There was not a single villager who did not take pride in devoting a portion of his produce to a respected teacher. In respectable Mohammadan families husbands taught their wives and these their children; nor did the Sikhs prove in that respect to be unworthy of their appellation of 'learners and disciples'".

According to Leitner, the largest *Pathshala* in Amritsar was conducted mainly by Pandit Achint Ram and others who taught Sanskrit, Grammar, Poetry and Logic to 75 pupils and later on prepared students for the *Pragya* and *Visharad* examinations of the Panjab University. The largest *maktab* in the city was attached to the mosque of Sheikh Khair-ud-Din in the Hall Bazaar in which 200 pupils were taught the *Koran*, Persian and various branches of Arabic learning. The salary of a *Maulvi* varied from Rs 4 to 21 per mensem. The largest of the Gurmukhi schools was attached to the Akal Bungah where Bhai Atma Singh taught the *Adi-Granth* in Gurmukhi to about 100 to 150 students. In many localities, like Katra Bhangian, Katra Ahluwalla, Katra Khazana, Katra Karam Singh, and Karmo Deohri, there existed small Persian, Arabic and Urdu schools, where the students numbered between 2 and 18 in a school and the income of a teacher ranged from Rs 3 to 40. In a higher Arabic, Persian and Urdu school, students numbered between 4 and 60, and the subjects taught were Medicine, Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric, Arabic, Persian, etc. In the Mahajani schools, the number of students ranged from 12 to 80 in each school. The Sanskrit schools were scattered all over the city and the standard of teaching in them was quite satisfactory. The number of students in these schools was between 4 and 75 and the income of a teacher ranged from Rs 7 to 80. By October 30, 1882, there were in the Amritsar city 132 *maktabs* and *madrassas*, with 1,795 pupils; 65 *pathshalas*, with 1,074 pupils; 63 Gurmukhi schools, with 1,193 pupils; and 24 Mahajani schools, with 798 pupils. Thus the total number of indigenous schools in the Amritsar city was 284, with 4,860 pupils.

The most distinguished men of learning in the Amritsar city at that time were Ganga Ram, Kirpa Ram, Pir Bakhsh, Aziz-ud-Din, Muhammad Rukn-ud-Din, Akbar Shah, Muhammad Fazil Karim, etc. The most distinguished Gurmukhi scholars and authors were Bhai Hazara Singh and Bhai Kishan Singh. The well-known Sanskrit scholars were Pandit Tulsi Ram, Pandit Balmukand and Pandit Baij Nath.

It must be mentioned that the indigenous education was deficient in critical and scientific ideas. Students were mostly made to learn and possibly

*G.W. Leitner, *History of Indigenous Education in the Punjab since Annexation and in 1882*, p. 1

to admire the virtues of their traditional religions. Learning at that time was by rote and some children showed marvellous powers of memory by reproducing many columns of arithmetical figures, which amazed the spectators. Discipline in the schools was somewhat strict. In larger schools, the teachers were permanent, but there were also itinerant teachers who followed the local demand.

The beginning of Western education in the real sense can be traced back to the opening of the Mission schools in 1880. The Christians started their mission to spread education among the masses. The main interest of the Mission was to inculcate in the minds of the people the love for Christianity; hence this education was mainly religious and in no way secular. But it was the missionary activity which yielded fruitful results in the field of female education in the district. The Church Mission Society established missions and posted chaplains who founded the Alexandra High School and a middle-class school for girls, besides a high school for boys. The oldest girls' school in Amritsar is the Alexandra High School, founded by the Church Mission Society in 1878. It was originally founded for the Indian Christian girls, but since 1907 it has admitted children of other communities as well. The Sacred Heart School on the Majitha Road is also a missionary institution which provides instruction for both Christian and non-Christian students up to the matriculation standard⁴.

The Muslims had 4 schools in the Amritsar city, 3 of which (Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental, Muslim, and Islamia) were managed by the Anjuman-i-Islamia, founded in 1874, and the fourth was the Chistia High School which was governed by a council of prominent local citizens. The special object of the Anjuman-i-Islamia was to encourage education among the Muslim community. In May 1933, a Muslim Intermediate College was started near the Hall Gate by adding the first two college classes to the local M.A.O. High School. The college was raised to the degree standard in 1945, and was financed and run by the Anjuman-i-Islamia. After the migration of the Muslims from the city, this college ceased to function. Later on, the D.A.V. Management took over the building, where the D.A.V. College has been functioning since 1955⁵.

Besides the Mission schools and the Muslim schools, a number of other schools were subsequently opened in the district. Some high schools were opened in 1890 by the Singh Sabha, Amritsar. The D.A.V. High School and the Hindu Sabha High School followed these schools. The D.A.V. organization has been a very strong one and has been playing a vital role in the spreading of education among the masses. The people reacted against the

⁴V.N. Datta, *Amritsar Past and Present*, pp. 162-64

⁵ Ibid.

spread of Western education, yet they were alive to the need of the provision of educational facilities on a larger scale.

Ever since the beginning of the present century, literacy among the people of Amritsar has been on the increase. The very fact that the number of schools has been increasing gradually shows that more and more people feel interested in receiving education. Among the popular educational institutions in the Amritsar city are the Government High School, the Hindu Sabha High School, the Pandit Baij Nath High School, the Dayanand High School, the Balmukand Khatri High School and the Government Clerical and Commercial School. The Pandit Baij Nath High School and the Balmukand High School are fairly old and enjoy a good reputation for discipline, results and games. These schools also have branches in different parts of the city. The Ram Ashram High School, Majitha Road, was founded in 1923 with 7 students by Acharya Sunder Singh. This co-educational institution, run on modern lines, has played a vital role in the lives of the students by laying special emphasis on studies and extra-curricular activities⁶.

(b) Literacy and Educational Standards

In 1951, the literacy percentage in the Amritsar District was 22.4. By 1961, it rose to 29.7 as compared with 24.2 for the State and 24 for the Indian Union. Amritsar has made a quick improvement in the field of education during the first three plan periods, as is shown in the following table :

Progress of school education in the Amritsar District during 1951-52 to 1965-66

		Schools		Scholars	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1951-52					
Primary Schools	..	364	102	36,999	15,136
Middle Schools	..	28	19	7,472	7,599
High Schools	..	36	3	23,231	1,219
Total	..	428	124	67,702	23,954

6. Ibid.

		Schools		Scholars	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1960-61					
Primary Schools	..	569	189	54,563	31,076
Middle Schools	..	59	34	13,774	13,957
High Schools	..	62	18	18,919	9,057
Higher Secondary Schools	..	18	9	19,309	6,574
Total	..	708	250	1,06,565	60,664
1965-66					
Primary/Junior Basic Schools	..	857	29	87,121	55,727
Middle/Senior Basic Schools	..	70	31	17,747	15,337
High/Higher Secondary Schools	..	97	35	47,862	29,410
Total	..	1,024	95	1,52,730	1,00,474

(Amritsar District Census Handbook, 1961, p. 39; Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1968, pp. 314-316 and 327)

The school-going boys in the Amritsar District, according to the 1961 Census, were 34.7 per cent of the male population past five years and below twenty years in age, but the girl students were only 23.1 per cent of the female population in this age-group.

The people, in general, are becoming education-minded and there is a great demand for more and more schools, especially in the rural areas. The parents seem to be eager that their children should be given proper facilities for education. There is an equally strong urge among the parents for giving education to their girls, with the result that the number of women students has shown an upward trend.

Though the responsibility for providing education for the citizens has mainly been assumed by the Government, yet various educational societies, missions and philanthropic endowments are also rendering valuable service in the field of education. These are briefly mentioned below :

Educational Societies Rendering Service in the Field of Education

(i) **Christian Missions.**—The Christian missionaries have done a pioneering work in the sphere of education in the district. They run the Alexandra High School and a middle school for girls in the Amritsar city, a high school

for boys and the Sacred Heart School, which provide instruction for both Christian and non-Christian students. Foreign missionaries have also taken up social work in the Sacred Heart School.

(ii) **The Chief Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar.**—The Chief Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar, has played a very important role in the development of education. A Sikh school was established in Amritsar as early as 1893. It was raised to a high school in 1896 and to a degree college in 1899. With the establishment of this Khalsa College, the long-felt need of the people for higher education was fulfilled. The Chief Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar, also runs a B. Ed. Training college and a department of agricultural education (both on the campus of the Khalsa College), the Khalsa College for Women, a boys' higher secondary school, and a girls' high school at Amritsar and a number of high schools in the district.

(iii) **Hindu Sabha Trust.**—The Hindu Sabha Trust, Amritsar runs the Hindu College, Amritsar. This institution was raised from the Hindu Sabha High School, established in 1906, to an intermediate college in 1924 and a full-fledged degree college in 1936. The college is rendering commendable service in the sphere of education in the district.

(iv) **The D.A.V. Society.**—It is running two separate colleges, one for boys and the other for girls; a polytechnic institute; one B.Ed. college for women, viz. the D.A.V. College of Education for Women; a boys' higher secondary school; and two high schools in the Amritsar city. Through its various institutions, the society has played a significant role in the development of education in the district.

(v) **Shahzada Nand Educational Trust, Amritsar.**—In order to perpetuate the noble memory of Shri Shahzada Nand, a great and noble business magnate and philanthropist of the Punjab, the trust is running a network of educational institutions in the Amritsar city. The Shahzada Nand College for Women, Amritsar, was established in 1967-68. The trust is also running a higher secondary school and a high school, with branches at various places in the city.

(vi) **Sri Guru Arjan Dev Educational Trust, Tarn Taran.**—The trust runs Sri Guru Arjan Dev College, Tarn Taran, which was established in 1966. This institution caters to the long-felt need of the people residing in rural areas for higher education.

Besides, the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee and the Ramgarhia Trust also run boys' and girls' high schools at Tarn Taran. There are also a number of schools for boys and girls run by other societies in the town.

Women's Education

Before the annexation of the Punjab by the British in 1849, little attention was paid to the education of women. Most of the people held orthodox views about female education. The Christian missionaries were the first to take up the cause of female education in the district, and their activities yielded fruitful results. They established the Alexandra High School for Girls and also a middle school for girls in Amritsar as early as 1878. Even earlier, a midwifery school was opened in Amritsar in 1866. Besides, the Shrimati Dayawanti Kanya Vidyalya was founded in 1906.

Backwardness in respect of women's education still prevails in the rural areas of the district, especially in the Ajnala Tahsil. The people of the rural areas are against sending their young girls to schools or colleges situated far away from their homes. Some parents like to keep their girls at home to be of help to them in household affairs, whereas others, especially in the rural areas, are averse to co-education in the schools. The introduction of compulsory primary education has, however, mitigated the evil at the primary stage in the rural areas. The people have become conscious of the benefits of education and have started sending girls to schools. The district made rapid progress in the field of women's education during the Third Five-Year Plan, 1961—66. There were as many as 1,00,474 girl students studying in 95 different schools as compared with 1,52,730 boys studying in the various schools in the district. The college education among women has also received much impetus and there are now four colleges for women in the Amritsar city for imparting instruction up to M.A. classes. Besides, there are three teachers' training colleges for women at Amritsar.

Education of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes

The members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes have been given various inducements and encouragements by the State Government with regard to education. They are given free education up to the middle standard in all Government and provincialized schools. Free books, stipends and scholarships are awarded to the students belonging to these classes in all educational institutions, including colleges under the various schemes sponsored by the State Government and the Union Government. Even the admission fee in respect of different examinations is reimbursed to such students. Besides, books and clothes are given free to the poor and needy students out of the School Red Cross Fund. In spite of granting various concessions and facilities to these classes and the introduction of free compulsory primary education, these people, particularly those residing in the rural areas, are not very enthusiastic about education.

The financial assistance given to the students, belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the district, during 1963-64 to 1967-68, is given below :

Year		Stipends (Rs)	Number of students benefited
1963-64	..	1,52,434	1,493
1964-65	..	1,09,770	1,949
1965-66	..	57,785	2,279
1966-67	..	1,40,152	2,529
1967-68	..	1,34,877	2,513

(Source: District Education Officer, Amritsar)

The number of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes studying in different schools in the district, during the year 1967-68, was as under :

Type of institution	Number of Scheduled Castes students		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary/Junior Basic Schools	.. 12,684	4,395	17,079
Middle/Senior Basic Schools	.. 2,108	883	2,991
High Schools	.. 2,984	956	3,940
Higher Secondary Schools	.. 2,512	1,002	3,514
Basic Training Schools	.. 6	3	9

(Source : District Education Officer, Amritsar)

Role of Local Bodies in the Field of Education

The Zila Parishad (formerly District Board), Amritsar, and the various municipal committees in the district, viz. the Amritsar, Chheharta, Jandiala Guru, Patti and Tarn Taran, did commendable work in the field of education. Voluntary education was their exclusive responsibility. Before the

provincialization of schools in October 1957, the number of primary, middle and high schools, maintained by the local bodies in the district, was as follows :

Name of the local body	Number of schools maintained by the local bodies before 1957					
	Primary		Middle		High	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1. Zila Parishad, Amritsar	.. 632	103	36	15	20	—
2. Municipal Committee, Amritsar	.. 24	11	1	4	1	1
3. Municipal Committee, Chheharta	.. —	—	—	—	1	—
4. Municipal Committee, Jandiala Guru	.. 2	3	—	1	1	—
5. Municipal Committee, Patti	.. 1	2	—	—	—	1
6. Municipal Committee, Tarn Taran	.. 2	2	—	—	1	1

(Source : District Education Officer, Amritsar)

On the provincialization of schools, the local bodies were required to pay annually a specified contribution for the maintenance of these schools. The contributions made by them from 1957-58 to 1967-68 are shown in the following table :

Contributions made by the local bodies for the maintenance of provincialized schools

Name of the local body	Amount			
	1957-58 (Rs)	1958-59 (Rs)	1959-60 (Rs)	1960-61 (Rs)
1. Zila Parishad, Amritsar ..	2,14,801	5,15,822	5,15,822	5,15,822
2. Municipal Committee, Amritsar ..	—	—	—	—
3. Municipal Committee, Chheharta ..	—	—	—	—
4. Municipal Committee, Jandiala Guru	—	—	—	—
5. Municipal Committee, Patti ..	—	5,000	—	—
6. Municipal Committee, Tarn Taran ..	—	30,000	74,000	—

in the Amritsar District during 1957-58 to 1967-68

deposited							Amount de- posited up to 31st March, 1968 (Rs)
1961-62 (Rs)	1962-63 (Rs)	1963-64 (Rs)	1964-65 (Rs)	1965-66 (Rs)	1966-67 (Rs)	1967-68 (Rs)	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,62,267
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	12,000	12,000	—	24,000
—	—	—	—	20,000	20,000	—	45,000
—	—	—	—	80,000	—	—	1,84,000

(Source : District Education Officer, Amritsar)

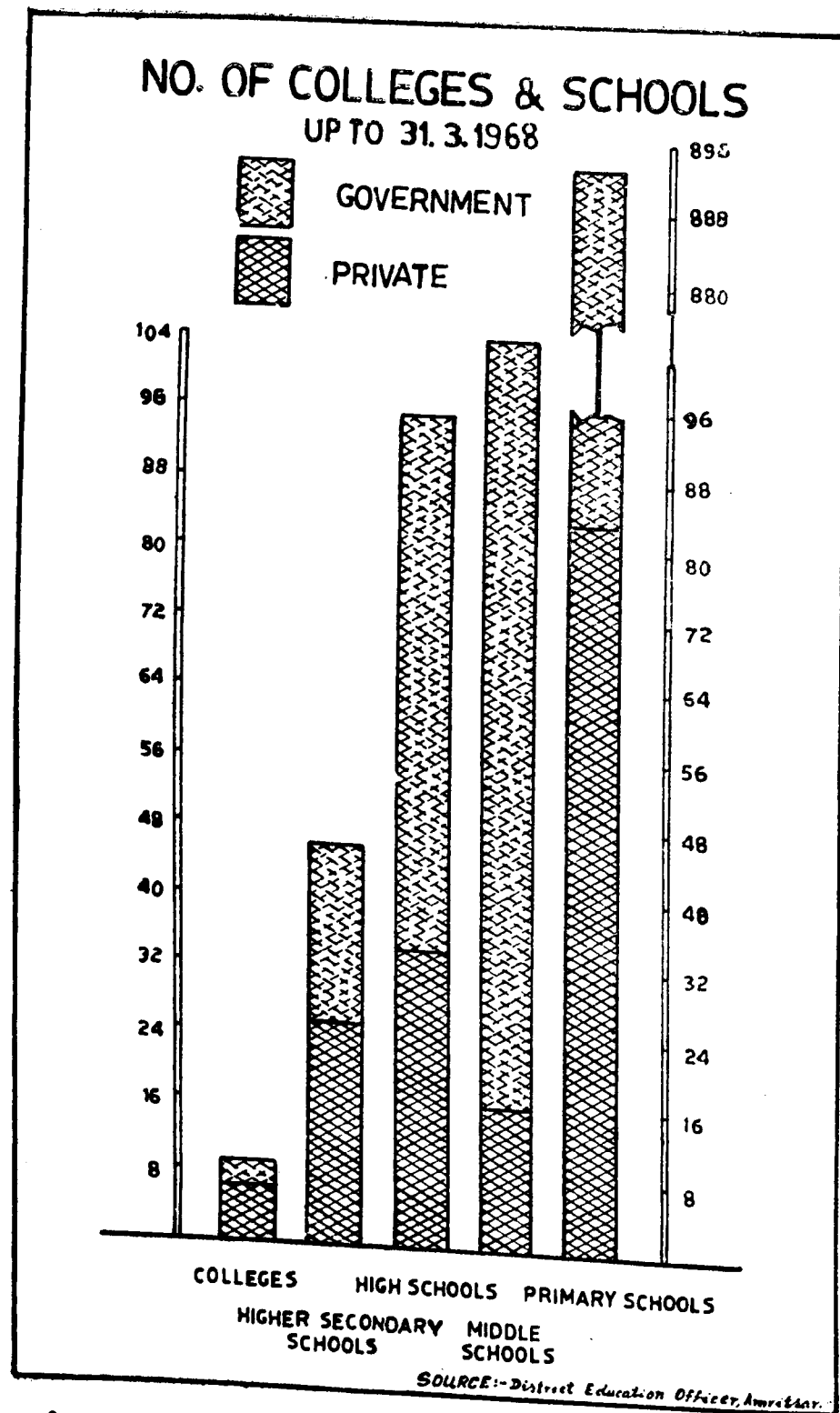
Medium of Instruction

Under the Sachar Formula which had been in force in the Punjab since October 1949, parents had the option to declare Hindi as the mother-tongue of their children in the Punjabi zone and Punjabi in the Hindi zone. The teaching of Punjabi as the first language and as the medium of instruction began from the first class and Hindi as the second language was introduced from the fourth class. Since the formula operated in the reorganized Punjab (after the merger of Pepsu with it on November 1, 1956) as well, parents could opt for a language other than Punjabi as the medium of instruction for their children and the State Government had to make arrangements for its teaching. Under the Pepsu Formula of 1954, Punjabi was the medium of instruction and the first language from the first primary class onwards in the Punjabi zone of the former Pepsu and Hindi was taught as a compulsory subject from the third primary class.

With the re-organization of the Punjab from November 1, 1966, the whole of the new Punjab State had become a unilingual Punjabi-speaking State. With the passage of the Punjab Official Language Act, 1967, Punjabi has become the official language of the State. It has been introduced in the administration from January 1, 1968, at the district level and from April 13, 1968, at the State level. On July 2, 1969, the State Government took the decision to replace the Sachar Formula and the Pepsu Formula with the three-language formula. Under the decision, Punjabi has become the first compulsory language and the medium of instruction at all stages in Government schools in the State. Hindi is the second compulsory language from the fourth class, whereas English is the third compulsory language from the sixth class.

Educational Set-up

Before the reorganization of the educational set-up in 1963, there were separate agencies for the control of boys' and girls' schools in the district. The boys' schools up to the middle standard were controlled by the District Inspector of Schools and the girls' middle schools by the District Inspectress of Schools. They were assisted by Assistant District Inspectors/Inspectresses in regard to the control of the primary schools. The high and higher secondary schools for boys and girls were controlled by the Divisional Inspector and Divisional Inspectress of Schools, Jullundur, respectively. With the reorganization of the educational set-up on May 8, 1963, the District Education Officer, Amritsar, has been made responsible for the administration of all primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools for boys and girls in the district. He is assisted by four Deputy Education Officers, one of whom is a woman. The District Education Officer is under the supervisory control of the Circle Education Officer, Jullundur. He generally consults the Deputy Education Officer (Woman) in matters relating to the women teachers.



The District Education Officer is assisted by 15 Block Education Officers whose areas of operation are normally coterminous with the development blocks. There may, however, be more than one Block Education Officer in a block, depending upon the number of primary schools. In addition to the above supervisory staff, an Assistant Education Officer (P.T.) assists the District Education Officer in the promotion of physical education in schools.

At the ministerial level, the establishment, accounts, examination and general branches function under the general supervision of a Superintendent, who is responsible to the District Education Officer for general administration and working of the District Education Office. The Superintendent is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent, 1 Head Clerk and a number of Assistants and Clerks.

(c) General Education

Pre-Primary Schools

The problem of pre-primary education is of great interest and importance in India. The pre-primary education is essential for the physical, mental, emotional and social growth of the children between the ages of 3 and 6. The aim of this education is to create a healthy social environment wherein the child may develop his physique and intellect. Co-operation, and not competition, is emphasized in such schools. The main aim of such education at this stage is to provide healthy external conditions for the young children and to give them social experience rather than formal instruction. Thus, a love for work is developed and the child begins to find work in play and play in work.

The pre-primary education in the district is neither much organized nor given any special impetus. The people are, however, becoming conscious of the psychological needs of the children, with the result that some voluntary organizations and individuals have started private schools to meet the requirements of the small children.

Primary and Basic Schools

Compulsory primary education was introduced into the State during the Third Five-Year Plan, starting with the age-group 6-7 in 1961-62, and extending it from 7-8 in 1962-63, 8-9 in 1963-64, 9-10 in 1964-65 and 10-11 in 1965-66. The total number of primary schools in the district in 1967-68 was 893 as compared with 857 in 1965-66. Out of the total number of 893 primary schools, there were 87 basic primary schools. In 1967-68, the number of students on the rolls in all types of primary schools in the district was 1,26,593. The details of educational institutions and scholars at the primary stage in the Amritsar District is given in the following table :

Educational Institutions and scholars at the primary stage in the Amritsar District as on March 31, 1968

Schools	Number of Institutions				Number of scholars			
	Government		Private		Total			
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary Schools	815	17	70	11	885	28	913	1,07,987
Basic Primary Schools	86	1	—	—	86	1	87	18,606

(Source : District Education Officer, Amritsar)

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In primary schools and in the primary departments of middle/high/higher secondary schools, the teachers are entrusted with the teaching of the class as a whole in all the subjects. The number of students in a section of a primary school is about 50. All the primary schools have five classes. Most of the primary school-teachers are either basic-trained or have been orientated to the basic pattern. Under the new system of education, primary schools are being converted into five-grade basic schools. In 1967-68, there were 87 junior basic primary schools in the district. With the introduction of basic education and the change in the teachers' training institutions from J.V. to J.B.T., new methods of teaching have been introduced into the primary schools.

Secondary Schools

At the secondary stage, there were on March 31, 1968, 46 higher secondary schools, 95 high schools and 104 middle schools in the district. The total number of scholars studying in these schools was 46,316, 47,762 and 32,764 respectively. The details about the educational institutions and scholars at the secondary stage in the district, as on March 31, 1968, are given in the following Table :

Educational institutions and scholars at the secondary stage in the Amritsar District as on March 31, 1968

Schools	Number of institutions						Number of scholars		
	Government			Private			Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Higher Secondary Schools	14	7	21	17	8	25	29,944	16,372	46,316
High Schools	51	10	61	21	13	34	29,520	18,242	47,762
Middle Schools	64	24	88	11	5	16	18,883	13,881	32,764

(Source : District Education Officer, Amritsar)

The total number of teachers (both trained and untrained) in all the higher secondary, high and middle schools, including the teachers' training schools (J.B.T.), was 55,002 on May 15, 1968. Unlike the primary classes, special teachers' training system is prevalent in the middle, high and higher classes. A teacher qualified to teach a particular subject takes different classes in that very subject. Generally, there are about 60 students in a class, and as soon as the number goes up, it is divided into sections, subject to the availability of the staff.

Education up to the middle standard is free in all Government schools. The middle-school examination is held only in February/March in which 10 per cent brilliant students are awarded scholarships. The fifth-class students are also allowed to participate in the scholarship examination held every year.

The students of the high and higher secondary schools are awarded scholarships on the basis of merit. Only half fee is charged in case of girls studying in the ninth and tenth classes.

Higher Education

Amritsar is one of the most advanced districts in the State in the field of education. Before the establishment of the Khalsa College in 1899, there were a large number of primary and secondary schools, but there was no college in Amritsar. The students desirous of higher education had perforce to go to Lahore or Delhi. By the end of the nineteenth century, the demand for a college was felt and, as a result of the enterprise of the residents of the city, two colleges, viz. the Khalsa College (in 1899) and the Hindu College (in 1924), were established. The establishment of these colleges was mainly due to the activities of the Singh Sabha and the Hindu Sabha, Amritsar. Subsequently, an intermediate Government College for Women was started at Amritsar in 1932. It was raised to the degree level in 1938. Thereafter, several other institutions of higher education were established from time to time. The various institutions, imparting higher education in the district by the end of 1968, are mentioned below :

- (i) Khalsa College, Amritsar
- (ii) Hindu College, Amritsar
- (iii) Government College for Women, Amritsar
- (iv) Modern College for Women, Amritsar

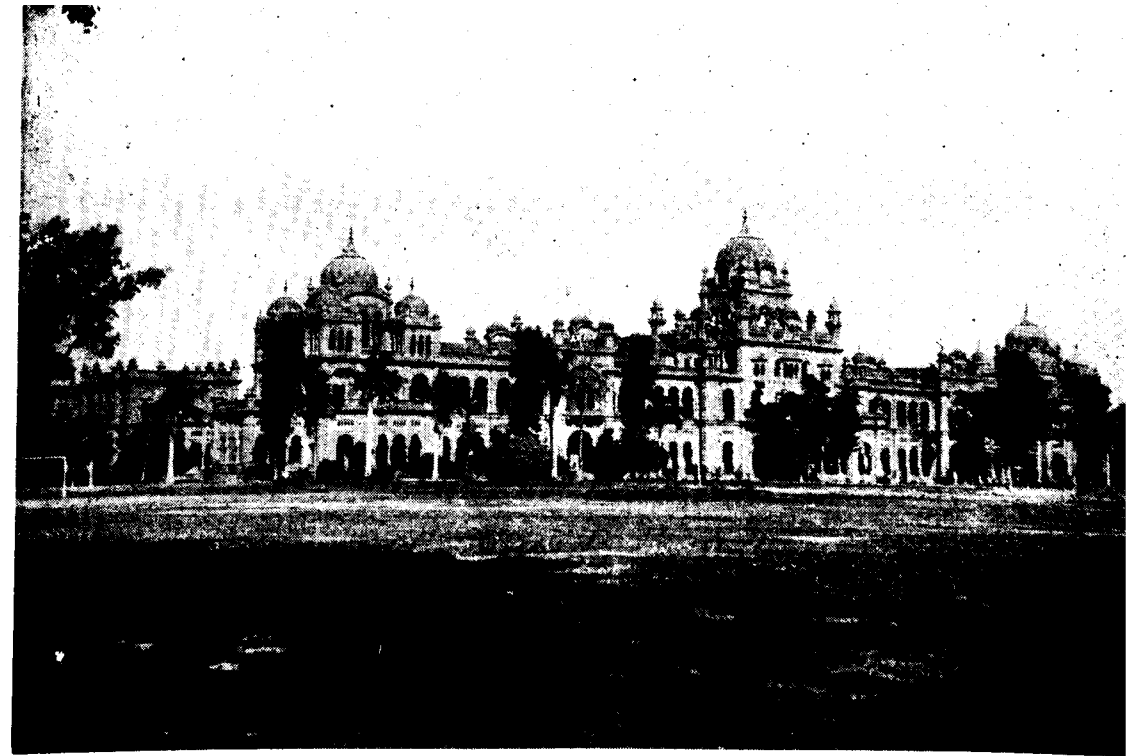
- (v) D.A.V. College for Boys, Amritsar
- (vi) D.A.V. College for Women, Amritsar
- (vii) Shahzada Nand College for Women, Amritsar
- (viii) Khalsa College for Women, Amritsar
- (ix) Sri Guru Teg Bahadur College, Sathiala
- (x) Mata Ganga Girls' College, Tarn Taran
- (xi) Sri Guru Arjan Dev College, Tarn Taran
- (xii) Government College, Patti
- (xiii) Baba Budha College, Bir Sahib
- (xiv) Sri Guru Angad Dev College, Khadur Sahib

All the above colleges are affiliated to the newly established Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar⁷.

(i) **Khalsa College, Amritsar.**—Raised from a school (originally established in 1893) to a degree college in 1899, it is situated about 4 km west of Amritsar on the Grand Trunk Road, away from the hubbub of the city, but amidst pleasant surroundings. It has a grand building, with its towers reminiscent of the old Sikh architecture. The history of the Khalsa College, Amritsar, is, in fact, the history of the Sikh community in the recent times. It is a symbol of progress, new learning and new life. When the Sikh kingdom came to an end in 1849 and the forces of degeneration and decay set in, a need was felt to establish some central seat of learning to save the flickering flame of religious and intellectual life from extinction. The first Singh Sabha was founded in Amritsar in 1873 to check this downward trend, and to show the way in the darkness. In 1883, the General Sabha, which later on came to be known as the Khalsa Diwan, adopted a resolution for the establishment of the Khalsa College at Amritsar. The foundation-stone of the institution was laid by Sir James Lyall on March 5, 1892. A Sikh school was established in 1893; it was raised to a high school in 1896 and, in the following year, intermediate classes were started, and, in 1899, it became a degree college. Later on, the post-graduate teaching was also introduced into the college.

The college is managed by a committee, responsible to the General Council. It enjoyed extensive patronage of the former Sikh princes and also had a galaxy of eminent principals, including Mr. G. A. Wathen and Rai Bahadur Manmohan. It runs the Pre-University (the Humanities and Science Groups), Pre-Medical and Pre-Engineering classes and the Three-Year Degree Course in B.A. and B.Sc. (Medical and Non-Medical), M.Sc. Agriculture, Four-Year B.Sc. Agriculture Course (New Regulations), B.Sc.

⁷Previously, these colleges were within the jurisdiction of the Panjab University, Chandigarh. With the establishment of the Guru Nanak Dev University at Amritsar in November 1969, these colleges have been affiliated to this University.



9. Khalsa College, Amritsar

Honours in Chemistry and M.A. classes in English, Punjabi and Economics. It also runs a diploma course in Divinity, which is of two years' duration. The college had on its rolls 2,573 students in 1967-68.

(ii) **Hindu College, Amritsar.**—It was founded in 1924 in order to meet the growing demand for university education in the city which was served at that time only by the Khalsa College, situated quite away from the heart of the city. Feeling the urgent need of an institution which should be more centrally located to serve all sections of the local community without distinction of caste and creed, eminent leaders, e.g. the late Sir Gopal Das Bhandari and other philanthropists, decided in 1924 to raise the then existing Hindu Sabha High School to the level of an intermediate college. It was raised to the level of a degree college in 1936. It is run by a council elected by the Hindu Sabha which gives financial aid. The college has purchased a new site outside the city in order to extend its premises. The college hostel in the Civil Lines provides residential accommodation for the students. The college prepares students for the Pre-University (the Humanities and Science), the Three-Year Degree Course and M.A. classes. The number of students in the college in 1967-68 and 1968-69 was 1,379 and 1,400 respectively.

(iii) **Government College for Women, Amritsar.** Originally known as the Stratford College for Women, it was started in 1932 as an intermediate college and was raised to the degree standard in 1938. Since November 22, 1963, it has been functioning in its own building in Rani Ka Bagh, opposite the District Courts. It has a commodious modern building, with well-equipped science laboratories, lecture theatres and an assembly hall. Hostel accommodation is also provided for the students. It runs the Pre-University (the Humanities and Science Groups), the Pre-Medical and the Pre-Engineering classes and the Three-Year Degree Course in B.A and B. Sc. (Medical and Non-Medical). The college had 1,108 students on its rolls in 1967-68.

(iv) **Modern College for Women, Amritsar.**—With a view to meeting the increasing demand for women's higher education in Amritsar, this college was established in May, 1940. It is managed by the Modern College Governing Council. The college is housed in a commodious bungalow situated on the Mall. It runs the Pre-University and the Three-Year Degree Courses. The college had 829 students on its rolls in 1967-68.

(v) **D.A.V. College, Amritsar.**—It was established in 1955 in the memory of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of the Arya Samaj. The college is a constituent unit of the D.A.V. College Managing Committee, New Delhi, which is manned by a galaxy of selfless and devoted educationists. There is also a Local Advisory Committee of the college, composed of leading educationists and public men. Within a short span of 15 years, the college has secured a niche in the educational hierarchy of the State.

The college imparts instruction in M.A. in English, Hindi, Mathematics and Economics; in the Three-year Degree Courses in Arts, Science and Commerce; and in the Pre-Engineering, Pre-Medical and Pre-University (Science and Humanities Groups) Courses. It has also arrangement for the teaching of a number of honours subjects. The college had 2,168 students on its rolls in 1967-68 and 2,572 in 1968-69.

(vi) **D.A.V. College for Women, Amritsar.**—Started in July, 1967, the institution is run by the D.A.V. College Managing Committee, New Delhi. Situated on the Lawrence Road, the college runs the Pre-University (the Humanities Group) and the Three-Year Degree Courses. It had 285 students on its rolls in 1967-68 and 595 in 1968-69.

(vii) **Shahzada Nand College for Women, Amritsar.**—It started functioning from 1968. This is one of the several institutions established by the Shahzada Nand Educational Trust in Amritsar to perpetuate the memory of Shri Shahzada Nand, a great business magnate and philanthropist. The college was founded by Shri Guranditta Mal of M/S Shahzada Nand and Sons, Amritsar, at the instance of Shri Shanti Sarup Piplani, a veteran educationist, who offered to dedicate his life for the cause of women's education. The college has made commendable contribution to the spread of education in the city. It prepares students for the various examinations of the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, up to B.A. with provision for both Science and Arts in the Pre-University classes. Arrangements also exist in the college for preparing students for the M.A. degree in History and Political Science. The number of students on the college rolls was 772 in 1967-68.

(viii) **Khalsa College for Women, Amritsar.**—Founded in July, 1968, the Khalsa College for Women, Amritsar, is run by the Managing Committee of the Khalsa College, Amritsar. It is situated in a separate building, having separate entrances from the main gate leading to the Khalsa College for Men. The college imparts instruction in the Pre-University (the Humanities Group) and in the Three-Year Degree Course with Honours in Punjabi (the Humanities Group). The number of students on the rolls of the college in 1969-70 was 196.

(ix) **Guru Teg Bahadur College, Sathiala.**—Formerly known as the National College, it was founded in May, 1955. Before the establishment of the college, the people of Sathiala and its neighbourhood faced difficulties and hardships while sending their children for higher education to the cities. The institution was handed over to the Sikh Educational Society, Jullundur, in 1967, which renamed it "Guru Teg Bahadur College". It is situated on the Jullundur-Batala Road. The historical Gurdwara of Baba

Bakala is about 3 km from the college. The college is housed in a magnificent building and has a hostel, auditorium and spacious playgrounds. It prepares students for the Pre-University (the Humanities and Science Groups) and for the Three-Year Degree Course. It had 544 students on its rolls in 1967-68 and 697 in 1968-69^a.

(x) **Mata Ganga Girls' College, Tarn Taran.**—In order to meet the growing need of the girls of the area for higher education, the Sri Guru Arjan Dev Khalsa Girls' School Trust, Tarn Taran, established the Mata Ganga Girls' College, Tarn Taran. The college started functioning from July 1, 1963. It imparts instruction in the Pre-University (the Humanities Group) and in the Three-Year Degree Course in Arts. The number of students on its rolls was 230 in 1967-68 and 275 in 1968-69.

(xi) **Sri Guru Arjan Dev College, Tarn Taran.**—Established in 1966, the college is managed by the Sri Guru Arjan Dev Educational Trust, Tarn Taran. It caters to the need of higher education of the students residing in the rural areas. It is situated in an ideal locality on the Tarn Taran-Jhabal Road away from the tumult of the town. The college runs the Pre-University (the Humanities Group), the Pre-Medical, the Pre-Engineering and the Three-Year Degree Courses. The number of students on its rolls in 1967-68 was 480^a.

(xii) **Government College, Patti.**—Started in 1969, the college imparts instruction in the Pre-University class (the Humanities Group) and in the Three-Year Degree Course (Arts Group). The number of students on its rolls in 1969-70 was 287.

(xiii) **Baba Budha College, Bir Sahib.**—Started in 1969, the college runs the Pre-University (Arts, Medical and Non-Medical Groups), the Pre-Medical, the Pre-Engineering courses, the Three-Year Degree Course, Parts I and II (Arts), and Part I (Science) classes. The number of students on the rolls of the college in 1969-70 was 273.

(xiv) **Sri Guru Angad Dev College, Khadur Sahib.**—Founded in the memory of Sri Guru Angad Dev, the college started functioning from July 22, 1970. It prepares students for the Pre-University Course and the Three-Year Degree Course (Arts). The number of students on the rolls of the college in 1970 was 270.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.—The Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, was established to commemorate the birth quincentenary of Guru Nanak Dev. It is located between Amritsar and Chheharta

^aThe college has since been taken over by the Punjab Government.
^b*Ibid.*

on the G.T. Road, near the Khalsa College, Amritsar. Its foundation stone was laid on November 24, 1969, by Shri V. V. Giri, the then President of India. This is a teaching as well as an affiliating university, having jurisdiction over the colleges located in the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Jullundur and Kapurthala. The number of affiliated colleges and their students, during 1974-75, was 70 and about 50,000 respectively.

The different teaching departments functioning on the university campus are Hindi, Punjabi, English, History, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Library Science, Planning, and Laws, besides the research departments of Guru Nanak Studies and Punjabi Language, Literature and Culture. The non-teaching departments include Landscape, Physical Education, Youth Welfare, Public Relations and Publications.

The master plan of the university campus was approved on November 2, 1970. The first phase of this plan was nearing completion in 1974-75. The buildings completed by then were : guest house, chemistry block, physics block, biology block, arts block, boys' hostel, girls' hostel, Vice-Chancellor's residence, health centre, water storage overhead reservoir, a number of houses for the staff, etc.

The estimated income and expenditure of the university, during 1974-75, was as under :

		(Rs)
Income	..	1,82,66,300
Expenditure on maintenance, etc.	..	1,82,59,271
Expenditure on construction of buildings, etc.	..	2,87,44,000

(d) Professional and Technical Education

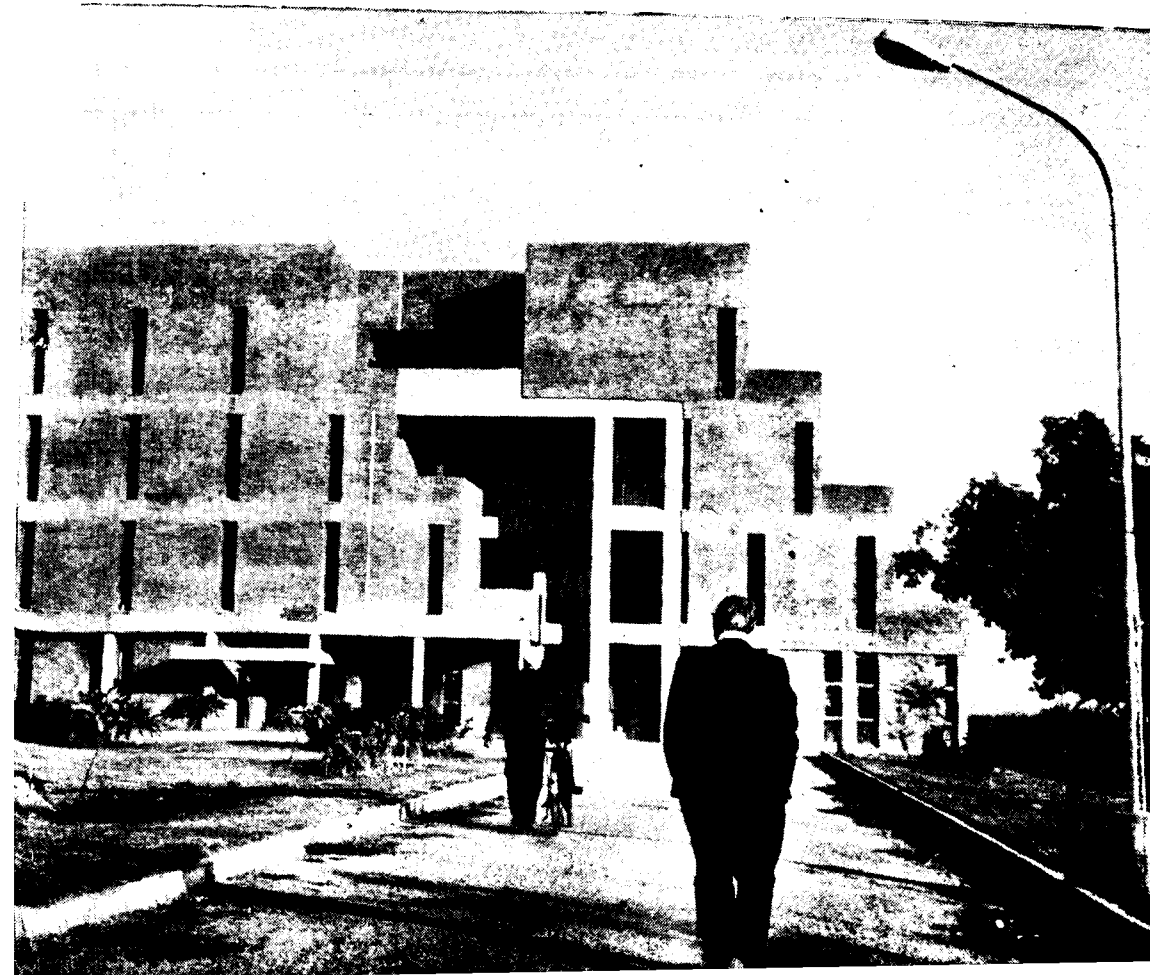
Teachers' Training

The colleges and schools¹⁰ which prepare students for the teachers' training degree/diploma, functioning in the district, are given below :

Serial No.	Name of the institution	Degree/diploma awarded	Duration of course
(i)	Khalsa College of Education, Amritsar	B.Ed.	1 year
(ii)	D.A.V. College of Education for Women, Amritsar	B.Ed.	1 year
(iii)	Government Girls' High School, Amritsar	J.B.T.	2 years

¹⁰Some of these high schools have since been raised to higher secondary standard.

10. Physics Block, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar



Serial No.	Name of the institution	Degree/ diploma awarded	Duration of course
(iv)	Government High School, Patti	.. J.B.T.	2 years
(v)	Government High School, Khalra	.. J.B.T.	2 years
(vi)	Government High School, Rayya	.. J.B.T.	2 years
(vii)	Government High School, Sathiala	.. J.B.T.	2 years
(viii)	Government Girls' High School, Bhangali	J.B.T.	2 years
(ix)	Government High School, Majitha	.. J.B.T.	2 years
(x)	Government Basic Training School, Sirhali Kalan	.. J.B.T.	2 years
(xi)	Government Girls' High School, Jandiala Guru	.. J.B.T.	2 years
(xii)	Government Girls' High School, Ajnala	J.B.T.	2 years
(xiii)	Government Girls' High School, Patti	J.B.T.	2 years

Khalsa College of Education, Amritsar.—Started in 1954, it is a wing of the Khalsa College, Amritsar. Students are admitted to the B. Ed. class for undergoing a course of teachers' training for one year. The college has its own separate Principal, and training to both boys and girls is imparted. There were 250 students on its rolls in 1967-68.

D.A.V. College of Education for Women, Amritsar.—This college, formerly known as the Saraswati Training College for Women, was founded in 1956 by Lala Balak Ram Kapur, an ardent advocate of female education. The D.A.V. Managing Committee, New Delhi, took over this institution in 1963. It is housed in its own spacious building outside the Lohgarh Gate. The college has a Recreational Hall and a non-resident Students Centre. The B. Ed. course is of one year duration. The number of students on the rolls of the college in 1967-68 and 1968-69 was 215 and 239 respectively.

Medical Education

The modern type of medical education was started in the district in the early twenties of the present century when the Medical School, Lahore (now the Medical College, Amritsar), was transferred to Amritsar in 1920.

