



GAZETTEER OF INDIA

PUNJAB

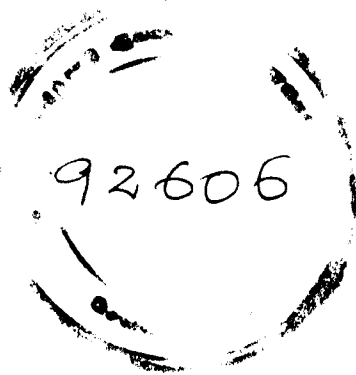
SANGRUR

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FOREWORD

A district gazetteer is a compendium of historical, cultural and socio-economic records of a district and as such it touches upon all aspects of the life of the people—their manners, customs and traditions, history, culture, etc. It is an important reference book not only for administrators, but also for research scholars, journalists and the people in general.

This is the first edition of the Sangrur District Gazetteer brought out by the Revenue Department. Formerly, headquarters of the erstwhile Princely State of Jind, Sangrur was made a district on 20 August 1948 on the creation of PEPSU. An attempt has been made to depict in this volume the vast changes and developments which have taken place in the district from time to time. It is hoped that the present volume will be found to be a useful effort.

B.B. MAHAJAN

CHANDIGARH

Financial Commissioner, Revenue,
Punjab.

9 March 1984

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PREFACE

This volume is the seventh in the series of the Punjab District Gazetteers published under the scheme 'Revision of District Gazetteers'. This is the first edition of the Sangrur District Gazetteer, as the district never had a gazetteer printed earlier. Sangrur District as of today comprises the territories of erstwhile States of Patiala, Jind and Nabha, collectively known as Phulkian States, the Mohammadan State of Malerkotla; and some parts of the then district of Ludhiana. Before the partition of the country, Sangrur had been the headquarters of the erstwhile State of Jind. It was made a district only on 20 August 1948 when PEPSU (Patiala and East Panjab States Union) was formed. It then comprised four tahsils, viz. Sangrur, Sunam, Narwana and Jind. Barnala was then an independent district of PEPSU and comprised four tahsils, viz. Barnala, Malerkotla, Dhuri and Phul. The district underwent a territorial change when Barnala District was merged in it on 1 September 1953. It then had five tahsils, viz. Sangrur, Malerkotla, Barnala, Jind and Narwana. The boundaries of the district further underwent a change on the reorganization of the State of Punjab on 1 November 1966. Jind and Narwana tahsils were allocated to the newly created State of Haryana and the district was left with three tahsils, viz. Sangrur, Barnala and Malerkotla. Tahsil Sunam which was degraded to a sub-tahsil at the time of merger of Barnala District was again made a tahsil in 1970. Since then, the district comprises four tahsils, viz. Sangrur, Barnala, Malerkotla and Sunam. All the tahsils have been made subdivisions.

After the achievement of Independence in 1947, vast developments have taken place in the political, social, cultural and economic life of the people. The implementation of the Five-Year Plans has brought about remarkable changes in all spheres of life. An attempt has been made to depict the impact of such developments and changes in the present volume of the gazetteer.

In the preparation of this volume, the State Gazetteers Unit has benefited by the able guidance and encouragement given by the Financial Commissioners Revenue, and other officers of the department from time to time.

I am grateful to Shri Darshan Kumar, IAS, Guide for the Sangrur District Gazetteer, for vetting the draft and making useful suggestions for the overall improvement of the gazetteer.

My thanks are due to Sarvshri Rajinder Singh Gandhi, Editor; Ved Parkash Rampal and Mohinder Singh Sandhu, Compilers for preparing the draft of the gazetteer; to Sarvshri Resham Chand Birah, Senior Editor; Jagmohan Singh Hans, Editor; Rajinder Kumar Gupta, Compiler and other staff of the Gazetteers Unit for assisting me in the finalisation and printing of this volume.

I am also thankful to Shri Sureshar Lal Sahi, Draftsman-cum-Artist for the preparation of illustrations and photographs for the gazetteer.

I am grateful to the various Heads of departments and offices in the State, especially the Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur and the different officers working under him for extending whole-hearted cooperation in supplying the requisite information and data for the compilation of this volume.

My thanks are also due to the Controller, Printing and Stationery Chandigarh, and his staff for extending full cooperation in the printing of this volume.

CHANDIGARH
1 March 1984

B. R. SHARMA
State Editor, Gazetteers,
Punjab.

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Mastuana ; Malerkotla ; Moonak ; Mulowal ; Ranike ;
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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

(a) Introductory

(i) **Origin of the Name of the District.**—The district of Sangrur takes its name from its headquarters town, Sangrur. It is said to have been founded by one Sanghu, a Jat, about four hundred years back.

(ii) **Location, General Boundaries, Total Area and Population of the District.**—Sangrur is one of the four districts in Patiala Division. It is, one of the southern districts of the State and lies between 29°—4' and 30°—42' north latitude and 75°—18' and 76°—13' east longitude¹. It is bounded by Ludhiana and Firozpur districts in the north, by Bathinda District in the west, by Patiala District in the east and by Jind District (Haryana State) in the south.