Medical College, Amritsar.—Founded in 1943, the college is doing a pioneering work in the field of medical education. It prepares students for degrees of M.B.B.S., and M.D.M.S., and also for the diplomas of D.T.D., D.O.M.S. and Anaesthesia and Pharmacy. The number of students on the rolls in 1967-68 was 1,010.

Besides the Medical College, Amritsar, there are other medical institutes, viz. the Punjab Government Dental College and Hospital, Amritsar; the Hygiene and Vaccine Institute, Amritsar, and the Punjab Health School, Amritsar. These institutes are described in the next chapter, 'Medical and Public-Health Services'. A course for the training of nurses exists in the V.J. Hospital, Amritsar.

Agricultural Education

The Khalsa College, Amritsar, has a department of agricultural education attached to it. It was started in 1923. It prepares students for the degree of B.Sc. Agriculture, which is of four years' duration. It has a big farm equipped with modern agricultural implements. The farm grows many varieties of crops for demonstration and teaching. A well-equipped dairy-farm is maintained on modern scientific lines. The students receive practical training in the modern methods of food production. A big fruit garden and a nursery have been raised for commercial purposes on the college farms. The number of students on the rolls of the Agricultural Wing of the Khalsa College, Amritsar, was 188 in 1967-68 and 216 in 1968-69.

Technical Education

With advances in the field of science and technology, increasing emphasis is being laid on scientific and technical education. The district has the following institutions in the field of engineering and technology :

- (i) Government Industrial School for Boys, Amritsar
- (ii) Government Industrial School for Girls, Amritsar
- (iii) R.B. Girdhari Lal Industrial School, Amritsar
- (iv) Sital Industrial School for Girls, Amritsar
- (v) Dayanand Polytechnic Institute for Girls, Amritsar
- (vi) Punjab Institute of Textile Technology, Amritsar
- (vii) Government Institute of Garment Technology, Amritsar
- (viii) Government Industrial Training Centre, Patti
- (ix) Government Industrial Training Centre, Sirhali Kalan
- (x) Government Industrial School for Girls, Jandiala Guru
- (xi) Government Industrial School for Girls, Rayya

(e) Physical Education

Physical education is a part of general education which aims at making a child physically fit, mentally alert and morally sound. Due consideration is given to the physical education in schools and colleges. In the colleges, physical education is directed and guided by the Physical Directors. It is obligatory on the part of every student to attend a certain number of periods in physical education. In schools, there are two types of teachers—Physical Training Masters/Mistresses and Physical Training Instructors. Primary school-teachers are given special training in physical education which is supervised by the Block Education Officers. For general supervision and guidance, there is one Assistant Education Officer for physical education. Special rallies are organized in physical activities at various places in the district. Inter-school tournaments are organized separately for higher secondary/high/middle and primary schools. Since 1963, the district has been bagging the general shield in the Inter-District Tournament. The standard of games in the district is quite high in comparison with that in other districts in the State.

Besides the above, the following schemes, under separate departments, also promote the cause of physical education:

- (i) The promotion of sports and games by the Sports Department ;
- (ii) The National Fitness Corps, sponsored by the Central Government;
- (iii) The National Cadet Corps; and
- (iv) The Bharat Scouts and Guides.

(i) **Sports Department.**—The Sports Department was known as the Sports Cell up to 1960. It became a full-fledged department in 1961 and by 1962 it had its branches at the district level.

The department is represented at the district level by the District Sports Officer, Amritsar, who functions under the administrative control of the Divisional Sports Officer, Jullundur. He is assisted by a State Football Coach and a State Cricket Coach and other miscellaneous Class III and Class IV staff.

In November, 1966, the Sports Department was merged into the Education Department and, with this merger, the scope of the activities of the Sports Wing increased manifold.

The main duties of the District Sports Officer are to discover sports talent from amongst the villagers and students by holding coaching-camps in schools and by arranging tournaments at the district level. He is also required to popularize sports in the district.

(ii) **National Fitness Corps.**—The Government of India appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. H.N. Kunzru for the co-ordination and integration of schemes operating in the fields of Physical Education, Recreation and Youth Welfare. The Committee, in its report, submitted to the Government of India in 1963, recommended that, at the school stage, there should be one Integrated Programme in the field of Physical Education woven into the fabric of the educational system, and the existing programmes under Physical Education, Auxiliary Cadet Corps and the National Discipline Scheme should no longer be continued as separate schemes. Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee by the Government of India, the new programme was named 'National Fitness Corps'. It combines in it the best features of the three programmes—Physical Education, Auxiliary Cadet Corps and the National Discipline Scheme, hitherto operating at the school level.

The National Fitness Corps aims at developing physical efficiency, toughness, courage, endurance, discipline, patriotic fervour, appreciation for the democratic values of life and love for the country among the students. Essentially, a planned programme of national reconstruction to help children to grow up into responsible citizens, the scheme endeavours to achieve its aims by inculcating in children a sense of discipline, organization and leadership. This object to be fulfilled entails a variegated programme for developing the physical, mental and emotional capacities. It includes a variety of exercises, gymnastic movements and activities involving the general development of physique.

This programme is a compulsory curricular activity for all children of the age-group 9—16 in the middle, high and higher secondary schools. Initially, owing to the shortage of trained teachers, it has been introduced only in high and higher secondary schools, and the middle schools are to be covered during the Fourth Five-Year Plan in a phased manner. Its strength in the district at the end of March, 1968 was 41,710 (boys 29,231 and girls 12,479).

The Circle-in-Charge, National Fitness Corps, Amritsar, is in charge of the working of the scheme in the Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts. He is under the Senior Supervisor, National Fitness Corps (Northern Region), Ministry of Education, Government of India, Chandigarh.

(iii) **National Cadet Corps.**—With a view to fostering physical fitness and inculcating in the youth the spirit of discipline, co-operation, leadership and team-work, the National Cadet Corps was introduced into colleges and schools in the State in 1948. Amritsar was the first district in the State to have this youth organization introduced in its educational institutions. Its motto is 'Unity and Discipline'. The aims of the National Cadet Corps are : to develop character, comradeship, the ideal of service and capacity for leadership in young men and young women; to provide service training to young

men and young women so as to stimulate interest in the defence of the country and to build up a reserve of man-power to enable the Armed Forces to expand rapidly during a national emergency.

The Group Headquarters of the National Cadet Corps are located at Amritsar and it had 7 N.C.C. Units under its command and control in 1968.

Cadets from the various schools, colleges and institutes receive training in military subjects, such as field craft, rifle-firing, map-reading, foot-drill, civil defence, etc. They also attend 120 periods during the year. Girls are given training in first aid, telephone, telegraph and wireless. Cadets also attend an annual training camp which lasts for 10 days.

The training to the cadets is imparted by N.C.C. and A.C.C. officers who are selected from among the teachers. They are, however, assisted by the permanent instructional staff of the army. Senior and Junior Division Cadets are organized into units, each commanded by a regular Army Major or by an equivalent rank in the Air Force.

(iv) **Bharat Scouts and Guides.**—Established in 1920, the organization of District Bharat Scouts and Guides is working under the Presidentship of the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar. The District Scout Commissioner, assisted by 3 Assistant District Scout Commissioners and 1 District Guide Commissioner, looks after the movement in the district.

The main activities of the Bharat Scouts and Guides comprise social service; training to boys and girls to become good citizens by achieving self-reliance, discipline and co-operation; character development through camps, sight-seeing, hiking, and handicrafts. The total strength of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, in the district, as on March 31, 1968, was 6,570 (Cubs 3,456 and Scouts 3,114).

(f) Cultivation of Fine Arts

There are no separate institutions in the district for imparting training in music, dancing, etc. However, music is taught as one of the subjects in the girls' schools and colleges.

Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Amritsar.—The Indian Academy of Fine Arts was founded by Shri Thakur Singh in 1928 for the study and appreciation of fine arts and crafts, ancient and modern, along with sculptures, modelling photography, music, dancing and literature. The academy is situated on the Madan Mohan Malviya Road, with an Art Gallery and the Thakur Singh School of Arts. It has organized a number of all-India exhibitions. The Thakur Singh School of Arts, established in 1933, is the only recognized institution for Fine Arts run under the Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Amritsar. This institution

imparts the education of arts in free-hand paintings, still life, life paintings, landscape paintings and sculpture. Classes are held in the evening in the school where students receive training in various groups.

(g) Oriental Schools and Colleges

There are no schools or colleges for the oriental learning as such in the district. The only institution teaching Sanskrit is the Shri Laxmi Narain Sanskrit College, Amritsar.

Shri Laxmi Narain Sanskrit College, Amritsar.—Established in 1930, the college is of its own type in the district. It is situated in the newly constructed building on the main road near the Durgiana Mandir and is managed by the Durgiana Committee, Amritsar. It prepares students for *Prajna*, *Vishard* and *Shastri* (Parts I and II) examinations of the Panjab University, Chandigarh. The duration of these courses is one year. No fees are charged from students. The college also provides them with free lodging and boarding. Scholarships are awarded to students who stand first in their respective classes. The number of students on the rolls of the college in 1967-68 and 1968-69 was 64 and 68 respectively. The students generally hail from Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

(h) Education for the Handicapped

No Government centre exists in the district for the education of the handicapped—the deaf, the dumb and the blind. However, there are two institutions, viz. 'Andh Vidyalaya', for the blind and 'Pingalwara', for the handicapped, at Amritsar. They are run by philanthropists. Their expenses are met mostly through public contributions and grants. A description of these institutions is given in Chapter XVIII, 'Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organizations', on pages 569 and 571.

(i) Adult Literacy, Social Education and Measures for the Diffusion of Culture among the Masses

A programme of social education has been introduced in the district for the spread of literacy and diffusion of culture among the masses. It is organized by the Circle Social Education Officer, Jullundur. A number of social education centres for males and females (age-group 14—45) have been set up in the urban areas to spread social education among the illiterates. These centres function under the Social Education Workers. There are six such centres in the district. In addition to the programme of imparting instruction in 3R's (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic), these centres maintain small libraries and also devote some attention to such aspects of social education as health, hygiene, good citizenship, etc.

Besides the above, the Municipal Committee, Amritsar, is also running 6 social education centres at different places in the city.

(j) Cultural and Literary Societies and Periodicals

Cultural Societies

Sangeet Kala Kendra, Amritsar.—This is the only musical society in the district. It was established in February, 1966 with a view to promoting the cause of music among the residents of Amritsar. The main object of the *kendra* is to foster artistic and cultural activities in the city, through the presentation of dances, dramas, and music—instrumental, classical and light—on various occasions. Most of the programmes are held in the hall of the Thakur Singh Art Gallery. It also arranges a big *sammelan* during the Holi festival in the Gita Bhavan (Durgiana Mandir), in which great artists of all-India fame participate. The membership of the Sangeet Kala Kendra in 1970 was 120. For membership, the admission fee is Rs 100 and monthly fee Rs 10.

Among the other cultural societies, functioning in the district, those worth mentioning are: the Amritsar Natak Kala Kendra, Amritsar; the Punjab Natak Academy, Amritsar; and the Kheria Punjab Cultural Society, Amritsar. These societies are patronized by amateurs and artists, who produce various dramatic productions for the entertainment of the public. They are not aided by Government and their expenditure is mostly met from contributions by the people.

Literary Societies

Among the literary societies functioning in the district, the following deserve mention :

1. Lok Likhari Sabha, Amritsar (established in 1950)
2. Punjabi Sahit Kendra, Amritsar (established in 1968)

These societies promote the cause of literature by encouraging young writers through the constructive criticism of their writings and by publishing their works. They hold fortnightly or monthly meetings in which a number of writers participate, and read out their stories, poems, dramas, etc. *Kavi Darbars* (poetical symposia) are also arranged, wherein a large number of writers from all over the country participate. In 1960, the Lok Likhari Sabha arranged an All-India Central Punjabi Writers Conference at Amritsar, in which a number of renowned writers, critics, poets and novelists participated.

Periodicals

The cultural and literary periodicals, published in and outside the district, are detailed in Chapter XVIII, 'Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organizations'.

(k) Libraries and Museum

Libraries

Libraries play an important role in the spread of education among the masses, both in the urban and rural areas. In 1950, the Punjab Government set up the Central Library Committee, with a view to co-ordinating and rationalizing the existing library facilities and to provide more facilities for the proper functioning of libraries and reading-rooms run by various Government departments and local bodies. The Committee did an excellent work in implementing the plan, known as the "Randhawa Plan", which envisaged the setting up of new libraries in healthy surroundings and furnishing them with pictures and paintings concerning the Punjab and its people. Under the scheme, a network of libraries has been set up, both in the urban and rural areas of the district. These are rendering useful service to the public.

The types of libraries functioning in the district are as under:

Panchayat Libraries.—Generally, every panchayat in the district maintains a small library for the promotion of education in the rural areas.

District Board Libraries.—There are 3 District Board Libraries in the district at Ajnala, Raja Sansi and Lopoke. These are now maintained by the Zila Parishad, Amritsar.

Municipal Libraries.—The municipalities of Amritsar, Khem Karan, Jandiala Guru, Majitha, Tarn Taran and Patti maintain libraries and reading-rooms for the public.

Pandit Moti Lal Nehru Municipal Library, Amritsar.—The Pandit Moti Lal Nehru Municipal Library, run by the Municipal Committee, Amritsar, is the biggest library in the district. Established in the early twenties, the library is housed in a spacious building. It contains about 30,000 books on various subjects and subscribes to about 250 magazines and newspapers. In different parts of the city, it runs 25 reading-rooms which are provided with newspapers, periodicals and magazines.

The library has also a children's section which is provided with a number of books and toys for the study and recreation of the children. The library is also maintaining a film-projector for exhibiting films of educational and civic value to the public.

Private Libraries.—The private libraries, all located at Amritsar, are:

- (i) Sri Guru Ram Das Library, Amritsar
- (ii) Swatantra Nand Library, Amritsar
- (iii) Marwari Pustkalya, Amritsar

These libraries contain quite a large number of books on various subjects and topics.

School and College Libraries.—All the high/higher secondary schools and colleges have their own libraries meant for the use of their students and teachers. The Khalsa College library is a very big one and contains a large number of books on various subjects.

Reading Rooms.—There are 8 public reading-rooms at Shamnagar, Kot Khalsa (Amritsar Tahsil); Shaheed, Marimegha (Patti Tahsil); Chhina Bidhi Chand, Sirhali Kalan (Tarn Taran Tahsil); and Shansara Kalan and Ghonewal (Ajnala Tahsil) in the district. There are also a number of reading rooms in the municipal area of Amritsar. These reading-rooms have also small libraries in addition to the newspapers, periodicals, etc.

Museum

Central Sikh Museum Amritsar.—Established on July 11, 1958, the museum is housed in a big hall and some adjoining rooms on the second floor of the *Deohri* (entrance) to the Golden Temple. It contains a good number of exhibits including documents, old coins, paintings, weapons, etc. bearing on the Sikh history.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC-HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Public-Health and Medical Facilities in Early Times

The indigenous system of medicine, known as the Ayurveda, has been prevalent in India from early times. It was well advanced in the field of medicine and surgery. The diagnosis system was also well developed. The grafting of certain parts of the body, e.g. rhinoplasty (the replacement of the nose), was a remarkable achievement of the Ayurveda.

The term Ayurveda is derived from the two words *ayuh* and *veda*, meaning 'life' and 'knowledge' respectively. The origin of the art of healing, like most other matters chronological in India is, steeped in obscurity. Ayurveda is, however, attributed to Indra or Brahma and traced back to about 8,000 years.

The practice of medicine in the remote past was more or less a prerogative of the priestly class who displayed a high standard of surgical and therapeutic skill. The lower strata of society, however, generally held the disease as an act of evil spirits and resorted to witchcraft or sorcery.

With the advent of the Muslims, the Unani system of medicine was also introduced in the country. In course of time, both the Ayurvedic and Unani systems got so much intermingled that it became difficult to distinguish the one from the other. Quite often, the same physician practised both the systems of medicine without any distinction. Owing to the patronage of the Muslim rulers, the Unani system of medicine became more popular in the urban areas while the Ayurvedic system was prevalent in the rural areas.

In the field of public-health, medical facilities provided for their subjects by different rulers depended on the standard of welfare and economic condition of each particular State. During the Sikh rule, particularly under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, a good number of public hospitals and dispensaries were opened in the urban areas. Some renowned private *hakims* and *vaid*s also practised in Amritsar. The city of Amritsar received particular attention of Ranjit Singh and his successors who paid generously towards the maintenance

of medical and public-health services there. Amritsar, the biggest commercial city during the period, was inhabited by rich people. They also did not lag behind in charity and opened many free dispensaries for the welfare of the poor. This tradition continued even under the British rule and thereafter. Amritsar still has the maximum number of free dispensaries being run by rich philanthropists.

The allopathic system of medicine was introduced into Amritsar after the annexation of the Punjab by the British in 1849. A hospital was opened near Ram Bagh. The homoeopathic system of medicine, though of German origin, was also introduced. Homoeopathic physicians also practise biochemistry. This system of medicine has, however, not received government patronage so far.

With the spread of education, and the scientific treatment of human ills coming within the reach of the people, the methods of faith-cure and quackery are resorted to by a fewer people now. Homoeopathy is practised by a few practitioners in the towns. The Ayurvedic and Unani systems are favoured by some people because of the simple and familiar medicines prescribed. The Government have given a better recognition to these systems and the number of their dispensaries in the district increased from 2 in 1953-54 to 17 in 1960-61 and to 19 (16 Ayurvedic and 3 Unani) in 1968-69.

In 1961, there was one medical institution, on an average, for 73.7 sq. km. and 22,572 persons in the district. In the same year, the total number of allopathic physicians and surgeons, dentists, Ayurvedic physicians, homoeopathic physicians and other physicians in the district was 2,160 (2,074 males and 86 females). Out of these, 1,142 (1,117 males and 25 females) were in the rural areas and 1,018 (957 males and 61 females) in the urban areas. These included 479 (444 males and 35 females) allopathic physicians and surgeons, 951 (936 males and 15 females) Ayurvedic physicians, 189 (all males) homoeopathic physicians and 346 (335 males and 11 females) other physicians.

In 1968, there were 74 medical institutions in the Amritsar District. Out of these, 40 were in the rural areas and 34 in the urban areas. The population served by one institution was 22,659 in the district as compared with 24,715 in the State as a whole. The average area covered by an institution was 4.358 km in the district as compared with 5.599 km in the State as a whole. The number of doctors was 1,025 in the district as compared with 4,332 in the State as a whole. The population served by one doctor was 1,636 in the district as compared with 2,910 in the State as a whole.

(b) Vital Statistics

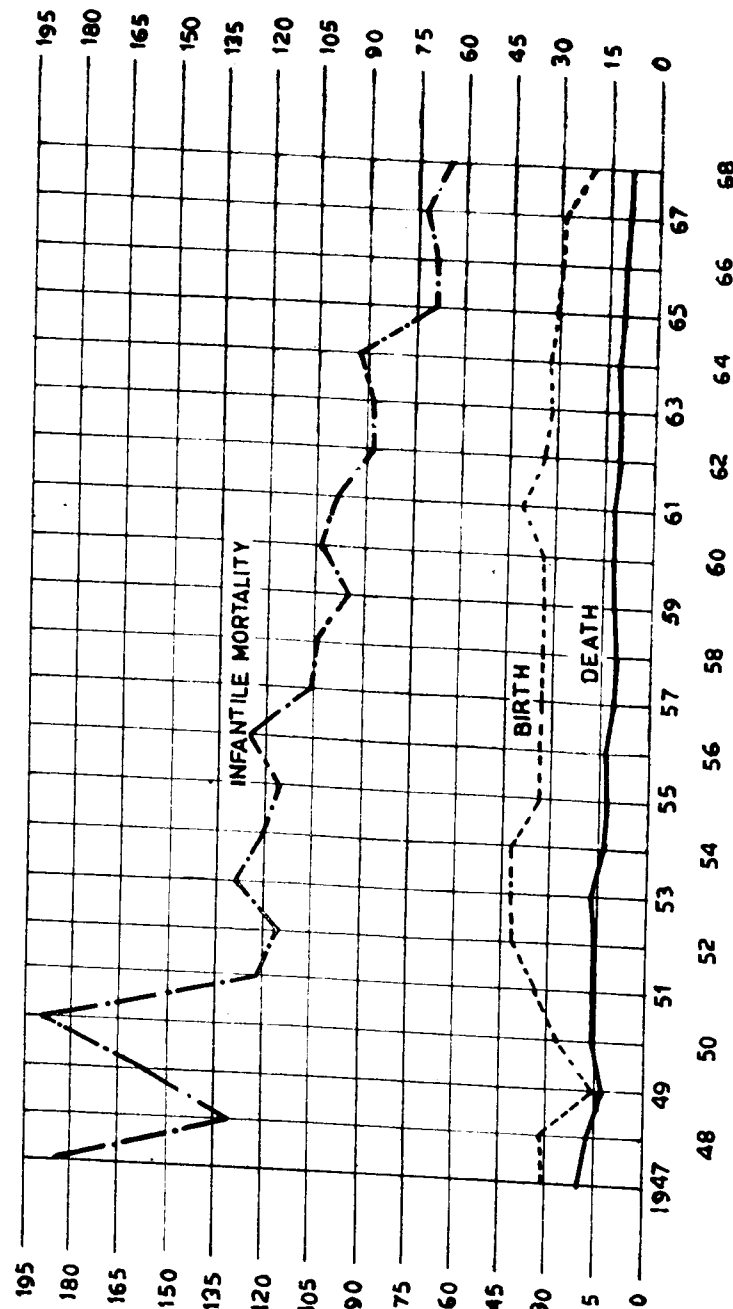
The population of the district, according to the census figures from 1901 onwards, indicates the trend of variation among males and females as under :

Year	Persons	Variation	Males	Variation	Females	Variation
1901	11,87,140	..	6,49,086	..	5,38,054	..
1911	10,21,225	-1,65,915	5,73,353	-75,733	4,47,872	-90,182
1921	10,77,596	+56,371	6,00,140	+26,787	4,77,456	+29,584
1931	12,95,270	+2,17,674	7,18,391	+1,18,251	5,76,879	+99,423
1941	16,21,126	+3,25,856	8,87,893	+1,69,502	7,33,233	+1,56,354
1951	13,67,040	-2,54,086	7,42,421	-1,45,472	6,24,619	-1,08,614
1961	15,34,916	+1,67,876	8,27,821	+85,400	7,07,095	+£2,476
Total variation		+3,47,776	..	+1,78,73	..	+1,69,041

From 1901 to 1961, the population of the district has constantly increased, except during the first and fourth decades, as shown by the census figures of 1911 and 1951 respectively. From 1901 to 1911, the decrease in the population was due to infectious diseases, like plague, cholera, small pox and fevers. The decrease in the population, as shown by the 1951 Census, was due to the partition of the country. The number of Muslims who migrated was much more than the Hindus and Sikhs who came. The general increase in the population is due to the increase in the birth-rate and the decrease in the death-rate on account of the control measures against various infectious diseases and a general improvement in medical and health conditions consequent upon the provision of better medical facilities by the Government.

The registration of vital statistics is compulsory. In the rural areas, the *chowkidars* maintain the 'Birth and Death Registers'. Similar records are also maintained by the municipalities in the urban areas. Besides other advantages, the procedure furnishes a dependable record of the growth of population and it helps in visualizing the scope of the measures to be taken to check the mortality-rate and also to devise ways and means to effect family-planning. The Chief Medical Officer of the district compiles the data. The table given in Appendix I on page 503 indicates the birth-rate, the death-rate, the infantile mortality-rate, etc.

BIRTH & DEATH RATE PER THOUSAND OF POPULATION



Source: Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar

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There has been a marked increase in the birth-rate from 1950 onwards. From the beginning of the Third Five-Year Plan, 1961—66, the birth-rate has been on the decrease. This has been due to the Family-Planning Programme. The spiral of price rise and rise in the standard of living have also been responsible for the decrease in the birth-rate. The death-rate in 1968 was less than half of that in 1953. The infantile mortality-rate was the highest in 1960. With the increased availability of medical facilities, it gradually decreased and was the lowest in 1968.

Important Causes of Mortality.—The important causes of mortality in the district are fever, dysentery, respiratory diseases, etc. The table in Appendix II on page 504 gives the number of deaths registered in the district on the basis of causes.

(c) Diseases Common to the District

(i) **Fevers.**—The largest number of deaths is caused by fevers. These include ordinary fevers, typhoid, influenza and other miscellaneous seasonal fevers, including malaria. These fevers are caused by infections, unhealthy living and imbalanced diet, culminating in low resistance. The causes are deep-rooted and are, as such, difficult to eradicate. In the past, miscellaneous types of medicines, including quinine, were used to check fevers. At present, sulpha drugs and antibiotics are most effective. Healthy living, coupled with a balanced diet, checks the incidence of fevers. Malaria has been checked by applying D.D.T. sprays. A detailed reference to the eradication of malaria is made in the subsequent pages.

(ii) **Respiratory Diseases.**—Next only to fevers, the respiratory diseases are responsible for deaths in the district. These diseases are caused by different types of smokes, fumes, vapours of chemical gases released by the burning of charcoal, coke, etc., the necessary material used in industry. These gases pollute the atmosphere all the time and affect the health of the people. Smoke is a constant source of irritation to the eyes, throat and lungs. The labourers from the rural areas live at Amritsar and Chheharta in small and dingy houses. Those with poor health and miserably low resistance fall an easy prey to the respiratory diseases. Tuberculosis is carried by them back to the villages, where the kith and kin, friends and associates run a great risk of contracting the disease. Allergic diseases, like bronchitis and asthma, are also caused by unhealthy air polluted by smoke, fumes, etc. Poisonous industrial wastes also pollute the atmosphere and water and cause respiratory diseases.

Proper arrangements are essential for the regular discharge of harmful gases and smokes. No doubt, the Factory Act, 1948, requires that a proper disposal of harmful gases in the atmosphere should be ensured. But, in practice, this provision is disregarded. Moreover, factories must be located outside the city but, owing to one reason or another, a number of factories are still situated in the interior of the Amritsar city.

The proper diagnostic facilities made available in the dispensaries and hospitals, the latest researches in the medical science, the provision of institutional facilities, domiciliary treatment, and the follow-up of cases due to diseases, like tuberculosis and chronic bronchitis, have brought down the mortality figures to a low level.

(iii) **Malaria.**—Previously, malaria was one of the main causes that took a heavy toll of life in the district, especially in the *bet* areas. This disease used to spread during the monsoon season. Quinine was the only available effective medicine to check malaria. Early in the fifties, the eradication of this disease was taken up at the national level. A reference to this campaign will be of interest.

The control programme against malaria was started in the district in 1953. During the first phase, spraying with D.D.T. was taken up in the villages, giving two rounds in a year. Blood slides of infants and children were also collected for microscopical examination. For the enlargement of spleen, a survey was also carried out to assess the infection in the district.

The malaria unit entered the attack phase in 1960. The district was divided into four sub-units. The area of the sub-units was further divided into sectors and sections, allotting the population between 10 and 15 thousands to each surveillance worker. The area of four surveillance workers was covered by one Surveillance Inspector. The villages falling within the jurisdiction of a surveillance worker were covered twice a month for active surveillance.

The Medical Officers in charge of the medical institutions were deputed to prepare the blood slides of all the patients who attended their institutions for treatment. The positive cases detected under active and passive surveillance were given radical treatment. Other necessary medical measures were also taken to control the further spread of malaria in the district. The total number of malaria cases in 1963 was 120.

The whole area of the district, except 17 kilometres of the border belt, entered the consolidation phase in 1964. Spraying in the border area was continued up to 1966 and, during 1967, only 5 kilometres of the border belt area was sprayed. The number of malaria cases in 1964 was 7 and in 1967 it was 5.

A part of the Ajnala Tahsil entered the maintenance phase in December 1965; 1 kilometre area of Tarn Taran and Patti tahsils entered the maintenance phase in August 1966 and the rest of the 5 kilometres of the border belt area entered the maintenance phase in August 1967.

In the maintenance phase, the staff for the sub-units was merged into the Primary Health Centres and, since then, the malaria work has been carried on through the Medical Officers in charge of the Primary Health Centres.

There are 15 Primary Health Centres in the district, where Laboratory Technicians and Laboratory Assistants have been put on duty to examine the blood slides collected by the Basic Health Workers operating in the areas of the Primary Health Centres.

There is a Laboratory Unit at the district headquarters under the Senior Laboratory Technician. He is in charge of the district, and pays regular visits to each Primary Health Centre, to improve the laboratory work and the cross-checking of the blood slides.

There are two Health Inspectors in each Primary Health Centre, and they supervise the work of the Basic Health Workers.

The whole area of the district has been divided between the Assistant Unit Officer and the Health Supervisor who regularly check the working of the staff.

There is an Epidemiologist at Amritsar who controls the N.M.E.P. (National Malaria Eradication Programme) in the district. The Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Health) is the overall in charge of the programme and he is guided and supervised by the Chief Medical Officer.

The expenditure incurred in 1967-68 was Rs 2,45,118 and in 1968-69 it was Rs 3,91,040. The total number of cases in 1967 was 5, in 1968 it was 6 and in 1969 only 4. As compared with the other districts in the State, where a much larger number of cases have been reported, no area of this district has been reported back to the attack phase.

(iv) **Communicable Diseases.**—Communicable diseases are cholera, plague, smallpox, etc. A brief reference to each of these diseases, with particular reference to the Amritsar District, is made below :

CHOLERA

It is an epidemic disease. It was generally associated with mass gathering, especially at the Kumbh fair at Hardwar and the solar-eclipse fairs at Kurukshetra where pilgrims collected in large number. This disease used to spread on the return of the affected pilgrims to their abodes.

The Health Department has made special arrangements for such occasions. All the dispensaries are directed to inoculate the persons visiting the fairs. Besides, medical inspection posts are established at all the important railway or road stations where strict supervision is exercised. At places where the fairs are held, special conservancy arrangements, the provision of safe water-supply, and the satisfactory collection and removal of the night-soil are made. Specific arrangements to attend to cases of infectious diseases and to render medical aid to the pilgrims are also made.

There was an isolated case of death due to cholera in 1952. Thereafter, no death has been reported to have been caused by this disease.

PLAGUE

There was a time when this disease was feared most. Ever since its appearance in the Punjab in 1897, it had never been entirely absent from the Amritsar District till 1910. It remained the most dreadful disease in the district from 1901 to 1910 and the death toll in 1910 was 13,119. The district remained free from plague for many years, but, in 1933, the disease broke out in the villages of Kaler Pain and Kaler Bala of the Beas Police-Station. From there, it spread to other parts of the district and caused 625 deaths. Since then the district has been free from this scourge.

The factors determining the appearance of this dreadful disease cannot be stated with certainty. It is probable that there has developed some natural immunity from plague among the rats. Intensive deratting on systematic lines is conducted throughout the year. The chief anti-rat measures adopted are the laying of poison baits, the cyanogassing of rat-holes, and the using of rat-traps in the towns. Strict vigilance is kept to detect any excessive mortality among the rats.

SMALLPOX

It has never been absent from the State since the records of its occurrence have been kept. It has its periodical increased occurrence, varying from time to time. However, with the provision of increased facilities for vaccination and revaccination, a remarkable reduction in the incidence of the disease has resulted. The incidence of smallpox and the details of preventive measures taken against it in the district, during 1947—68, are given in Appendix III on page 505.

(v) **Tuberculosis.**—It is a major problem, though no definite surveys have been conducted in the district. The existing facilities for treating all cases of tuberculosis are meagre. This disease is a national problem and is required to be met at the national level. To root out the disease, emphasis is being laid on the preventive side of the control. B.C.G. programme has now been integrated with the other health activities of the primary health units/centres.

B.C.G. technicians have been posted tahsil-wise. After covering the area of one Primary Health Unit/Centre, they move to another Primary Health Unit/Centre in the tahsil. In the district, after covering one area, the units move to another. The technicians visit every house and try to contact each individual. A permanent record is kept to check the history of any T.B. patient found among persons covered under the scheme. A Medical Officer has been made in charge of vaccination in respect of the Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Kapurthala districts, with headquarters at Amritsar. In the Amritsar city, the Municipal Committee has made its own arrangements for the treatment of tuberculosis patients. Besides, two private institutions, viz. the Sir Gujjarmal Kesra Devi Sanatorium and the Rai Bahadur Rattan Chand Thapar T.B. Clinic, are attending to T.B. patients.

(d) Medical and Public-Health Services

Previously, medical services were divided into two wings, viz. medical and health. The District Medical Officer was responsible for the functioning of hospitals and dispensaries, and medical and surgical work in the district, besides being the Government medico-legal expert. The District Medical and Health Officer was in charge of the health wing and was responsible for the improvement of sanitation, disease prevention and health-promotion services in the district. He was also to advise the municipalities on public-health matters. Both the wings worked under the administrative control of the Director, Health Services, Punjab. In April 1964, these two wings were combined. Under the new arrangement, the Chief Medical Officer¹ is in charge of both the medical and health services in the district. The Medical Officer, employed by the Zila Parishad, has also been put under his control administratively. The members of the staff employed by the Zila Parishad, working under the Chief Medical Officer, however, draw their salaries from the Zila Parishad. This system has been enforced for the smooth and efficient working of medical and health services.

In the district, the Chief Medical Officer is assisted by 15 Medical Officers (Class I), 66 Medical Officers (Class II), 63 Medical Officers (other categories), 387 Nurses and Midwives, 56 *Dais*, 278 Technicians and X-Ray Assistants, 90 Dispensers, besides ministerial staff and other miscellaneous Class IV staff, numbering 101 and 948 respectively.

On the health side, the Malaria Officer, vaccinators and those in charge of the medical dispensaries also assist the Chief Medical Officer. Similar functions are performed by the Zila Parishad. The municipalities also assist the Chief Medical Officer in the public-health field. Out of all the municipalities in the district, the progress made by the Amritsar Municipality in this field is particularly up to the mark. The Amritsar Municipality has employed 2 Chief Sanitary Inspectors and 7 Sanitary Inspectors who keep a vigilant eye

¹Since 1974, the Chief Medical Officer has been re-designated as the Civil Surgeon.

over sanitation. They are also empowered to take samples in respect of food adulteration. The Chief Medical Officer has also delegated full powers to thirty-nine persons (list given in Appendix IV on pages 506-507). They can take samples of foodstuffs. This measure has been taken to check the adulteration of foodstuffs.

The entire population in the district is vaccinated against smallpox in order to eradicate the disease.

The eradication of malaria was taken up at the national level. The disease has almost been eradicated from the district. The detailed activities of the Malaria Unit have already been mentioned in the preceding pages.

Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Dispensaries, etc.

The expenditure incurred by the State Government on hospitals, primary health centres, dispensaries and other health services in the district in 1968 was Rs 35,88,672. These medical institutions include those pertaining to allopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani systems. All these are under the control of the Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar.

Allopathic Medical Institutions.—As on December 31, 1968, there were 74 medical institutions (allopathic) in the district. Their tahsil-wise and area-wise break-up is given below :

Tahsil/District	Total	Rural	Urban
Tahsil Amritsar	37	12	25
Tahsil Tarn Taran	13	9	4
Tahsil Patti	14	11	3
Tahsil Ajnala	10	8	2
District Amritsar	74	40	34

(Health Statistics, District Amritsar, 1969, pp. 44, 87-89)

The management-wise break-up of the above 74 medical institutions (allopathic) is : 42 State Public, 7 State Special, 7 Municipal, 6 Zila Parishad, 4 Private Aided, 6 Private Non-aided, and 2 Subsidized.

The lists of the primary health centres, dispensaries, hospitals, family-planning units/clinics, maternity and child-health centres in the district are given in Appendices V, VI and VII respectively on pages 508 to 515.

Some of the important Government hospitals in the district are described below :

(i) **V.J. Hospital, Amritsar.**—Originally started as a municipal hospital, the Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Amritsar, was provincialized in 1891. It is one of the best hospitals in the State and provides facilities for the diagnosis of diseases and for the treatment of patients. The institution is also a postgraduate training centre of medicine and surgery.

The special medical and surgical facilities available in the hospital are : specialized medical consultation and treatment ; specialized surgical treatment, including heart and lung surgery, abdominal and urological surgery, and paediatrics and orthopaedic surgery ; specialized treatment in obstetrics and gynaecology, including advanced cancer surgery, tubal surgery and research in various aspects of the subject ; radiology and routine cataract and glaucoma surgery.

Attached to the V.J. Hospital is the Ram Lal Eye and E.N.T. Hospital which provides specialized treatment of eyes, ears, nose and throat. Its bed capacity is 88 which, during the operation season, may be increased four-fold.

(ii) **Punjab Mental Hospital, Amritsar.**—Started in 1949, the hospital is situated on the Circular Road to the north of the city. This is the only institution of its type in the Punjab and caters also to the needs of the neighbouring States.

The hospital provides the following types of treatment for mental patients :

Family-Care Unit.—The mental patients, who need hospitalized treatment for a short period, ranging from a few days to a few weeks, are admitted at the out-door level, in the general wards or in single-seated rooms. This wing of the hospital has been named the Family-Care Unit for the reason that one or two of the members of the family of the patient are required to stay along with him and manage his clothing, feeding and giving medicines under the medical supervision of the hospital.

Psychotherapy.—This is a subtle type of psychiatric treatment given particularly to neurotic patients through direct conversation with them. The patient's problems are studied in detail and then he is helped to solve them.

Occupational Therapy.—The hospital has arrangements for giving to the patients creative and productive work, which is organized not on any business basis but in a way that promotes the treatment process. The hospital has facilities for agricultural work, weaving, tailoring, carpentry, blacksmithy, painting, toy-making, leatherwork, carpet-making, etc.

Child-Guidance Clinic.—The hospital runs a weekly clinic for children who have mental problems or behavioural difficulties. Free medicines are given to such children from the hospital and counselling is given to their parents regarding the ways they may employ to help their children to correct their behavioural difficulties and help them to grow up in the best possible manner.

Electro-Convulsive Therapy.—Generally known as the electric-shock treatment, it is usually given to patients who come to the hospital in an excited or withdrawn condition.

(iii) **T.B. & Chest Diseases Hospital, Amritsar.**—Originally known as the R.B. Sir Gujjar Mal Kesra Devi T.B. Sanatorium and Kotu Mal Kesra Devi T.B. Infirmary, it was started in 1938 as a private institution. This hospital was taken over by the Government in 1949.

The hospital has 255 beds for patients undergoing the treatment of tuberculosis and chest diseases. Facilities for minor surgical operations and routine laboratory investigations are available.

A T.B. and Chest-Diseases Centre, which is a part of this institution, is located on the campus of the V.J. Hospital, Amritsar.

Ayurvedic and Unani Medical Institutions.—The indigenous systems of medicine, viz. Ayurvedic and Unani, are quite cheap and suit the local needs. These have no side-effects. However, owing to the lack of patronage by the British, these systems lost their popularity. After the independence, the Government devised means to make these popular.

As on December 31, 1968, there were 14 Ayurvedic and 4 Unani dispensaries and one Ayurvedic hospital in the district. Their tahsil-wise and area-wise break-up is given below :

Tahsil/District	Total			Rural		Urban	
	Total	Ayur-vedic	Unani	Ayur-vedic	Unani	Ayur-vedic	Unani
Tahsil Amritsar	6	5	1	5	1	—	—
Tahsil Tarn Taran	7	5	2	5	2	—	—
Tahsil Patti	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
Tahsil Ajnala	3	2	1	2	1	—	—
District Amritsar	19	15	4	15	4	—	—

(Health Statistics, District Amritsar, 1969, pp. 69-70, 90)

All these institutions are managed by the State Government. Their detailed list is given in Appendix VIII on pages 516-517.

Blood Bank

Blood transfusion is an unavoidable part of the treatment in many conditions. The use of blood as a therapeutic measure is on the increase in all branches of medicine and surgery.

There is a Blood Bank in the V.J. Hospital, Amritsar. Its services are availed of by all the hospitals attached to the Medical College, Amritsar ; those associated with the V.J. Hospital, such as the Government Hospital for Women, T.B. Sanatorium, the Ram Lal Eye & E.N.T. Hospital, Amritsar ; private and local bodies hospitals, such as the Prince of Wales Zenana Hospital, the Lady Emerson-Seth Chatarbhuji Maternity Hospital, the Prem Sewak Hospital ; and other hospitals in the district.

The work done by the Blood Bank in respect of collection and transfusion of blood is given in Appendix IX on page 518.

School Health Service

The School Health Service Scheme was launched during the Second Five-Year Plan, 1956—61. A School Health Clinic was started in Amritsar in 1957. Two Medical Officers (one Eye & E.N.T. Specialist), 1 Dental Surgeon, 1 Public-Health Nurse, 2 Dispensers, besides other miscellaneous staff have been provided for the clinic. Under this scheme, the doctors visit the schools, examine the school children and provide them with necessary medical aid. They give lectures to the children regarding good habits. They also enlighten them on general hygiene and cleanliness.

The details of work done by the clinic, during 1964—68, are given below :

Year	Number of schools visited	Number of students examined	Number of students treated	Number of students examined by the Dental Surgeon	Number of students given mass treatment for trachoma
1964	.. 8	8,079	8,206	5,503	453
1965	.. 10	13,705	6,745	18,705	257
1966	.. 4	4,477	3,748	4,530	323
1967	.. 5	3,094	4,530	2,530	668
1968	.. 7	5,624	323	5,411	296

(Source : Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

In the rural areas, the school health services are looked after by the Medical Officers in charge of the Primary Health Centres/Units. As regards medical examinations, they are conducted by the Sanitary Inspector/Dispenser and the Lady Health Visitor. The Medical Officers, in charge of the Provincial Rural Dispensaries, look after the medical needs of the school-children in the areas within their respective jurisdictions.

Medical Aid during Floods

Some parts of the Amritsar District, particularly the Ajnala and Amritsar tahsils, used to be frequently affected by floods. Every year, the Ravi River and the Sakki Nala worked havoc in the Ajnala Tahsil. Flood relief, in the shape of food and medicines, was provided for the needy. Preventive measures to check diseases were also taken. The floods have now been controlled. The malaria disease has also been eradicated.

Prevention of Adulteration of Foodstuffs

For some decades past, the adulteration of foodstuffs has become a major problem. Even by the thirties, the position became so acute that an enactment to this effect became necessary. The Act, passed in 1929, was replaced by the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. This was modified in 1964. Under the Act, samples are taken and sent to a chemical laboratory for analysis. The persons, whose samples are not found up to the mark, are challaned.

It has not been possible to make an appreciable progress in the field. The main reason for this is the inadequacy of the executive staff. The meagre staff is unable to make effective progress in checking adulteration owing to multifarious duties. The taking of samples of milk brought into the towns by vendors, of sweetmeats from the shops of *halwais*, and of miscellaneous articles from grocers' shops is such a colossal job that the existing staff and the available laboratory facilities can hardly cope with it.

The work done under the Act is detailed in Appendix X on page 519.

(e) Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes

Besides Government medical services available in the district, as detailed above, a few prominent private hospitals in the district are : the Lady Emerson-Seth Chatarbhuji Maternity Hospital, Amritsar ; the Saint Mary's Mission Hospital, Tarn Taran, and the Atma Singh Janta Hospital, Bohroo. A brief reference to these hospitals is made below :

(i) **Lady Emerson-Seth Chatarbhuji Maternity Hospital, Amritsar.**—Established in 1937, it holds an important position among the private hospitals in the district. It is meant for women only. It is a charitable institution

with free beds and paying wards, with all modern facilities in respect of operations, etc. There are 50 beds in all.

The building of the hospital comprises an administrative block, a dispensary, and an outdoor patients' wing. The special facilities available in the hospital for the patients include diathermy, cauterization and antenatal treatment. Lady Health Visitors and *Dais* get practical training at the hospital. The hospital has also sufficient accommodation for its staff.

The numbers of indoor and outdoor patients, treated during 1959—68, are given below :

Year	Number of indoor patients	Number of outdoor patients
1959	13,810	33,808
1960	13,171	37,128
1961	14,016	42,273
1962	12,762	33,929
1963	11,639	36,199
1964	14,778	31,176
1965	26,176	12,376
1966	12,636	29,813
1967	11,002	27,083
1968	12,816	29,475

(ii) **Saint Mary's Mission Hospital, Tarn Taran.**—This maternity hospital is run by the Mission Trust. Its present building, comprising maternity ward, medical ward, surgical ward, and outdoor patient clinic, was constructed in 1950. The hospital has 50 beds and is manned by a Lady Doctor, two Sisters, two Auxiliary Nurses, one trained *Dai*, besides a number of under-training Staff Nurses.

The numbers of indoor and outdoor patients attended to in the hospital, during 1962—68, are as under :

Year	Number of indoor patients	Number of outdoor patients
1962	972	4,061
1963	931	4,652
1964	915	4,473
1965	1,122	4,452
1966	1,123	4,928
1967	1,252	5,284
1968	1,495	5,955

(iii) **Atma Singh Janta Hospital, Bohroo.**—It was established in 1954 with the joint efforts of Shri Atma Singh and Captain Aishi Lal (Dr) at Bohroo on the Amritsar-Jhabal Road. The hospital has a Doctor, a Dispenser and a trained *Dai*, besides some other staff. It has 12 beds. Necessary utensils are also provided for the patients on nominal charges.

The hospital functions with public donations. The number of indoor and outdoor patients, treated during 1958—68, are as under :

Year		Number of indoor patients	Number of outdoor patients
1958	..	101	14,072
1959	..	156	15,750
1960	..	121	16,291
1961	..	148	17,538
1962	..	156	9,332
1963	..	235	12,098
1964	..	234	8,370
1965	..	195	8,814
1966	..	211	9,200
1967	..	170	7,747
1968	..	220	8,001

(iv) **Lepers' Home, Tarn Taran.**—The Lepers' Home or Leprosarium is one kilometre and a half from the Tarn Taran town. The importance of Tarn Taran for the cure of lepers is associated with the Fifth Guru, Arjan Dev. The tank at Tarn Taran was constructed through the efforts of the Guru in 1590, and is popularly believed to cure leprosy. The town has throughout been a resort of the lepers who flocked to this place in large numbers, and formed in the town a colony called "Mohalla Zazamian".

The present asylum, situated outside the town, was established in 1858. It was maintained with municipal funds and with the cost received from the respective districts to which the lepers belonged. In 1903, the maintenance and the control of the asylum was passed on to the Mission of Lepers, London. It is now called Leprosy Hospital and Home, Tarn Taran.

It has 230 beds. At present, there is one Leprosy Specialist and 4 Nurses, besides some other allied staff. The asylum remained under the charge of Rev. Canon Dr. A.P. Dass from 1909 to 1961. Near the asylum, a colony for recovered cases and their descendants has come into existence.

Martha David Home

Close to the asylum is a separate home for the untainted children of the patients, and is known as the Martha David Home. It has 60 seats. Here the children are kept separate from their parents. They are provided with necessary facilities for their education. Both the Asylum and the Home are maintained by the Mission.

(v) **Central Khalsa Hospital, Tarn Taran.**—Started in 1915, the hospital is run by the Chief Khalsa Diwan. It is situated outside the Tarn Taran town on the Jandiala-Tarn Taran Road. It is manned by a Doctor, and two Dispensers, besides other miscellaneous and allied staff. It is a 30-bed hospital. X-Ray facility is also available. About 1,000 indoor patients and 15,000 outdoor patients are treated every year.

The Chief Khalsa Diwan also runs a Homoeopathic Dispensary at Amritsar near the Rego Bridge. It is manned by a Doctor and two Dispensers. A good number of patients are treated here also.

(f) Medical and Public-Health Educational Institutions

The following medical and public-health educational institutions function in the district :

Medical College, Amritsar.—The college was originally named the Medical School, Lahore, when it was opened at Lahore in 1864. In 1920, it was transferred to Amritsar. This school awarded the M.P.L. diploma up to 1918, when the Punjab State Medical Faculty was constituted and the diploma was renamed L.S.M.F.

In 1938, a new diploma was introduced and was called the L.M.S. The minimum standard for admission was raised to F.Sc. (Medical). This has now been prescribed as a pre-medical course. The duration of the medical course has been raised to five years and the syllabus and courses of study have been brought into line with those for the M.B.B.S. degree. In 1943, the status of the school was raised to that of a college.

The college is housed in a nice building situated between the Majitha Road and the Circular Road. The building was constructed in 1929 and further additions were made in 1957.

The clinical training is given at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital and its ancillary units, viz. the Government Hospital for Women and the Ram Lal

Eye and E.N.T. Hospital, the Sir Gujjar Mal Kesra Devi Tuberculosis Sanatorium, the Kotu Mal Kesra Devi Infirmary and the Rai Bahadur Rattan Chand Thapar T.B. Clinic.

Affiliated to the Guru Nanak Dev University, the college runs the following courses of study :

Name of course	Number of seats
1. M.B.B.S. ..	750
2. Diploma in Pharmacy (Diploma Pharmacy and Dresser's Course) ..	150
3. B.Sc. (Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry) ..	20
4. D.O.M.S. (Diploma in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery) ..	12
5. D.M.R. (Diploma in Medical Radiology) ..	4
6. D.C.P. (Diploma in Clinical Pathology) ..	8
7. D.C.H. (Diploma in Child Health) ..	10
8. D.G.O. (Diploma in Gynaecology and Obstetrics) ..	6
9. D.D.V.D. (Diploma in Dermatology and Venereal Diseases) ..	6
10. D.L.O. (Diploma in Laryngology and Otology) ..	8
11. D.C.D. (Diploma in Chest Diseases) ..	10
12. D.A. (Diploma in Anaesthesiology) ..	8
13. Radiographers' Course ..	20
14. Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology ..	10
15. M.D. & M.S. (Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery) ..	no limit (25 students are generally admitted)

There are separate hostels for the accommodation of 252 men boarders. A new hostel with 100 single-seated rooms has been completed. The students in senior classes are provided with seats in the hostels. The women's hostel provides accommodation for 80 boarders. The college has very extensive playgrounds.

Punjab Government Dental College and Hospital, Amritsar.—Started in 1960, the college is located opposite the Company Gardens. Training for the B.D.S. course is given in this institution which is provided with ultra-modern equipment. The number of seats is 30. The indoor training facilities are available in the V.J. Hospital, Amritsar.

Hygiene and Vaccine Institute, Amritsar.—Two courses are run by the institute, viz. the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate Course, and the Vaccinators' Training Course, as per details given below :

(i) **Sanitary Inspector's Course.**—It forms a year's course from October to September. The minimum standard for admission is matriculation. About 80 students are admitted.

(ii) **Vaccinator's Course.**—The course runs twice a year, starting from April and October respectively and even more than twice, depending upon the departmental requirements. One month's theoretical training and three months' practical training are imparted. Students of both the sexes are admitted to the institute. The minimum standard for admission is matriculation.

Punjab Health School, Amritsar.—Run by the State Government under the administrative control of the Director, Health Services, Punjab, this school was started in 1954 for training Lady Health Visitors.

There are two admissions a year, in April and in October. The minimum qualification for admission is matriculation. It is a two-year course. Nearly 20 students are admitted in every session. Practical training is imparted to the students in the local maternity hospitals.

Nurses' Course of Training.—For the training of nurses, a three-year course has been started in the V.J. Hospital, Amritsar. The minimum qualification for admission is matriculation. Only 40 students are admitted. The students are required to stay in the hostel during the training period.

(g) Sanitation

(i) **Public-Health and Sanitation in the Urban Areas.**—It may be of interest to make a mention of the drainage system of the district. As a religious capital under Maharaja Ranjit Singh and his successors, Amritsar received special attention. A wall at a cost of 14 lakhs of rupees was built round the city which

had alongside it a canal 120 yards wide, 9 yards deep and 5 miles (8 km.) long. After the occupation of the Punjab by the British in 1849, the work of filling the canal with debris was taken up. This process lasted till 1890. The filling of the *Dhabs* (depressions), however, continued till 1914.

There were central surface drains in Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Patti, Khem Karan, Jandiala Guru, Majitha, Govindwal, etc. This system was unsatisfactory as the pucca streets had slopes in the centre and from every house a short straight surface drain joined the central surface drain. It was very difficult to move about in the streets during the night and especially when the drains were overflowed. The situation was particularly troublesome in Amritsar and Tarn Taran on account of heavy traffic.

In 1902, the Municipal Committee, Amritsar, started the construction of side surface drains and the central surface drains were closed and the level of the streets was raised in the centre, with slopes on both sides, facilitating the flow of water. This was certainly an improvement over the previous system. In course of time, side surface drains were also introduced into Tarn Taran, Jandiala Guru, Patti, Majitha, etc. This became a common feature in practically all the towns after 1947.

The side surface drains had their time. Of late, the underground drainage system has become popular. It was introduced into Amritsar in 1951. This system has also been completed in Majitha. Some important Government buildings in Tarn Taran also have underground drainage. It will, however, be long before other towns in the district also introduce this system.

The underground drainage system is of little avail unless there exists some satisfactory arrangement for the disposal of the underground drainage water. Presently, the Amritsar city is having both the systems, i.e. the side surface drains and the underground drainage, side by side. Before the introduction of the underground drainage system, the whole of the drainage water was brought into an open drain, called the extramural drain, which had been running around the walled city and then taken to the disposal tanks situated about a mile from the city. At present (1970), the drainage water is connected with the underground sewer in 90 per cent area of the city, and it is collected in the disposal tanks at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ km from the city. From there, the water is again pumped into the sewerage and distributed for irrigating the fields. Side by side, the night-soil from the areas, not covered under the underground drainage system, is removed in refuse-carts, hand-carts, trucks and tractor trailers. In streets where the refuse-carts cannot reach, batches of donkeys are engaged for the removal of refuse, etc. Trailers are stationed at different places in the city for emptying the hand-carts containing refuse and night-soil. This refuse is composted in the dumping-ground. The annual auction of the compost exceeds one lakh of rupees. The proper

utilization of the drainage water doubly benefits the municipality. It lessens the incidence of diseases in the city and at the same time becomes a regular source of income.

With all the progress made in the field, the sanitary condition of the city continues to be far from satisfactory. The night-soil remains dumped in the streets at the collecting-points for the major part of the day and is a nuisance to the passers-by and the residents. It becomes the breeding-place for flies and mosquitoes. The solution of all these ills is the complete change to the underground drainage system. Although the municipalities can impose by law the introduction of this underground drainage system, yet the paucity of funds and public reluctance to adopt it on economic grounds stand in its way.

(ii) **Rural Sanitation and Water-Supply.**—In the past, there was no regular body in the villages to look after the health of the people. The cow-dung used to lie in the open. Unpaved *kachcha* drains in the villages also created nuisance. After 1930, F.L. Brayne, Commissioner, Rural Reconstruction, Punjab, took up the village-improvement programme. A district Dehat Sabha was organized from among the leading personalities of the district, with the Deputy Commissioner as its President. Competitions of good villages were held every year at the tahsil and district levels and prizes were awarded to those which stood first and second. With this incentive, a lot of masonry work of street pavement, pucca drainage, improvement of drinking water-wells, ventilators, the digging of manure pits, etc. were done in the villages. In the villages of Baba Bakala, Khalchian, Khadur Sahib and Govindwal, double-barrel wheel hand-pumps were provided free of cost by the Government on wells in the areas, where fairs were held. The District Board, Amritsar, also allotted Rs 3,000 yearly for sanitation. This practice continued up to 1942. Then, another scheme for the improvement of drinking water-wells was introduced with $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost as the village share and $\frac{2}{3}$ as grant from the Government. The Government share was about Rs 200 per well. The progress in this field was, however, checked by the World War II.

The partition of the country in 1947 worsened the position and the dilapidated evacuee houses were used for dumping the rubbish. After the introduction of the Community Development and National Extension Service, the concept of rural reconstruction was revived. Streets were paved, covered wells were sunk and manure pits were dug. Since the programme did not entail the element of enforcement, development only took place in the areas where people's participation was forthcoming. The introduction of the Panchayati Raj was another impetus. The streets in big villages have been made pucca and hand-pumps have been installed. The pavement of streets and the installation of hand-pumps by themselves are no guarantee

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of cleanliness. The greatest hurdle in this field is the absence of any regular conservancy staff. Unless the panchayats employ conservancy staff on regular basis on the analogy of the municipalities, the desired standard of sanitation cannot be maintained.

Rural Water-Supply.—There is no shortage of drinking-water in the district. The water-level is quite shallow. In the villages, the wells stand sunk in abundance and a fairly large number of hand-pumps have also been installed.

APPENDIX I

(Vide page 484)

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Infantile Mortality-Rate in the Amritsar District, 1947—68

Year (Calendar year)	Birth-rate per thousand population	Death-rate per thousand population	Infantile mortality-rate under 1 year of age against per thousand live births
1947	31.00	19.90	184.00
1948	32.59	17.51	130.00
1949	16.29	13.45	157.00
1950	26.23	16.77	189.03
1951	35.84	15.85	121.42
1952	39.93	15.08	115.73
1953	39.56	16.76	129.81
1954	39.94	13.37	120.84
1955	40.85	12.68	115.45
1956	40.85	12.94	124.83
1957	34.16	11.95	105.09
1958	34.12	11.54	104.92
1959	33.21	10.08	95.08
1960	33.89	11.13	104.76
1961	37.98	11.67	97.42
1962	35.86	11.63	87.49
1963	32.23	9.67	88.45
1964	32.54	11.01	92.49
1965	30.62	8.83	69.21
1966	29.02	8.43	69.21
1967	28.45	8.07	72.04
1968	25.80	7.58	64.38

(Source : Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

APPENDIX II

(Vide page 485)

Deaths Registered According to Causes in the Amritsar District, 1951—1968

Year (Calendar year)	Cholera	Small- pox	Plague	Fever	Dysentery and diarrhoea	Respi- ratory diseases	All other causes	Total
1951	..	2	—	13,153	559	3,715	4,270	21,699
1952	..	1	39	—	11,811	442	4,256	21,242
1953	..	—	75	—	14,702	453	3,668	24,120
1954	..	—	15	—	10,407	489	3,830	19,785
1955	..	—	9	—	9,458	423	3,620	19,328
1956	..	—	2	—	11,160	175	3,446	20,336
1957	..	—	2	—	10,250	462	3,412	19,091
1958	..	—	4	—	9,427	559	3,618	18,772
1959	..	—	3	—	8,499	333	3,279	16,867
1960	..	—	6	—	9,025	682	3,150	19,104
1961	..	—	28	—	6,737	738	3,140	18,056
1962	..	—	16	—	6,611	865	2,609	18,136
1963	..	—	31	—	6,781	562	1,776	15,270
1964	..	—	3	—	6,113	540	2,606	17,574
1965	..	—	2	—	5,806	651	1,952	14,263
1966	..	—	1	—	7,142	743	1,553	13,797
1967	..	—	9	—	6,672	804	1,580	13,378
1968	..	—	1	—	6,426	614	1,528	12,707

(Statistical Abstract of District Amritsar, 1967, pp. 206-07;
Health Statistics, District Amritsar, 1969, p. 30; and
Director, Health and Family Planning, Punjab, Chandigarh)

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 488)

Incidence of Smallpox and the Preventive Measures Taken Against it in the Amritsar District, 1947—68

Year (calendar year)	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Primary vaccination	Revaccination
1947	1,000	348	40,589	2,17,576
1948	722	272	38,035	2,39,750
1949	24	12	49,773	84,341
1950	126	16	42,876	69,959
1951	24	2	52,921	75,526
1952	217	39	57,878	2,48,760
1953	350	83	57,912	2,82,780
1954	67	15	55,293	1,06,703
1955	42	9	51,705	1,27,653
1956	12	2	66,115	1,60,338
1957	18	2	60,669	1,65,567
1958	18	4	62,158	2,93,682
1959	26	3	62,190	2,35,512
1960	35	6	57,962	1,74,443
1961	109	28	58,259	2,50,034
1962	165	16	60,691	4,43,475
1963	179	31	82,259	9,27,625
1964	6	3	48,834	2,98,768
1965	14	2	62,199	1,33,529
1966	40	1	60,776	1,19,623
1967	206	9	75,217	4,68,337
1968	3	1	74,112	3,34,260

(Statistical Abstract of District Amritsar, 1967, pp. 206-07;
Health Statistics, District Amritsar, 1969, pp. 30, 35; and
the Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

APPENDIX IV

(Vide page 490)

List of Officers/Officials Delegated with Food Powers in the Amritsar District

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1. Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar
 2. Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Health), Amritsar
 3. Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Medical), Amritsar
 4. Government Food Inspector, Amritsar
 5. Senior Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Ajnala
 6. Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Tarn Taran
 7. Medical Officer, Civil Dispensary, Patti
 8. Medical Officer, Primary Health Unit, Ramdas
 9. Medical Officer, Primary Health Unit, Sirhali Kalan
 10. Medical Officer, Primary Health Unit, Kairon
 11. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Lopoke
 12. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Gharyala
 13. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Fatehabad
 14. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Sur Singh
 15. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Rajoke
 16. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Jhabal
 17. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Naushehra Pannuan
 18. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Mianwind
 19. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Baba Bakala
 20. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Tarsikka
 21. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Thiriewal
 22. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Verka
 23. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Kasel
 24. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Mananwala
 25. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Khem Karan
 26. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Sabhra
 27. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Algon
 28. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Mohleke
 29. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Sarangdev
 30. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Bhindi Aulakh
 31. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Vachhoa

-
32. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Jasraur
 33. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Jallalabad
 34. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Butala
 35. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Janian
 36. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Chawinda Devi
 37. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Sohal Thathi
 38. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Asal Uttar
 39. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Mari Mehga
 40. Medical Officer, Rural Dispensary, Raja Sansi
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APPENDIX V

(Vide page 490)

Primary Health Centres, Dispensaries, Hospitals, etc. in the Amritsar District, as on 31st December, 1968

Serial No.	Name of the institution and location	Tahsil	Rural/urban	Type of management	No. of Beds			Staff		
					Male	Female	Medical Officers	Dis-pensers	Nurses	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
HEALTH CENTRES										
1.	Primary Health Centre, Ramdas ..	Ajnala	Urban	State/Public	4	4	1	2	—	1
2.	Primary Health Centre, Lopoke ..	Do	Rural	Do	5	5	1	2	—	—
3.	Primary Health Centre, Baba Bakala ..	Amritsar	Do	Do	8	8	1	3	—	—
4.	Primary Health Centre, Tarsikka ..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	2	—	—
5.	Primary Health Centre, Thiriewal ..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	1	1	—	—
6.	Primary Health Centre, Verka ..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	1	—	—	—
7.	Primary Health Centre, Mananwala Kalan ..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	1	1	—	—
8.	Railway Health Centre, Amritsar ..	Do	Urban	State Special	..	..	2	2	—	—
9.	Primary Health Centre, Gharyala ..	Patti	Rural	State Public	4	2	1	2	—	—
10.	Primary Health Centre, Fatehabad ..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—	—
11.	Primary Health Centre, Sur Singh ..	Do	Do	Do	6	4	1	2	—	—
12.	Primary Health Centre, Rajoke ..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	2	—	—
13.	Primary Health Centre, Kairon ..	Do	Do	Do	8	8	2	3	—	1

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14.	Primary Health Centre, Jhabal ..	Tarn Taran	Do	Do	8	4	1	2	—	—
15.	Primary Health Centre, Naushehra Pannuan ..	Do	Do	Do	4	4	1	1	—	—
16.	Primary Health Centre, Mianwind ..	Do	Do	Do	5	5	1	2	—	—
17.	Primary Health Centre, Sirhali Kalan ..	Do	Do	Do	4	1	1	2	—	1
DISPENSARIES										
18.	Provincialized Dispensary, Mohleke ..	Ajnala	Do	Do	2	2	—	1	—	—
19.	Provincialized Dispensary, Sarangdev ..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—	—
20.	Provincialized Dispensary, Bhindi Aulakh ..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—	—
21.	Provincialized Dispensary, Vachhoa ..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—	—
22.	Provincialized Dispensary, Jasraur ..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	—	1	—	—
23.	Rural Dispensary, Raja Sansi ..	Do	Do	Do	24	12	1	2	—	—
24.	District Board Dispensary, Jagdev Kalan ..	Do	Do	Zila Parishad	2	2	1	1	—	—
25.	Provincialized Dispensary, Butala ..	Amritsar	Do	State Public	2	2	1	1	—	—
26.	Provincialized Dispensary, Janian ..	Do	Do	Do	4	2	1	1	—	—
27.	Provincialized Dispensary, Chawinda Devi ..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—	—
28.	District Board Dispensary, Sathiala ..	Do	Do	Zila Parishad	..	3	1	1	—	—
29.	Civil Dispensary, Mahta ..	Do	Do	Do	4	4	1	—	—	—
30.	Subsidized Dispensary, Beas ..	Do	Do	Subsidized	..	..	..	..	..	..
31.	Civil Dispensary, Majitha ..	Do	Urban	Zila Parishad	2	2	..	1	—	—

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32.	Workshop Dispensary, Amritsar	..	Amritsar	Urban	State Special	..	..	1	2	—
33.	P.A.P. (B.S.F.) Dispensary, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	1	1	—
34.	New City Dispensary, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Municipal	..	..	1	2	1
35.	Dhab Tali Bhawan Dispensary, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	1	2	1
36.	Old City Dispensary, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	1	2	1
37.	Marwari Zanana Dispensary, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Private Non-aided	..	..	..	..	..
38.	Gandhi Sewa Sadan Homoeopathic Dispensary, Putilghar, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	15	15	—	—	—
39.	Sewa Samiti Free Dispensary, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	6	..	3	10	5
40.	Dayanand Dispensary, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	2	3	2
41.	Free Dispensary Guru Ram Das, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	10	..	4	1	—
42.	School Health Clinic, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	State Public	..	..	2	3	—
43.	R.B. Rattan Chand Anti-T.B. Clinic, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	2	..	1
44.	Provincialized Dispensary, Khem Karan	..	Patti	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—
45.	Provincialized Dispensary, Sabhra	..	Do	Rural	Do	2	2	1	1	—
46.	Provincialized Dispensary, Algon	..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—
47.	Women's Dispensary, Mari Megha	..	Do	Do	Do	..	4	—	1	—
48.	Rural Dispensary, Asal Uttar	..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—
49.	Rural Dispensary, Chaburput	..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	1	1	—
50.	Civil Dispensary, Khalsa	..	Do	Do	Zila Parishad	2	1	1	1	—
51.	Civil Dispensary, Patti	..	Do	Urban	Municipal	2	3	1	1	—
52.	Maternity Home, Patti	..	Do	Do	Do	..	8	—	—	—

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53.	Provincialized Dispensary, Kasel	..	Tarn Taran	Rural	State Public	6	6	1	2	—
54.	Provincialized Dispensary, Jallalabad	..	Do	Do	Do	2	2	1	1	—
55.	Civil Dispensary, Atari	..	Do	Do	Do	6	4	1	1	—
56.	Provincialized Dispensary, Sohal Thathi	..	Do	Do	Zila Parishad State Public	3	3	—	1	—
57.	Subsidized Dispensary, Dhotian HOSPITALS	..	Do	Do	Subsidized	..	..	..	..	..
58.	Civil Hospital, Ajnala	..	Ajnala	Urban	State Public	9	8	1	3	1
59.	District Jail Hospital, Amritsar	..	Amritsar	Do	State Special	12	..	2	2	—
60.	E. S. I. Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	45	5	7	5	—
61.	Police Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	25	..	1	1	—
62.	Railway Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	12	..	4	3	7
63.	P. W. Zanana Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Municipal	..	50	2	—	4
64.	Infectious Diseases Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	15	15	1	1	—
65.	V. J. Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	State Public	406	295	8	18	..
66.	Punjab Mental Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	492	259	9	3	9
67.	Punjab Government Dental College and Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	..	..	28	..	5
68.	T. B. and Chest Diseases Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Do	155	100	10	2	20
69.	Pingalwara, Firozdin Road, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Private Non-aided	280	..	—	2	—
70.	Lady Emerson-Seth Chatarbhuji Maternity Hospital, Amritsar	..	Do	Do	Private Aided	..	38	2	1	3
71.	Civil Hospital, Tarn Taran	..	Tarn Taran	Do	State Public	4	4	2	3	—
72.	Central Khalsa Hospital, Tarn Taran	..	Do	Do	Private Aided	18	12	..	..	..
73.	St. Mary's Mission Hospital, Tarn Taran	..	Do	Do	Do	..	50	..	..	..
74.	Lepers' Home, Tarn Taran	..	Do	Do	Do	115	115	..	..	..

(Health Statistics, District Amritsar, 1969, pp. 87-89; Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

APPENDIX VI

Family Planning Units/Clinics in the Amritsar District, as on 1st January, 1969

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(Vide page 490)

Serial No.	Name of institution and location	Tahsil	Rural/Urban	Type of management	Staff		
					Female Medical Officers	Lady Health Visitors	Trained Dais
1.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Ramdas	.. Ajnala	Rural	Government	1	1	4
2.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Sur Singh	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
3.	Rural Family Planning Centre, Verka	.. Amritsar	Do	Do	1	1	4
4.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Verka	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
5.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Thiriewal	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
6.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Tarsikka	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
7.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Baba Bakala	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
8.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Mananwala	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
9.	Urban Family Planning Unit, Amritsar	.. Do	Urban	Do	2	..	1
10.	Urban Family Planning Unit, Medical College, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
11.	Urban Family Planning Unit, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Do	1	..	..
12.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Gharyala	.. Patti	Rural	Do	1	1	4
13.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Rajoke	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
14.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Lopoke	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
15.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Kairon	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4

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16.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Fatehabad	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
17.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Sirhali Kalan	.. Tarn Taran	Do	Do	1	1	4
18.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Mianwind	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
19.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Jhabel	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
20.	Rural Family Planning Unit, Kasel	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	4
21.	Family Planning Clinic, Jandiala Guru	.. Amritsar	Urban	Local Bodies	..	..	..
22.	Family Planning Clinic, Chheharta	.. Do	Do	Do	..	..	..
23.	Family Planning Clinic, Sirki Bhandan, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Red Cross	1	..	1
24.	Family Planning Clinic, Kot Baba Dip Singh, Amritsar	Do	Do	Local Bodies	..	1	1
25.	Family Planning Clinic, Katra Sher Singh, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	1
26.	Family Planning Clinic, Katra Karam Singh, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1
27.	Family Planning Clinic, Mehma Singh Road, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	1	1	1
28.	Family Planning Clinic, Bhagianwala, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Do	1	1	1
29.	All-India Women's Conference (Amritsar Branch), Women's Welfare Centre, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Do	1	..	..
30.	Family Planning Clinic, Patti	.. Patti	Do	Do	..	..	..
31.	Family Planning Clinic, Tarn Taran	.. Tarn Taran	Do	Do	..	..	..

(Health Statistics, District Amritsar, 1969, p. 91; Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

APPENDIX VII

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Maternity and Child Health Centres in the Amritsar District as on 1st January, 1969

Serial No.	Name of institution and location	Tahsil	Rural/ Urban	Type of management	Staff		
					Medical Officers	Dispensers	Lady Health Visitors
1.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Lakhuwal	.. Ajnala	Rural	Government	—	—	1
2.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Rasulpur Kalan	.. Amritsar	Do	Do	—	—	1
3.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Sathiala	.. Do	Do	Zila Parishad	1	1	—
4.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Ram Bagh, Amritsar	Do	Urban	Municipality	—	—	1
5.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Mehma Singh Road, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Do	—	—	1
6.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Katra Karam Singh, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Do	..	..	..
7.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Kot Baba Dip Singh, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	1	1	—
8.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Nawan Kot, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	—	—	1
9.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Gandawala, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	—	—	1
10.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Hussainpura, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	—	—	1
11.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Putlighar, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	—	—	1
12.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Sirki Bhandan, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	—	—	1
13.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Chowk Parag Das, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	—	—	1

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14.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Jogiware, Amritsar	Do	Do	Government	1	1	1
15.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Karimpura, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	—	—	2
16.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Haripura, Amritsar	Do	Do	Do	—	—	2
17.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Katra Sher Singh, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Municipality	1	1	1
18.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Yasin Road, Amritsar	Do	Do	Government	..	..	..
19.	Lady Emerson-Seth Chatarbhuji Hospital, Amritsar	.. Do	Do	Voluntary Organization	2	1	2
20.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Kasel	.. Tarn Taran	Rural	Government	—	—	1
21.	Maternity and Child Health Centre, Gohlwar	.. Do	Do	Panchayat Samiti	..	..	..
22.	St. Mary's Hospital, Tarn Taran	.. Do	Urban	Christian Mission	..	..	..

(Health Statistics, District Amritsar, 1969, p. 92 ; Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

APPENDIX VIII

Ayurvedic/Unani Dispensaries/Hospitals in the Amritsar District, as on 1st January, 1969

Serial No.	Name of institution and location	Tahsil	Rural/Urban	Type of management	No. of beds	Vaid's Dispensers			Dais
								Staff	
1.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Kakar	..	Ajnala	Rural	Government	..	1	1	1
2.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Chamiani	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
3.	Unani/Ayurvedic, Dispensary, Gagomahal	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
4.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Bhangali Kalan	..	Amritsar	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
5.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Akal Garh Bhapien	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
6.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Jalalusman	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
7.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Dhulka	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
8.	Unani Dispensary, Tahli Sahib Hola Mohalla	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
9.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Ghagar Bhana	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
10.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Valtoha	..	Patti	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
11.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Makhi Khurd	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
12.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Bhangala	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
13.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Mano Chahal	..	Tarn Taran	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
14.	AyurvedicDispensary, Kang	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1

15.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Dehra Sahib	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
16.	Ayurvedic Dispensary, Ekalgadda	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
17.	Unani Dispensary, Pandori Sidhuan	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
18.	Unani Dispensary, Nagoke	..	Do	Do	Do	..	1	1	1
19.	Ayurvedic Hospital, Bhail Dhailwal	..	Do	Do	Do	10	1	1	1

(Health Statistics, District Amritsar, 1969, p. 90 ; Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

APPENDIX IX

Work done by the Blood Bank in respect of collection and transfusion of blood in the Amritsar District, 1964—1968

Name of the institution	Year (calendar year)	Blood donors	Blood given	Transfusion	Blood collected (in ml)	Blood discharged (in ml)	Blood groupings matchings	Blood injected (in ml)
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Blood Transfusion Department, V.J. Hospital, Amritsar	1964	3,671	3,594	3,594	12,83,845	11,63,510	8,890	62,725
	1965	3,968	3,813	3,813	13,81,785	12,66,290 (25,950 for plasma)	10,900	77,795
	1966	4,229	4,116	4,116	14,66,310	13,61,985 (2,450 for plasma)	10,493	67,725
	1967	4,395	4,120	4,120	1,50,100	13,94,925	9,473	1,08,725
	1968	3,788	3,380	3,380	13,27,250	11,73,125	9,092	1,71,025

(Source : Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

APPENDIX X

Work done under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, in the Amritsar District, 1958—1968

Year (Calendar year)	Number of samples seized	Number of samples sent for analysis	Number of samples found adulterated	Prosecutions launched	Fine realized	Imprisonment (persons)
1958	..	812	135	135	13,488	—
1959	..	2,253	451	451	75,141	—
1960	..	2,112	315	315	36,574	—
1961	..	2,237	444	444	54,272	—
1962	..	..	..	..	..	..
1963	..	1,909	291	291	34,376	22
1964	..	2,018	208	197	50,930	4
1965	..	2,447	314	295	31,180	—
1966	..	1,789	116	144	72,015	1
1967	..	1,729	389	357	49,505	—
1968	..	1,360	305	379	34,110	—

(Source : Chief Medical Officer, Amritsar)

CHAPTER XVII

Other Social Services

Social services signify such activities of the State and individuals as are undertaken to correct social disequilibrium among persons, classes or groups of persons. The scope of such activities has been continually widening. Progressive modern States have for their ultimate objective the general well-being of the community. The State also renders many specialized services in the various spheres, e.g. education, public-health and housing. The modern welfare State is, thus, built on a strong framework of social services. The successive Five-Year Plans have also provided fairly wide opportunities and scope for the further improvement and expansion of social services.

(a) Labour Welfare

Labour welfare assumes vast importance in a State which is passing through rapid industrialization and consequent urbanization. It implies such services, facilities and amenities as may be established in, or in the vicinity of, undertakings to enable the persons employed in them to perform their work in healthy and congenial surroundings, and provide them with amenities, conducive to good health and sound morals. Welfare activities may also include anything done for the intellectual, physical, moral and economic betterment of the workers by the employers, by the Government or by other beneficent agencies, as laid down by law. Thus, labour welfare includes housing, medical and educational facilities, nutrition, facilities for rest and recreation, co-operative societies, day nurseries and creches, the provision of healthy accommodation, holidays with pay, social insurance measures, etc., undertaken voluntarily by the employers.

Labour welfare may, thus, be broadly classified into three categories : statutory, voluntary and mutual. Statutory welfare constitutes the provision of welfare facilities which depend on the coercive power of the Government. Under voluntary welfare come the activities undertaken by the employers for the workers. Mutual welfare is a co-operative enterprise of workers to improve their lot in a suitable manner.

Before the independence (1947), there was hardly any systematic and regular governmental organization for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes, for the welfare of industrial workers and for dealing with other labour problems in the State. A separate Labour Department to look after labour welfare was established in the State as late as 1949. In the district, there are two Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers posted at Amritsar. The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer, 1st Circle, Amritsar, is assisted by 1 Labour

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Inspector and 2 Shop Inspectors, whereas the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer, 2nd Circle, Amritsar, is assisted by 2 Labour Inspectors and 1 Shop Inspector. The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers deal with the administration and disputes under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Shop Inspectors, although under the immediate control of their respective Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers, function under the Chief Inspector of Shops and Commercial Establishments-cum-Labour Officer (Headquarters), Chandigarh. They are responsible for the administration of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

The Factories Act, 1948, is administered by two Factory Inspectors posted at Amritsar. The Labour Inspectors and the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers act as Inspectors of Factories. Besides, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health, Amritsar, also functions as Additional Inspector of Factories for enforcing the health and sanitary provisions contained in the Act.

The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers are Conciliation Officers for the district under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. They initiate conciliation proceedings for the settlement of industrial disputes and try to settle disputes by mediation through joint discussion. If they fail, the matter is referred, through the Government, to the Labour Court, Jullundur, or the Industrial Tribunal, Punjab, Chandigarh. Appointed under Section 7-A of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Industrial Tribunal, Punjab, Chandigarh, plays a very important role in the redress of grievances of the industrial workers in the State. The Presiding Officer of the Industrial Tribunal frequently visits Amritsar/Chheharta/Verka for the adjudication of industrial disputes relating to any matter specified in schedules II and III of the Act.

Labour Legislation

Industrialization creates a number of social and economic problems, e.g., the employment of women and children, the minimum wages, trade unions, the provision of adequate accommodation and the removal of deplorable working conditions in the factories. Labour laws are, therefore, enacted to facilitate their solutions, as ordinary civil laws are inadequate to meet them. The State has adopted a progressive policy, and is keeping pace with the labour policy of the Government of India and is observing the standards laid down by the International Labour Organization. This policy has produced a plethora of legislation and their administration. These laws also deal with the regulation of industrial relations between the management and the workers. Under the Constitution of India, labour is a concurrent subject and both the Parliament and the State Legislatures are empowered to make labour laws.

The salient features of the Central and State Labour Acts in force in the district are as follows. The Factories Act, 1948, provides for the health, safety and welfare of the workers. The Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958, regulates the conditions of work and terms of employment of the workers engaged in shops, commercial establishments, theatres, restaurants, etc. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, provides for the grant of cash benefits to women workers for specified periods before and after confinement. The Employment of Children Act, 1938, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 15 years in certain risky and unhealthy occupations. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, regulates the timely payment of wages without any unauthorized deductions by the employers. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, ensures the fixation and revision of the minimum rates of wages in respect of certain scheduled industries involving hard labour. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, provides for the investigation, and settlement of industrial disputes through mediation, conciliation, adjudication and arbitration. There is scope for the payment of compensation in case of lay-off and retrenchment under the Act. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, requires the industrial establishments to define precisely the conditions of employment under them and make them known to the workmen. These rules, once certified, are binding on the parties for a minimum period of six months. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, provides for compensation to injured workers of certain categories and, in case of fatal accidents, to their dependents, if the accidents arose from, and, in the course of, their employment. It also provides for the payment of compensation in case of certain occupational diseases. The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, recognizes the right of workers to organize themselves into trade unions, and, when registered, to have certain rights and obligations and function as autonomous bodies. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, provides for sickness, maternity, disablement and medical benefit. The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, seeks to make provision for the future of an industrial worker after he retires or is retrenched, or for his dependents in case of his early death. The Punjab Industrial Housing Act, 1956, provides for the administration, allotment, realization of rent, etc., in regard to quarters constructed under the subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme.

The labour welfare, thus, covers a wide range of activities and, in its present form, is generally recognized and regarded as an essential part of the industrial system and management. The labour laws in the State are administered by the Labour Department, headed by the Labour Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, and the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, are, however, operated under the direction of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Chandigarh, and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh, respectively. The Labour

Commissioner is assisted by the Chief Inspector of Factories at the State headquarters, and by the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers, Factory Inspectors and Labour Inspectors and other staff at the district level.

According to the 1961 Census, the number of workers in the Amritsar District was 4,58,000, forming 29.8 per cent of the total population of the district. In 1968, the average number of workers employed in the registered working factories in the district was 1,023 and, covered under the various labour laws, it was 22,255.

Industrial Relations.—The relations between the employees and the employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and the machinery provided thereunder is twofold—first, the prevention of disputes by providing internal machinery in the form of Works Committees and Welfare Officers, and, second, the provision of a permanent Conciliation Officer, Conciliation Board, Court of Inquiry and Industrial Tribunal. The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Act. They are required to foster good relations between the employers and the employees by removing, as far as possible, the causes of friction and by the timely redress of the grievances of the parties.

Even though the functions of the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers are mediatory, with no power to give any orders or awards, they have been successful in bringing about a large number of agreements between the parties. The relations between the employees and the employers are normally peaceful, but sometimes these become strained and strikes or lock-outs take place.

The following table gives particulars regarding the industrial disputes in the Amritsar District under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, from 1966 to 1969 :

Number of industrial disputes in the Amritsar District, 1966—69

Year	Number of disputes	Number of strikes and lock-outs	Number of workers involved in strikes	Number of man-days lost
1966	759	5	2,701	6,374
1967	766	15	6,937	1,82,459
1968	370	3	3,433	10,322
1969	380	1	267	935

(Source : Labour Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh ; and Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers, Amritsar)

Works Committees

Under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the factories or industrial establishments employing more than 100 persons are required to constitute a Works Committee for securing and preserving amity and good relations between the employers and the workers. A works committee consists of the representatives of employers and workers engaged in a particular industry so that the number of the representatives of workmen in the committee shall not be less than that of the representatives of the employers.

Trade Unions.—Trade unions are voluntary organizations of workers formed to promote and protect their interests through collective action. As the trade unions are the most suitable organizations for adjusting relations between the employers and the employees, they have acquired an important place in the economic, political and social life of the community.

In the post-independence period, the trade union movement in the district has gained considerable momentum and there has been a constant increase in the number of registered trade unions. The particulars of the trade unions, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, functioning in the district are given in Appendix on page 544.

The Indian Factories Act, 1948.—All the factories Acts, passed during the period 1934 to 1947, were repealed and a new consolidated legislation, called the Indian Factories Act, 1948, was enacted. It incorporates several provisions for the welfare of labour, including the provision regarding the conditions of work inside the factories. The number of factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948, in the district in 1970 was 750. To enforce the provisions of the Act and look after the general welfare of the employees, Labour Welfare Officers have been employed by five factories, viz. O.C.M. India (P) Ltd., Chheharta ; Indian Woollen Textile Mills, Chheharta ; Rayon and Silk Mills (P) Ltd., Amritsar; Punjab Woollens, Chheharta; and Punjab Woollen Textiles, Amritsar.

Employees' Provident Fund Scheme.—The wages of industrial workers are not adequate enough to enable them to effect any substantial savings. When old age or illness renders them unfit for earning, they are forced to lead a life of abject poverty and misery. In the event of a worker's premature death, his dependents are left without any means of subsistence. In order to save the old and destitute workers from starvation deaths, there must be some provision to help them in difficulty. This purpose is served by the provident fund. The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, framed by the Government

of India under the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, and enforced on November 1, 1952, attempts to remedy this unhappy situation.

In the Amritsar District, by March 31, 1968, 299 factories/establishments, with an employment strength of 21,512 workers, were covered under the Act. Of these, 18,429 workers contributed to the scheme.

The provident fund is deducted at the rate of 6½ per cent of the monthly wages from the employees' wages and salary, and an equal amount is contributed by the employers. The entire amount is deposited in the State Bank of India in the employees' provident fund accounts. The fund vests in a tripartite Central Board of Trustees, having nominees of the Central and State Governments and employers' and employees' representatives. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner at New Delhi is the Chief Executive Officer. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Chandigarh, executes the scheme in the Punjab.

Provision has been made under the Act to grant advances to the members for the payment of premium on their life insurance policies, for the purchase of dwelling-sites or houses, for the construction of houses, for meeting the expenses in case of serious illness, etc.

To afford timely financial assistance to the nominees/heirs of the deceased members, the Death Relief Fund was set up in 1964. A minimum of Rs 500 is assured by way of relief. A non-refundable advance is also granted in case of an employee's retrenchment in order to mitigate the immediate hardship caused by such an eventuality.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme.—The scheme was introduced into the Punjab in 1953 in pursuance of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. It is designed to provide security for the industrial workers against sickness, maternity, and employment injury in the form of cash benefits, viz. sickness benefit, disability benefit, dependents' benefit and maternity benefit, providing medical care under all contingencies. The Employees' State Insurance Amendment Act, 1966, introduced Funeral Benefit under which an amount not exceeding Rs 100 is paid to the claimants towards the expenditure on the funeral of an insured person. The scheme is compulsory wherever applicable. The workers drawing Rs 500 or less per mensem, working in the factories employing 20 or more persons and using power, are covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. The scheme, however, does not apply to the mines under the operation of the Mines Act, 1952, a Railway Running Shed and the Seasonal Factories, as defined in the Act.

The following contribution is made by the employers and the employees :

- (1) The contribution made by the employers and the employees is payable by the principal employer each week in respect of the whole or part of wages which are payable to the employees and not otherwise. The rates of contribution (by both employers and employees) are indicated in the schedule I of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. The employers' share of contribution is about 4.6 per cent of the workers' wages. However, in view of the transitional provisions contained in Chapter V-A of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, in lieu of employers' contribution, as indicated in schedule I of the Act, the employers' special contribution is collected as follows :

Till the enforcement of the scheme, an employer is to pay a special contribution at the rate of 3.4 per cent of the total wage bill. From the day the benefit provisions of the Act are extended to any station, the employers' special contribution is payable at the rate of 3 per cent of the total wage bill. This rate became effective from April 1, 1968.

- (2) An employee is to contribute at the rate mentioned in schedule I of the Act from the day the scheme is extended to that area. It comes to about 2.3 per cent of his wages.

The scheme functions under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation which has its headquarters at New Delhi. It is under the administrative control of the Director-General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi. The scheme is executed in the State through the Regional Director, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Chandigarh, who inspects factories, collects contributions and arranges the payment of cash benefits.

The provision of medical benefit is the statutory responsibility of the State Government and facilities are to be given according to the standards laid down by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation. Most of the expenditure on medical care is contributed by the Corporation, and only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total expenditure is borne by the State Government. The expenditure on other cash benefits is to be met entirely out of the Employees' State Insurance Fund and is arranged by the Regional Director. The medical benefit is given under the panel system. A 125-bed E.S.I. hospital is functioning at Amritsar for the treatment of the insured persons covered under the scheme.

To begin with, the Employees' State Insurance Scheme was introduced in Amritsar, Verka and Chheharta on May 17, 1953. Thereafter, the scheme was extended to Kharsa on May 10, 1959. The scheme does not cover any other station in the Amritsar District. By March 31, 1969, there were 21,300 insured persons covered under the scheme in the district.

Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme

Housing is unquestionably one of the vital problems in case of industrial workers. The Government of India have, therefore, been making sustained efforts to encourage and assist the industrialists to construct houses for their workers. The schemes formulated in 1946 and 1949 for this purpose did not, however, prove satisfactory. It was, therefore, decided to offer financial assistance on more liberal terms to the State Governments, to the employers and workers for the construction of residential houses. In pursuance of the recommendations made in the First Five-Year Plan 1951-56, the subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme was introduced in September 1952, and certain modifications were made in it in 1953.

Under the subsidized Housing Scheme, there are three types of tenements selected for the purpose of subsidies and loans. Those put up by the State Governments or statutory bodies, such as the Improvement Trusts; those put up by the industrial employers for the use of labourers in their employ; and those put up by the co-operative housing societies of the workers. The State Government has built 300 tenements for the benefit of the industrial workers at Amritsar. Besides, loans and grants are also advanced to private employers, who let out the tenements to their workers at subsidized rates.

There are two industrial housing colonies at Amritsar, viz. the Shiv Nagar Colony at Islamabad, and a Labour Colony at Chheharta. These colonies have 408 quarters for the labourers.

Labour Welfare Centres

Three Labour Welfare Centres, two at Amritsar and one at Chheharta, are functioning under the Labour Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh. These centres were opened in 1953, 1956 and 1960 respectively. They provide educational as well as recreational facilities for the industrial workers and their families. The female members of the workers are imparted training in tailoring and embroidery. Indoor and outdoor games are organized at these centres for the workers and a radio-set and musical instruments are provided for recreation. There is a library and a reading-room for the use of workers. Cultural and variety programmes are also organized occasionally at these centres for the entertainment of the workers.

(b) Prohibition

Like other districts of the State, Amritsar is also not a dry area. In 1967-68, there were 59 country-liquor vends and 11 foreign-liquor vends in the district. There is a distillery at Khasa.

The consumption of exciseable articles in the district, during 1963-64 to 1967-68, is given below :—

Year	Country liquor (proof litres)	Indian-made foreign spirit (proof litres)	Foreign liquor (proof litres)	Beer (bulk litres)	Opium (kg)	Bhang (kg)
1963-64	3,42,738	22,478	1,068	81,465	1	—
1964-65	4,76,391	29,523	975	69,107	1	—
1965-66	3,89,542	30,546	560	26,436	1	—
1966-67	5,52,061	66,654	1,487	1,21,066	1	—
1967-68	8,16,620	63,229	1,483	1,22,389	1	—

(Source : Excise and Taxation Officer, Amritsar)

The Excise and Taxation Officer, Amritsar, assisted by 11 Excise Inspectors, administers the Excise and Opium Acts in the district. The number of cases registered under these Acts, during the period 1963-64 to 1967-68, is given below :—

Year	Number of cases detected		
	Excise Act	Opium Act	Total
1963-64	—	—	—
1964-65	3,149	1,017	4,166
1965-66	3,605	1,184	4,789
1966-67	3,791	958	4,749
1967-68	2,968	810	3,778
	2,335	1,046	3,381

(Source : Excise and Taxation Officer, Amritsar)

(c) Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes

The caste-system served a useful purpose when it was originally devised. In the early stages, it permitted considerably inter-caste mobility and served as a useful measure for the division of labour according to the talents and aptitudes of the individuals and groups. Thus, the caste-system, originally conceived as a practical method of securing the division of labour with the object of obtaining the maximum of social efficiency and responsibility with the minimum of social friction, has hardened during the centuries into a rigid mould which hampered national progress. The caste-system raised strong walls of mutual exclusiveness. Some castes began to look down upon others instead of realizing that all were equally essential for the healthy growth of society and national economy. In this way, nearly a fifth of the population of India came to be regarded as belonging to the lowest rung of the social ladder. Even among these, there were further sub-divisions and many millions all over the country were treated as untouchables and outcasts.

Before 1950, the classification of Scheduled Castes and Tribes was governed by the Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1936, and the Thirteenth Schedule of the Government of India (Provincial Legislative Assemblies) Order, 1936. The tribes, thus classified, were termed Backward Classes. Whereas the Thirteenth Schedule to the Government of India (Provincial Legislative Assemblies) Order, 1936, did not specify any area as Scheduled Areas, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, indicated in the Schedule appended to the Order certain specified areas, and the listed tribes which could be regarded as Scheduled Tribes, if they lived in these Scheduled Areas.

Apart from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the State Government also prepared a provincial list of Backward Classes. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, residing outside the areas specified in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, respectively, were deemed to be Backward Classes for the purpose of provincial lists. There are no Scheduled Tribes in the Punjab.

Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes

According to the 1951 Census, the number of the Scheduled Castes persons in the district was 2,52,385 (1,46,678 males and 1,05,707 females). Out of these, 2,19,410 (1,28,613 males and 90,797 females) lived in the rural areas and 32,975 (18,065 males and 14,910 females) in the urban areas.

According to the 1961 Census, the number of Scheduled Castes persons in the district rose to 3,05,162 (1,61,702 males and 1,43,460 females), forming 19.88 per cent of the total population of the district. Out of this Scheduled Castes population, 2,55,781 (1,34,740 males and 1,21,041 females), i.e. 83.82 per

cent, lived in the rural areas and 49,381 (26,962 males and 22,419 females), i.e. 16.18 per cent, lived in the urban areas. The Mazhabis (2,31,789) were most numerous among the Scheduled Castes and the others in descending order being Balmikis (30,098), Chamars (11,542), Sansis (10,240), Kabirpanthis (7,498) and Dumnas (3,964).

The main professions carried on by the different Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the district are mentioned below :

Serial No.	Name of the caste	Main professions
Scheduled Castes		
1.	Ad Dharmi	.. Shoemaking and handloom-weaving
2.	Barar, Burar or Barar	.. Reed-making
3.	Bazigar	.. Ban-making and agriculture
4.	Balmiki, Chuhra or Bhangi	Scavenging, sweeping, labour and pig-breeding
5.	Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi or Ravidasi	Shoemaking, handloom-weaving and agriculture
6.	Dumna, Mahasha or Doom	Making of different articles from bamboo
7.	Kabirpanthi or Julaha	.. Handloom-weaving
8.	Khatik	.. Leather-dyeing and piggery
9.	Mazhabi	.. Agriculture and skilled labour
10.	Megh	.. Handloom-weaving
11.	Sansi, Bhedkut or Manesh	Sheep-breeding and piggery
12.	Sikilgar	.. Iron work
Backward Classes		
1.	Baragi	.. Begging
2.	Chhimba	.. Tailoring and printing of cloth
3.	Dhobi	.. Washing of clothes
4.	Kamboj	.. Agriculture
5.	Kashyap Rajput	.. Cooking and <i>dhaba</i> business
6.	Kumhar	.. Pottery and donkey transport
7.	Labana	.. Agriculture
8.	Lohar	.. Blacksmithy
9.	Nai	.. Barber's job
10.	Rai Sikh	.. Agriculture

Economically, socially and educationally, all these castes are at the lowest rung of society. In the past, education among them was rare, but now the position has considerably improved. There is an urge among them for getting education at all levels.

Among the Scheduled Castes in the district, the number of literates in 1961 was 27,177 (20,045 in the rural areas and 7,132 in the urban areas).

By and large, these classes of people are not well off and their standard of living is below the average of other castes. They generally live in small thatched huts on the outskirts of the villages.

Measures Adopted for the Betterment of the Condition of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes

With the achievement of freedom, the Indian Constitution recognized the need for safeguards, laws and administrative measures to ameliorate the lot of the downtrodden sections of society. Mahatma Gandhi called these people 'Harijans' or God's own people. They are also described as Scheduled Castes, because their names have been listed in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, issued by the Government of India under the Constitution and modified subsequently. The Constitution amply safeguards the rights and interests of Harijans and prevents discrimination against them in any shape or form.

In accordance with the special provisions in the Constitution of India, the Punjab Government undertook to promote the interests of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. The Punjab was one of the first States to enact legislation for the abolition of untouchability. As early as 1948, the Punjab Removal of the Religious and Social Disabilities Act was passed to ensure free and unhindered use of public places by the Harijans. With the enforcement of the Untouchability Offences Act, 1955, the last vestiges of disabilities, religious and social, from which Harijans have suffered for centuries, are sought to be removed.

The Directive Principles, as laid down in the Constitution, enjoin upon the States to adopt special measures to ameliorate the lot of the hitherto neglected classes and tribes. Accordingly, every possible attempt is being made to afford the Backward Classes greater opportunities to develop socially and economically. The Directorate of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Punjab, Chandigarh, attends to the work of the uplift and advancement of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the State. To look after this work at the district level, the office of the District Welfare Officer, Amritsar, was established in 1955-56. He is assisted by 4 Tahsil Welfare Officers, posted one each at the tahsil headquarters, viz. Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Patti, and Ajnala.

The Constitution has provided for the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes in the Parliament and State Legislatures. These preferential concessions, ordered to be granted for ten years from the date India became a Republic (January 26, 1950), have since been extended up to 1980. A number of seats have also been reserved for these communities in the panchayats, panchayat samitis and zila parishads.

I. Social Welfare Schemes

The State Welfare Department implements the following schemes for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes :

(i) **Subsidy for the Construction of New Houses.**—The members of Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis are at the lowest rung of society and in a large number of places they live in slums, and congested houses, mostly *chhappars*. To provide shelter for the homeless members of these classes, subsidies are granted for the construction of houses. The houses subsidized under the scheme are built in the form of colonies. A subsidy (Rs 600 from 1956-57 to 1958-59, raised to Rs 750 from 1959-60 to 1964-65, and further raised to Rs 900 from 1965-66 onwards) is granted to the deserving persons.

The beneficiaries under the scheme are called upon to give an undertaking not to alienate the properties, so acquired. As such, the proprietary rights of the houses remain vested in the Government for 20 years and, thereafter, the house becomes the property of the beneficiary. However, the latter enjoys the free use of the house during this period.

The total amount of subsidies granted and the number of beneficiaries under the scheme, from 1956-57 to 1967-68, are given below :—

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1956-57	..	30
1957-58	..	51
1958-59	..	58
1959-60	..	44
1960-61	..	67
1961-62	..	159
1962-63	..	27
1963-64	..	29
1964-65	..	39
1965-66	..	38
1966-67	..	18
1967-68	..	1

(Source : District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Amritsar)

(ii) **Subsidy for the purchase of House-sites.**—The Harijan *bastis* are generally overcrowded. To solve this problem, a subsidy of Rs 200 is given to a deserving and needy member of the Scheduled Castes for the purchase of a house-site, measuring about 10 *marlas*. The scheme was introduced in 1958-59. The amount sanctioned and the number of house-sites provided, during 1958-59 to 1967-68, are given below :—

Year	Amount sanctioned (Rs)	House-sites provided
1958-59	.. 3,200	16
1959-60	.. 3,000	15
1960-61	.. 3,000	15
1961-62	.. 3,000	15
1962-63	.. 2,000	10
1963-64	.. 2,000	10
1964-65	.. 1,400	7
1965-66	.. 2,600	13
1966-67	.. 9,800	49
1967-68	.. (Scheme abolished)	

(Source : District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Amritsar)

(iii) **Land Scheme.**—The members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, generally depend on agriculture, but most of them have no land of their own. Thus, they earn their livelihood by taking land on lease or on *batai*. The arrangement, however, does not leave enough produce for the maintenance of an average family. In order to help the needy and deserving landless agriculturist members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, a subsidy of Rs 2,000 per head is granted for the purchase of agricultural land under this scheme. They contribute Rs 2,500 each either from their own pockets or by raising loans from the Land Mortgage Bank. The total amount of Rs 4,500 is utilized for the purchase of land, measuring not less than 5 acres per person. The beneficiaries are required to cultivate the land personally. An additional amount of Rs 4,500 is also granted as a subsidy to the purchasers to meet the enhanced stamp-duty for the registration of sale deeds.

The members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, who are selected for the grant of subsidy for the purchase of agricultural land under the above scheme, are required to settle at the places where land is purchased for them. Being financially poor, it is not possible for them to construct houses or sink wells on the land purchased by them. A subsidy of Rs 500 each is, therefore, given to the beneficiaries for this purpose.

The amount of subsidy granted and the number of beneficiaries, i.e. persons settled on land under the Land Scheme, during the period from 1956-57 to 1967-68, are given below :—

Year	Amount disbursed as subsidy for the purchase of agricultural land		Number of beneficiaries	
	Scheduled Castes	Vimukt Jatis	Scheduled Castes	Vimukt Jatis
1956-57	64,000	—	32	—
1957-58	64,000	8,000	32	4
1958-59	64,000	8,000	32	4
1959-60	64,000	6,000	32	3
1960-61	64,000	12,000	32	6
1961-62	48,000	2,000	24	1
1962-63	54,000	4,000	27	2
1963-64	32,000	10,000	16	5
1964-65	—	10,000	—	5
1965-66	36,000	26,000	18	13
1966-67	24,000	4,000	12	2
1967-68	22,000	2,000	11	1

(Source : District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Amritsar)

(iv) **Facilities for Drinking-water.**—In most of the villages inhabited by the members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, or in the isolated *bastis* of these people, there are no drinking water-wells. Where the wells exist, a large number of these need repairs. To remove these difficulties and to provide facilities for fresh drinking-water, new wells have been sunk at a large

number of places and old ones have been repaired. Even though these new wells are likely to be in, or near, the *bastis* of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, these are open to other people as well. Unskilled labour is provided free by the beneficiaries themselves for the construction and repair of such wells.

The amount of subsidy granted in the district for sinking new wells, renovating old ones, and for installing hand-pumps, along with their number, during the period 1956-57 to 1967-68, is given below :—

Year		Amount disbursed	Number of wells sunk/ repaired and hand-pumps installed
		(Rs)	
1956-57	..	3,500	27
1957-58	..	2,975	29
1958-59	..	2,800	20
1959-60	..	2,800	25
1960-61	..	2,800	26
1961-62	..	8,200	70
1962-63	..	7,000	47
1963-64	..	5,500	38
1964-65	..	3,850	17
1965-66	..	3,650	23
1966-67	..	3,800	19
1967-68	..	6,400	25

(Source : District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Amritsar)

(v) **Community Centres.**—One of the best methods for the eradication of untouchability is by means of well-organized community centres known as *Sanskar Kendras* and *Balwadis*. These centres have been started at places which are mainly inhabited by the Scheduled Castes. In each community centre,

the staff consists of one male and one female social worker with one Lady Attendant, preferably a trained *Dai*, who handles maternity cases free of charge. The children are fed, and taught cleanliness, songs, games, good behaviour and good habits. Women are taught social education, cooking, first-aid, home-nursing, the care of the baby, the mending of clothes, etc. The Lady Social Workers visit the Harijan *bastis* and give lectures on the removal of untouchability. Besides, they hold sewing and *balwadi* classes and *sat sangs* in these community centres. Similarly, men are given facilities for discussion, entertainment, games, etc. Arrangements for imparting adult education to men and women are also made. A reading-room is also provided, and arrangements for indoor and outdoor games and training in gardening also exist.

Under this scheme, 9 Community Centres are functioning in the district at Gumanpur, Kot Khera and Sohian Kalan, Tahsil Amritsar ; at Roka, Tahsil Ajnala ; at Narli and Valtaha, Tahsil Patti ; and at Nagoke, Naushehra Pannuan and Panjwar, Tahsil Tarn Taran. The Government provides a subsidy of Rs 2,000 to the panchayat of a Harijan village for opening the community centres.

The subsidy granted by the Government for the construction of community centres in the district, during 1956-57 to 1967-68, is as under :

Year	Amount allotted (Rs)	Number of community centres established	Amount disbursed (Rs)
1956-57	2,000	1	2,000
1957-58	2,000	1	2,000
1958-59	2,000	1	2,000
1959-60	2,000	1	2,000
1960-61	2,000	1	2,000
1961-62	2,000	1	2,000
1962-63	—	—	—
1963-64	2,000	1	2,000
1964-65	—	—	—
1965-66	2,000	1	2,000
1966-67	—	—	—
1967-68	2,000	1	2,000

(Source : District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Amritsar)

(vi) **Legal Assistance.**—To afford necessary protection to the members of the Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and other Backward Classes against the tyranny of landlords or other exploiting classes, they are provided with legal assistance by the Government to defend cases against them in connection with ejection from land or other properties. The scheme is implemented by the Deputy Commissioner, who arranges part-time counsels to take up all such cases on payment of suitable remuneration.

The scheme was introduced into the State in 1958-59. The amount made available in the form of legal assistance and the number of beneficiaries in the district, during the period 1958-59 to 1967-68, are given below :

Year	Amount allotted (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries	Amount spent (Rs)
1958-59	3,000	8	150
1959-60	3,000	14	140
1960-61	3,000	11	220
1961-62	1,800	62	1,800
1962-63	1,870	61	1,870
1963-64	1,000	45	1,000
1964-65	1,400	16	1,300
1965-66	700	13	390
1966-67	700	6	180
1967-68	1,020	34	1,020

(Source : District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Amritsar)

(vii) **Interest-free Loans.**—After the completion of academic or professional courses, persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes find it difficult to establish themselves in the professions of law, medicine, engineering, architecture, etc. on account of the lack of financial resources. To remove this handicap and also to help them to set up an industry or establish themselves in business, they are granted interest-free loans up to Rs 2,000 in each case under the Punjab Backward Classes (Grant of Loans) Act, 1957. These loans are recovered in 20 half-yearly instalments, and the first recovery starts after four years from the date of the withdrawal of the loan.

The scheme was introduced in 1958-59. The amounts disbursed under the scheme and the numbers of beneficiaries in the district, during the period 1958-59 to 1967-68, are given below :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1958-59		
1959-60	8,000	5
1960-61	8,000	9
1961-62	8,000	18
1962-63	15,000	30
1963-64	8,250	23
1964-65	13,500	31
1965-66	13,500	37
1966-67	79,700	158
1967-68	12,000	24
	2,97,160	279

(Source : District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Amritsar)

(viii) **Midwifery Training.**—In view of their backwardness and lean financial condition, the members of the Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis, and other Backward Classes cannot arrange for the proper training of their womenfolk in midwifery classes. To help them to get such training at the health centres started by the Health Department, a scheme for the grant of stipends, etc. to *dais* has been sanctioned. Under the scheme, deserving candidates are granted a stipend of Rs 20 per mensem each for one year. Besides, each *dai* is paid Rs 50 for purchasing a maternity kit and liveries.

(ix) **Award of Scholarships and Reimbursement of Fees.**—Being educationally backward and economically poor, the members of the Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and other Backward Classes put their children to work on odd jobs in order to supplement their meagre income. As a result, they do not send their children to schools. Since the removal of illiteracy is the primary need of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, the Government allows their children various concessions, such as grant of stipends, exemption from tuition fees, and the reimbursement of public-examination fees to educate them.

(x) **Piggery Scheme.**—This scheme provides a subsidy of Rs 800 for each beneficiary to enable him to purchase and breed pigs. It, thus, helps them to earn their livelihood. Under this scheme, subsidies amounting to Rs 4,000 and Rs 5,600 were given to 5 and 7 beneficiaries during 1966-67 and 1967-68 respectively.

(xi) **Poultry Scheme.**—Under the scheme, a loan of Rs 1,500 is given to a Harijan to enable him to start poultry-farming and, thus, earn his livelihood.

An amount of Rs 36,000 was, thus, disbursed among 24 beneficiaries in the district during 1963-64 as poultry-farming loans.

(xii) **Milk Scheme.**—This scheme provides a loan of Rs 600 for each Harijan to enable him to purchase a buffalo. An amount of Rs 1,98,000 was disbursed among 330 persons in the district during 1963-64.

II. Industrial Training Scheme

Besides the above-mentioned schemes, the Industrial Training Department of the State has sponsored several schemes, in order to impart training to the members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in engineering and other fields. Of these, the following schemes need special mention :

(i) **Industrial Training Centres.**—Under this scheme, the department is running a number of Industrial Training Centres for imparting training in different vocational trades throughout the State. Admission to these centres is exclusively reserved for the trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and other Backward Classes. Free training is given at the centres to the candidates, aged between 14 and 25 years, belonging to these communities. A stipend of Rs 25 per month is awarded to each of the trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes and Rs 45 per month to those of the Vimukt Jatis, for a one-year course.

(ii) **Industrial Training in Mills, Factories and Institutions.**—This scheme envisages the award of stipends to candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and other Backward Classes, who receive training in different vocational or technical trades in the various industrial training institutions, centres, schools, etc. of the State Industrial Training Department and also in different mills and factories in the private sector. During the course of training, which is generally of one year, each candidate is granted a stipend of Rs 25 per month if he belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Backward Class and Rs 45 if he belongs to a Vimukt Jati.

(iii) **Industrial Training Institutes.**—Under this scheme, training is imparted in various engineering and other trades. Twenty per cent of the seats are reserved for the trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and two per cent for those belonging to the Backward Classes. A stipend of Rs 40 per month is awarded to each of the 60 per cent of the trainees belonging to these classes on poverty-cum-merit basis. Free education, free medical and recreational facilities, free clothing and free hostel accommodation, subject to the availability of seats, are given.

(iv) **Industrial Schools for Boys and Girls.**—In these schools, training is imparted in various vocational engineering trades. Twenty per cent of the seats are reserved for the trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and two per cent for those belonging to the Backward Classes. Stipends are awarded to a limited number of trainees on poverty-cum-merit basis. Free training is provided for all in these schools.

Representative Institutions

The institutions functioning in the district for the uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are mainly concerned with activities for the removal of untouchability and other social evils under the guidance of Harijan leaders. A list of such institutions is given below :

1. The Punjab State Backward Classes Federation, Amritsar
2. Kori Panchayat Sabha, Amritsar
3. Depressed Classes League, Punjab, Amritsar
4. Balmik Sabha, Amritsar
5. All-India Harijan League, Amritsar

(d) Other Social-Welfare Activities

Social services cover a wide range of activities which may not be possible to describe here. A brief account of the Old-Age Pension Scheme is, however, given below :

Old-Age Pension Scheme.—This scheme was introduced into the State in 1964 with a view to affording social security through the grant of financial assistance to destitutes, old and disabled persons who are without any means of subsistence and there is nobody to support them in the evening of their lives.

Previously, the rate of old-age pension was Rs 15 per head per mensem, but in July 1968, it was raised to Rs 25. In the district, the number of persons in receipt of the old-age pension was 336 in 1967-68.

(e) Public Trusts, Charitable Endowments and Muslim Wakfs

Public trusts and charitable endowments play a significant part in the life of the society. They cover almost all aspects of life especially social, religious and educational. Many educational institutions, hospitals, *dharmshalas* and other social welfare organizations are either started or are materially assisted in their administration and maintenance with funds donated by philanthropists. In some cases, revenue-free lands are also attached to religious endowments.

The notable public trusts existing in the district are described below:

(1) **Lala Prabhdyal Dharmshala Trust (Regd.), Amritsar.**—This trust was founded in 1902 by Lala Prabhdyal to provide accommodation for the people coming from outside. It maintains a temple, a *dharmshala* where free stay is provided for the outsiders, and a free homoeopathic dispensary.

The affairs of the trust are managed by two trustees. The *dharmshala* is rendering useful service to the outsiders and marriage-parties.

(2) **Punjab Badminton Stadium Trust (Regd.), Amritsar.**—Founded in 1957, the trust aims at promoting badminton, table-tennis and other indoor games in the State. The trust has its own building, which has proved very useful for holding badminton tournaments. Cultural programmes are also held in this building. A board of trustees manages and controls the affairs of the trust and the property attached to it.

(3) **Ram Lal Kapur Trust (Regd.), Amritsar.**—Founded in 1928, the aims and objects of the trust are to propagate the Vedic, scientific and liberal education in respect of Indian culture by opening schools and colleges, and publishing the ancient Vedic books. It has published more than 25 books on ancient Vedic literature and is running a monthly magazine entitled *Ved Vani*. The trust also runs the Panini Vidyala at the village of Bahallgarh (District Sonapat) in the Haryana State. The affairs of the trust are controlled by a board of 10 trustees.

(4) **Babu Mal Temple Trust, Amritsar.**—Founded in 1927, the trust maintains a temple and looks after the property attached to it.

(5) **Mandir of Shri Goverdhannath Trust, Amritsar.**—Established in 1954, the trust maintains the temple and the property attached to it.

(6) **Sant Singh Sukha Singh Trust, Amritsar.**—Founded in 1893, it is a purely educational trust. It runs the Sant Singh Sukha Singh Khalsa Higher Secondary School, Amritsar. The organization and control of the trust are vested in a committee of which the Deputy Commissioner is an *ex-officio* member.

(7) **Seth Rama Nand Trust (Regd.), Amritsar.**—Founded in 1928, it is a purely charitable trust. It runs a free *langar*, where 15 students preparing for university examinations in Sanskrit take their meals. It also maintains a newly built *dharmshala* near the Jallianwala Bagh, where visitors are allowed to stay free of charge. This *dharmshala* is also used as a *Janjghar* (lodge for marriage-parties) free of charge.

(8) **Balmokand Khatri Educational and Industrial Trust (Regd.), Amritsar.**—Founded in 1927, the trust aims at advancing education and promoting the study of science, art and local industries, both for boys and girls. It runs the B. K. E. and I. Higher Secondary School for Boys, B. K. E. and I High School for Girls, and B. K. E. and I Primary School, co-educational, all at Amritsar. These institutions are managed and controlled by a board of trustees. The

trust owns 200 *bighas* of land at the village of Ghuaunsabad, about 6 km from Amritsar. The income from the land is spent on the development of educational and industrial schemes of the trust.

(9) **Ram Rakha Mal Kapur Trust (Regd.), Amritsar.**—Founded in 1958 by Shri Ram Rakha Mal Kapur, the trust provides free accommodation for the public for the purposes approved by the trust in accordance with the rules. It provides accommodation for the public at large on special occasions of marriages and other celebrations and on auspicious occasions. The income from the property of the trust is used for charitable purposes. The trust is controlled and administered by a board of trustees.

(10) **Board of Trustees, Mandir Shri Hanuman Ji, Amritsar.**—It was started by Shri Chet Ram, after whose death a regular trust deed was executed on July 18, 1958. The festivals of Hanuman are held at this temple from time to time with great enthusiasm. The affairs and properties of the trust are managed by a board of trustees.

(11) **Gandoo Mall Dharm Arth Trust, Patti.**—Founded in 1940, the trust aims at promoting female education in the town. It runs a high school for girls at Patti. The affairs of the trust are managed by a board of trustees.

(12) **Daliana Raghunath Mandir Trust, Jandiala Guru.**—A purely religious trust, it was founded in 1956 by the Raghunath Mandir Sabha, Jandiala Guru, to manage its affairs. The trust maintains the temple and its property and aims at propagating the Sanatan Dharm.

(13) **Lakshmi Narain Public Charity Trust, Chheharta.**—Founded in 1944, the trust aims at helping the poor and suffering people through cash and other free benefits. The trust is administered by a board of trustees, assisted by a manager and other staff. Payments are made to the crippled and destitute widows by the trust.

(14) **Sri Guru Arjan Dev Khalsa Girls' School Trust, Tarn Taran.**—Purely an educational trust, it was founded in 1940. The main aims and objects of the trust are to promote female education in the area. It runs the Sri Guru Arjan Dev Khalsa High School for Girls and the Mata Ganga College for Women at Tarn Taran.

(15) **Sardar Dial Singh Trust, Tarn Taran.**—Established in 1910, the trust is managed by a board of trustees, including a manager. The building of the trust is mainly used as a serai by the railway passengers, who get down at the railway station quite opposite the building.

Besides the above, there are 3,378 Muslim Wakfs at different places in the district, with properties attached to them in many cases. These properties were maintained by the Custodian Department, Government of India, up to 1961, when their administration was entrusted to the Punjab Wakf Board (with headquarters at Ambala Cantonment). The administration of the Wakfs is regulated by the Central Government's Wakf Act, 1954.

The annual income from the Wakf properties in the Amritsar District is about 1.75 lakhs of rupees. It is spent on the upkeep of these institutions and for various charitable purposes and for the promotion of education, both religious and secular, of a particular community.

Among the Wakfs in the district, those worth mentioning are : Masjid Khair-ud-Din, Hall Bazaar, Amritsar; Masjid Jan Muhammad, Hall Bazaar, Amritsar; Masjid Sikandar Khan, Hall Bazaar, Amritsar; Dargah Zaarah Pir, outside the Hall Gate, Amritsar; Dargah Sheikh Fattah, village Pakhoke, tahsil Tarn Taran; Khankah of Baba Sher Shah Wali, village Gharyala, tahsil Patti; Dargah of Baba Hippat Shah Patti, at Patti.

The staff of the Wakf Board posted in the district comprises one Field Inspector and six other officials, with headquarters at Amritsar.

APPENDIX

(Vide page 524)

List of Trade Unions in the Amritsar District

Serial No.	Name of the trade union	Date of registration
1.	N.R. Locomotive Workshop Mazdoor Union, Amritsar	14th March, 1943
2.	Amritsar Commercial and Trade Employees' Union, Amritsar	10th September, 1954
3.	Punjab Swarnkar Mandal, Amritsar ..	18th April, 1955
4.	General Labour Union, Tarn Taran ..	10th May, 1955
5.	Imarti Karakun Committee, Amritsar ..	5th June, 1955
6.	Punjab Cine Employees' Association, Amritsar ..	20th April, 1956
7.	Press Workers' Union, Amritsar ..	15th October, 1957
8.	Amritsar Trade Union, Amritsar ..	16th October, 1957
9.	Rickshaw Workers' Union, Amritsar ..	21st August, 1958
10.	Municipal Mazdoor Sabha, Amritsar ..	11th March, 1959
11.	Amritsar Federation, Amritsar ..	11th May, 1959
12.	Amritsar Sabzi and Fruit Merchants' Association, Amritsar	17th October, 1959
13.	Amritsar Halwai Union, Amritsar ..	25th November, 1959
14.	Chah Mazdoor Sabha, Amritsar ..	28th November, 1959
15.	Amritsar Cycle Merchants' Employees' Union, Amritsar	20th January, 1960
16.	Amritsar General Mazdoor Sabha, Amritsar ..	21st January, 1960
17.	Brick-kiln Owners' and Contractors Employees' Union, Amritsar	30th July, 1960]]
18.	Shop and Commercial Employees' Union, Amritsar	30th August, 1960
19.	Private Car-Drivers' Union, Amritsar ..	29th September, 1960
20.	Club and Hotel Employees' Union, Amritsar ..	4th October, 1960
21.	Sarakhsha Safai Mazdoor Union, Amritsar ..	14th February, 1961
22.	Municipal Labour Union, Amritsar ..	24th July, 1961

Serial No.	Name of the trade union	Date of registration
23.	Amritsar Oil, Flour and General Mills Union, Amritsar	8th January, 1962
24.	Khokha-Owners' Association, Chheharta ..	18th June, 1962
25.	Municipal Workers' Union, Chheharta ..	28th July, 1962
26.	Harijan Workers' Union, Amritsar ..	26th October, 1962
27.	Shop Assistants' Union, Amritsar ..	21st December, 1962
28.	Newspapers Editors' and Journalists' Association, Amritsar	11th July, 1963
29.	Amritsar Food Products Workers' Union, Amritsar	30th July, 1963
30.	Punjab Dry-Cleaners' and Dyers' Association, Amritsar	24th January, 1964
31.	District Amritsar Cycle and Rickshaw Repair Union, Amritsar	5th June, 1964
32.	Municipal Labour Union, Patti ..	5th June, 1964
33.	Rickshaw Mazdoor Sangh, Amritsar ..	30th December, 1964
34.	Punjab Commercial and Trade Employees' Union, Amritsar	15th January, 1965
35.	Punjab State Barbers' Union, Amritsar ..	1st June, 1965
36.	Municipal Mazdoor Sabha, Jandiala Guru ..	11th April, 1966
37.	Amritsar General Labour Union, Amritsar ..	6th January, 1967
38.	Grow-More-Food, Tube-wells and Canal Farmers' Union, Amritsar	14th April, 1967
39.	Amritsar Dry-Cleaners and Dyeing Workers' Union, Amritsar	25th October, 1967
40.	Lower Grade Municipal Election Union, Amritsar	7th March, 1968
41.	Galla Mazdoor Sangh, Amritsar ..	30th October, 1968
42.	Dehati Mazdoor Union, Amritsar ..	22nd November, 1968
43.	All-Jammu & Kashmir Mazdoor Union, Amritsar	27th July, 1969

(Source : Labour Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh)

(Note : For the list of the industrial workers' unions in the district, refer to Chapter V, 'Industries', pages 214-215)

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislatures

Although India had a Legislative Council as early as 1861, yet it was under the Indian Councils Act, 1892, that the representative principle was first introduced. The Indian Councils Act, 1909, for the first time largely recognized the principle of election which was further extended under the Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935.

Elections of 1931¹.—In the elections to the Punjab Legislative Assembly held in 1937, under the Government of India Act, 1935, there were wholly or partly 16 seats in the Amritsar District, as per constituencies given below:

Particulars	Name of the constituency	Number of seats
I. General Constituencies	Urban Amritsar City ..	1
II. Muhammadan Constituencies	Rural Amritsar and Sialkot ..	3
	Urban Amritsar City ..	1
	Rural Amritsar ..	1
	Tarn Taran ..	1
	Ajnala ..	1
III. Sikh Constituencies	Urban Eastern Towns (including the Amritsar District) ..	1
	Rural Amritsar North ..	1
	Amritsar Central ..	1
	Amritsar South ..	1
IV. Women's Constituency	Amritsar	1
V. Indian Christians' Constituency	East Central Punjab ..	1
VI. Landholders' Constituency	Central Punjab Landholders	1
VII. Labour Constituency	East Punjab ..	1

¹Krishna Swarup, *The Punjab Elections Manual* (Lahore, 1936)

The First General Elections, 1952².—After the independence (1947), the main task before the coalition Government at the Centre was to frame the new Constitution for the country. The Constituent Assembly set up for the purpose completed this colossal task. The Constitution was finally approved in November 1949, and enforced from January 26, 1950. Thereafter, the coalition Government was to seek the confidence of the people through General Elections. Before independence, the right to vote was only with 13 per cent of the population and that, too, in a very complex manner, i.e., by laying stipulations of literacy and communal electorate. Under the Constitution of India, every adult on attaining the age of 21 becomes entitled to vote if he is otherwise eligible. This system of universal suffrage entitled 50 per cent of the population to vote.

The delimitation of constituencies was the next stage in the elections. In the early part of 1948, the Constituent Assembly called upon the Government to undertake a census of the population. The population figures of 1941 were never considered to be reliable. Besides, these were over 8 years old. The partition of the Punjab had been accompanied with a mass inter-migration of population. Certain areas of the Lahore District (of Pakistan) were added to Amritsar. After collecting the data and, in accordance with the provision of clause 6 of the Constitution (Delimitation of Constituencies), an assembly seat was allocated to a population of 1,00,079 or 46,571 voters. On the above basis, 2 Parliamentary Constituencies and 14 Assembly seats were allocated to the Amritsar District.

After the calculations had been made, the district map was taken out and, under the name of each tahsil, police-station, *zail* or town, the number of votes for the unit concerned was noted down together with the number of Scheduled Castes votes, the total number of votes being shown as the numerator and the Scheduled Castes votes as the denominator. According to stipulation, the constituencies with a high percentage of Scheduled Castes population were then marked. Two adjoining units of concentration were then paired off to form double constituency with two seats—one general and the other reserved for the Scheduled Castes. According to this procedure, 2 Assembly Constituencies were declared double-member constituencies. These were reserved for the Scheduled Castes. This was done to ensure a proper representation of the Scheduled Castes, as the representation was not expected to be fair without this arrangement. Thereafter, new electoral rolls were prepared in view of the increase in the number of voters, delimitation of constituencies, etc.

For conducting elections, elaborate polling arrangements for the district were planned and organized. To avoid inconvenience to the voters, polling-stations were so arranged that no voter had to travel more than 3—5 kilometres

²*Report on the First General Legislative Elections in the Punjab State held under the Constitution of India, 1951-52* (Simla, 1952)

to cast the vote. Care was taken to arrange the simultaneous polling throughout the State to distribute the anti-social elements evenly. About 7,000 polling-stations had to be set up against 1,300 in 1946; and thousands of subordinate staff had to be initiated into the new complicated election procedure. The experience of the general elections in 1951-52 revealed several shortcomings of the gigantic exercise. The defects and deficiencies were removed in the subsequent general elections.

Out of the total population of the district numbering 13,67,040 (1951 Census), 8,61,956 persons were eligible to cast votes in the First General Elections, 1952.

There were two Parliamentary Constituencies, viz. Tarn Taran and Amritsar. Both the elected candidates had party affiliation with the Congress. The number of votes polled by different political parties was as follows :

Name of the party	Number of valid votes polled	Percentage of total valid votes polled in the district
Indian National Congress	..	..
Akali Dal	1,64,589	46.2
Communists	67,800	17.0
Forward Bloc	54,844	11.2
Ram Rajya Parishad	15,282	3.3
Independents	21,883	5.3
	68,467	17.0
Total	3,92,865	100

For the Vidhan Sabha, there were 12 constituencies consisting of 14 seats in the district (2 constituencies being double-member), viz., Ajnala, Ramdas, Amritsar (double-member constituency), Amritsar City North, Amritsar City East, Amritsar City Central, Amritsar City West, Jhabal, Khalra, Patti, Tarn Taran (double-member constituency) and Beas. From these constituencies, 11

Congress, 2 Communist, and 1 Akali Dal candidates were declared elected. The total number of votes polled by each party are given below :

Name of the party	Number of votes polled	Percentage
Congress	1,88,827	36.8
Akali Dal	1,06,069	20.6
Communists	64,562	12.6
Lal Communists	13,062	2.5
Socialists	10,596	2.1
Jan Sangh	11,169	2.2
Ram Rajya Parishad	8,104	1.6
Forward Bloc	5,798	1.1
Independents	1,05,546	20.5
Total	5,13,733	100

The Second General Elections, 1957.³—The task of conducting the First General Elections, 1952, being the first exercise of the type, was of great magnitude and complexity. The Second General Elections, however, were attended in some respects with even greater difficulty. The area involved was much larger, because the former Pepsu had since merged with the Punjab. However, the total period for the polling was reduced appreciably. Voting for the Assembly Constituencies was completed in a single day or, in a very few cases, in two days, instead of being spread over a number of days, as in 1951-52. The counting of votes was also taken up in each constituency as soon as the polling had been completed, instead of after the polling in the entire State had been completed.

The delimitation of constituencies was done in 1951, 1953 and then in 1956. The contingency to demarcate the constituencies arose in 1956 on account of the merger of PEPSU with the Punjab. Two Parliamentary Constituencies and 13 Assembly Constituencies were demarcated in the district. Two Assembly Constituencies were declared double-member constituencies and were reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

³Report on General Elections in Punjab, 1957 (Chandigarh, 1959)

With the reduction of the total period of polling in each constituency, it became necessary to deploy a much large number of polling staff as well as police in 1956-57.

Out of the total population of 13,67,040 (1951 Census) in the district, the number of electors was 8,22,175. The total number of votes polled was 5,23,362.

There were two Parliamentary Constituencies, viz. Tarn Taran and Amritsar. Both the elected candidates belonged to the Congress. The position of the contesting parties was as under:

Name of the party	Number of votes polled	Percentage
Congress	.. 2,43,334	46.50
Jan Sangh	.. 95,198	18.18
Communists	.. 1,53,294	29.30
Independents	.. 31,536	6.02
Total	.. 5,23,362	100

For the Vidhan Sabha, there were 11 constituencies, consisting of 13 seats (including 2 seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes) and, as such, there were two double-member constituencies. The names of these constituencies were : Patti, Sirhali Kalan, Tarn Taran (double-member constituency), Khalra, Ajnala, Majitha, Amritsar City East, Amritsar City West, Amritsar City Civil Lines, Amritsar (double-member constituency) and Beas. From these constituencies, 8 Congress, 2 Jan Sangh, 2 Communist and 1 Independent candidates were elected. The number of the votes polled by each contesting party is given below:

Name of the party	Number of votes polled	Percentage
Congress	3,00,385	49.00
Communists	.. 1,18,823	1.5
Praja Socialist Party	.. 8,962	1.5
Jan Sangh	.. 70,930	11.6
Independents	.. 1,13,643	18.5
Total	.. 6,12,743	100

The Third General Elections, 1962⁴.—A major improvement in the matter of elections in the State this time was to further reduce the period of poll. While it took 19 days to complete the poll during the Second General Elections, 1957, the poll this time was held and completed in a single day, i.e., on 24th February, 1962, throughout the State except in the Kulu and Seraj constituencies where polling was held towards the end of April. The Punjab was thus the only State which had the distinction of having a single-day poll both for the Parliamentary and Assembly elections. The counting of votes in regard to 152 constituencies was started on 25th February and completed by 28th February, 1962.

As a result of the bifurcation of the two-member constituencies, 13 Assembly Constituencies were formed as against 11 Assembly Constituencies (2 constituencies being double-member constituencies). The position in respect of the Parliamentary Constituency remained unchanged.

Out of the total population of the district (1961 Census) of 15,34,916, the number of electors was 8,55,530.

There were two Parliamentary Constituencies, viz., Amritsar and Tarn Taran. The Congress candidates were elected from both the constituencies. The number of votes polled by each of the contesting parties was as under:

Name of the party	Number of votes polled	Percentage
Congress	.. 2,85,072	45.1
Communists	.. 1,58,049	25.0
Akali Dal	.. 1,10,617	17.5
Jan Sangh	.. 67,849	10.7
Independents	.. 6,987	1.1
Ram Rajya Parishad	.. 4,040	0.6
Total	.. 6,32,614	100

⁴Report on General Elections in Punjab, 1962, (Chandigarh 1963)

For the Vidhan Sabha, there were 13 constituencies in the district, viz., Sirhali Kalan, Patti, Khalra, Tarn Taran, Nagoke, Jandiala Guru, Amritsar City East, Amritsar City Civil Lines, Amritsar City West, Ajnala, Majitha, Amritsar Sadr and Beas. From these constituencies, 7 Congress, 2 Akali Dal, 2 Jan Sangh, 1 Independent and 1 Communist candidates were elected. The number of votes polled by each party is given below :

Name of the party	Number of votes polled	Percentage
Congress	2,70,359	46.6
Akali Dal	98,881	17.2
Communists	58,550	10.1
Jan Sangh	49,850	8.5
Independents	72,446	12.1
Swatantra	18,163	3.2
Praja Socialist	11,716	2.0
Hindu Maha Sabha	893	0.2
Ram Rajya Parishad	513	0.1
Total	5,82,371	100

During the period of the Third General Elections, i.e. from 1962—1967, bye-elections were held in 1964 in two constituencies as the election of the then sitting M.L.A.s was held void. The first was the Beas Constituency (having in its extent the Beas *Thana* and the Malhian *zail* in the Jandiala Guru *Thana* in the Amritsar Tahsil) and the second was Patti Constituency (having in its extent the Patti and Valtaha *Thanas* in the Patti Tahsil, Uddoke Village in Kathunangal *Thana* in the Amritsar Tahsil, and Bahamniwala Village in the Sirhali Kalan *Thana* in the Tarn Taran Tahsil). The Congress candidates were elected from both the constituencies. The party position and votes polled by each candidate was as under :

Name of the party	Number of votes polled
Beas Constituency—	
Congress	22,623
Independent	18,615
Patti Constituency—	
Congress	22,452
Independent	18,747
Independent	2,746

The Fourth General Elections, 1967⁵.—The General Elections held in 1967 were the fourth in the country and the first in the new State of the Punjab which came into being after reorganization on 1st November, 1966. Consequently, the constituencies delimited in 1965 were subjected to fresh delimitation, as notified by the Delimitation Commission in November 1966. By this order, the district was divided into 2 Parliamentary Constituencies and 14 Assembly Constituencies.

As at the time of the Third General Elections, the poll throughout the State was held on a single day on 19th February, 1967. The counting was started on 21st February and completed on 24th.

In the Fourth General Elections (1967), the total number of voters in the district was 8,80,129.

From the two Parliamentary Constituencies in the district, viz. Tarn Taran and Amritsar, a Congress and a Jan Sangh candidate were elected. The details of the votes polled by each party are given below :

Name of the party	Number of votes polled	Percentage
Congress	2,53,810	37.8
Jan Sangh	1,04,035	15.5
Akali Dal (Sant Group)	1,69,199	25.2
Akali Dal (Master Group)	39,788	5.9
Swatantra	31,008	4.6
Communist Party of India	11,273	1.6
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	11,598	1.7
Independents	51,558	7.7
Total	6,72,269	100

⁵Report on General Elections in Punjab, 1967 (Chandigarh, 1968)

For the Vidhan Sabha, there were 14 constituencies (including 3 Scheduled Castes constituencies) in the district, viz. Khadur Sahib, Pattī, Valtōha, Atarī (S.C.), Tarn Taran, Beas, Jandīlā Guru (S.C.), Amritsar East, Amritsar South, Amritsar Central, Amritsar West, Verka (S.C.), Majitha and Ajnala. From these constituencies, 5 Congress, 4 Akali Dal (Sant Group), 3 Jan Sangh, 1 Communist Party of India and 1 Communist Party of India (Marxist) candidates were elected. The votes polled by each of the contesting parties are given below:

Name of the party	Number of votes polled	Percentage
Congress	2,16,077	37.3
Akali Dal (Sant Group)	1,46,110	25.3
Jan Sangh	66,204	11.5
Praja Socialist Party	16,320	2.8
Communist Party of India	30,867	5.4
Akali Dal (Master Group)	888	0.1
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	32,556	5.6
Independents	69,347	12.0
Total	5,78,369	100

Mid-term Poll, 1969^a.—In the Fourth General Elections, no single political party had gained absolute majority in the Vidhan Sabha. The political parties, viz. the Akali Dal (Sant Group), the Jan Sangh, the Republican Party and the Right Communists joined together to form the Peoples' United Front which formed its ministry on 8th March, 1967. After a short period, defections started and Sardar Lachhman Singh Gill, the then Education Minister, defected along with a few other M.L.A.s of the Akali Dal and formed his ministry on November 25, 1967, with the support of Independents and the Congress. The relationship between the ministry and the Congress did not continue to be smooth and the Congress withdrew its support. Consequently, no single party or workable alliance of the parties could form a stable Government. Therefore, on the recommendation of the Governor, the President's Rule was proclaimed from 23rd August, 1968.

^aReport on the Mid-Term General Election to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1969 (Chandigarh, 1971)

The mid-term poll throughout the State was held on 9th February, 1969. The counting was started on 10th and completed on 11th February, 1969.

In the mid-term elections, 1969, the total number of voters in the district was 9,22,676.

There were 14 Vidhan Sabha constituencies (including 3 Scheduled Castes constituencies) in the district, viz., Khadur Sahib, Pattī, Valtōha, Atarī (S.C.), Tarn Taran, Beas, Jandīlā Guru (S.C.), Amritsar East, Amritsar South, Amritsar Central, Amritsar West, Verka (S.C.), Majitha and Ajnala. From these constituencies, 6 Akali Dal, 4 Congress, 1 Jan Sangh, 1 Communist Party of India, 1 Communist Party of India (Marxist) and 1 Praja Socialist Party candidates were elected. The votes polled by each of the contesting parties are given below:

Name of the party	Number of valid votes polled	Percentage
Congress	2,46,972	38.1
Akali Dal	1,83,794	28.1
Jan Sangh	57,594	9.1
Independents	42,639	6.5
Communist Party of India	40,394	6.0
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	43,986	7.0
Praja Socialist Party	20,282	3.1
Janta Party	13,983	2.1
Swatantra Party	86	..
Total	6,49,730	100

After the partition, 8 M.L.C.s returned to the Vidhan Parishad from the areas forming part of the Amritsar District.

(b) Political Parties and Organizations

Indian National Congress.—This party is wedded to the ideology of democratic socialism. Being a national party, it has a secular and national outlook. Its economic policies of socialistic pattern of society obviously have an appeal both for the labour and the intelligentsia. The party enjoyed popularity among the Harijans and educated Hindus and Sikhs. After the reorganization of the former Punjab State in 1966, the influence of the party considerably waned. In the Fourth General Elections (1967) and the Mid-term Elections (1969), the party failed to secure a majority of seats in the Assembly and was reduced to the largest single group among the opposition parties. However, in the Fifth General Elections (1972), the Congress gained absolute majority.

In the First General Elections (1952), the Congress had bagged both the Parliamentary seats. Out of the 14 Assembly seats, the party had won 11 seats. In the Second General Elections (1957), both the Parliamentary seats and 8 out of 13 Assembly seats were won by the party. In the Third General Elections (1962), the party won both the Parliamentary seats and 7 out of the 13 Assembly seats. In the Fourth General Elections (1967), one Parliamentary seat out of the two fell to the share of the party. Out of the 14 Assembly seats, the Congress could bag only 5 seats. In the First General Elections, the Congress got 46.2 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 36.8 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Second General Elections, the party got 45.5 per cent out of the total valid votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 49 per cent out of the total votes polled for Vidhan Sabha. In the Third General Elections, the party got 45.1 per cent votes out of the total votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 46.6 per cent out of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the two bye-elections in 1964, the party got 54 per cent votes out of the total valid votes. In the Fourth General Elections, the party got 37.8 per cent out of the total valid votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 37.3 per cent out of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the mid-term poll of 1969, the party got 38.1 per cent votes for the Vidhan Sabha out of the total valid votes polled.

Shiromani Akali Dal.—It was formed on December 14, 1920, for the proper control and management of the *gurdwaras* which were earlier treated by the *mahants* as their private property and suffered from all sorts of abuses. Subsequently, this religious body also assumed a political role, as a representative body of the Sikhs, and played a vital role in the freedom struggle in collaboration with the Indian National Congress.

The Akali Dal—a religio-political body—commanded considerable influence in the district in the First General Elections (1952). In the Second General Elections (1957), the party entered into an election alliance with

the Congress and did not contest any seat independently. In the Third General Elections (1962), the party improved its position in the district. In the Fourth General Elections (1967), the party considerably lessened the influence of the Congress—the ruling party.

In 1961, the Akali Dal was split up into two groups : Akali Dal (Master Tara Singh Group) and Akali Dal (Sant Fateh Singh Group). In course of time, the latter emerged as more powerful. After the mid-term poll in 1969, both the groups got reconciled and entered into an alliance for running the Government.

In the First General Elections (1952), the Akali Dal got 17 per cent votes out of the total valid votes for the Lok Sabha and 20.6 per cent votes out of the total polled votes for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Third General Elections (1962), the party got 17.2 per cent votes out of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Fourth General Elections (1967), the party got 25.2 per cent (Sant Group) and 5.9 per cent (Master Group) votes out of the total valid votes polled for the Lok Sabha, and 25.3 per cent (Sant Group) and 0.1 per cent (Master Group) votes out of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the 1969 mid-term poll, the Akali Dal got 28.1 per cent votes out of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha.

Jan Sangh.—It was formed in the district in 1951. It is an all-India party and stands for the maintenance of Indian traditions, culture and heritage. It mainly derives inspiration from ancient Indian polity. After the reorganization of the former Punjab State in 1966, the Sangh started taking independent stand on matters exclusively of State interest which its central unit would not condemn. The party enjoys influence in the Amritsar city. It has 53 branches in the urban areas and 48 in the rural areas. The membership of the party has gone up to 18,000. The party has formed the Harijan Sangh for the betterment of Harijans, and the Kisan Sangh for the betterment of farmers.

In the First General Elections (1952), the party did not capture any seat. Only 2.2 per cent votes out of the total valid votes polled were secured by the party for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Second General Elections (1957), 2 Assembly seats were captured by it. The party got 18.18 per cent votes out of the total votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 11.6 per cent votes out of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Third General Elections (1962), the party won 2 Assembly seats. The party got 10.7 per cent votes out of the total valid votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 8.5 per cent votes out of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Fourth General

Elections (1967), one Lok Sabha seat and 3 Assembly seats were won by the party. It got 15.5 per cent votes of the total votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 11.5 per cent votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the mid-term poll in 1969, the party got 9.1 per cent votes out of the total votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha.

Swatantra Party.—Born as a right-wing reaction to the socialism of the Congress Party, the Swatantra Party, which was actually founded by some stalwarts of the Congress, believes that social justice and welfare can be attained not by compulsion but by the Gandhian doctrine of trusteeship. As a conservative political party, the Swatantra Party favours the restriction of Stateism and the restoration of guarantees specified in the original Constitution regarding the freedom of trade, employment, property and just compensation for property, if acquired for public purposes.

At the all-India level, the party was formally inaugurated at a preparatory convention in Bombay in 1959 and its first convention was held in March, 1960.

The party contested the Third General Elections for the Vidhan Sabha seats and could not capture any. It got 3.2 per cent votes out of the total votes polled in the district. In the Fourth General Elections, the party contested only one Lok Sabha seat and got 4.6 per cent votes out of the total votes polled. In the mid-term poll in 1969, the party got a negligible percentage (only 86 votes) out of the total valid votes polled.

Republican Party.—This party is a reorganized form of the Scheduled Castes Federation. Its distinguishing feature is that unlike the parent political organization, it enrolls non-Scheduled Castes also as its members. The party did not contest any Parliamentary/Assembly seat in any of the General Elections.

Communist Party of India.—It is an all-India Party established in the district in 1934 and stands for the State-controlled socialism. The party concentrates its activities among the workers and peasants, organizing them in their own unions in accordance with the party pattern. In 1962, at the time of the Chinese aggression, the party was divided into two groups, i.e. Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist). The latter does not recognize the Chinese attack as an act of aggression, whereas the former group condemned the invasion outright. The Communist Party of India has a District Council, 13 Block Area Committees and 96 branches in the district, covering 400 villages.

In the First General Elections (1952), the party captured two Assembly seats. In the Second General Elections (1957) again, the party got two Assembly seats. In the Third General Elections (1962), the party got one Assembly seat. In the Fourth General Elections (1967), the party bagged

two seats, one by the Communist Party of India and the other by the Communist Party of India (Marxist). In the First General Elections (1952), the party got 11.2 per cent of the total votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 15.1 per cent of the total votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Second General Elections (1957), the party got 29.30 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 19.4 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Third General Elections (1962), the party got 25 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 10.1 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Fourth General Elections (1967), the party got 3.3 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Lok Sabha and 11 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the mid-term poll, the Communist Party of India got 6 per cent and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) 7 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha.

Socialist/Praja Socialist Party.—The Socialists formed a separate wing of the Indian National Congress before the partition (1947). At that time, it was imperative for every member of the Congress Socialist group to enrol himself as a formal member of the Congress. The Socialist section separated from the main body of the Congress in 1948 and was organized in the district as a separate party in that very year. In 1954, the Socialist Party merged into the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, with the new nomenclature of Praja Socialist Party. It was split up into two groups—Praja Socialist and Socialist. In 1955, both the wings were merged into a larger party with the new name of Samyukt Socialist Party. Immediately afterwards, it was again split up into the Praja Socialist Party and the Socialist Party. The Praja Socialist Party has four branches in the district. It pleads the rights of the employees of the municipal committees, labour, Public-Health Services, Harijans, displaced persons, etc.

The party could not capture any seat either in the Lok Sabha or in the Vidhan Sabha in any of the General Elections. However, in the mid-term poll in 1969, one seat was captured by the Praja Socialist party from the Amritsar city. In the First General Elections (1952), the party got 2.1 per cent of the total votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Second General Elections (1957), it got 1.5 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Third General Elections (1962), it secured 2 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha. In the Fourth General Elections (1967), the party got 2.8 per cent of the total valid votes polled. In the mid-term poll in 1969, the party got 3.1 per cent of the total valid votes polled for the Vidhan Sabha.

Besides the above-mentioned parties, the Ram Rajya Parishad, the Hindu Maha Sabha and the Forward Bloc have also been contesting elections for the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha seats. The number of votes polled

by these parties was, however, negligible. No reference to their ideology and manifesto is, therefore, called for.

(c) Newspapers and Periodicals

Newspapers and Periodicals Published in the District and Their Importance

The first periodical to start publication in the district was *Khalsa Samachar* in Punjabi in 1899. It was followed by *Sanatan Dharam Parcharak* in Urdu in 1901. Thereafter were started *Nirguniara* and *Khalsa Advocate* in Punjabi in 1903, followed by *Dukh Niwaran* in Punjabi in 1906. The most widely read Punjabi periodicals are *Preet Lari*, started in 1933, and *Bal Sandesh*, started in 1943. Both of these are published by a renowned Punjabi writer from Prit Nagar (Tahsil Ajnala). The other periodicals which started publication before the independence are *Radiant Health* in English in 1930, *Bajrang* in Urdu in 1935, *Kanwal* in Punjabi in 1940 and *Sant Sipahi* in Punjabi in 1945.

The important Punjabi periodicals, etc. started after the independence (1947) are : *Sikh* (daily) in 1948, *Mahatma* in 1950, *Kavita* in 1952, *Balak* in 1953, *Gurmat* in 1955, *Gian Amrit* in 1956, *Gurbani Science* and *Gurmat Parkash* both in 1957, *Mera Punjab* in 1959, *Nirmal Udes* in 1960, and *Bharti Naari* and *Biba Rana* both in 1962. The important Hindi periodicals started after 1947 are : *Amar Kahaniyan* in 1950, *Bal Phulwari* in 1959 and *Advocate* in 1963. An English quarterly, *India Through Art*, started publication in 1963.

The particulars in respect of newspapers and periodicals published in the district, as on April 1, 1968, are given below :

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/periodical	Place of publication	Year when started	Circulation	Language
1	2	3	4	5	6
DAILIES					
1.	Sikh	Amritsar	1948	1,500	Punjabi
2.	Doctor	Do	1960	2,500	English and Punjabi
3.	Business Light	Amritsar	1959	204	Hindi
4.	Indo-Afghan Trade	Do	1965	..	Do
5.	Sindhi Aghotri	Do	1957	..	Do

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/periodical	Place of publication	Year when started	Circulation	Language
1	2	3	4	5	6
WEEKLIES					
6.	Khalsa Samachar	Amritsar	1899	2,211	Punjabi
7.	Khalsa Advocate	Do	1903	..	Do
8.	Mahatma	Do	1950	..	Do
9.	Mera Punjab	Do	1959	..	Do
10.	Nirmal Udes	Do	1960	400	Do
11.	Pasmanda Jiwan	Tarn Taran	1965	..	Do
12.	Phul Patthar	Do	1958	..	Do
13.	Punjab Mail	Amritsar	1964	1,900	Do
14.	Qaumi Jiwan	Tarn Taran	1962	..	Do
15.	Qaumi Swatantar	Baba Bakala	1962	1,000	Do
16.	Ramgarhia Bir	Amritsar	1963	755	Do
17.	Sacha Sewak	Do	1959	..	Do
18.	Sadhu Sandesh	Do	1963	600	Do
19.	Asal Tasvir	Do	1965	..	Do
20.	Awami Leader	Do	1965	..	Do
21.	Awami Tahrik	Do	1960	250	Do
22.	Bekhof	Tarn Taran	1965	..	Do
23.	Desh Bhagat	Amritsar	1965	253	Do
24.	Itfaq	Do	1962	..	Do
25.	Jag Beeti	Do	1963	..	Do
26.	Sakandal	Tarn Taran	1959	..	Do
27.	Sangathan	Amritsar	1965	..	Do
28.	Satara-i-Hind	Do	1963	..	Do
29.	Shakti	Do	1948	200	Do
30.	Tamancha	Do	1961	..	Urdu and Punjabi
31.	Chitra Mala	Do	1957	500	English, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi
32.	Sindhi Aghotri	Do	1953	..	Sindhi

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/periodical	Place of publication	Year when started	Circulation	Language
1	2	3	4	5	6
FORTNIGHTLIES					
33.	Punjab Market	.. Amritsar	1959	5,600	English
34.	Advocate	.. Do	1963	..	Hindi
35.	Rang Lok	.. Do	1965	..	Do
36.	Ghan Chakkar	.. Do	1964/1965	..	Punjabi
37.	Bajrang	.. Do	1935	..	Urdu
38.	Sanatan Dharam Parcharak	.. Do	1901	1,546	Do
39.	Shaheed-i-Watan	.. Do	1963	..	Hindi and English
40.	Panchayat Sansar	.. Do	1963	..	Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi
MONTHLIES					
41.	Radiant Health	.. Amritsar	1930	..	English
42.	Science Review	.. Do	1960	300	Do
43.	Bahadur Jasoos	.. Do	1964	..	Hindi
44.	Bal Phulwari	.. Do	1959	1,376	Do
45.	Jasoosi Mahol	.. Do	1963	1,411	Do
46.	Kailash Jyoti	.. Do	1965	..	Do
47.	Market Way	.. Do	1963	990	Do
48.	Amar Kahaniyan	.. Do	1950	8,800	Do
49.	Amrit Wela	.. Do	1963	..	Do
50.	Anmol Rattan	.. Tarn Taran	1951	..	Punjabi
51.	Balak	.. Amritsar	1953	1,650	Do
52.	Bal Sandesh	.. Do	1943	4,076	Do
53.	Bharti Naari	.. Do	1962	..	Do
54.	Biba Rana	.. Do	1962	..	Do
55.	Daler Jasoos	.. Do	1962	..	Do
56.	Dukh Niwaran	.. Tarn Taran	1906	5,416	Do
57.	Film Kala	.. Amritsar	1955	5,360	Do
58.	Filmi Bahar	.. Do	1958	2,000	Do

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/periodical	Place of publication	Year when started	Circulation	Language
1	2	3	4	5	6
MONTHLIES—contd.					
59.	Filmi Sansar	.. Amritsar	1958	2,000	Punjabi
60.	Gian Amrit	.. Do	1956	1,228	Do
61.	Gurbani Science	.. Do	1957	..	Do
62.	Gurmat	.. Do	1955	2,000	Do
63.	Gurmat Parkash	.. Do	1957	2,000	Do
64.	Himmat Samachar	.. Do	1965	..	Do
65.	Jasoosi Duniya	.. Do	1963	2,000	Do
66.	Jasoosi Panja	.. Do	1963	..	Do
67.	Kanwal	.. Do	1940	1,998	Do
68.	Kavita	.. Do	1952	3,337	Do
69.	Komal Sansar]	.. Do	1953	600	Do
70.	Mastana	.. Do	1928	3,700	Do
71.	Nirguniara]]	.. Do	1903	1,267	Do
72.	Phul Jhari	.. Do	1960	2,000	Do
73.	Preet Lari	.. Prit Nagar (District Amritsar)	1933	13,138	Do
74.	Sacha Premi	.. Amritsar	1965	..	Do
75.	Sangat Samachar	.. Do	1965	..	Do
76.	Sant Sipahi	.. Do	1945	2,100	Do
77.	Vedic Rattan	.. Do	1964	353	Do
78.	Vaidya Visharad	.. Do	1952	800	Do
79.	Anmol Rattan	.. Tarn Taran	1954	..	Urdu
80.	Atam Katha	.. Amritsar	1958	1,950	Do
81.	Hiteshi	.. Do	1953	..	Do
82.	Jasoosi Mahol	.. Do	1963	1,008	Punjabi
83.	Khukhrain Sandesh	.. Do	1961	2,000	Do
84.	Munnawar	.. Do	1963	500	Do
85.	Nigarish	.. Do	1959	1,430	Urdu
86.	Panch Bhoomi	.. Do	1960	..	Do

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/periodical	Place of publication	Year when started	Circulation	Language
1	2	3	4	5	6
87.	Postman ..	Amritsar	1951	99	Urdu
88.	Rajput Sandesh ..	Do	1951	..	Do
89.	Textile ..	Do	1960	..	Do
90.	Qanun ..	Do	1953	1,932	Urdu and Punjabi
BIMONTHLIES					
91.	Amritsar Productivity Council Newsletter	Amritsar	1963	..	English
QUARTERLIES					
92.	India Through Art ..	Amritsar	1963	500	Do
93.	Parkash Deep ..	Do	1961	..	English and Urdu

(Press In India, 1966, Part II, and 1967, Part II; and the District Public Relations Officer, Amritsar)

Newspapers and Periodicals Published Outside but in Fairly Large Circulation in the Amritsar District

The following newspapers and periodicals, published outside the district, are in fairly large circulation in the district :

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/periodical	Place of publication	Language	Periodicity
NEWSPAPERS				
1.	Tribune	.. Chandigarh	English	Daily
2.	Indian Express	.. New Delhi	Do	Do
3.	Times of India	.. Do	Do	Do
4.	Hindi Milap	.. Jullundur City	Hindi	Do
5.	Vir Pratap	.. Do	Do	Do
6.	Punjab Kesri	.. Do	Do	Do
7.	Ajit	.. Do	Punjabi	Do
8.	Akali Patrika	.. Do	Do	Do
9.	Nawan Zamana	.. Do	Do	Do
10.	Jathedar	.. Do	Do	Do
11.	Hind Samachar	.. Do	Urdu	Do
12.	Milap	.. Do	Do	Do
13.	Pratap	.. Do	Do	Do
14.	Pradeep	.. Do	Do	Do
PERIODICALS				
1.	Illustrated Weekly of India	Bombay	English	Weekly
2.	Filmfare	.. Do	Do	Fortnightly
3.	Femina	.. Do	Do	Do
4.	Dharmyug	.. Do	Hindi	Weekly
5.	Sarita	.. New Delhi	Do	Fortnightly
6.	Sushma	.. Do	Do	Monthly
7.	Tasvir	.. Jullundur City	Punjabi	Do
8.	Drishti	.. Do	Do	Do
9.	Biswin Sadi	.. Delhi	Urdu	Do
10.	Shama	.. Do	Do	Do

(d) Voluntary Social Service Organizations

Organized social service at the State or community level in its present form is a modern development. Social welfare, according to the age-old traditions, was generally understood to be a form of charity shown by wealthy philanthropists in the shape of the construction of serais, the sinking of wells, the opening of dispensaries, etc. Against the above background, the scope of all present-day social-welfare activities remained extremely limited in the past. To a considerable extent, the joint-family system and the caste-system obviated the need for regular social-welfare organizations. The head of the joint-family was expected to look after all the members of the family. The caste-system also catered for the welfare of the members of different groups. Above all, every village by itself was a compact unit which was governed by its own panchayat. Under the old rural autonomy, little scope or necessity was left for the whole-time social-welfare organizations. Further, the life in the olden days was simple and human needs were not many. The local panchayats looked after the interests of the poor and needy as part of their moral duty. For instance, in the villages, the panchayats never allowed a money-lender to charge interest exceeding the principal or to attach the land of the cultivator in default of the payment of loan and thus deprive him of his means of subsistence. Panchayats used to persuade the money-lenders to remit the principal or not to charge the interest from widows and orphans whose bread-winners had died while under debt. Such favourable conditions prevailed up to the advent of the British rule. The establishment of the centralized administration and the enforcement of law considerably reduced the social cohesion and left the people without any agency for social welfare. Moreover, the law under the British strengthened the hands of the money-lenders who could go to any extent without paying any heed to the moral pressure brought to bear on them by the panchayats. In the urban areas, as well, the *chaudhris* or *mir mohalladars* lost their influence of mediation and the law encouraged litigation, thereby rendering the poor more helpless.

The role played by the philanthropists and *sardars* in the district in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is highly commendable. Five Sikh Gurus (the Second to the Sixth) had already left behind laudable traditions of charity and community kitchens (*langar*). This wholesome tradition also influenced the people in general. They built serais and sunk wells. The rulers, particularly Maharaja Ranjit Singh, donated lakhs of rupees to the poor on different occasions of religious importance. Several *akharas* of the *mahants* were established where free kitchens were run and pilgrims or travellers could stay for a few days. Amritsar, with its religious traditions and prosperous commercial community, was renowned for its charitable community institutions. As compared with other districts in the State, Amritsar had the maximum

number of such institutions in the nineteenth century. Even to this day, this district can boast of more welfare institutions than any other district.

The present form of voluntary organizations came into existence after the advent of the British. The branches of international organizations, e.g. the Red Cross Society and the Rotary Club, were started in the city during the present century. On similar lines, the Institute for the Blind, the Chief Khalsa Diwan Orphanage, the Pingalwara, the Sewa Samiti, etc. were started by religious bodies or voluntary organizations through contributions. The Bharat Sewak Samaj is a voluntary social service organization under the Congress patronage. The Government also gives grants to these organizations. The Christian missionaries are running a leprosy centre near Tarn Taran. Some of the notable voluntary social service organizations in the district are briefly described below:

(i) The Indian Red Cross Society (District Branch), Amritsar

The Amritsar District Red Cross Branch and its allied institutions, i.e. St John Ambulance Association and Hospital Welfare Section, were constituted in 1948 after the partition. The branch runs ten trained *Dai* Centres in the rural areas of the district for the welfare of the female population. The branch also runs an Urban Family-Planning Centre in Dhab Wasti Ram, Amritsar.

St John Ambulance Association.—This Branch receives Rs 10,000 from the parent body, i.e. the Red Cross Society, for holding First-Aid and Home-Nursing Classes and for the equipment of the Ambulance Nursing Division.

The Branch has 85 Ambulance Nursing and Cadet Divisions. They render service by establishing First-Aid Posts in the district and also outside the district, i.e. at Anandpur Sahib, Kurukshetra and Hardwar. This branch maintains an ambulance van and piles on public calls at nominal rates. The branch also runs 95 well-furnished First-Aid Posts, out of which 65 are in the urban and 30 in the rural areas.

Hospital Welfare Section.—It has 150 lady members, out of which 16 are called conveners. They visit hospitals twice a week. Relief articles are distributed in the hospitals through these conveners. They also render social service by knitting woollen garments for distribution among the poor.

The blood groups of the members are also taken. They are available for donating blood in the event of an emergency.

General Activities for the Welfare of the Poor.—The Red Cross Society spends a good amount on free distribution of medicines, through lady conveners of the Hospital Welfare Section, in hospitals/wards, e.g. the T.B. Free Hospital, and the Ram Lal Eye and E.N.T. Hospital, at Amritsar.

Woollen and cotton clothes, approximately worth Rs 5,000, are distributed by the society annually among the poor. Relief articles, old and new, received from the headquarters of the Indian Red Cross Society, are also distributed at the time of a national calamity. Besides, sewing-machines, artificial limbs, steel jackets, and callipers are distributed among the poor.

The society also gives grant-in-aid to the Bhartiya Grameen Mahila Samiti, Amritsar Branch; the Indian Council for Child Welfare, District Branch, Amritsar; the Saket Council of Orthopaedically Handicapped Children, Chand Mandir; and the District Education Officer, Amritsar, for the Indira Holiday Camp.

Miscellaneous Work.—The society distributes transistors for the *jawans* of the Border Security Force pickets on demand.

Up to 1968, the society had 3 life members, 5 life associates, 26 annual members and 4,058 annual associates.

The expenditure incurred by the society is met from public contributions and a grant from the Government.

(ii) Rotary Club, Amritsar

Affiliated to the Rotary International, the Rotary Club was formed in the district in 1933. Its membership in 1969 stood at 85. Its main objects are : service above self ; the encouragement and fostering of acquaintance and opportunity for fellowship ; the recognition of worthiness of all useful occupations ; the application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life ; and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men. Its members meet every Thursday in the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Hall, Company Bagh, Amritsar.

In Amritsar, the club has taken steps for traffic safety by displaying traffic-safety boards in various parts of the city. The club gives scholarships to the deserving students and financial assistance to the poor for prosecuting studies. It also provides free medical service for poor patients through its medico members.

The club has provided a hearse for the Sewa Samiti Fire Brigade, Amritsar, and an ambulance chair at the Amritsar Railway Station for the use of invalid passengers.

(iii) Amritsar Sewa Samiti (Regd.), Amritsar

Established in 1919, the Sewa Samiti was named as the Railway Sewa Samiti. In 1924, it was renamed the Amritsar Sewa Samiti. It was registered as a voluntary social service organization in 1939.

The Samiti is functioning at the district headquarters. It is intended to cater to local needs. It has no regular source of income, but raises funds, when necessary.

The Amritsar Sewa Samiti is a multi-purpose charitable organization. It is running three allopathic and three Ayurvedic free dispensaries, an X-Ray Clinic, a Clinical Laboratory, an Antenatal Clinic and a B.C.G. Clinic. The Samiti helps in the eradication of tuberculosis and distributes medicines to the poor.

The Samiti also renders valuable service in locating the parents of lost children who are handed over to it, by distributing books every year to the poor and intelligent students, and by arranging cold-water booths at strategic points during the summer months.

The Samiti also maintains a volunteer corps. The volunteers render voluntary service on the occasions of fairs, festivals, *kumbhs* and *Adhkumbhs* at Hardwar and Allahabad. They are also of immense help at the time of natural calamities, e.g. floods, earthquakes and epidemics.

(iv) Institute for the Blind, Amritsar

Started in 1923, it is a special institute of its own kind. It admits children between the age of 8 and 20, irrespective of caste, colour and creed. In 1969, it had 64 students. No fee is charged. The institute imparts education up to the middle standard. It also holds training classes in re-caning of chairs, craftwork and weaving. The notable achievement of the institute is that it prepares students in music up to the standard of the Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh. The students are admitted to the different courses according to their intelligence and aptitude. The institute is equipped with the biggest Braille library in northern India. It is also an examination centre of the Prayag Sangit Samiti, Allahabad.

The annual expenditure of the institute is about Rs 1,00,000, which is met mainly from public donations.

(v) All-India Women's Conference, Amritsar

The Amritsar branch of the All-India Women's Conference was established in 1943. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

The conference is a non-political and non-communal voluntary social service organization, rendering meritorious service in the cause of the welfare of women and children in distress. It runs craft centres of tailoring and hand-embroidery and machine-embroidery. Through these centres, it provides the needy women with work. It holds a nursery class for laying a sound foundation for the development of children of the low-income group.

Books are provided for the poor children. The conference also runs a family-planning centre under the charge of a lady doctor. During emergencies, e.g. floods, it provides the needy persons with relief.

(vi) Sewa Society Fire Brigade, Amritsar

It is a private registered organization established in 1903 at Amritsar. Its main functions are to help to extinguish fire and arrange ambulance for carrying the sick and wounded persons to the hospital. The society has provided a hearse for carrying the dead to the cremation-ground. It also runs a laboratory for testing blood, urine, stool, etc. without any charge. The society helps to organize fairs and festivals. It has also installed free drinkingwater-booths in different parts of the city.

The society meets its expenses from donations made by the public.

(vii) Chief Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar

It is a Sikh religious, educational, social and charitable organization. Originally, there were two Khalsa Diwans—one at Lahore and the other at Amritsar. They were merged into a single organization in 1902. It was registered in 1904. With the partition (1947), it lost much of its property in Pakistan.

The Chief Khalsa Diwan has its branches at Tarn Taran, Delhi, Kanpur, Bombay and Ranchi. It runs several institutions, most of which have been mentioned in the preceding chapters on 'Education and Culture' and 'Medical and Public-Health Services'. A few other institutions run by the Diwan are as under :

Central Khalsa Orphanage and Surma Singh Ashram, Amritsar.—The Central Khalsa Orphanage was started in 1904, and the Surma Singh Ashram (Home for the Blind) was added to it in 1935. It has about 80 inmates. The annual expenditure comes to about one lakh of rupees.

The inmates are trained in weaving, tailoring, and music. Most of the blind *ragi jathas* all over India have received training from this institution.

Bhai Vir Singh Birth Ghar (Home for the Aged and the Infirm), Tarn Taran.—It was established in 1959. The inmates, both men and women spend their time in old age in a peaceful atmosphere of devotion and piety. The needy are provided with free board and lodging. Its annual expenditure is about Rs 23,000. The number of inmates in 1968 was 20.

Khalsa Parcharak Vidyala, Tarn Taran.—It was established in 1910 or thereabout to train *granthis*, *ragis* and *parcharaks* for the Sikh community. Besides the study of Sikh scriptures and religion, regular classes of proficiency in Punjabi are held.

(viii) Pingalwara, Amritsar

A medico-social institution, the Pingalwara was started by Bhagat Puran Singh in 1948 after his migration from Lahore. The institution is tackling the problem of sickness in the medico-social sphere in its own way. It admits all patients who are in need of care whether they are curable or incurable. They are provided not only with indoor treatment but also with meals, clothes and shelter.

In 1970, the Pingalwara had 125 mentally deranged and 60 T.B. patients, out of which 25 were incurable and 16 were orthopaedic patients.

The annual expenditure of the Pingalwara is over 2 lakhs of rupees which is met through donations and public contributions, both in cash and kind. Hundreds of persons residing outside Amritsar contribute regularly through money-orders. Occasionally, financial assistance is also received from the State Social Welfare Directorate.

The Pingalwara is also running a printing-press which prints posters and circulates articles bearing on social, religious and cultural subjects. These are distributed in schools, colleges and among the people free of cost.

(ix) Bhartiya Shiksha Kendra, Amritsar

A private registered institution established in 1954, it runs a middle school. Arrangements are also made for further studies through special tuition. No fee is charged from the students. The expenditure is met from private contributions.

(x) Prem Sewak Sabha, Amritsar

A private registered body, established in 1919, it runs a Zenana Maternity Hospital with 30 beds, a Family-Planning Centre with 5 tubectomy beds, 2 allopathic dispensaries and 2 Ayurvedic dispensaries. On certain occasions, the society installs temporary dispensaries, free *langars*, *chhabils*, etc. Besides, it makes arrangements for cremating unclaimed corpses, and helps to restore lost children to their parents. The Sabha also runs a branch in Guru-ka-Mahal in the city.

The Sabha has no regular source of income. The expenses are met through private contributions/donations.

(xi) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Amritsar

It is a private registered body, established in 1919. It is affiliated to the International Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, London. It maintains an infirmary where animals are looked after and are treated for their injuries, wounds, etc. During the extremely cold season, the society brings

shelterless and stray cows and calves to the infirmary where they are provided with shelter and fodder.

The main source of income of the society is the contributions made by individuals.

(xii) **State After-Care Home, Amritsar**

Run under the State Social Welfare Department, the Home serves a very useful purpose. It provides shelter for the deserted, homeless and abducted girls and women. Necessary shelter is also provided for those whose distress is likely to be exploited for immoral purposes. The minor homeless girls are also kept there till they attain majority.

The inmates are provided with board and lodging. The Home provides foster help for the children, and gives education and employment to the needy. In certain cases, even marriages are arranged.

Since the establishment of the Home in 1957, over 800 girls and women have been admitted to it. The strength of the inmates in 1970 was over 100.

(xiii) **Blood-Bank Society, Amritsar**

Established in 1956-57, its main function is to secure public co-operation to organize voluntary blood donations. It also looks after the social aspects of blood transfusion and carries on an intensive propaganda to educate the masses regarding the immense utility of blood donation.

The society has a paid Organizing Secretary who combats the strong psychogenic factor prevailing among the people against donating blood. It has an ambulance, and intensive tours are undertaken to clubs, factories, schools and colleges, labour unions and other allied organizations to persuade the people to donate blood.

The society runs the blood bank on replacement basis—a realistic approach to run the bank. It has almost eliminated the commercialization of blood.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

The Amritsar District lies in the north-west of the Punjab, with the Gurdaspur District on the north-east, the River Beas on the south-east, the River Satluj in the south and has its border with Pakistan on the west. Its population was 15,34,916 in 1961, as against 13,67,040 in 1951. With its headquarters at Amritsar (population 3,76,295 in 1961), the district comprises 1,261 villages and 9 towns. It is well connected both by road and rail. The highway connecting Delhi with Central Asia passes through it.

Being intimately connected with the origin, growth and development of the Sikh religion, the district comprises numerous important places of historical and religious interest. These are described below in alphabetical order :

Ajnala.—The headquarters of the subdivision/tahsil of the same name, Ajnala is situated at a distance of 20 km from Amritsar on the Amritsar-Dera Baba Nanak Road. There are a Government High School, a Police-Station, a Post & Telegraph Office and a Rest-House at Ajnala. Its population was 3,907 in 1961, as against 2,648 in 1951.

Ajnala is said to have been founded by one Bagga, a Jat of the Nijjar got. After him, it was named Nijjarwala or Nijjarala, which, with the lapse of time, became contracted and corrupted into Ajnala. Another origin of the word Ajnala is also mentioned. The Sakki Nala, which used to play havoc during floods, was popularly called Ajal Nala. With the lapse of time, it came to be known as Ajnala. Ever since the floods have been controlled in the area, the economic condition of the cultivators has improved.

On the encamping ground is a plain mound of earth which marks the place where a large number of dead bodies of the executed sepoys, belonging to the 26th Native Infantry Regiment, were dumped into a well during the Great Uprising of 1857. This well is known as Kalianwala Khuh from the black complexion of the *Purbia* sepoys.

Amritsar.—The headquarters of the district and the subdivision/tahsil of the same name, Amritsar is situated midway between the rivers Beas and Ravi on the Grand Trunk Road, 28 km from the international Wagha border with Pakistan. It is an important railway junction and is

connected by rail with Jullundur, Gurdaspur, Khem Karan and Atari. Its population was 3,76,295 in 1961, as against 3,25,747 in 1951.

Amritsar had been the biggest town in the Punjab up to the eighties of the nineteenth century when it became second to Lahore (Pakistan). This position continued up to the partition of 1947. The town suffered a great set-back on the partition when over a lakh and a half of Muslims migrated to Pakistan. The number of Hindu and Sikh migrants from Pakistan, who settled here, was much less.

Amritsar is also one of the few cities in the State which have introduced improved sanitary conditions. Double side surface drains were introduced in 1902. The city is, however, much at a disadvantage for being situated in the depression of a wide plain. The line of its main drainage is very defective. Some important places in the city are overflooded when there are heavy rains, jamming the traffic on each side of the temporarily formed streams which assume the form of nullahs till the time the water recedes. The soil consists of an upper crust of light clay which is from 6 to 10 feet deep and contains here and there thin beds of stiff clay in which are embedded small agglomerations of nodular limestone, popularly known as *kankar*. Below the upper crust is an indefinitely deep stratum of coarse grit with a lower layer of fine sand; this stratum contains the subsoil water. In the dry weather, the depth of this subsoil water ranges from 8 to 18 feet; in the rainy season, the subsoil water rises everywhere and comes close to the surface, and in some localities comes out and collects on the surface. In the vicinity of the city, the fall of the surface drainage is a little over one foot per mile, and the area of the whole locality is traversed by numerous irrigation channels drawn from the Upper Bari Doab Canal, which passes within two or three miles of the city. The natural defects of the position in regard to drainage produce a more or less complete waterlogging of the land.

Amritsar is not a very old city. About four hundred years ago, a few squalid huts formed the sole traces of human habitation on the site of the present city; and even long after the rise of the Sikh Commonwealth to power, Amritsar, its sacred centre, remained but a comparatively small town. The site was first occupied by Guru Ram Das, who succeeded to the Sikh apostleship in 1574. The site had a small natural pool, which, in course of time, was converted into a tank and acquired the name of Amritsar or 'Tank of Nectar'. This is the commonly accepted derivation; another derivation, however, has been suggested from the name of Guru Amar Das, the predecessor of Guru Ram Das. The original form of the name, in this case, would be Amarsar, or the tank of

Amar (Das). The temple, or Hari Mandir, as it was at first called, was built by Guru Arjan Dev, the successor of Guru Ram Das. The centre of the tank was its site. It is said that Guru Arjan Dev obtained the assistance of Mian Mir himself in the construction of the temple, and that it was he who laid its foundation-stone.

From this time onwards, Amritsar grew in importance, its fortunes waxing and waning with the fortunes of the Sikh Commonwealth, until after the retirement of Ahmad Shah Abdali from India it became the acknowledged capital of a sovereign State. However, it was not at that time the actual residence of the Gurus. Guru Hargobind, who laid the foundation of the warlike character of the sect, spent his time in the various parts of India, returning only occasionally to the Punjab and Amritsar. The *Adi-Granth*, the sacred book of the Sikhs, was got carried along with him by Guru Hargobind, during several of his travels and was finally taken to Kartarpur (in the Jullundur District) by Vahir Mal, a brother of Guru Har Rai, the successor of Guru Hargobind. Subsequently, a copy of the *Adi-Granth* was placed in the Hari Mandir. The modern temple, as well as a great part of the city, dates from 1764. Ahmad Shah Abdali blew up the Hari Mandir, defiled every sacred place with cows' blood and filled the pool with dead cows thrice, i.e. in 1757, 1762 and 1764. But after his final retirement the Sikhs again flocked to Amritsar. The temple was rebuilt and the city gradually assumed its present form. It had hitherto been a collection of the residences of influential Sikhs, but, when it became, the political capital, these buildings soon became welded together into one city. The city still retains the relics of its old state in the *katras* or wards into which it is divided. Each of these *katras* in former days represented the estate of a Sikh chief, within the limits of which he was supreme. The most ancient *katras* are fifteen, all others being subsequent formations.

For many years after the foundation of the Sikh supremacy, Amritsar remained in the hands of the chiefs of the Bhangi Misl; but at last, in 1802, it was seized by Maharaja Ranjit Singh and formally added to his dominions. This monarch spent large sums of money from time to time upon the Hari Mandir, which about this time began to acquire its present name of Darbar Sahib. Among other adornments, he roofed it with sheets of gilded copper—a fact to which it owes its name, i.e. the Golden Temple. Maharaja Ranjit Singh also laid out the famous garden of Ram Bagh, and built the Fort of Govindgarh. The following story is often quoted as explaining the reputation of the Amritsar tank. A girl of Patti, in the then Lahore District, the daughter of a wealthy *kardar* of that place, incurred her father's displeasure, and he married her to a

leper, whom she was obliged to carry about in a basket on her head. During her travels, having reached a pool, she placed the basket with the leper in it on the ground, and went to an adjoining village (Tung or Sultanwind) to beg. During her absence, the leper saw a crow fall into the water, and immediately become white. He thereupon bathed in the water and became whole, one small spot of leprosy only remaining. When his wife returned, she did not recognize him and thought that she had become the victim of some deception. She took her husband before Guru Ram Das, who convinced her of her error. The spot on the edge of the tank where this event occurred is known as the Dukh Bhanjni or healer of afflictions, and an illustrated gilded copper plate marks the place. The foundation-stone of the Hari Mandir was laid by Sain Mian Mir, a Muslim Sufi saint, at the request of Guru Arjan Dev, between whom and the Sufi saint a strong friendship existed. Not being skilled in the art of laying bricks on the square, the mason found the brick had been laid askew, and accordingly adjusted it, whereupon Sain Mian Mir remarked that if the brick had been allowed to lie as he put it, the superstructure (temple) would have stood for ever, but now it won't. Later, this prophecy proved true. Ahmad Shah Abdali's son Prince Timur destroyed the Ramgarhian Fort and other buildings and threw the debris into the Tank of the Hari Mandir. In 1762, Ahmad Shah Abdali, after defeating and routing the Sikhs at Kup (near Malerkotla, District Sangrur), an event known as *ghalu ghara*, gratified his rage still further by destroying the Hari Mandir and polluting the sacred tank by throwing slaughtered cows into it and committing other atrocities. Four years thereafter, i.e. in 1766, the temple was rebuilt, and the city gradually improved and expanded.

The old Amritsar city was surrounded by a wall of an average height of 14 feet and had twelve gates. The wall was constructed by Ranjit Singh at an expenditure of 14 lakhs of rupees. From the Maha Singh Gate on the north-east to the Hakimnawala Gate on the south side of the city, the remains of the wall may still be seen. From the latter to the former gate along the western and northern sides of the city, the wall and the gates were constructed during 1866 to 1868. The Ram Bagh Gate and the Maha Singh Gate are the only two of the twelve gates constructed by the Sikh Government that remain to this day. They are substantial masonry structures, capable of great defence, and have side entrances protected by strong wooden gates, elaborately strengthened with spherical-headed iron bolts and sheet iron. The Hall Gate, which leads directly to the Railway Station, the Civil Lines and the Cantonment, was constructed in 1876, and was named after Col. C. H. Hall, who was for many years the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar. This gate

stands on the side of an old bastion; the area just inside the gate was occupied by the Amritsar Jail up to 1875, when the land and building were purchased by the Municipal Committee. In the beginning, the city was confined within the wall. Outside along the wall, there was a big ditch, 5 miles long, 120 yards wide and 5 yards deep, filled with water, providing security to the city. After the British occupation, there no longer remained any necessity for the ditch which was also a problem on hygienic grounds. Its filling up with debris started in 1859 and was accelerated in 1868. During the famine of 1869, as many as a hundred thousand persons were employed on the job. The work was again taken in hand in 1892. Thereafter, it became possible for the people to settle outside the walled city. The city has expanded on all sides. During the partition of 1947, a considerable part of the city was gutted. The Improvement Trust has undertaken the beautification and development of the city. Numerous ultramodern buildings have sprung up.

Amritsar was the biggest trading centre in the Punjab during the nineteenth century. Markets of different commodities were situated here, for instance, Namak Mandi, Ghee Mandi, Sowank Mandi and Kanak Mandi. With the introduction of railways, the importance of Amritsar increased manifold. It became the biggest market for cloth and general merchandise. The city catered to the requirements of the entire united Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and the N.W.F.P. (now forming Pakistan minus the new Indian Punjab State and Haryana). The traders also held monopolies in respect of the woollen products from Kashmir and other hilly areas. Imported woollen cloth was also marketed from Amritsar in general. Gold ornaments, jewellery and the ivory *chura* (bangles) were mostly manufactured here.

Amritsar continues to occupy a significant place among the country's trade centres. The rapid industrialization of the city after the partition (1947) has ushered in a new era of prosperity and stability not only for this city but for the State as a whole. The main industries are: the art-silk industry, the woollen industry, the engineering industry and the warp-knitting industry. Textile is the most important industry. The engineering industry includes machine-tools, agricultural implements, cycle parts, sewing-machine parts, fans and other allied goods, printing and paper-cutting machinery, automobile parts, bolts and nuts, wood screws, brass-wares, ball-bearings, radio and other sound equipment, etc. Besides, Amritsar has also some chemical and pharmaceutical units. A detailed account of the industries of the city has been given in the chapter on 'Industries'.

The city has a number of educational institutions, including the Medical College, the Dental College, the Khalsa College and the recently established Guru Nanak Dev University. As on January 1, 1973,

there were 108 primary schools (co-educational), 16 middle schools (11 for boys and 5 for girls), 23 high schools (10 for boys and 13 for girls), 21 higher secondary schools (13 for boys and 8 for girls), 14 arts and science colleges (8 for boys and 6 for girls), 2 Colleges of Education (one each for boys and girls), besides a few medical institutes. The Land Reclamation, Irrigation and Power Research Institute, Amritsar, is the biggest of its type in the State.

The prominent hospitals in the city are: the Victoria Jubilee Hospital, the Prince of Wales Zanana Hospital, the Punjab Government Dental College and Hospital, the Lady Emerson-Seth Chatarbhuji Maternity Hospital, the Ram Lal Eye and E.N.T. Hospital, the T.B. & Chest Diseases Hospital and the Punjab Mental Hospital.

Amritsar has had a first-class municipal Committee ever since 1868. Among the gardens and parks maintained by the municipality, mention may be made of the historic Ram Bagh (popularly known as the Company Bagh), the Seth Radha Kishan Park and the Gol Bagh. The Ram Bagh contains Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Summer Palace, the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Hall and a number of clubs.

There are four rest-houses in Amritsar, viz. the Circuit House, the Canal Rest-House, the P.W.D. (B&R) Rest-House and the Sainik Rest-House. There are also many serais, of which the Serai Guru Ram Das, the Guru Nanak Bhavan, the Durgiana Mandir Serai and two others (situated opposite the railway station) are noteworthy.

The tourist facilities, available in the city, also include about 8 important hotels and 7 restaurants. Approximate charges per day for lodging in these hotels range from Rs 5 to 40 for a single room and Rs 12 to 55 for a double room.

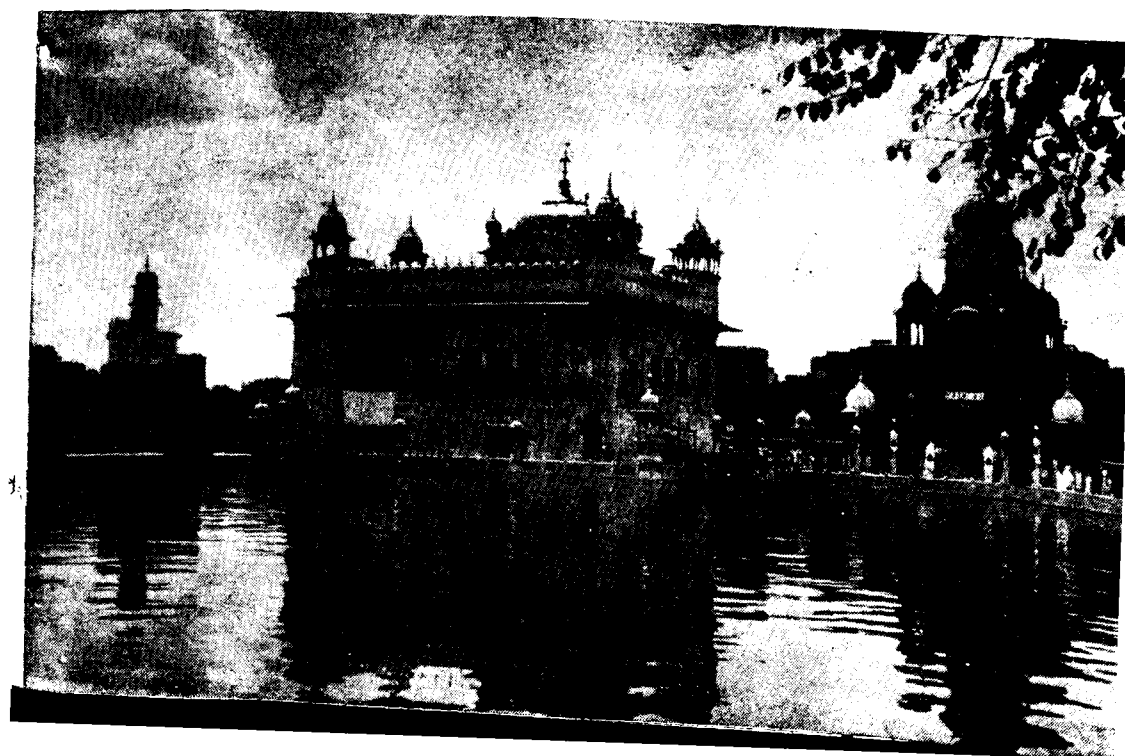
About 150 registered taxis ply in the city and these have their stands at important places. Local bus service, connecting the various parts of the city and the adjoining areas, is also available.

Under the control of the District Public Relations Officer, there is a Tourist Information Centre at Amritsar, under the charge of the Tourist Reception Officer, for the guidance of the tourists and other visitors.

Amritsar has a large number of places of historical interest, a few important ones from among them are described below :

Golden Temple.—The most important among the *gurdwaras* is the world-famous Golden Temple, originally known as Hari Mandir. It is built in the centre of a tank which is 500 feet long, 400 feet wide and 17 feet deep. The Temple and the 'Darshani Deorhi' are linked together by

12. Golden Temple, Amritsar
(Courtesy : Dr. M. S. Randhawa)

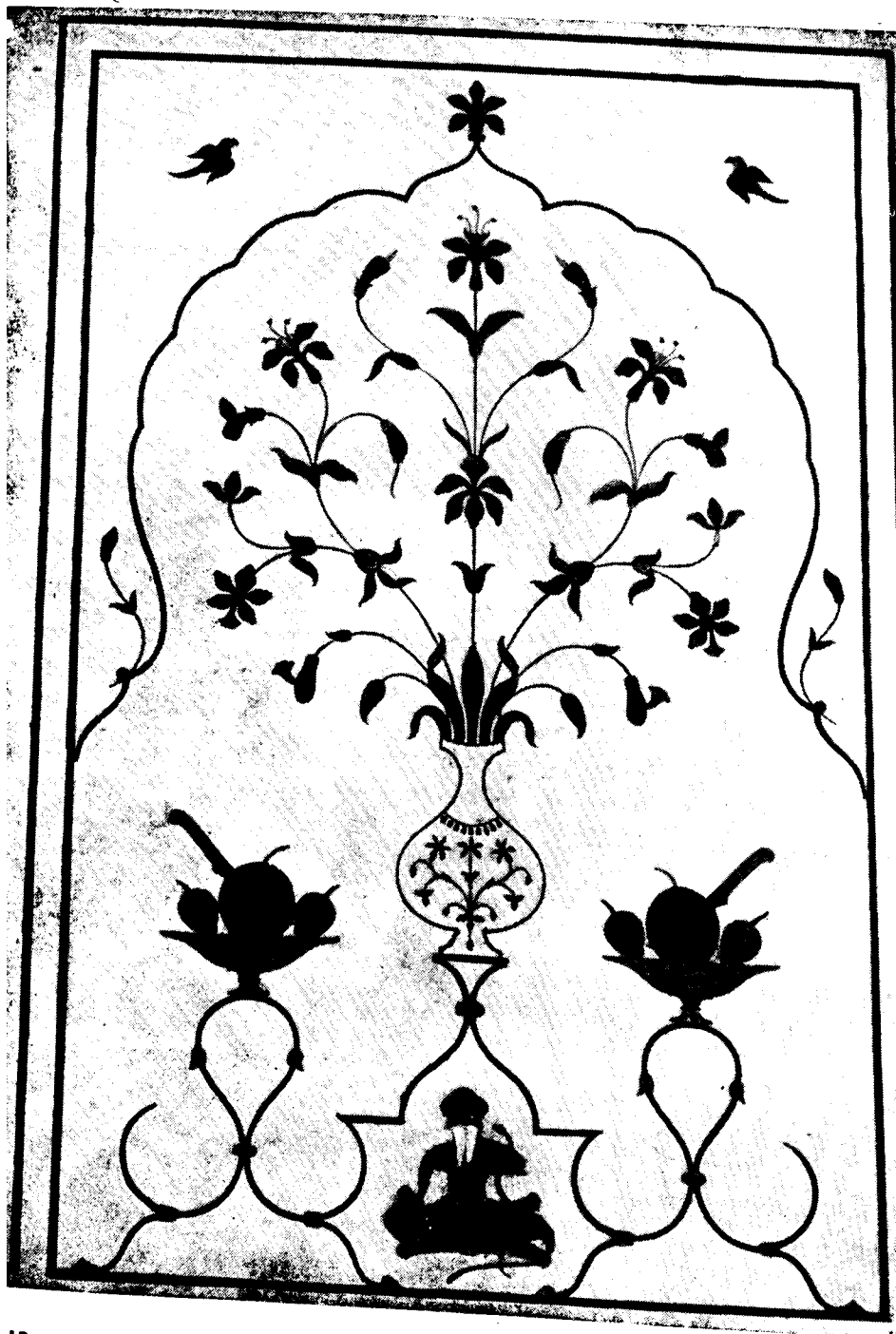


a long bridge, built with marble inlaid with multi-coloured stones. The *parikarma*, i.e. the pavement around the tank, was originally 13 feet wide. It has now been widened to 30 feet.

The Golden Temple is unique for its art and architecture. Its architectural style presents a certain character of its own, not, however, difficult to identify. Among its typical features are the *chhatris* or kiosks, which ornament the parapets, angles and every prominence or projection; the invariable use of the fluted dome generally covered with brass or copper gilt with a layer of gold leaves; the frequent introduction of the oriel or embowed windows with shallow elliptical cornices and supported on brackets; and the enrichment of all arches by means of numerous foliations.

Standing right in the middle of a large tank, the Golden Temple is a structure of considerable antiquity dating from 1764, whereas the greater part of its architecture was added to it as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century. Its effect is enhanced by the main building, rising from the centre of the large tank, the only approach being by a causeway of 200 feet (about 61 metres) across the water. The Golden Temple, commonly called "Darbar Sahib" or "Hari Mandir" (the temple of the Lord), and the tank have become the centre of a complex of buildings, which have grown up in the vicinity, and most of which repeat in their architectural details the characteristics of the central structure, as for instance, the balconied windows supported by carved brackets, low-fluted domes and ogee arches, and other structural embellishments.

On the western side of the tank is an archway, called the *Darshani Deorhi*, opening on to the causeway, a paved approach bordered by perforated marble balustrades with elegant gilt lanterns on standards at close intervals. In the centre of the tank, this causeway opens out into a platform, 65 feet (19.8 metres) square and in the middle stands the temple proper, a square building of some 50 feet (about 15 metres) wide. In its exterior elevation, the shrine is a two-storey building, over which rises a low-fluted dome in gilded metal, whereas there are kiosks also with fluted metal cupolas at each corner. One large hall forms the interior and the whole building is richly decorated with floral designs either painted or in tempera or embossed in metal and precious stones, their skilful handling being one of the crafts, in which Sikh workmen excel. The interior of the roof of the main temple is a marvellous sheet of embossed gilded plates. The same thing is repeated on the verandahs of the first and second floors of the main temple. The paintings on the walls,



13. Stone inlay work, Golden Temple, Amritsar
(Courtesy : Dr. M. S. Randhawa)

which were showing signs of decay or disfiguration, have been skilfully renovated by expert hands of a generation of artists. These wall paintings have now been covered with glass frames to prevent any decay.

Both on the inner and outer walls of the main temple, a fascinating technique of fresco painting has been employed by some renowned artists, who have put concentrated efforts, both physical and mental. Inlaying of coloured stones, known as *jaratkari* work, has a dozen odd forms. *Lehin*, a well-known item in fresco painting branch of the Sikh School, is a medium of expression of the imaginative study of the artist's own creation of idealized forms. Some such fresco paintings show a rich colourful representation and floral and zoological designs, some having mythological significance picked up from the ancient scriptures such as the destruction of demonical forces of evil by good.

The art and architecture of the Golden Temple has been admirably sustained and developed by the successive generations of its inheritors. Gian Singh, who died in 1953 at the age of 70, belonged to the distinguished line of *Naqqashes* (painters), which was started by Kehar Singh, who enjoyed royal patronage under Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Two or three generations of Kehar Singh had continued to develop this art of fresco painting. Gian Singh was a disciple of the last survivor, Jawahar Singh, and zealously worked in the Golden Temple for 32 years. He not only drew coloured sketches of fresco designs, but also drew them on pieces of marble, which were inlaid by experts from Delhi and Rajasthan. With his death, the old school of *Naqqashes* has come to an end.

Dukh Bhanjan Asthan.—To the south of the Golden Temple is situated the 'Dukh Bhanjan Asthan' (the place where all diseases and troubles vanish). It is said that during the days of Ramayana, nectar was brought from Ram Tirth and kept in the ground here. It so happened that Guru Arjan Dev was camping near the pond (which later became the Golden Temple Tank). He noticed that some black crows after a dip into the water had become white. He at once exclaimed with joy, "Here is the nectar of the Ramayana period". He asked his followers to dig the place. They instantly carried out his instructions and the nectar was taken out and put into the pond, thereby turning the whole of its water into nectar, and named the pond as 'Amrit Sar' (the tank of nectar).

Chaurasti Atari.—At the end of the Guru Bazaar, this is the place where Guru Hargobind used to sit in the afternoon and hold *darbar*. A *gurdwara* now stands at this site.

Guru-Ka-Mahal.—On the way from the Chaurasti Atari to Lohgarh is the *Gurdwara* Guru-Ka-Mahal. This was the residence of Guru Ram

Das, Guru Arjan Dev and Guru Hargobind. The marriage of Guru Hargobind with Bibi Nanki was also solemnized here.

Pipli Sahib.—Situated near Chowk Putlighar, this *gurdwara* stands in a spacious ground. It is situated at the site where Guru Arjan Dev had welcomed his disciples who had come from Kabul to help him to construct the Hari Mandir. Later, the Guru used to hold religious gatherings of his followers here.

Once, Emperor Shahjahan came for hunting to the jungle surrounding this place. Here, he heard about the great popularity of Guru Hargobind who now occupied his father's seat. He sent a written request to the Guru, expressing his wish to see him. The Guru welcomed the Emperor at this place. The latter was highly impressed with the spiritual attainments of the Guru.

Later, Guru Hargobind started his first battle against the Turks from this place. A big jagir of land is attached to the *gurdwara*. The Basant fair is celebrated here with great pomp and show.

Beri Baba Buddha.—There is a *ber*-tree on the northern pavement of the holy tank around the Hari Mandir. Under it, the great devotee Baba Buddha used to sit and supervise the work of the labour employed for excavating the tank and constructing the temple.

Akal Takht.—Literally meaning the 'Throne of the Timeless (God)', the Akal Takht stands to the west of the Hari Mandir. The foundation-stone of this three-storeyed building was laid by Guru Hargobind in 1607. The original structure was completed in 1609. It is said that the Guru used to sit here in public and hear the grievances of the people. All orders of political nature were issued from this place. The old and historic weapons, used by the Gurus and other prominent Sikh leaders, have been preserved at this place and are on display. The upper storey of this building is used as the 'Baptism Place'. There is also an underground chamber in the building of the Akal Takht. It was used by Guru Hargobind as a resting-place during summer.

The *Granth Sahib*, the Holy Book, is brought to this place from the Hari Mandir daily at about 10 p.m. and kept here with reverence. At 4 a.m. in summer and at 5 a.m. in winter, it is again taken to the Hari Mandir in a procession. The particular place where the *Granth Sahib* is kept at night is called 'Guru-ka-Kotha' (House of the Guru). Guru Ram Das and Guru Arjan Dev used to take rest at this place at night.

There is a head priest here. He is called the 'Jathedar'. The orders issued by this Jathedar from the Akal Takht are considered 'Divine Orders' by the Sikhs.



13.

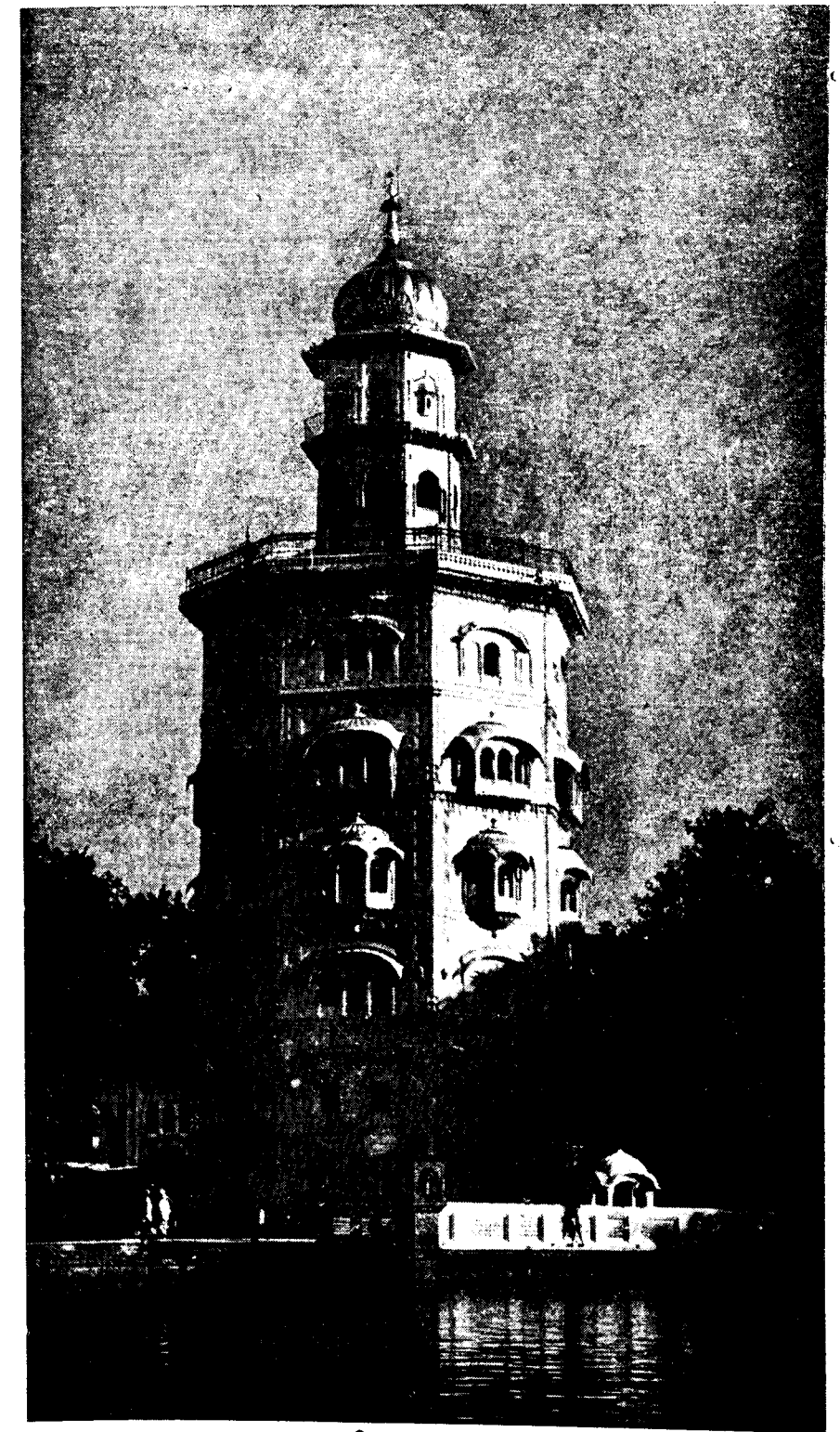
14. Akal Takht, Amritsar
(Courtesy : Dr. M. S. Randhawa)

Thara Sahib.—Quite close to the Akal Takht is situated the Thara Sahib. It is said that when Guru Tegh Bahadur came to pay homage to the Hari Mandir, the priests closed the doors and did not allow him to enter. A *thara* or platform was, therefore, erected. Standing on it, the Guru paid homage to the Hari Mandir and returned.

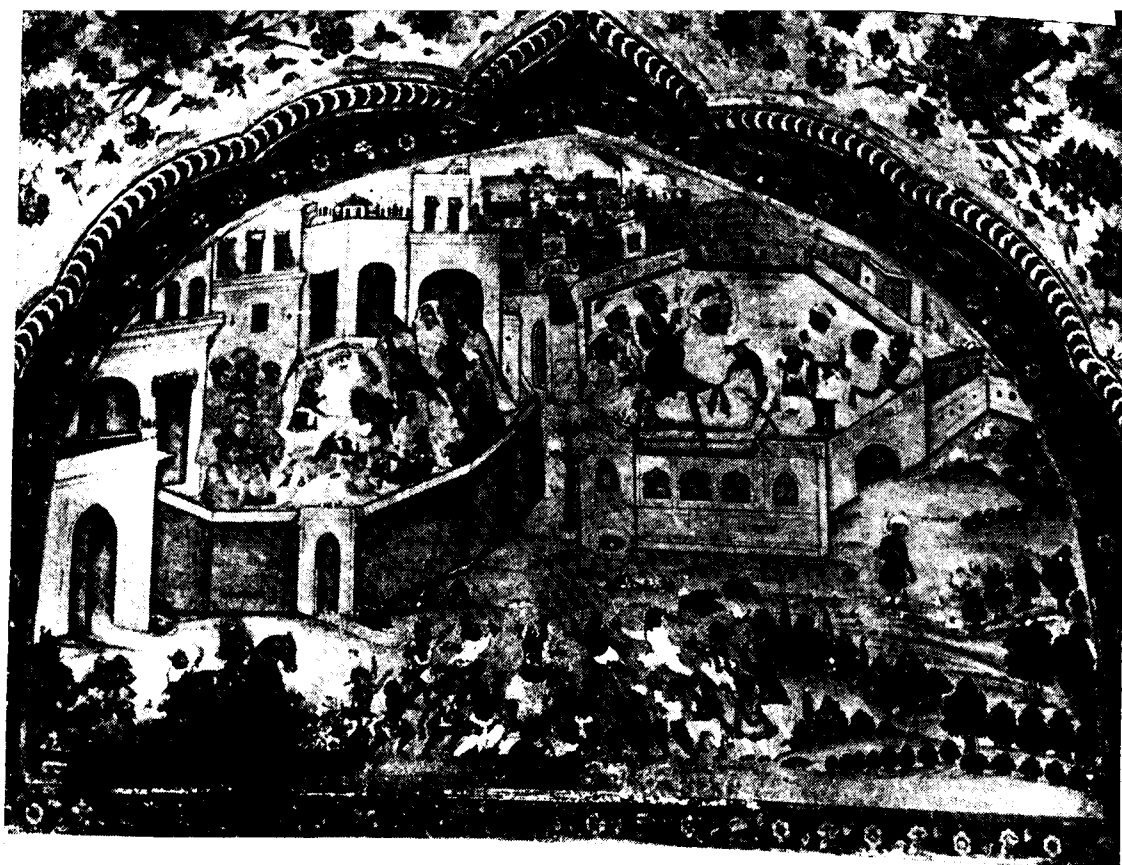
Baba Atal.—Baba Atal is a nine-storeyed octagonal building—the highest structure in the city. It is situated to the south-west of the Hari Mandir. A very interesting story is narrated about its construction. Atal Rai was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind. When he was nine years old, he used to play there with other boys. One day, one of his companions, named Mohan, the son of a widow, suddenly died. Atal Rai went to his house and knocked at the door. When enquired about the errand of his visit, Baba Atal said that the deceased boy had to give him in the game the turn which was still due. He instantly went to the dead body of his friend and, touching it with his stick, uttered, "Get up, give me my turn first and then depart from this world if you so like". The dead boy stood up. All were taken aback at this incident. When Guru Hargobind came to know of it, he got enraged and reprimanded Atal Rai, warning him not to interfere in the doings of God. Atal Rai took the reprimand to heart so much that he lay down in his house and never got up. In order to perpetuate his memory, this nine-storeyed monument was raised during the period 1778—84. The nine storeys symbolize the 9 years' age of Atal Rai. It is a common belief that the people who bring cooked food and distribute it among the poor here get their desires fulfilled. Hence it is said, "*Baba Atal, Pakki Pakai Ghal*".

Kaulsar.—Kaulsar, i.e. the 'Tank of Kaulan', is quite close to Baba Atal. Kaulan was the daughter of a Muhammadan Qazi of Lahore. She had a desire to live with Guru Hargobind. At the time of the Guru's visit to Lahore, she saw him and accompanied him to Amritsar. Here, she expressed her desire to marry him, but the Guru refused and advised her to live there as his disciple. She agreed and requested the Guru to keep her memory alive. Thereupon, the Guru built a tank and named it Kaulsar after the name of the lady. There is a small *gurdwara* by the side of the tank.

Ramsar.—This small tank, built by Guru Arjan Dev, is the place where he compiled the holy *Granth Sahib*. Gurdwara Manji Sahib, situated on the south-west of Baba Atal, stands by the side of Ramsar. There is a raised white marble platform, known as Manji Sahib, where Guru Arjan Dev dictated the *Adi-Granth*, i.e., the first original copy, to Bhai Gurdas.



15. Baba Atal, Amritsar



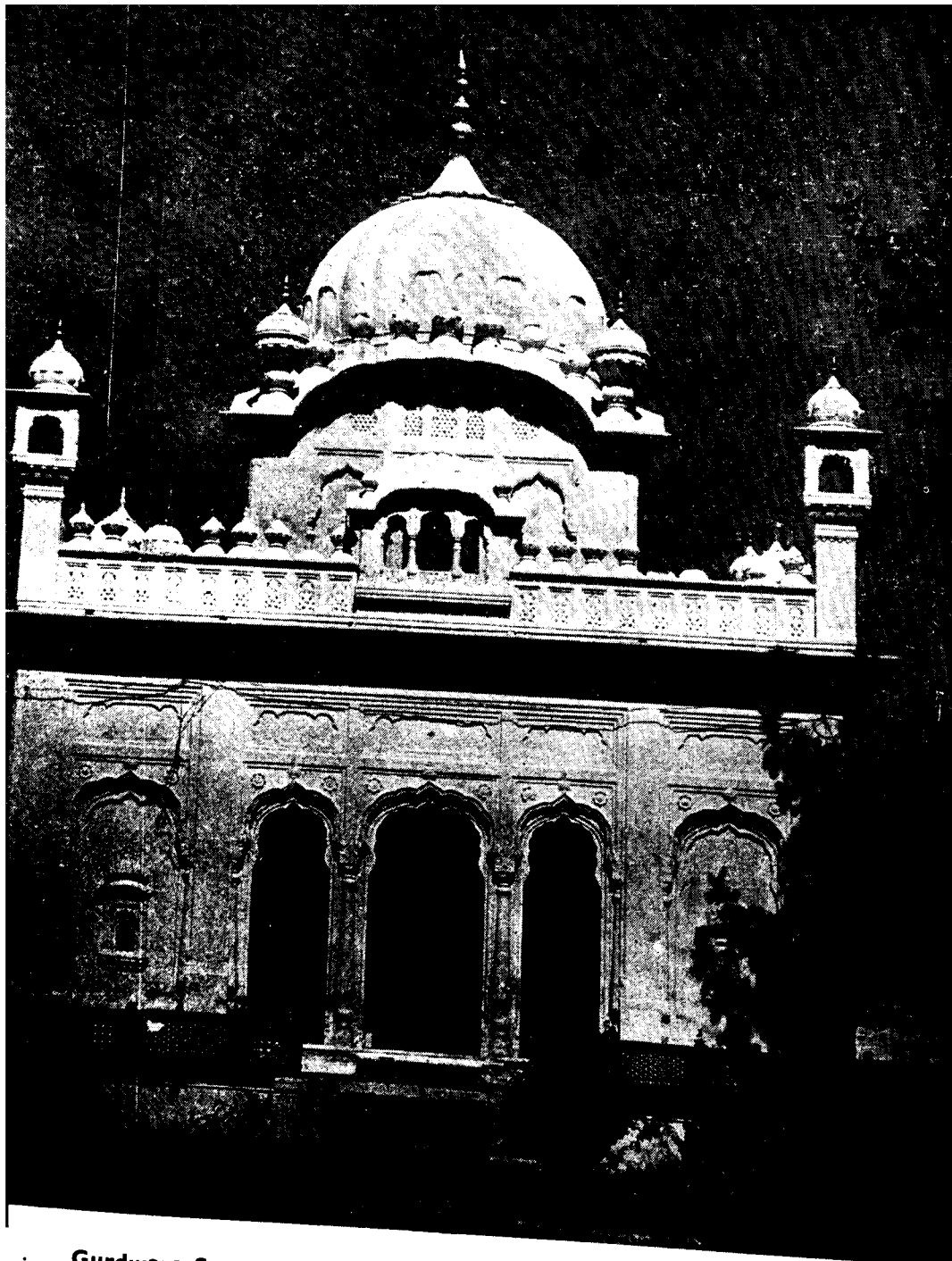
16. Mural painting depicting an anecdote of Baba Atal
(Courtesy : Dr. M. S. Randhawa)

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17. Gurdwara Ramsar, Amritsar

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Gurdwara Sara Garhi, Amritsar

Bibeksar.—In front of the Gurdwara Ramsar is this tank, the foundation of which was laid by Guru Hargobind in 1622. Nearby was also a beautiful garden where the Guru used to come for recreation. He usually took rest on the edge of the tank where now stands the Gurdwara Bibeksar. Sometimes, he held his meetings here in the evening. Here, the Guru organized his followers on military lines.

Santokhsar.—Santokhsar and the adjoining Gurdwara Tahli Sahib are situated in the heart of the city, near the Town Hall. There is a *shisham* (*tahli*)-tree under which Guru Arjan Dev used to sit. Santokhsar is one of the biggest tanks in Amritsar. Its digging was started by Guru Ram Das in 1570 and was completed by Guru Arjan Dev in 1588.

According to a tradition, once in 1584 a man, named Santokha, came to Guru Arjan Dev to seek his blessings. He was a rich man and was issueless and wanted to be blessed with a child. He offered 250 gold *mohars* to the Guru who spent the amount on the excavation of the tank and named it Santokhsar after Santokha.

According to another tradition, while the digging of the tank was in progress, a *math* was found underneath. When its door was cleared, a *yogi* Santokh Das by name, was found sitting there in the *Samadhi* pose (in meditation). When brought to consciousness, the *yogi* told Guru Arjan Dev that that was a religious centre even in the *Duapar Yug* and the name of the place was 'Amritsar'. He beseeched the Guru to bless him, as he was waiting for him to come to this place in order to revive its ancient importance. As the Guru blessed the *yogi*, he left for his heavenly abode. The tank was, therefore, named Santokhsar after him.

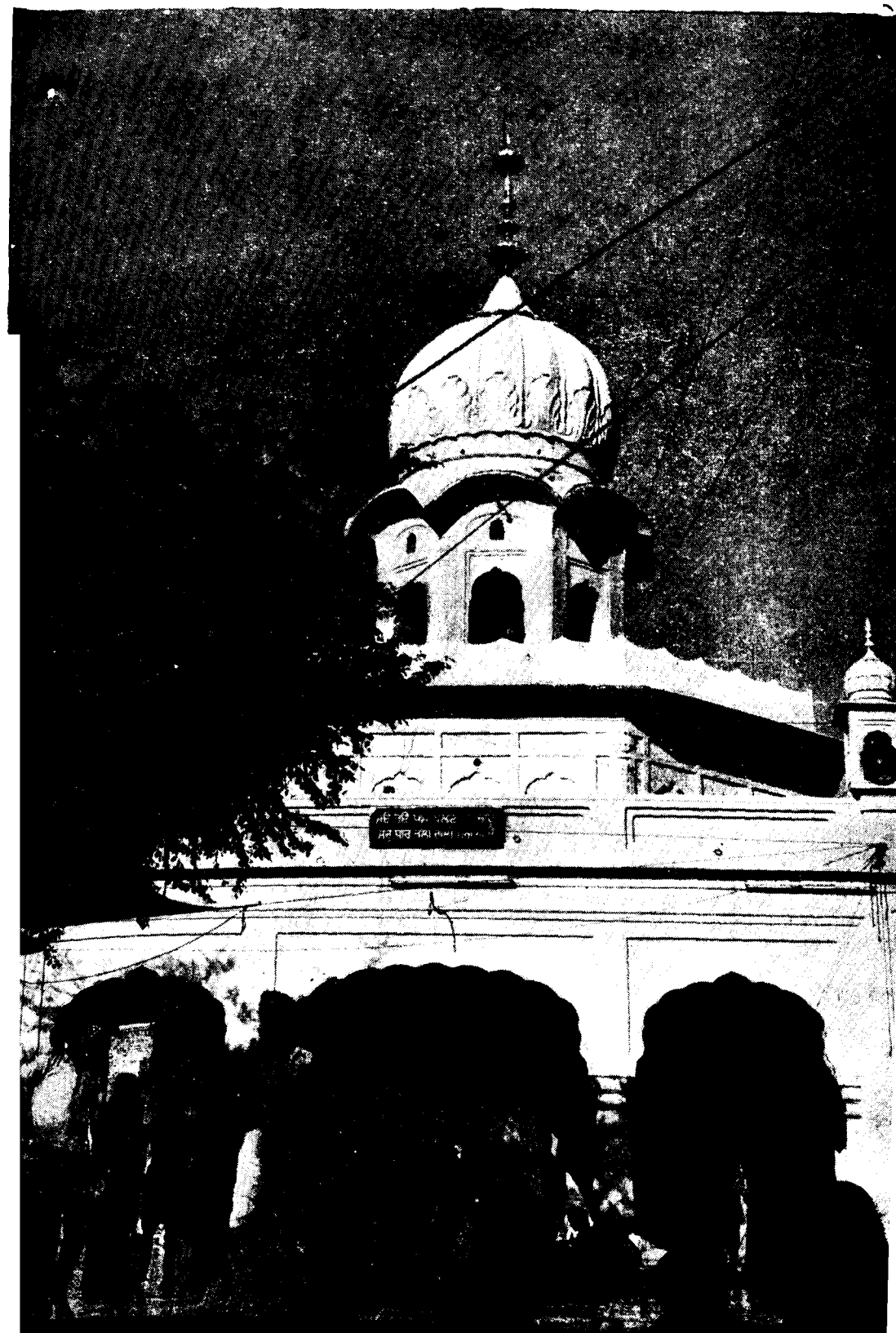
Gurdwara Sara Garhi.—Situated just opposite the Government Higher Secondary School, Town Hall, Amritsar, it was built in the memory of the non-commissioned officers and men of the 36th Sikhs whose names have been engraved on a marble stone fixed on the wall of the *gurdwara* as a perpetual record of heroism shown by these gallant soldiers. They died at their posts in the defence of the frontier Fort of Saragarhi on 12th September, 1897, fighting against an overwhelming number of Pathans.

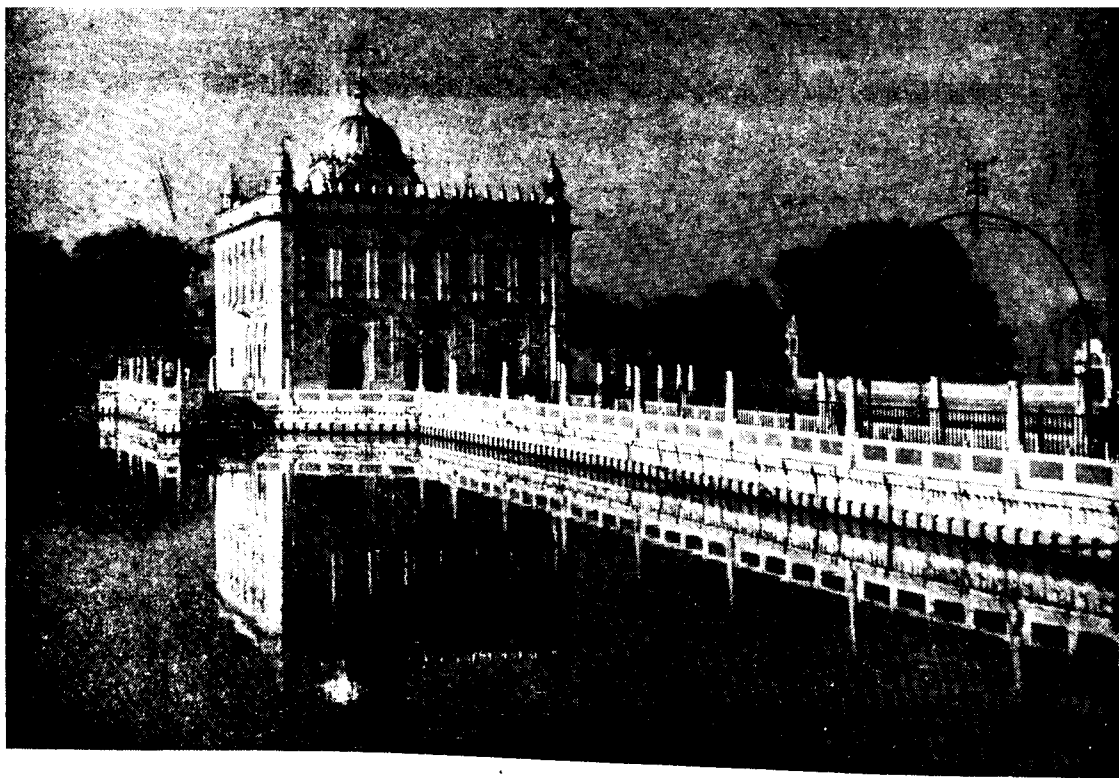
To commemorate their bravery, three *gurdwaras* were erected—one at Saragarhi, the venue of the battle, the second at Ferozpur and the third here. The memorial at Amritsar was unveiled on February 14, 1902.

Gurdwara Shahid Ganj Baba Dip Singh.—Situating near, the Chatiwind Gate, this *gurdwara* was built in the memory of Baba Dip Singh. During his invasion of 1756-57, Ahmad Shah Abdali had razed the Hari Mandir and had filled the Holy Tank with debris and all kinds of rubbish. The shrine was heavily guarded by Muslim soldiers and no Sikh was allowed to enter it. When Baba Dip Singh came to know of it, he took a solemn vow to free the Hari Mandir from the Muslims. He prayed that in case he achieved martyrdom he must fall in the precincts of the Hari Mandir. Along with a few hundred Sikhs, he started for Amritsar. The Muhammadan authorities also sent a big force to check their advance. A bloody battle ensued, but the brave Sikhs kept on advancing. They were yet about 6 km from Amritsar, when Baba Dip Singh got a severe cut with a sword in the neck and his head was nearly severed. It is said that when the head was about to fall, his companions reminded the Baba of his vow. On this, he immediately recovered himself, supported his head with one hand and, wielding his dagger with the other, pushed through the enemy. On reaching the vicinity of the Hari Mandir, he let his head drop and breathed his last. A small *gurdwara* stands at this place. The dead body was cremated outside the Chatiwind Gate where stands a big *gurdwara* known as Shahid Ganj Baba Dip Singh. The dagger used by him is still preserved in the Toshakhana of the Golden Temple.

Durgiana Mandir.—Shri Lakshami Narain Mandir, popularly known as the Durgiana Mandir, situated outside the Hathi Gate, Amritsar, is modelled on the pattern of the Golden Temple. It was founded in 1922 through the joint efforts of Nathu Mal Rangwala and Gur Sahai Mal. The temple stands in the middle of a tank, about 162 metres long and 130 metres wide. A bridge about 76 metres long and 5.6 metres wide leads to it. The idols of Lakshami and Narain stand in the central structure along with those of Rama and Sita and Radha and Krishna, installed on the left and right of it. There also exist Sant Tulsi Das Mandir, Sat Narain Mandir, Hanuman Mandir, Radhe Shayam Mandir and a Shivala.

The site of the shrine was once covered with a dense forest, away from the main residential area. A Brahmin, named Durga, lived there. He was a worshipper of Bhagwati Mata (Goddess Mother). He had built the Shitla Mandir which now stands to the north of the main gate of the Durgiana Mandir. In front of the Shitla Mandir, he had got dug a small tank which came to be known after him as Durgiana. This very tank was enlarged and the Durgiana Mandir, named after the tank, was built in the middle of it.



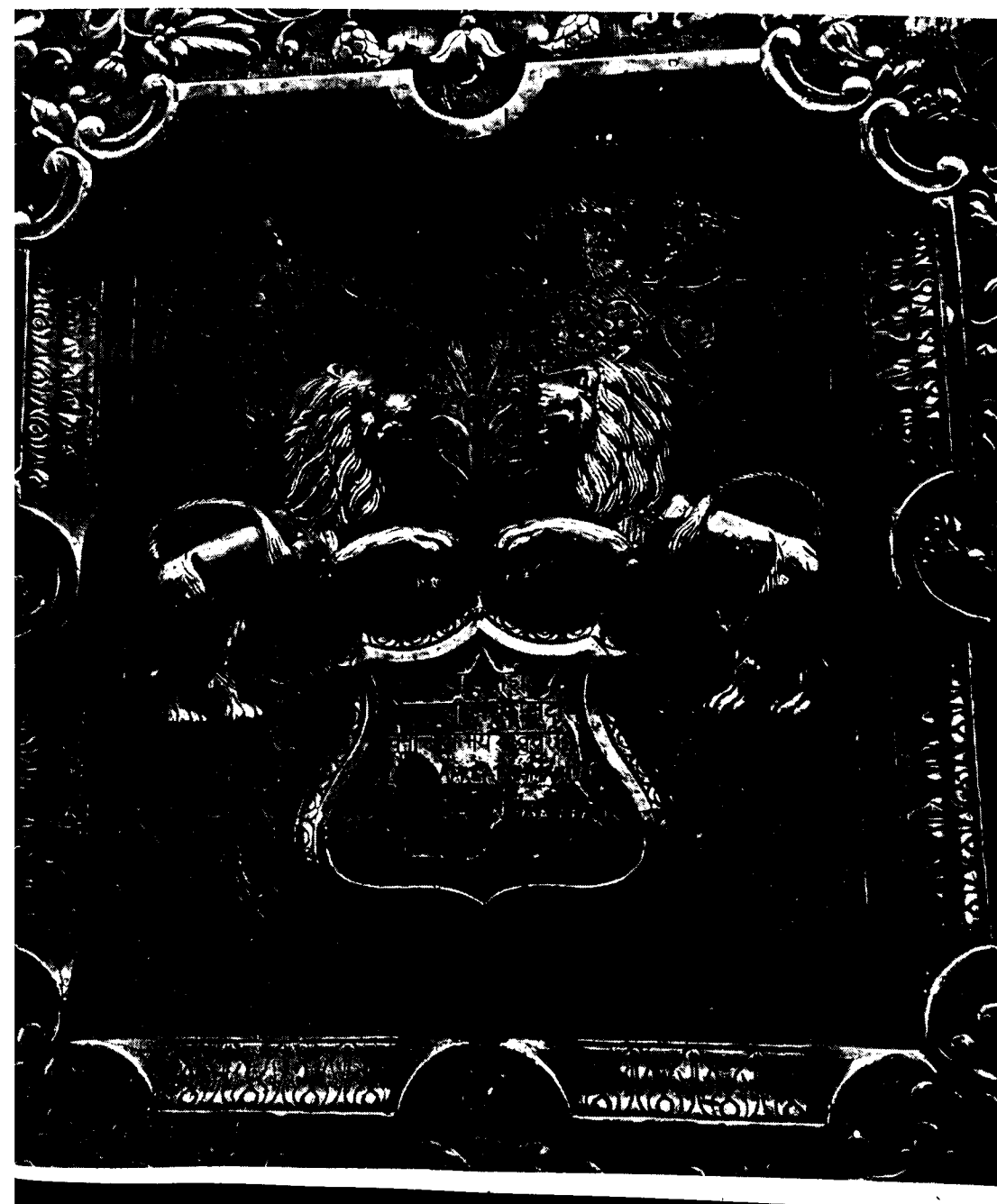


20. Durgiana Mandir, Amritsar

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21. An embossed design depicting two lions on the main gate of the Durgiana Mandir, Amritsar

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22. An embossed design showing a *darban* on duty at the main gate of the Durgiana Mandir, Amritsar

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23. Bronze tiger in front of the Shitla Mandir, Amritsar

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4. Idol of Hanuman in Shri Hanuman Mandir, Amritsar

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25. A wall-painting showing Ram and Sita in Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir, Amritsar

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26. A wall-painting showing Hanuman carrying Ram and Lakshman in Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir, Amritsar

In the premises of the temple are located the Shri Lakshami Narain Sanskrit College and Shri Lakshami Narain Ayurvedic College. In front of the main gate of the temple is a *dharmshala* (popularly known as Dhanwant Kaur Dharmshala) where free accommodation is provided for the visitors.

Shitla Mandir.—Situated towards the north of the Durgiana Mandir, this old shrine is held in great veneration by the people. The idol of the goddess Shitla is installed on a golden throne with a golden canopy over it. Parents with children infected with measles usually visit the shrine for obtaining the blessings of the goddess. Inside the temple, are also installed the idols of the goddesses Kali Mata, Lakshami and Saraswati.

During the Navratra days in March and October, women visit the temple in large numbers. A large number of people also visit the place on the Ashtami and Sankranti days every month.

Shri Hanuman Ji Mandir.—Situated by the side of the Durgiana Mandir, Amritsar, this temple is about 250 years old. It is said to have been built on the site where Hanuman was tied to a tree after he had suffered a defeat at the hands of Rama's sons Lav and Kush who held the horse of the *Ashwamedh Yajna* in defiance of Lord Ram's orders and fought successfully against the imperial army. Originally, the shrine was housed in a *kachcha* hut erected by an ascetic known as Mauni Baba.

It is believed that whosoever comes to worship here gets his wish fulfilled by god Hanuman. That is why parents, who beget children through their devotional service to Hanuman, present them once in a year at the temple dressed in gaudy clothes. The children dance and sing in praise of Hanuman. It is perhaps the only temple in India where this performance is held during the Kartik Navratra days before the Dussehra celebrations. Two idols of Hanuman, one in the standing and the other in the sitting posture, are installed here. The temple is held in great reverence by the people who visit it in large numbers on every Tuesday.

Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir.—Situated close to the Durgiana Mandir, Amritsar, this temple is said to have been built about three centuries back. It was founded by Swami Bhagwan Das whose *smadh* exists within the premises of the temple. A few old paintings still exist on the walls of the temple. Besides, there are idols of different gods and goddesses in the temple.

Jallianwala Bagh.—The massacre of the innocent people at the Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, perpetrated by General Dyer on March 13, 1919, has no parallel in history in barbarousness and cruelty. It forms an important landmark in India's struggle for freedom. The flame of liberty lighted there set the whole of the country aflame. It gave great impetus to the Satyagrah movement which ultimately won freedom for the country on August 15, 1947.

The Jallianwala Bagh area once belonged to Bhai Hamit Singh Jallawala, a vakil of Raja Jaswant Singh of Nabha, at the court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. It had ceased to be a garden long ago, and was used as a dumping ground. On all sides were the back walls of houses. Within this area were mounds of rubbish, a dilapidated *smadh* and a well. It was about 5½ feet (about 1.68 metre) below the level of the city. Situated in the heart of the city, it was surrounded by narrow and crooked lanes.

It was decided in 1923 to acquire the Jallianwala Bagh and raise a national memorial there. For this purpose, a committee was formed with Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya as President and Dr. S. C. Mukerji as Secretary. The Jallianwala Bagh was purchased from its thirty-four owners for Rs 5,65,000 in 1923. The National Memorial Trust, with Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru as Chairman, got prepared a suitable design for the memorial.

The Bagh being a depression, its level was raised by 5½ feet (1.68 metre) to that of the road outside. Four stone lanterns flank the pylon, which looks like a flame. It is composed of 300 pieces of red stone obtained from Dholpur quarries (Rajasthan), and the base and the plinth are made of pieces of granite brought from Bangalore quarries (Mysore). Fourteen stone lanterns, scattered over the site, provide subdued lighting. At the entrance to the garden is an open terrace 60×100 feet (18.29×30.48 metres) made of Kotah (Rajasthan) stone. This was the spot from which the soldiers opened fire. The terrace is flanked by two loggias 130×10 feet (39.62×3.05 metres). The columns of the loggias are studded with Ashoka *chakras*. The entire work was completed at a cost of Rs. 9,25,000. The memorial was inaugurated by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India, in 1961.

In 1974, the Bagh was landscaped by the experts of the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Rows of poplars and eucalyptus were planted along the periphery to provide a green wall for isolating

the view of the surrounding unsightly houses. There has also been set up an art-gallery, named as the Martyrs' Gallery, where a painting of the massacre, as well as the portraits of the political leaders, etc. of the time are displayed.

Asal Uttar.—It is situated at a distance of 26 km from the headquarters of the Patti Tahsil and 58 km from the headquarters of the Amritsar District. It is connected with Amritsar, Patti and Khem Karan by roads. The village has a panchayat, a Government Primary School and a Government Dispensary. Its population was 3,011 in 1961, as against 3,010 in 1951.

Sandhu Jats, the inhabitants of the village, had migrated here from another village Asal, situated near Patti. This place was also named Asal. The Sandhu Jats had also settled in another village, also named Asal, situated near Kasur in Pakistan. In order to distinguish this village from the other abovementioned two settlements of the same name, it was named Asal Uttar.

The village came in the limelight during the Indo-Pak conflict of 1965. It was at this place that a heavy onslaught of Pakistani Patton tanks, coupled with armoured cars, was repulsed and the Pakistani forces were defeated.

Atari.—Situated at a distance of 25 km from Amritsar and 49 km from Tarn Taran, Atari is included in the Tarn Taran Tahsil. It is connected by rail and road. The village has a panchayat. Its population was 3,936 in 1961, as against 4,002 in 1951. There are a Government High School for Boys, a Government High School for Girls, a Government Primary School, a Civil Dispensary, a Veterinary Dispensary, a Police Post and a Post & Telegraph Office.

The village was founded by one Gaur Singh, a Jat of the Sidhu tribe and ancestor of the Atariwala Sardars. As to the origin of the name of the place, it is said that in the nearby village of Pucca Pind, there was an *akhara* of *bairagis* (ascetics) where *Langar* was served. Once it so happened that milk did not reach the place in time. The junior *bairagi* ordered to fill the *degs* (big cooking-pots) with water and rice. Meanwhile, milk was supplied, but it was not poured into the *degs*. Through the spiritual powers of the junior *bairagi*, the contents in the *degs* were formed into *khir*. On enquiry by some miscreant about the milk lying unused, the junior *bairagi* told that milk had been collected in excess of the requirements and that it would be used later on. The miscreant reported the matter to the senior *bairagi* who asked the junior one to better occupy the *gaddi*. The latter regretted the incident and left the place.

The junior *bairagi* made a small *katra* (a sort of fortress) near Atari and started meditation there. Sardar Nihal Singh, father of Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala, used to go there for playing chess with the junior *bairagi*. Once it so happened that a Muslim trader suffering from leprosy came to the *bairagi* and prayed to him to cure him of his disease. The *bairagi*, recollecting the past incident which had led to his exit from his previous abode, replied that he had no such powers. He, however, suggested to the trader to have faith in God and that, after taking bath, he should paste his body with the ash given by him from the *dhuni* (fire-pit). Miraculously enough, the trader got cured and, as a *nazr* (offering), he built a small beautiful hut for the *bairagi* and implored him to shift there. The *bairagi* visited the hut with Sardar Nihal Singh and instantaneously remarked that that was an *atari* fit for a Sardar like him and not for an ascetic (*bairagi*). Thereafter, the place came to be known as Atari.

The *dera* of the *bairagi*, popularly called the *Akhara*, has about 300 *bighas* of land attached to it. The *gaddi* is not hereditary and the *mahant* (saint in charge of the place) is appointed by the District Akhara Trust on a reasonable salary.

The historical fort of Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala is in ruins. Only a wall of the fort exists. The *haveli* of Sham Singh is in a dilapidated condition, but it is still occupied by his descendants.

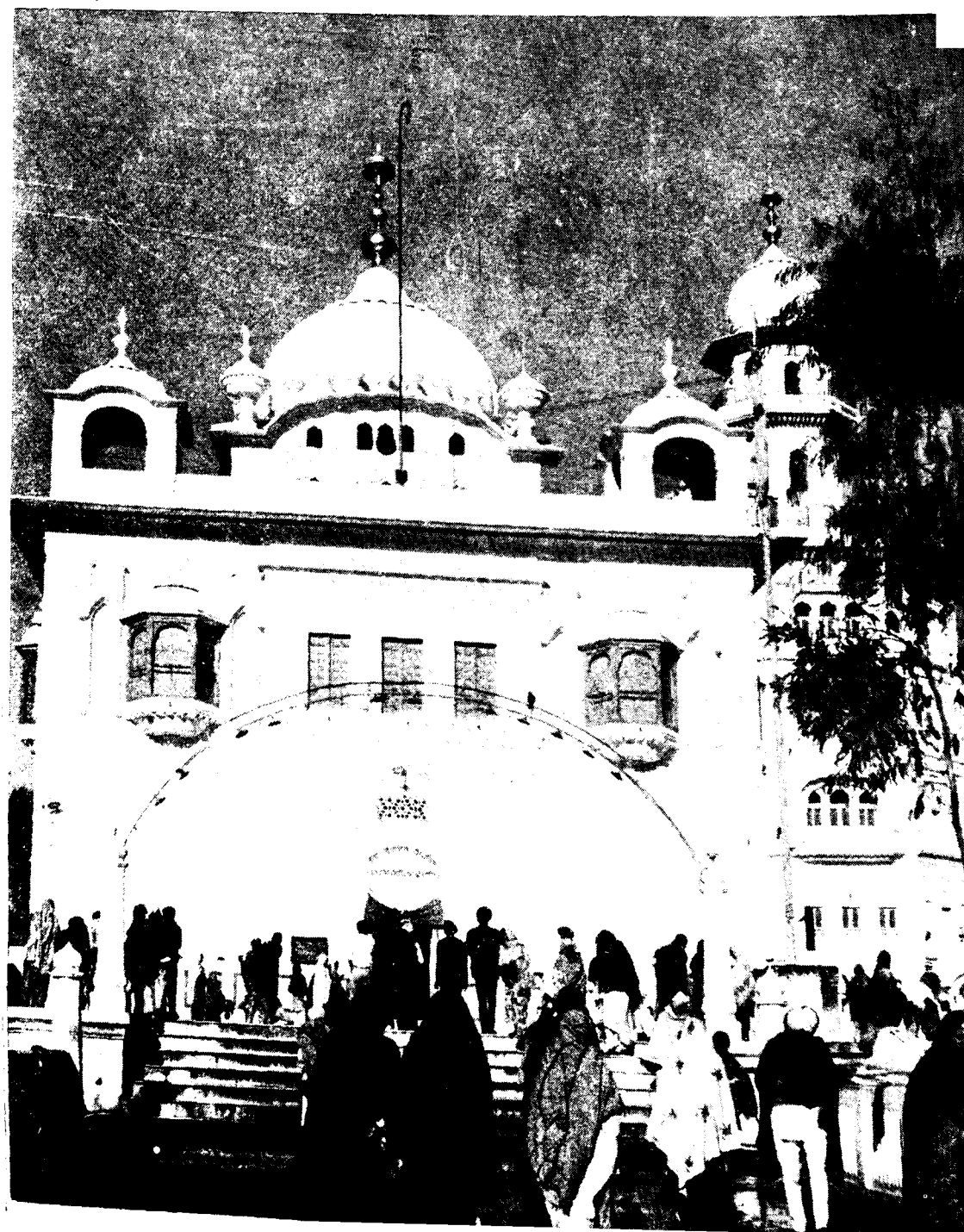
Outside the town, there are *smadhs* (tombs) of Sardar Nihal Singh, Sham Singh and Kehar Singh and Ran Kishan Kaur (wife of Sardar Kehar Singh). Nearby, there is a big tank which has now fallen into disuse. A *mela* is held every year on 12th February — the martyrdom day of Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala.

Near the railway station, a *gurdwara* was built by Sardarni Niaz Kaur some four decades back, where necessary facilities for accommodating the travellers exist.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ km from the railway station, there is a village called Pucca Pind. There is a *gurdwara* in the memory of Guru Hargobind who is said to have stayed there while on his way from Lahore to Amritsar. On his arrival at the village, the Guru asked for water. Leaving the nearby well, the ladies of the village ran to a distant well to fetch water. On the Guru's asking, it was stated that the water of the nearby well was brackish and that of the other was sweet. The Guru, on the contrary, said that the water of the nearby well was sweet, whereas that of the other was brackish. The brackish water is said to have, thus, miraculously turned sweet. The ladies of the village served

27. Gurdwara, Baba Bakala

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the Guru well. He is said to have blessed them, saying "*Maiyan rab rajaiyan*". It is held that the girls of this village, wherever married, generally remain well off.

Baba Bakala.—It lies on the Jullundur-Batala Road; 40 km from Amritsar. There are a village panchayat, Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa High Schools for boys and girls separately, a Primary Health Centre, a Civil Dispensary a Veterinary Hospital and a Sub-Post & Telegraph Office. Its population was 3,511 in 1961, as against 3,164 in 1951.

While the child saint Guru Harkishan was on death-bed at Delhi in 1664 and his disciples expressed great anxiety, he said "Baba Bakala"; thereby hinting that his successor, the Ninth Guru, lived at the village of Bakala.

In those days, the office of the Guru, being a source of great income and prestige, was coveted by many. The result was that when the Sikhs came to Bakala to find out their Guru, they, to their surprise, found that a large number of the near relatives of the previous Gurus, mostly Sodhi Khatri, had proclaimed themselves the Guru and had begun to accept the offerings of the Sikhs. It became difficult for the Sikhs to find out who the real Guru was. The situation was, however, saved by a Sikh named Makhan Shah. He was a devotee of Guru Nanak Dev and had brought 500 gold *mohars* for the Guru because sometime back he had vowed to make this offering to the Guru while escaping a shipwreck. Makhan Shah then hit upon a plan to find out the real Guru. Instead of offering 500 gold *mohars*, he placed two *mohars* before every impostor. But, when he placed two *mohars* before Tegh Bahadur, the latter asked him to offer the remaining 498 also, as the Sikh, at the time of shipwreck, had promised 500. Makhan Shah at once fell at his feet and then proclaimed at the top of his voice "*Guru ladho re, Guru ladho re*", i.e., the Master is found, the Master is found. Thereupon, the Sikhs recognized Guru Tegh Bahadur as their head¹.

Bhagwanpura.—Situated on the Amritsar-Khem Karan Road, it is 24 km from Patti, the tahsil headquarters, and 45 km from Amritsar. The village has a panchayat, a Primary School and a Post-Office. Its population was 1,281 in 1961, as against 1,184 in 1951.

The *takiya* (rendezvous) of a Muslim saint, Shah Chup, is situated outside the village where a *mela* is held on the 1st of Bhadra (August-September).

Chheharta.—The town is about 7 km from Amritsar (the tahsil and district headquarters) on the Amritsar-Atari branch line. It is

¹K. S. Narang and H. R. Gupta, *History of the Punjab (1526—1857)*, pp. 141-42.

situated on the G.T. Road, Chheharta is a class II municipality. It has two high schools (one for boys and the other for girls), a Government Polytechnic Institute, a Municipal Hospital, a Veterinary Hospital, a Police-Post, a Post & Telegraph Office, a Telephone Exchange and a Municipal Library. Its population was 13,760 in 1961, as against 10,367 in 1951.

The town derives its name from a well, fitted with six Persian wheels, in the historic *gurdwara* located here. The *gurdwara* was constructed by Guru Arjan Dev to commemorate the birth of his son, Hargobind. It is regarded very auspicious to take bath with the water of this well. The water from the well is poured into an adjoining tank. Issueless women take bath in this water, seeking blessings to beget a son. A big fair, attended by over 75,000 persons, is held here annually on the Basant Panchami day in January/February.

About 2½ km from Chheharta is Wadali Guru, where Guru Hargobind was born. A fair is also held there annually on the Basant Panchami day.

Chheharta is an industrial centre, with a good number of registered factories and mills and smaller concerns, producing a variety of goods.

Chima.—It is situated 35 km to the south-west of the tahsil headquarters, Patti, and 56 km south of the district headquarters, Amritsar. The village has a primary school and a panchayat. Its population was 991 in 1961, as against 890 in 1951.

The village came into prominence during the Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965. At this place, Havildar Abdul Hamid smashed four Pakistani Patton tanks and checked their advance. The valiant fighter also died fighting there on 11th September, 1965. He was posthumously awarded Parm Vir Chakra by the President of India. His grave is situated in a corner of the village. Every year, the people, all high and low, visit the grave on 11th September to pay their homage to the martyr.

Chohla.—Situated in Tahsil Tarn Taran, Chohla is connected by road with Sirhali Kalan which is situated on the Amritsar-Harike Road. It is 5 km from Sirhali Kalan and 48 km from Amritsar. There are a Government Higher Secondary School, a Government Girls' High School, a Government Primary School (Boys), a Veterinary Dispensary and a Sub-Post Office. The village has a panchayat. Its population was 4,675 in 1961, as against 4,164 in 1951.

There is a *gurdwara* in the memory of Guru Arjan Dev who, on his way from Sirhali Kalan, stayed here for 2 years, 6 months and 10

days. The place was previously known as Bhaini. The residents served the Guru well. A lady belonging to Bhaini, said to be a *lambardarni*, brought a *chola* (long robe) and *churi* (bread mashed with ghee and sugar) for the Guru, who accepted the offerings and was immensely pleased. He named the village Chohla and said '*Chohla guru ka ohla*'. '*Bhaini dhaini*'. A large number of people visit the place on every Amavas and Sankrant. A fair is held there on the Baisakhi day.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh assigned the revenue of the entire village to the *gurdwara*. The revenue amounted to Rs 5,000, but, with the exemption of land revenue on small holdings, it has come down to Rs. 1,000. About 350 acres of land is attached to the *gurdwara*.

Chung (Baba Rodey Shah).—It is situated on the Amritsar-Khem Karan Road at a distance of 24 km from the tahsil headquarters at Patti, and 45 km from Amritsar. The village has a panchayat and a primary school. Its population was 927 in 1961, as against 937 in 1951.

The village was originally inhabited by Mirza-Shujayat Alah-Beg who partly inherited it from his in-laws and partly purchased it. It was named Fatehpur-Aman-Allah. The Warraich Jats were at the time *adana maliks* of the land. The village was deserted by the time the Mughal authority ended in the area. During the ascendancy of Kanwar Nau Nehal Singh, some Warraich Jats again shifted here from different villages. They named the village Chung after their *all* (the popular name by which a caste is known). Since then, the village has never been deserted.

At a distance of 2 km from the village, there is the Takiya Rodey Shah where a *mela* is held on 20th of Asadha.

Dera Baba Jaimal Singh.—It is situated in Tahsil Amritsar on the western bank of the River Beas. The nearest railway station is Beas, about 6 km from the Dera (abode). The place is connected with the railway station and the Grand Trunk Road by a pucca approach road. The Dera was founded in 1891 by Baba Jaimal Singh, a disciple of Swami Maharaj of Agra. His successor, the second Guru, was Baba Sawan Singh, who breathed his last in 1948. The third Guru was Sardar Bahadur Jagat Singh who was succeeded in 1951 by the present Guru, Baba Charan Singh—grandson of Baba Sawan Singh.

In the beginning, the Dera was a waste land, but gradually it was transformed into a township. This spiritual centre became widely

known during the period of Baba Sawan Singh who remained Guru for more than 4 decades. The *Dera* has its own labour, architect, engineer, electrician, veterinary doctor and medical officer. Most of the members of the staff do not draw any salary.

The present Guru severed his connection with the *Dera* property amounting to lakhs of rupees and formed it into a trust, managed by an elected committee. Free *langar* is served at the *Dera*. There is a special ultramodern rest-house, with all amenities for foreigners.

A big *diwan* (congregation) is held four times in a year in February, June, September and December. The *diwan* is attended by a large number of people. The Guru holds discourses and gives *Nam* (initiation) to the deserving devotees. A very big *langar* hall has been built on the bank of the river where thousands of persons can sit at a time to have meals. Special canteens of the cafeteria type, on no-profit-no-loss basis, are also opened during the congregation days to provide meals for those desirous of having it on payment.

The present *Sat Sang Ghar* at the *Dera*, where discourses are held, was built in 1934.

Mitti ki sewa and *kahi ki sewa* are the most well-known features there. The disciples, in utter disregard of their social status, most eagerly volunteer themselves for dumping *mitti* (earth) on the low land, thus reclaiming the land for the use of the *Dera*. The other important service rendered by the people is to cut from the river bank *kahi* (reeds) which are used for cooking meals in the *langar* of the *Dera* all the year round.

The Guru preaches the Radhasoami cult. To a Radhasoami, 'Radha' does not mean the beloved of Lord Krishna. To him, it means the soul and 'Soami' means God. It is held that the soul has a direct intimate connection with God—its Lord. The Radhasoami cult is no separate religion. A follower of any religion, caste and creed can become a Radhasoami and have *Nam* (initiation) at the discretion of the Guru. It is, therefore, no wonder that persons belonging to different faiths, castes and creeds are seen as devotees during the congregations.

The Guru tours throughout the country and even goes abroad to propagate the cult.

Gharyala.—It is 12 km from Patti (the Tahsil headquarters) and 60 km from Amritsar by road, and 14 km and 58 km respectively by rail. It has a panchayat, a Government High School, a Primary Health Centre and a Police-Post. Its population was 5,434 in 1961 as against 4,736 in 1951.

As to the origin of the village, it is said that twelve families or clans migrated from Ghazni and settled at this place which was named even then as Gharyala. There is a *takiya*, named Baba Tali Sur Singh, where a *mela* is held in the memory of the saint.

Ghukewali (Gurdwara Guru-Ka-Bagh).—The village of Ghukewali in the Ajnala Tahsil is situated 12 km. to the east of Ajnala on the Harse Chhina-Fatehgarh Road. There are a Khalsa High School (co-educational) and a serai. The population of the village was 794 in 1961, as against 808 in 1951.

There is a *gurdwara* in Ghukewali, known as Gurdwara Guru-Ka-Bagh, built in the memory of Guru Arjan Dev. It is said that Hari Sen, the Raja of Suket, was told by a Pandit that in the next birth he would be born in a *chandal* family. In order to get over this curse, the Raja, on the advice of a Sikh of Suket, approached Guru Arjan Dev. The Guru observed, "*Likhya lekh na mite he sakhi jo likhya Kartar*", i.e. "what is willed by God cannot be undone". On this, the Raja got disgusted and wanted to return, but, on the Guru's persuasion, he stayed on. The Raja fell asleep and in his dream experienced a complete course of life from birth to death as a *chandal*. On awakening, he thought it was just a reflection of his mind. The Guru kept him occupied and one day took him out for a hunt. The Guru suggested that whoever noticed the hunt would chase it. Accordingly, the Raja chased the hunt as it passed by him. On return to Guru-Ka-Bagh, he was caught by *chandals* one of whom, having the Raja's appearance, had died a day before. The Guru, however, asked the *chandals* to look for their dead person in the grave, where they found the buried corpse. The Guru then told the Raja that his next life as a *chandal* had been completed in his dream.

Guru Tegh Bahadur is also said to have stayed at Gurdwara Guru-Ka-Bagh for 9 months and 9 days and raised an orchard round the place. Another *gurdwara* was built nearby in his memory.

A *mela* is held here on the Amavas day. The *mela* is largely attended, particularly on the Amavas of Chaitra and Bhadra.

Guru-Ka-Bagh is also well known for the Guru-Ka-Bagh Morcha held at the place by the Akalis in 1921 during the Gurdwara-Reform Movement.

Govindwal.—Situated at a distance of 24 km from Tarn Taran, the Tahsil headquarters, and 48 km from Amritsar, Govindwal is connected with the former place by road. Its population was 1,179 in 1961,

as compared with 1,053 in 1951. One Gonda (Govinda) Marwaha originally lived there. The village was named Govindwal after him.

Guru Angad Dev is said to have started the building of Govindwal in 1546 or thereabout and to have entrusted its construction to Amar Das. In 1552, when the Guru realized that his end was drawing near, he installed Amar Das as his successor and asked him to shift to Govindwal from where he was to guide and direct the activities of the sect.

Govindwal was quite important commercially and otherwise during the Mughal period, as it was situated on the then highway from Atari to Govindwal. At Govindwal, there was a very well-known ferry on the River Beas and a brisk trade was carried on. With the opening of railway lines from Amritsar to Kasur (now in Pakistan) and from Amritsar to Lahore, the town lost its importance as a trading-centre and, with the lapse of time, became a deserted place. Lofty buildings in a dilapidated and practically deserted condition are seen even today.

There is a *gurdwara* built by Guru Amar Das. The institution of *langar*, originally started by him, owes its origin to this *gurdwara*. The Guru would not allow any disciple to see him until he had taken food from the *langar*. There is a *baoli* (well with a flight of stairs), with 84 steps, within the *gurdwara*. It is said that a person by reciting the *Japji* at each step attains salvation. A considerable portion of the *Adi-Granth*—the composition of Guru Amar Das—was composed at Govindwal.

There are some other smaller *gurdwaras* also. One of these is named after the son of the Third Guru, Baba Mohan. The *gurdwara* is known as Baba Mohanji da Gurdwara. Here, the Baba used to stay and meditate on God.

Another important place is known as the Chaubara Sahib—the residence of Guru Amar Das. The building has been renovated. It has a well where the Guru used to take bath. This place is regarded as very holy. The hair of the Guru (collected after each combing) and his *chola* preserved here. There is a room where the three sons of Guru Ram Das, including Guru Arjan Dev, were born. There is also a room in the Chaubara Sahib where Guru Amar Das 'arrested' the relapsing fever (*teya tap*) and said that no child in the village would die during his lifetime. A *gurdwara* has been built at the place where Guru Amar Das used to take bath, and where he conferred the guruship on his son-in-law, Ram Das. That the guruship had been conferred upon Ram Das at the Chaubara Sahib is recorded on an embossed gold-plated picture there.



28. Guru Amar Das
(Courtesy : Dr. M. S. Randhawa) 594

29. Killi Sahib (peg in Chaubara Sahib at Govindwal) which
Guru Amar Das used to hold while worshipping in old age
(Courtesy : Dr. M. S. Randhawa) 594





30. An embossed gold-plated picture in Chaubara Sahib (residence of Guru Amar Das) at Govindwal depicting Guru Amar Das conferring the guruship on Guru Ram Das (Courtesy : Dr. M. S. Randhawa) 594



31. Gurdwara Baoli Sahib, Govindwal (Courtesy : Dr. M. S. Randhawa)

A fair is held at Govindwal in Bhadra (Bhadon) when the place presents a jubilant look for about a week.

Gurdwara Bir Sahib Baba Buddha.—Situated in the Tarn Taran Tahsil, Bir Sahib is 16 km from Tarn Taran and 24 km from Amritsar (via Chheharta) by road. There are the Baba Buddha High School and the Baba Buddha Khalsa College.

There is a *gurdwara* built in the memory of Baba Buddha who is said to have resided at this place. He had many cows and used to send butter and milk for the Guru's *langar* at Amritsar. Baba Buddha is said to have served the first six Gurus. For a long time, the Fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, had no son. It is said that Mata Ganga came from Amritsar to Bir Sahib on foot, with loaves, buttermilk and onions on her head. Baba Buddha accepted the offerings and, through his blessings, Mata Ganga gave birth to a son (Hargobind). In commemoration of the birth of Guru Hargobind, a fair is held there on 21st Asvin.

About 150 acres of land is attached to the Gurdwara Bir Sahib Baba Buddha.

Gurdwara Jhar Sahib.—Situated in the Patti Tahsil, the Gurdwara Jhar Sahib is 2 km from Gajal which is 8 km from Khem Karan. The *gurdwara* is built in the memory of Guru Hargobind, who, while coming from Kasur, stayed here and hunted a tiger which had become a menace to the people of the area. Fifty acres of land is attached to the *gurdwara*. A *mela* is held here on 31st Asadha.

Adjacent to this *gurdwara* is the *smadh* (tomb) of Baba Harnam Singh, a disciple of Bhai Vir Singh. At a small distance towards the *rohi* is another *gurdwara* at Muthianwala built in the memory of Bhai Vir Singh. A *mela* is also held there on 27th Baisakh.

Gurdwara Sanh Sahib.—Situated in the Tarn Taran Tahsil, this *gurdwara* is 14 km from Amritsar. It was built in the memory of Guru Amar Das. It is said that when the sons of Guru Angad Dev began to harass Guru Amar Das, he returned to his native village of Basarke. At a distance of about two kilometres from this place is situated the Gurdwara Sanh Sahib. The Guru started meditation there in seclusion and his whereabouts were not known to the disciples. Baba Buddha traced the Guru with the help of his mare. A notice had been put up outside the Guru's room to the effect that a curse would befall the intruders. Therefore, Baba Buddha entered the room through the back wall by breaking it. This annoyed the Guru who told Baba Buddha that he had disobeyed the injunction. The latter replied that the injunction

was for entry from the front door and not through the back wall. It is held that whosoever enters the *gurdwara* through the hole in the back wall attains salvation. A fair is held at Sanh Sahib in Bhadra, coinciding with dates of the fair at Govindwal.

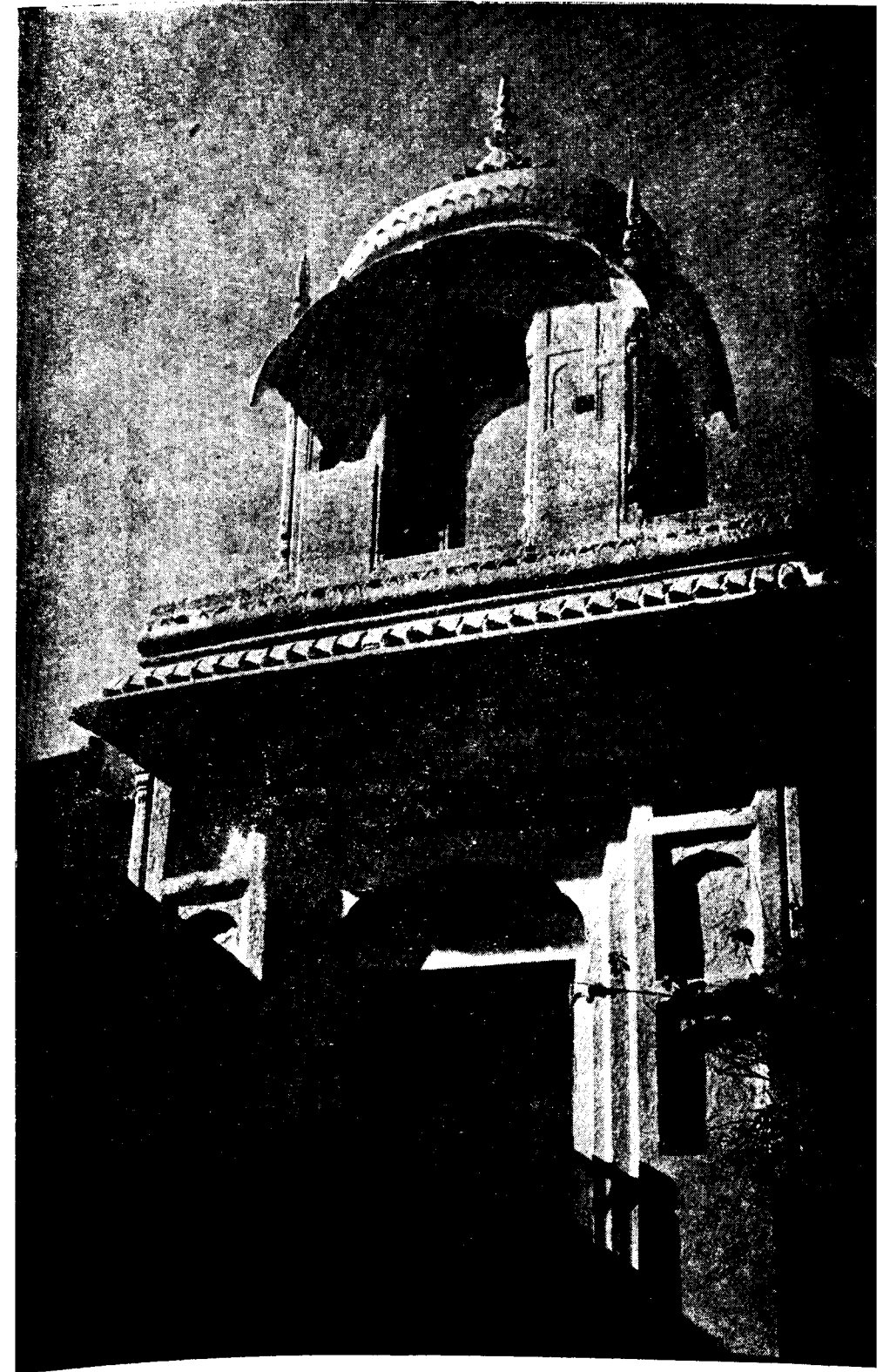
Jalalabad.—Situated on a *theh* (ruins) on the bank of the River Beas, at a distance of 12.5 km from Rayya and 47.5 km from Amritsar, the tahsil and district headquarters, Jalalabad is quite an old village. It is said to have been founded by Emperor Jalal-ud-Din Akbar. Its population in 1961 was 2,213, as against 2,373 in 1951.

There are a Diwan-i-Khas and a Diwan Khana with cellars, which are said to have been built by Sheikh Shabab Din of Kapurthala. Other old buildings have disappeared. There are some wells of old times. Outside the village, there is an old pucca drain, the traces of which can be found up to 2 km.

Jandiala Guru.—Situated on the G. T. Road towards Jullundur, Jandiala Guru is 17 km from Amritsar, the tahsil and district headquarters, both by rail and road. It is a railway station on the Jullundur-Amritsar main railway line. Jandiala Guru is a class III municipality. It has two Government Higher Secondary Schools, one each for boys and girls. There are a Civil Hospital, a Primary Health Centre, a Canal Rest-House a Zila Parishad Rest-House, a Municipal Library, a Police-Station, a Post & Telegraph Office, and a Telephone Exchange. Its population was 11,915 in 1961, as against 12,704 in 1951.

The town was founded by a colony of Jats, and it was named after Jand, the son of the founder. Previously, it was surrounded by a mud wall and had seven gates. In 1767, Jandiala Guru was invaded by Charat Singh, the grandfather of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, to punish the Niranjania Guru, who had made submission and taken service with Ahmad Shah Abdali, and, hence, had incurred the displeasure of the people and excited their sentiments for seeking vengeance upon him.

There is a *gurdwara* in the memory of Baba Handal. Another *gurdwara* has been raised at the place where Baba Handal was born. Baba Handal belonged to a Jat family. His father's name was Ghazi and mother's name was Mai Sukhi. Ghazi was a disciple of Sakhi Sarvar and was a *majawar* at Jandiala Guru. During his childhood, Handal, while grazing cattle in the environs of Jandiala Guru, used to get spiritual lessons from a Nath Jogi living in a temple situated near the present *gurdwara* of Baba Handal. On the sudden disappearance of the Nath



32. Gurdwara at the Birth-place of Baba Handal, Jandiala Guru

Jogi from that place one day, Handal felt extremely distressed. He went to Amritsar and started meditation on the edge of the tank of the Golden Temple. His parents beseeched Guru Arjan Dev to persuade Handal to return home. On the Guru's intervention, the Baba said that the Guru generally exhorted the people to meditate, whereas in his case he was pressing him to return home. However, on the Guru's insistence, Handal promised to return home after 12 years. All through this period, Handal had remained engaged in meditation and at the end met his preceptor, the Nath Jogi.

On his return to Jandiala Guru, Baba Handal demolished the grave of the Pir, whose *majawar* his father was. The Muslim residents caught hold of the Baba and started beating him. It so happened that the houses of the violent mob mysteriously caught fire, and they rushed back to extinguish it. The more they endeavoured to extinguish the fire, the more it flared up. Meanwhile, they got intuition and went to Baba Handal and apologized to him.

Thereafter, Handal propagated his teachings. He founded the Niranjania Sect. It stands for the oneness of God. Niranjaniyas revere the Ten Gurus, besides Baba Handal. The Niranjaniyas believe in a living *guru*. The present *guru* from the lineage of Baba Handal is Satguru Amar Das. They regard the *Adi-Granth* as a holy book. They have composed their own *ardas* in the memory of Baba Handal. While paying homage to the *Adi-Granth*, they bow their heads and keep the hands folded behind their backs. They hold that the hands are responsible for all sins, and feet share the vices, whereas the head is the only pure part of the body.

A *gurdwara* and a tank have been built at *Nathan da Dera*, where Handal had received spiritual lessons from the Nath Jogi. An *Udasi* saint manages the *gurdwara*. A *mela* is held on 28-29 Baisakh and on 1st Magh. *Langar* is served here.

The old-time utensil-making industry of Jandiala Guru has almost disappeared. Since the town is situated in a fertile belt, a foodgrain market is coming up.

Jhabal.—Jhabal is 16 km from the Tarn Taran Tahsil headquarters on the Amritsar-Khem Karan Road. There are a Government High School (co-educational), a Government Primary School, a Civil Dispensary, a Police-Station and a Sub-Post Office. Its population was 4,582 in 1961, as against 4,678 in 1951.

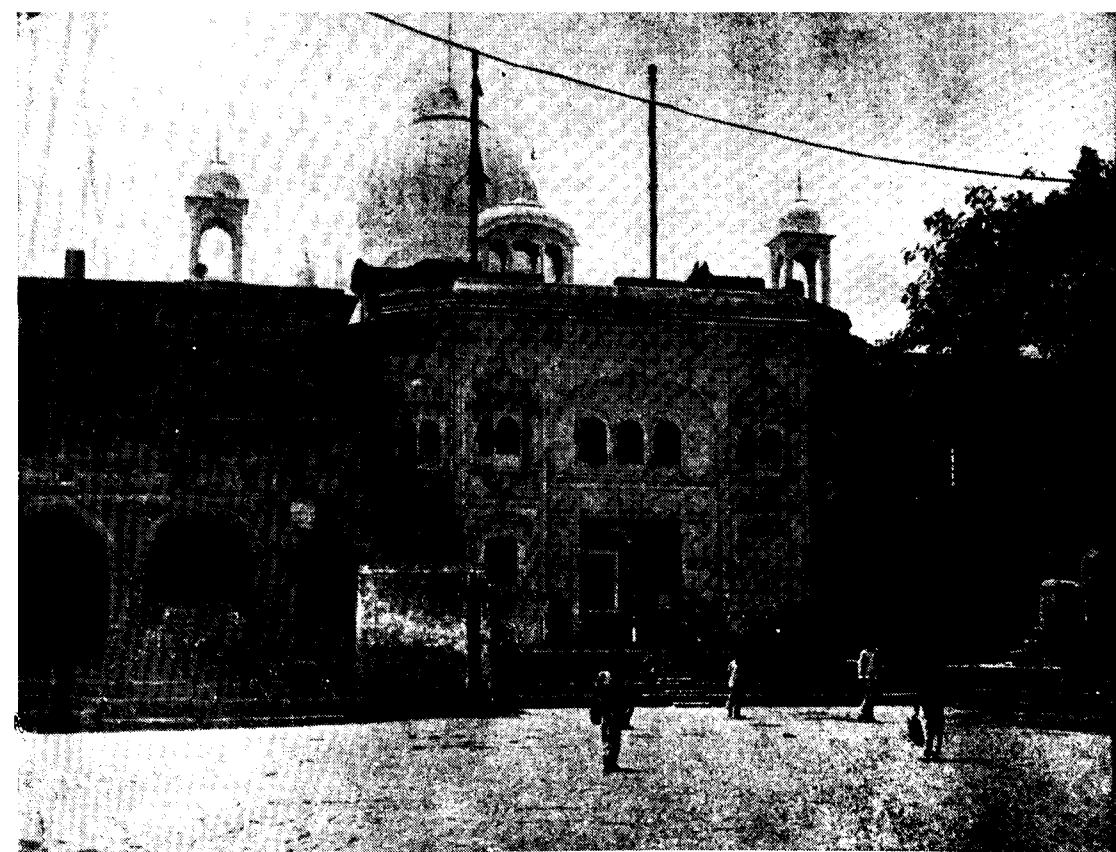
There is a Gurdwara of Bibi Veero, daughter of Guru Hargobind.

Khadur Sahib.—Situated at a distance of 19 km from Tarn Taran, the tahsil headquarters, and 43 km from Amritsar, Khadur Sahib is connected with both the places by road. There are a Khalsa High School and two Government Primary Schools. The Guru Angad Dev Degree College has been started from 1970-71. There are a Post & Telegraph Office and the office of the Block Development and Panchayat Officer. There is also a panchayat in the village. Its population was 4,680 in 1961, as against 3,995 in 1951.

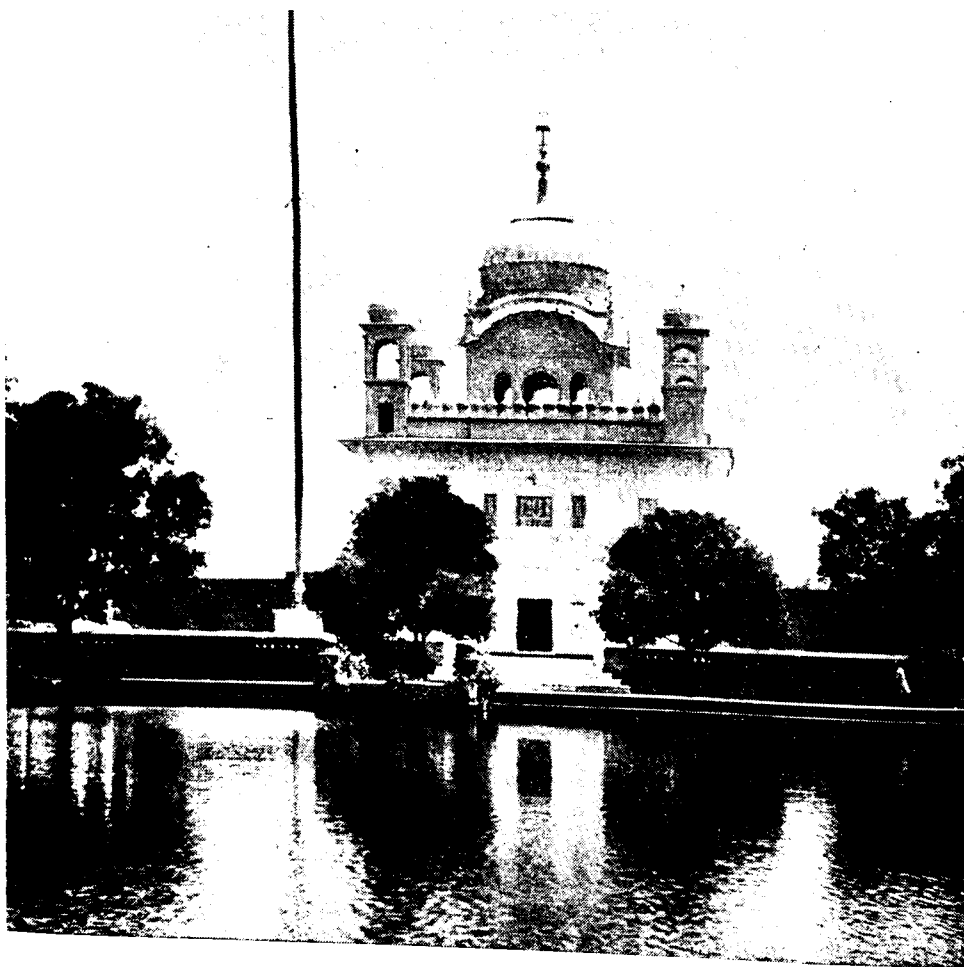
Khadur Sahib is important because of its long association with Guru Angad Dev who mostly stayed here and made it his headquarters. It was at this place that Guru Amar Das served him as a disciple. The succession of Amar Das as the Third Guru also took place there.

There are five *gurdwaras* of the time of Guru Angad Dev and Guru Amar Das. One of these is Gurdwara Angitha Sahib, where Guru Angad Dev was cremated. In this *gurdwara*, there is a small platform, indicating the place where Guru Amar Das, with a *gagar* (brass pitcher) of water on his shoulder, fell into the *khaddi* (the pit in which the weaving apparatus is installed). Quite near to it is the 'Thara Sahib', where Guru Amar Das used to meditate when he would get spare time from the service of Guru Angad Dev. Another *gurdwara* is called 'Mal Akhara' where Guru Angad Dev used to deliver religious discourses, teach boys and girls during the day time and witness wrestling matches in the evening. At a distance of about 200 metres, there is another *gurdwara*, called Tapiana Sahib. It is said that as many as eight Gurus visited this place on one occasion or another. A tank has been built at Tapiana Sahib and a fair is held there in Bhadra, four days after the *mela* at Govindwal. At Khadur Sahib, there is also a *smadh* of Bhai Bala, a close associate and disciple of Guru Nanak Dev.

There is a tradition that Emperor Humayun, after his final defeat at Kanauj, came to the Punjab and visited Khadur Sahib to seek the blessings of Guru Angad Dev. But, when the Emperor reached there, the Guru was in a trance and Humayun had to keep standing for some time. The haughty Emperor took it as an insult that the Guru had not shown proper respect to him. Consequently, he put his hand on the hilt of his sword. When the Guru opened his eyes, he saw the Emperor trying to draw his sword from the scabbard. Thereupon, the Guru said, "When thou oughtest to have used thy sword against Sher Shah, thou didst not do so. Now, when thou comest among priests, instead of saluting them respectfully, desirest to draw thy sword on them". Humayun expressed his regret and then sought his blessings. The Guru replied that



33. Gurdwara Angitha Sahib, Khadur Sahib



34. Tapiana Sahib, Khadur Sahib

he had made a mistake by attempting to attack him and for that he must suffer for some time more, but he prophesied that he would recover his kingdom².

There is another incident of the period of Guru Angad Dev about the authenticity of which some doubts are expressed. That incident is the rivalry of a *tapa* of Khadur Sahib. There was a penitent or *tapa* who lived near Khadur Sahib. He grew jealous of the growing popularity of Guru Angad Dev. He conspired with the people of the locality and instigated them to turn the Guru out of the village. This was done. When the Guru's most devoted disciple, Amar Das, learnt of this happening, he remonstrated with the people for their folly. At last, the *tapa* was punished and the people brought the Guru back³.

Khadur Sahib, however, never attained importance as a commercial centre, as it was too near Govindwal which eclipsed it as a trading-centre.

At a distance of 6 km from Khadur Sahib, *en route* Govindwal, there is the Gurdwara Damdama Sahib. It is said that Guru Amar Das, while bringing water from the River Beas for the bath of Guru Angad Dev, used to rest there daily for a while. While coming from Khadur Sahib, Amar Das would go to the Beas with his face towards Khadur Sahib. From Damdama Sahib, he would turn his face. This was done to show reverence to Guru Angad Dev.

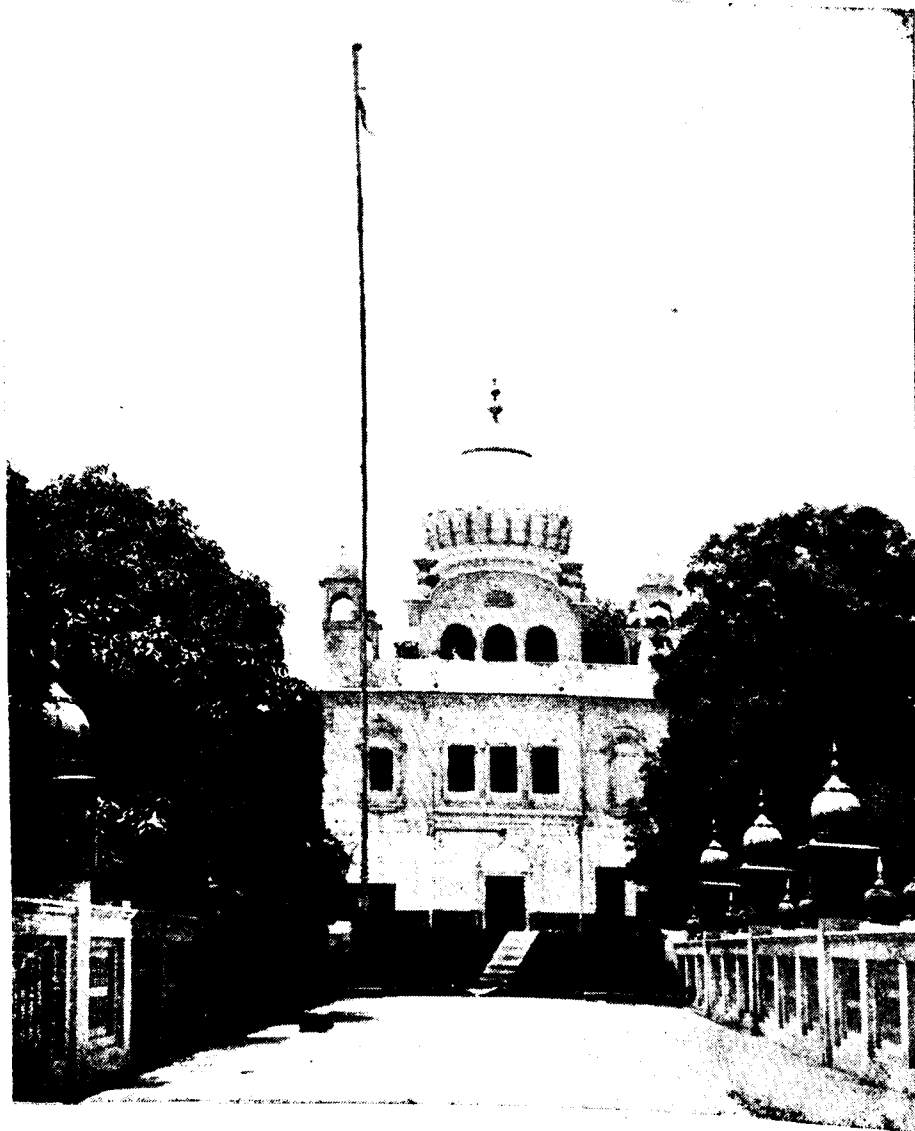
Khem Karan.—The town is 32 km from Patti, the tahsil headquarters, both by road and rail. From Amritsar, it is 65 km by road and 78 km by rail. Its population was 7,142 in 1961, as against 7,069 in 1951.

It is said to have been founded by a Kamboj Raja, named Khem Karan. The town was in the form of a fort. There used to be a wall round it, with eight gates. During the Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965, the wall was almost dismantled and the gates were also either dismantled or considerably damaged. The town remained under the occupation of Pakistani forces for about six months. When restored to India under the Tashkent Agreement (January 1966), it was again inhabited by the people who were given liberal rehabilitation grants by the Government of India.

There are a Municipality, a Government High School each for boys and girls, a Veterinary Dispensary, a Police-Post and a Post & Telegraph Office. The water-supply system has also been completed. The

²K. S. Narang and H. R. Gupta, *History of the Punjab* (1526—1857), pp. 83-84.

³*Ibid.*



35. Gurdwara Damdama Sahib
(6 km from Khadur Sahib towards Govindwal)

Government has also constructed a few ultramodern buildings for public purposes. Originally included in the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (Pakistan), Khem Karan was transferred to India under the Radcliffe Award⁴ and was included in the Amritsar District.

A few important places in the town are described below:

Gurusar

This is a *gurdwara* built in the memory of Guru Tegh Bahadur. It is said that the Guru had intimate contacts with Baba Taghana, a resident of Khem Karan, and had promised to see him before passing away. While the Guru was under detention at Delhi, he remembered his promise and, through his spiritual powers, appeared on the south of Khem Karan. Through intuition, Baba Taghana learnt about the presence of the Guru and went to pay him homage.

Some eight decades back, a saint, called Bhai Sewa, was putting up at Hardwar. An elderly lady from a Budhwar family went there and distributed *laddoos* among the *sadhus* there. She had hidden 5 rupees in each *laddoo* as charity. Among others, when the *laddoos* were given to Bhai Sewa, he told her that such charity was useless and was of no public utility. On the saint's suggestion, she left for Khem Karan for building Gurusar in the memory of Guru Tegh Bahadur at the spot where he had appeared. On her inability to locate the spot, she returned to Hardwar and after much search traced Bhai Sewa and brought him to Khem Karan along with her. Through intuition, the Bhai located the spot and started digging. It is said that he found a marble slab with some writing on it about the Guru's having visited the spot. The lady built there a *gurdwara* and beseeched Bhai Sewa to take charge of it. The saint did commendable work. His *smadh* (tomb) exists near the *gurdwara*. The marble slab, it is said, was taken away by the Pakistanis during the Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965.

Five acres of land is attached to the *gurdwara*.

Tham Sahib

Bhai Khera was a disciple of Guru Amar Das. The Guru blessed him with a *tham* (literally meaning a pillar, it was actually a reed or *kana*) equal to himself in height. He brought it to Khem Karan, raised

⁴Sir Cyril Radcliffe was the Chairman of the Boundary Commissions appointed at the time of the partition of the country in 1947.

a *gurdwara* and kept the *tham* therein. After some time, another saint had intuition that he should bring *shisham* wood from the *Hathar* area, and construct a *tham* equal to the reed in height and install it in the *gurdwara*. The saint went to the villages of *Hathar* and requested the peasants in possession of the particular tree to give it to him as he wanted to make a *tham* out of it. The peasants, who were famine-stricken on account of drought, asked the saint to request his Guru to bless the area with rain and end the acute famine, and added that in case the rain fell, he could take away the tree. The saint sat in meditation and it so happened that in those days of *Asadha* it rained in torrents. The Muslim villagers requested the saint to take the wood and end his meditation. Out of that tree, the saint got a *tham* made, enclosed it in a glass frame, and installed it in the *gurdwara*. It is said that if water is dropped on the *tham* from above, *lassi* (buttermilk) comes out of it from below. The *gurdwara*, along with the *tham* and its glass frame, was destroyed by the Pakistanis in 1965. It has since been rebuilt. A *mela* is held here on the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev.

Baba Data Ram Ka Mandir

On the southern side of the town, quite near the Guru Sar, there is an old temple, called Baba Data Ram Ka Mandir. It is said that some three or four centuries back, the ship of a local trader, engaged in the import and export business, was caught in a storm. He beseeched saint Data Ram that if the ship arrived safely, he would build a temple after his name. Accordingly, on the ship escaping destruction, he built a beautiful temple at Khem Karan. In front of the temple, a big tank was constructed but it is now dry and out of use. The marble statues installed in the temple were removed by the Pakistanis during the Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965. A few acres of land is attached to the temple.

Quite near the temple is the *smadh* (tomb) of Raja Khem Singh—a Kamboj—said to have been the founder of the town.

In the heart of the town, near the municipal office, is an ancient *baoli*, where formerly the people of the town used to take bath. Now, it is in ruins and out of use.

Majitha.—Majitha is situated 16 km to the north-east of Amritsar, the tahsil headquarters. The town is connected with Amritsar both by rail and road. Its population was 6,973 in 1961, as against 7,368 in 1951. The town was founded by one Madhu, a Jat of the Gill got (clan). He was the eldest son of his father, and, hence, the place was named Madhu Jetha. *Jetha* in Punjabi means the eldest son. The word Madhu Jetha

subsequently got contracted into Majitha. Madhu was, thus, the ancestor of the Majithia Sardars, some of whom held high positions during the Sikh rule.

Majitha is a class III municipality. It has a Police-Station, a Post Office, a Dispensary run by the Zila Parishad, a Veterinary Hospital, a Government High School for boys, Kesra Devi Girls' High School, Bhagwanti Mandir Middle School, a Government Primary School for boys and girls and a Telephone Exchange. Some small-scale industrial units—ancillary to agriculture, like the manufacture of agricultural implements—have sprung up.

Mari Gur Singh.—Situated on the Amritsar-Khem Karan Road, it is 22 km from Patti, the tahsil headquarters and 42 km (joined by an approach road from Theh Mari) from Amritsar. The village has a primary school. Its population was 1,030 in 1961, as against 1,149 in 1951.

With regard to the origin of the place, it is stated that previously it was an uninhabited *theh* named Hari Muglani. Some eighteen generations back, a person named Bagra came from the village of Mansurdeva of the Zira Tahsil of the Firozpur District, and founded this village. He named the place after his father. It remained inhabited for twelve generations, after which a person named Gur Singh left this place and settled at a short distance where well irrigation was available. Thereafter, a new *abadi* also emerged at the previous site which was named after him as Mari Gur Singh. Since then, the village has continued to be inhabited.

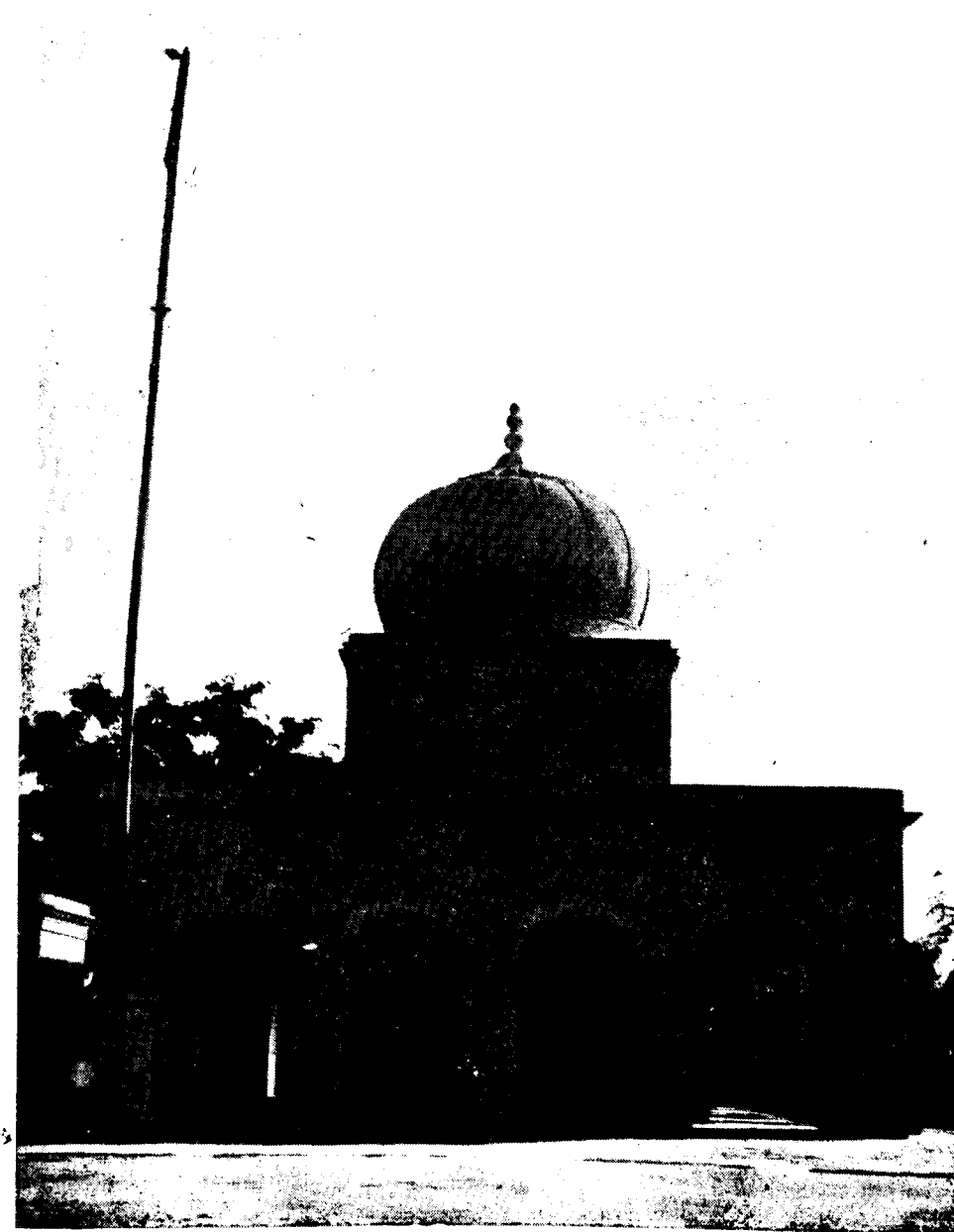
There is a *gurdwara* named Shaheed Bunga Sahib. *Melas* are held on the 1st of Sravana, 1st of Magh and Hola Mohalla in the Phalguna. The last *mela* lasts for eight days.

Naurangabad.—The village of Naurangabad is situated at a distance of 6 km from the Tarn Taran Tahsil headquarters towards Govindwal. Its population was 1,387 in 1961, as against 1,411 in 1951.

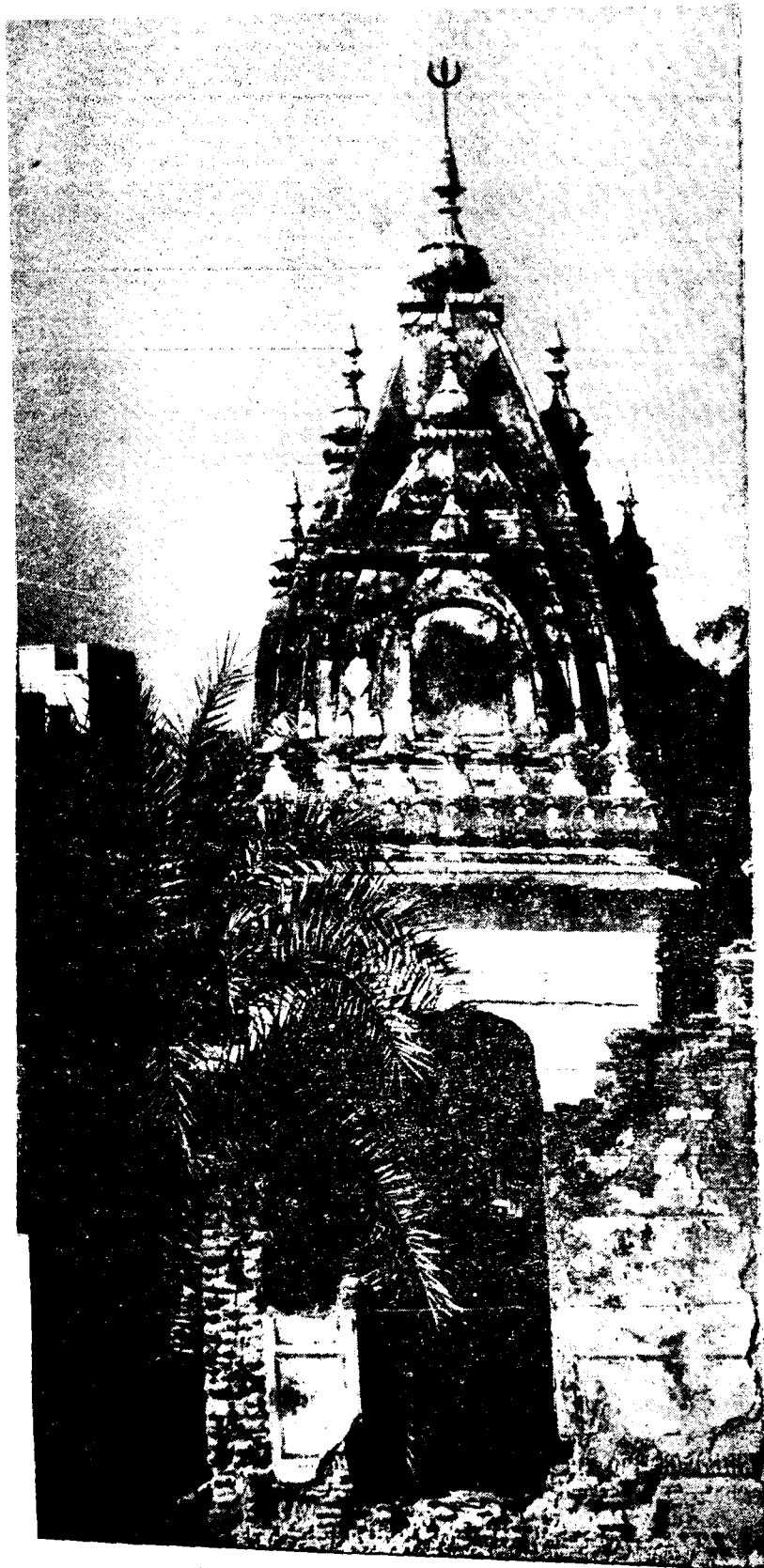
The village has a panchayat and a Government Primary School.

Naurangabad was the headquarters of Bhai (Baba) Vir Singh, a saint of great spiritual reputation. There is a *gurdwara* in his memory. One hundred and fifty acres of land is attached to the *gurdwara*. *Melas* are held there on the 27th Baisakha, 28th Sravana and 1st Magh.

Quite nearby is a *thara*, a roofless two-storeyed building, in the memory of Baba Sahib Singh Bedi of Una, who is said to have stayed there for three days. He was the spiritual teacher of Bhai Vir Singh.



26. Gurdwara Bhai (Baba) Vir Singh, Naurangabad



37. Shivan Da Mandir, Patti

Adjacent to the above-mentioned *gurdwara* another new *gurdwara* has been built. It is said that Bhai Vir Singh, in fact, stayed at this place, in the first instance, instead of the place where the old *gurdwara* exists. Four acres of land is attached to this *gurdwara*.

Patti.—The headquarters of the subdivision/tahsil of the same name, Patti is 45 km from Amritsar by road and 44 km by rail. It is connected by rail and road with Khem Karan and Amritsar. Previously, it was part of the Kasur Tahsil of the Lahore District (Pakistan) and was transferred, along with other villages, to the Amritsar District on the partition of the country in 1947. There are a Market Committee, a Police-Station, a Serai, a Rest-House, a Hospital and a number of *Dharmshalas*. There are two high schools for girls, viz. the G. M. Arya High School and the Government High School, and two high schools for boys, viz. the Government High School and the Master Hakim Rai High School, besides a Government College. Its population was 15,833 in 1961, as against 14,297 in 1951.

Before the partition of 1947, Patti, also called Naulakhi Patti in the revenue records, was primarily inhabited by Muhammadans, next to whom ranked the Jain Community—a notable trading class. Some of the Jains (sub-caste Nahar) are stated to have settled here in the thirteenth century after having left Nadaun (in the Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh).

Though situated quite near the border, Patti is a flourishing town. Before the partition, it was a centre of small-scale handloom industry. Hundreds of hand-looms were installed by Muhammadan skilled workers who manufactured *lungis*. The cheap *lungis* of Patti were widely used by the labouring class throughout the Punjab. Seven cotton-ginning mills also existed here before 1947, as the area was primarily cotton-growing. After 1955, owing to heavy floods, the water level rose and the cultivators switched over from cotton to rice. Only two cotton-ginning mills are, therefore, left, whereas the rest have been shifted to other places. The hand-loom industry also no longer exists here.

At Patti, there are some old buildings which need to be mentioned. In the interior of the town, there is a temple called Shivan-da-Mandir which is said to have been built over 500 years back. Barring the temple, the other adjoining construction is in ruins. The other one, called the Thakarduara near the Bus-Stand, is also some 300 years old. It is managed by the Giri Mahants, the present one being the fourth in succession. Near *rohi*, outside the town, there is another temple of Lord

Shiva, which is also said to be quite old. It is in a good state of preservation. The Shivratri festival is held there. A free *langar* is run. A small fort, built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, is in a fairly good condition and at present the Police-Station, Patti, is housed in it. The Jain Mandir inside the town was built about a hundred years back by Swami Atma Ram.

Prit Nagar.—Situated in the Ajnala Tahsil at a distance of 27 km from Amritsar, this dream colony of Gurbakhsh Singh is connected by road with Amritsar and Atari. There are a Government Primary School and a Post-Office. The Punjab Dairy Development Corporation has also its milk-collecting centre here.

The place is not altogether devoid of historical importance. At a distance of about 200 metres lies the *mazar* of Shah Mukhtar, a renowned Muslim Pir. The Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan built, through a Hindu Wazir, a pucca *mazar*, a mosque and a well attached thereto, besides a big square tank, covering 2 acres, at a distance of about 200 metres. Near the tank, a *baradari*, with a 3-foot-wide and 7-foot-high wall all round, was also built for his personal use by the Wazir who resided in the nearby village of Lopoke. In course of time, the descendants of the Wazir fell on evil days and were even constrained to sell their land. The site of the present colony, covering 200 acres, along with the premises of the *baradari* and the tank, was purchased in 1937 for Rs 40,000 by the founder of the colony, Shri Gurbakhsh Singh, an eminent Punjabi writer and editor of the *Preet Lari*. A society was formed for building the colony and running a school which was started in 1939. The partition of the country, however, adversely affected the development of the place which fell on the border. Two Punjabi magazines, *Preet Lari* and *Bal Sandesh*, are published from here.

Puhla.—The village of Puhla is situated near Valtola, on the Patti-Khem Karan railway line, at a distance of 25 km from Patti, the tahsil headquarters, and 65 km from Amritsar. It has a panchayat and a primary school. Its population was 598 in 1961, as against 602 in 1951.

There is a *gurdwara* built in the memory of Baba Taru Singh Shaheed. Thirty acres of land is attached to it. A *mela* is held here in July every year.

Ramdas.—It is situated at a distance of 45 km both by road and rail from Amritsar towards Dera Baba Nanak. In the Ajnala Tahsil, this is the only town which has a municipal committee. There are the



38. Gurdwara Ramdas

Baba Buddha Khalsa High School (co-educational), a Government Primary School, a D.A.V. Middle School for Girls, a Hospital, a Primary Health Centre, a Civil Rest-House, a Police-Station and a Post & Telegraph office. Its population was 3,153 in 1961 as against 3,046 in 1951.

The town is said to have been founded by Guru Ram Das when he happened to go there to bless Jhanda, the grandson of Baba Buddha. The Guru named the place as 'Jhanda Ramdaspur' which later came to be known as Ramdas. Jhanda invited the trading class, mostly Khatri, from the surrounding areas to settle there. They converted the place into a trading-centre which continued to flourish till the end of the nineteenth century. After 1947, with the migration of the Muslim Arains to Pakistan and because of its situation on the Indo-Pak border, the place was almost deserted. However, after 1966, the population of the town increased and the revenues of the municipality improved. This change was brought about by controlling the floods.

The old town had a mud wall around it. The wall has disappeared with the lapse of time. The town has historical importance also. There is a *gurdwara* built in the memory of Baba Buddha, who is said to have been born at Kathunangal and to have died at Ramdas. The *gurdwara* was ransacked by Nadir Shah. The building was reconstructed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Fourteen hundred acres of land is attached to the *gurdwara*. On the 4th Badi (i.e. the 4th day after *puranmashi*—the full-moon night), a fair is held here.

Adjacent to the *gurdwara* is a raised platform and the four-storey-deep Tara Khuhi. This residential building was built during the period of Sikh *misls* by Sham Singh, the eighth descendant of Baba Buddha. Its various gates, their locking and interlocking system and the preventive arrangements against setting the gates on fire by the enemy are quite interesting. Within this building, there is a well for supplying water, especially during an emergency. In his days, Sham Singh exercised authority over the town of Ramdas and led a princely life.

At a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ km, there is a tank built in the memory of Krishan Kanwar, the sixth descendant of Baba Buddha. The former is said to have shown a miracle to a caravan going towards Dera Baba Nanak. His father, Baba Gurbax Singh, resented the action. The boy took the resentment to heart and died voluntarily. The then Raja of Patiala had a mind to engage his daughter to Krishan Kanwar. But, on the boy's death, the Raja is said to have built a tank in his memory with

the money equal to the cost of the *tikka* (engagement gift). At present, there exists near the tank the *dera* of Baba Jaswant Singh.

At a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ km from Ramdas, there is a *gurdwara* built in the memory of Guru Hargobind who visited the place to mourn the death of Baba Buddha. A *mela* is held here on the Basant Panchmi day.

At a distance of about 3 km, there are the *smadhs* (tombs) of Baba Buddha and the members of his family. A *gurdwara* has been built there. Nearby is a *baoli*, known as Baba Buddha Ki Ganga, where people take bath. The residents of Ramdas and the villages near about visit the place quite often.

Ram Tirth.—Situating 11 km to the west of Amritsar, the tahsil headquarters, on the Amritsar-Lopoke Road, Ram Tirth is an ancient pilgrimage centre, the origin of which is obscure. There is a big tank of peculiar shape which is said to have been dug by Hanuman—the famous devotee of Shri Ram Chandra. He is said to have dug it with *dhai tap* (i.e. with two and a half cuts), two lengthwise and a half breadthwise. The circumference of the tank is about three kilometres. There are some small temples on its sides. There is a *baoli* after the name of Sita, the wife of Shri Ram Chandra.

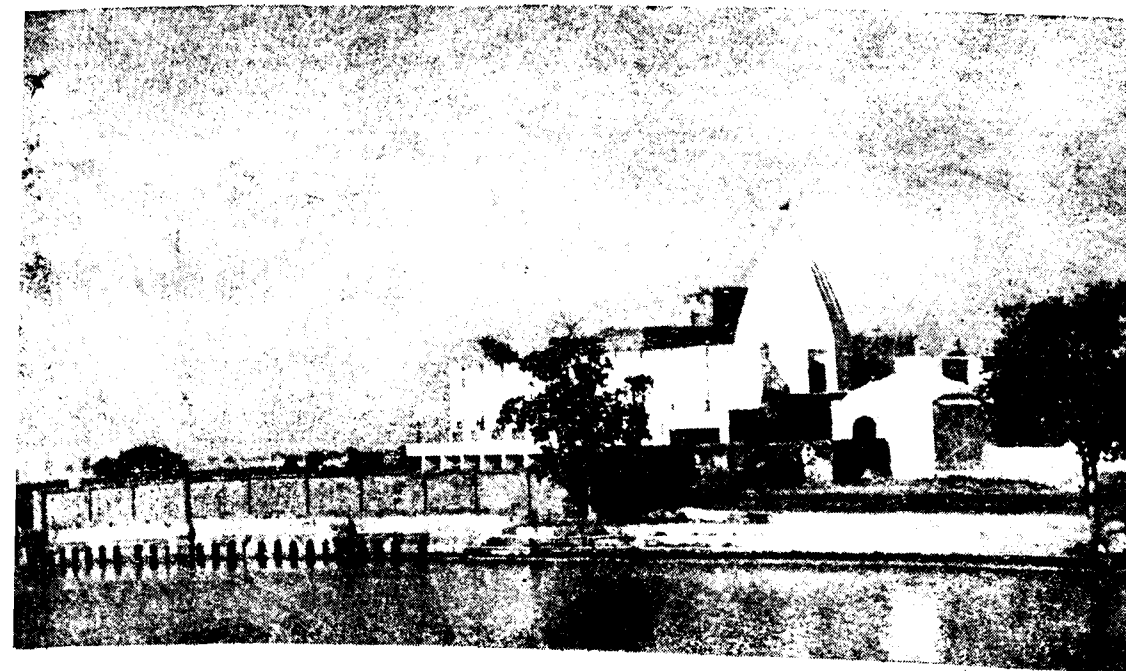
It is said that Sita spent her period of exile at this place in the cottage of Rishi Valmik. Lav and Kush are also said to have been born to Sita at this place and the great epic *Ramayana* was composed here. The fight between Shri Ram Chandra's forces and Lav and Kush is also said to have taken place at Ram Tirth.

The place remained neglected for centuries till Maharaja Ranjit Singh got it repaired and renovated during the first half of the nineteenth century. Some four decades back, a saint, popularly known as Baba Phauri Wala, stayed at this place and endeavoured to improve it, but in vain. However, he built a *serai* for the pilgrims. To revive the old glory of the place, the temples, the tank and the surroundings have been now renovated and developed as a place of pilgrimage and tourist resort.

On *Tukri Mela* day, about a fortnight after Diwali, a big fair is held here.

Rattoke [Gurdwara Bhai (Baba) Vir Singh].—The village of Rattoke is 64 km from Amritsar by road on the Khem Karan-Gajal Road, and 30 km from Patti, the tahsil headquarters, and 71 km from Amritsar

39. Ram Tirth



by rail on the Amritsar-Khem Karan Railway Branch line. There is a Government Primary School. Its population was 2,805 in 1961, as against 2,702 in 1951.

The *gurdwara* at Rattoke is one of the five prominent *gurdwaras* built in the memory of the great saint Bhai (Baba) Vir Singh, the other four being at Naurangabad, Muthianwala, Sobraon (Sabhra) and Paddri. One hundred and twenty acres of land is attached to this *gurdwara*. A *mela* is held there on the martyrdom day of the Bhai on 27th Baisakh. It lasts for three days. Another *mela* is held on 1st Pausa in the memory of Baba Mohar Singh, a disciple of Bhai Vir Singh.

The village of Rattoke was originally inhabited by Jats of Ardgill got. Being situated on the border, it was damaged much during the Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965.

Serais Amanat Khan, Nurdin, Naurangabad and Fatehabad.— During the Mughal Period, the Badshai Road passed from Atari to Govindwal, via Serais Amanat Khan, Nurdin, Naurangabad and Fatehabad, all of which are situated in the Tarn Taran Tahsil. The serais are almost of the same design and dimensions. These places virtually formed fortified habitations, the whole population residing within the four walls of the serais, which had two gates on the opposite sides.

Over 100 yards in length as well as breadth, Serai Amanat Khan is 29 km from Amritsar and 4 km from Atari. It was built during the reign of Shah Jahan. The outer walls of the serai have fallen, whereas its two gates still stand, although not in a good state of preservation. Outside the serai, there is the tomb of Amanat Khan, which is now in ruins. There is a small tank in the premises of the tomb. A shower, fitted in the tomb, still exists.

At a distance of about 12 km from Serai Amanat Khan, on the Tarn Taran Road, is another serai, called Nurdin. It is said to have been built by Nurdin with the bricks which Guru Arjan Dev got prepared for constructing the tank at Tarn Taran. The design of this serai is also the same as that of Amanat Khan. During the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, its walls were demolished and the bricks were transported to Tarn Taran for the construction of the tank there. Outside the serai, there is a tomb, the numerous inscriptions on which date from 983 A.H. to 1023 A.H.

At a distance of about 11 km from Nurdin towards Govindwal is a serai at Naurangabad. The design of the serai is the same, but it is in ruins.

The serai at Fatehabad is also of the same design. Both the gates still exist, though not in a good state of preservation.

Singhpura.—It is situated on the Amritsar-Khem Karan Road, with which it is connected by a $\frac{1}{4}$ km approach road. It is 22 km from Patti, the Tahsil headquarters, and 38 km from Amritsar. The village has a panchayat. Its population was 521 in 1961, as against 590 in 1951.

The area was uninhabited over three centuries back, when one Nilu Singh, son of Mal Singh, a Virk Jat, of the village of Thakron in the Gujranwala District (Pakistan), settled here by paying a *nazrana* of six hundred rupees to Mirza Faiz-allah Beg, who was in charge of the area at that time. After the latter's name, the village was named Faizalpur.

Faizalpur or Singhpura, as it was later named by Nawab Kapur Singh, was the first important village which was wrested from Faiz-allah Beg by Kapur Singh, the founder of the Faizalpuria or Singhpuria *misl*. This was also the first *misl* to come into existence. Kapur Singh was the son of a Jat peasant, Dalip Singh. He took the *Pahul* from Bhai Mani Singh. In his time, Kapur Singh was the most renowned of the Sikh chiefs and was practically the head of the Khalsa in almost all political and religious affairs from 1734 to 1748 when he gave the command of the Dal Khalsa to his deputy, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia. Kapur Singh died in 1753 and was succeeded by his nephew, Khushhal Singh. The latter died in 1796 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Budh Singh. In 1816, Ranjit Singh annexed the Singhpuria territories to his dominions.

There is the *smadh* of Nawab Kapur Singh in the village of Singhpura where a *mela* is held on 9-11th Asvin (September-October) at his death anniversary. There is also a *gurdwara* in the memory of Bhai Vir Singh. Here, a *mela* is held on 27th Baisakh (May).

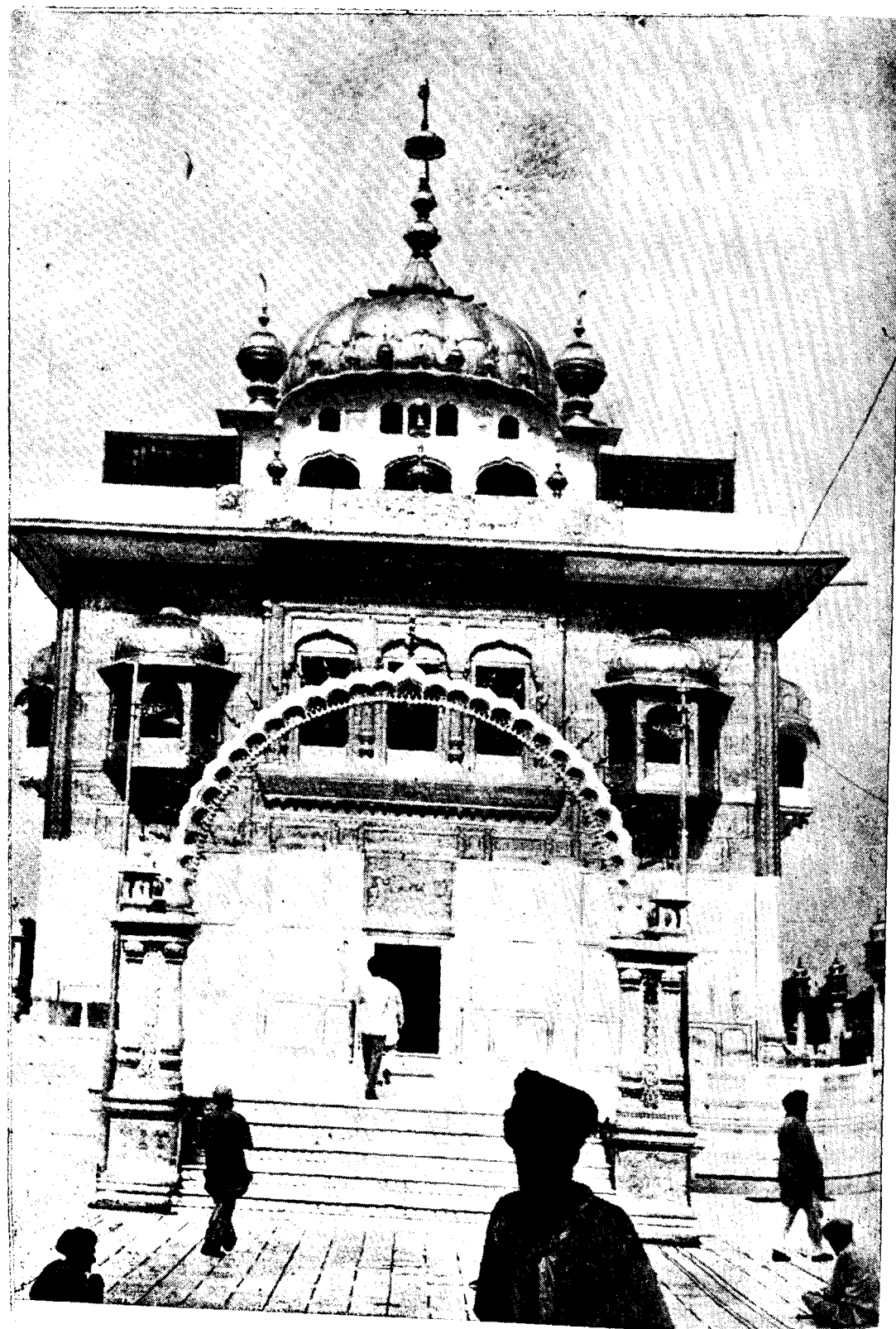
Sirhali Kalan.—It lies on the Amritsar-Hariker Road at a distance of 19 km from Tarn Taran, the tahsil headquarters, and 43 km from Amritsar. The village is predominantly inhabited by Sandhu Jats. The Sandhu Jats, known as Sandhu Brars, are the same Brars who have several villages in the Firozpur District. Both claim to have the same origin, i.e. from Jaisalmer (Rajasthan). This topic has been elaborately dealt with in chapter III, 'People', on page 96.

Sirhali Kalan has the Guru Gobind Singh Higher Secondary School, a Government Middle School for Girls, and an Industrial Training Institute, with the Junior Basic Training Course. There are a Veterinary Dispensary, Police-Station and a Post & Telegraph Office. The village has also a panchayat. Its population was 6,946 in 1961, as against 6,766 in 1951.

There is a *gurdwara*, known as Chabacha Sahib, built in the memory of Guru Arjan Dev. It is said that, while coming from Bir Sahib, Guru



40. Nawab Kapur Singh Singhpuria



41. Gurdwara, Tarn Taran

Arjan Dev stayed at Sirhali Kalan. He wanted to make it a place of religious importance. At Sirhali Kalan, the Jogis, known as Naths, were very popular. At their instigation, the people declined to give land to the Guru who got annoyed. He broke a brick into four pieces and threw them in four directions, symbolizing the desertion of the place. The next day, people of the village came to the Guru and apologized to him. The Guru was satisfied and asked the residents to collect the pieces of the brick. Only three pieces could be found and these were joined. The Guru said that the land where the missing piece had fallen would go alkaline.

Baba Buddha collected in a *chabacha* (water-pit) the water with which the Guru bathed. This water-pit is known as Chabacha Sahib which is said to have healing properties. The *gurdwara* is on the first floor of the building.

Sobraon (Sabhra).—It is 18 km from Patti, the tahsil headquarters, and 62 km from Amritsar by road. The village has a Primary School, a High School, a Veterinary Dispensary, a Police-Post and a Post & Telegraph Office. Its population was 5,255 in 1961 as against 4,651 in 1951.

There is a *gurdwara* built in the memory of Bhai Vir Singh. Here, a *mela* is held on his martyrdom day on 27th Baisakh.

Sur Singh.—It is situated on the Amritsar-Khem Karan Road at a distance of 25 km from Patti, the tahsil headquarters, and 33 km from Amritsar. The railway station nearest to this village is Kairon. There are a Primary School, a Middle School, a High School, a Library, a Post & Telegraph Office. Its population was 5,255 in 1961 as against 4,651 in 1951. The population of the village was 6,341 in 1961, as against 6,506 in 1951.

There is the *smadh* (tomb) of Bhai Bidhi Chand, a disciple of Guru Hargobind. Here, a *mela* is held in Bhadra. The house, where Bhai Bidhi Chand and his family resided, still exists.

Guru Hargobind is said to have rested at the place where a *gurdwara* has been built by Sohan Singh, a descendant of Bhai Bidhi Chand. A *mela* is held here on 9th Jyaishta, the day on which the foundation-stone of the *gurdwara* was laid in 1992 Bikrmi (A.D. 1935).

Tarn Taran.—The headquarters of the subdivision/tahsil of the same name, Tarn Taran is connected with Amritsar by rail by the Amritsar-Khem Karan Branch Line and by road by the Amritsar-Hariker and Amritsar-Patti Roads. Both by rail and road, it is 24 km from Amritsar. Tarn Taran is a class II municipality. Its population was 20,961 in 1961, as against 16,344 in 1951. There are a Civil Hospital, the Mission Hospital

and the Leprosy Home, and the Central Chief Khalsa Diwan Hospital. There are a Veterinary Dispensary, a Civil Rest-House, the City Police-Station and the Sadr Police-Station, a Post & Telegraph Office and a Telephone Exchange.

Tarn Taran is an important religious centre in the heart of the Majha tract, lying between the rivers Beas and Ravi. Various derivations of the name of the place have been given. According to one, it means 'salvation', according to another, 'cleansing water', whereas the third and most appropriate and probable gives the meaning as "aiding to swim across" from *tarna* or *taru karna*, to swim. If the interpretation made in the last is correct, it is connected with the tradition that the water of the sacred tank has healing properties and produces miraculous effects on the persons afflicted with leprosy. This belief is held by all the people of the neighbourhood and the town has, for long, been the resort of lepers from all parts of the region and even from beyond.

In the centre of the town, there is the *gurdwara* founded by Guru Arjan Dev, who also arranged for the digging of the tank. The site of the *gurdwara* and the tank was an open place at that time. The Guru visited the place while coming from Khare, a village lying towards Govindwal, and purchased 80 *bighas* of land from one Nurdin Mughal. Baba Buddha laid the foundation-stone of the temple and the tank on the Amavas day of Chaitra 1643 Bikrmi. It took five years and three months to complete the construction. It is said that the people of the area took very keen interest and built kilns on voluntary basis and prepared high-class bricks.

Nurdin, who belonged to a nearby village, forcibly took away these bricks. Guru Arjan Dev did not interfere, nor did he allow his disciples to resist, but prophesied that "The bricks meant for this tank will ultimately be used for its construction". It is said that during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the serai of Nurdin was dismantled and with its bricks the tank at Tarn Taran was constructed. The Maharaja renovated the *gurdwara* with golden plates. The pavement around the *gurdwara* was also constructed by him. The *gurdwara* stands on the edge of the tank. The dome has been overlaid with gilded copper plates after the style of the Hari Mandir at Amritsar. At the north corner of the tank, a little away from the *gurdwara*, is a lofty column or *minar*, with white stucco-covered top, reached by a winding staircase inside the column. This is a landmark in this area and, on a clear day, with the aid of glasses, the tower of Baba Atal and other

prominent buildings in the Amritsar city can be clearly made out from its top. The length of the tank is on the north 955 feet, on the south 935 feet, on the west 770 feet and on the east 700 feet. A paved walk runs round it. Numerous *bungas* built by chiefs and *sardars* for their accommodation and for their retinue on the occasion of their visits overlook the paved walk. The length of the paved walk, popularly known as *prikarma* is on the north 1,044 feet, on the south 1,020 feet, on the west 860 feet and on the east 861 feet. Most of the *bungas* have been remodelled and are now available for accommodating the visitors at the monthly fairs. The Tarn Taran Amavas—a religious fair held on the last day of the old moon—is celebrated in the Majha. A large number of people visit the *gurdwara* on the occasion. The fair on the Amavas in Bhadra (August) and Chaitra (April) is largely attended. The significance attached to these Amavas days is that the digging of the tank was started by Guru Arjan Dev on the Amavas of Bhadra (A.D. 1590) and it was completed after six years on the Amavas of Chaitra. The rural folk are also comparatively free from work during these periods, as both these months fall before the harvesting seasons. The gatherings on Baisakhi and Dussehra are also quite large.

There are also three old wells; the first situated in the *gurdwara* itself, and the second and the third, known as *Guru-ka-Khuh* adjoining a small *gurdwara*, and *Bibi Bhani da Khuh*, situated on the western side of the town, respectively. A small *gurdwara*, in the memory of Bhai Phula Singh, has also been built.

Valla.—Valla is situated on the Amritsar-Sri Hargobindpur Road at a distance of 8 km from Amritsar, the tahsil headquarters. The village has a panchayat, a Primary School and a Branch Post Office. Its population was 3,468 in 1961, as against 2,941 in 1951.

On his way back from Amritsar, where he had gone to pay

homage to the Hari Mandir, Guru Tegh Bahadur passed by Valla. A woman of the village was going to the fields with food for her menfolk. When she saw the saint with his disciples, she enquired if she could be of any service to them. The Guru asked for food. The woman served the party with light meals and promised to provide them with full meals in the village. Meanwhile, she left for the fields with the remaining food. There, she was surprised to find that the quantity of the food had increased far beyond what she had actually brought. She instantly learnt through intuition that the saint could not be any other person than Guru Tegh Bahadur. Therefore, along with her relations, she rushed to the place where she had met the Guru and brought him and his disciples to Valla where they were served well. The Guru was

immensely pleased and blessed the village saying : 'Valla, bharra rahe galla' (i.e. let there always be abundance of everything in Valla). It was also at this village that the women of Amritsar came and apologized to the Guru for the discourtesy shown by the *masands* in not allowing him to enter the Hari Mandir.

A *gurdwara* has been built at Valla where a *mela*, known as Kotha Sahib, is held in January-February every year.

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