Sangrur, the headquarters of the district administration is directly linked by road with Chandigarh (142 km), Ludhiana (80 km), Budhlada (73 km), Delhi (257 km), Sultanpur (189 km), Gurdaspur (250 km), Ganganagar (240 km), Nangal (196 km). It is also directly linked by rail with Ludhiana and Jakhal (in Haryana). All the municipal towns of the district except Bhadaur, Bhawanigarh, Dhanaula and Longowal have railway stations.

According to the Director of Land Records, Punjab, Jalandhar, the area of the Sangrur District was 5,110.13 sq. km. in the year 1981-82. In terms of area, the district ranks 4th in the State after Firozpur, Faridkot and Bathinda districts. The tahsil-wise area of the district, according to the Director of Land Records, Punjab, is given below :

Tahsil	Area (sq. km.)
Sangrur	899.55
Malerkotla	1307.69
Barnala	1485.07
Sunam	1417.82
District Sangrur	5,110.13

- ¹ (i) Maximum length of the district (north to south) is 105 km.
(ii) Maximum width of the district (East to West) is 91 km.
(iii) Mean height of the district above mean sea level is 238 metres.
(iv) Highest point of the district above mean sea level is 257 metres.
(v) Lowest point of the district above mean sea level is 220 metres.
(vi) Geographical centre of the district is village Ubhawal (Sangrur Tahsil) and Town Sangrur.

According to the 1981 Census, the population of the district was 14,10,250 persons (10,88,609 rural; 3,21,641 urban) comprising 7,58,058 males and 6,52,192 females.

(iii) **History of the District as an Administrative Unit and the Changes in its Component Parts.**—Prior to the Partition of the country, Sangrur was headquarter of the Princely State of Jind. It was made a district only on 20 August 1948 when PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union) was created. It then comprised Sangrur, Sunam, Narwana and Jind tahsils. The district went under a territorial change when Barnala District was merged in it on 1 September 1953. It then had five tahsils, viz. Sangrur, Malerkotla, Barnala, Jind and Narwana. The PEPSU was merged with the Punjab State on 1 November 1956.

On reorganization of the State of Punjab on 1 November 1966, the district underwent a further territorial change. Jind and Narwana tahsils were allocated to the newly created Haryana State. Tahsil Sunam, which was degraded to a sub-tahsil at the time of merger of Barnala District, was again made a tahsil in 1970. Since then, it comprises four tahsils, viz. Barnala, Malerkotla, Sangrur and Sunam.

(iv) **Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas.**—According to the 1981 Census, the district comprises 717 villages (707 inhabited and 10 uninhabited) and 14 towns constituted into four tahsils, viz. Barnala (137 villages), Malerkotla (287 villages), Sangrur (132 villages) and Sunam (161 villages). All the tahsils have been made subdivisions—Malerkotla on 1 September 1948, Barnala on 1 September 1953, Sangrur on 15 June 1965 and Sunam on 1 April 1970.

The tahsilwise list of police stations and police posts in the district is given in Chapter XII 'Law and Order and Justice'.

(b) Topography

In any areal unit, the degree of smoothness of the surface, the nature of slopes, the arrangement of various natural features and the surface materials have a distinctive role in fashioning the patterns of human activity. Viewed in this context, Sangrur District is endowed with a nearly level surface. The occurrence of sand dune features in some parts only breaks the monotony of the landscape.

In general, the district forms a part of the Punjab Plain. The surface of this plain has been formed by the depositional work of major streams traversing through the region. Very largely, its topography is that of an alluvial plain, marked by flatness and featurelessness.

However when subjected to micro-regional analysis, Sangrur District shows up significant, local variations in surface configuration, its small size notwithstanding. The district slopes from north-east to south-west. The highest elevation of about 850 feet above sea level has been recorded near village Chapranda in Malerkotla Tahsil, while the minimum of 730 feet is in Sunam Tahsil. Hence it slopes with a gentle gradient of over a foot per kilometre. The elevation of some important stations in the district is as under:

Ahmedgarh	—	822 ft.	above sea level
Malerkotla	—	801	„ „
Dhuri	—	787	„ „
Sangrur	—	770	„ „
Barnala	—	751	„ „
Dhanaula	—	745	„ „

Physiographic Division

Broadly speaking, the district can be divided into two physiographic tracts:

- (a) the upland plain with occasional occurrence of sand-dunes;
- (b) the flood plain of the Ghaggar River.

(a) Upland plain with occasional occurrence of sand-dunes

Barring a narrow belt of low-lying land along the Ghaggar River which traverses through the southernmost part of the district, the whole of the district is an upland plain which covers more than 95 per cent of the area of the district. It slopes at a gentle gradient of over a foot a kilometre from north-east to south-west.

This tract is covered with old alluvium and is generally marked by flatness and smoothness with a sprinkling of sand-dunes, of course in a varying degree. These sand-dune features vary in height from a minimum of 2.3 feet to a maximum of 30 to 40 feet. The length of these features varies from a minimum of a few yards to over hundred yards. The orientation of most of these sand-dunes is from south-west to north-east, corresponding generally with the south-west monsoons.

It may further be noted that these features are not uniformly distributed over the whole district. These find relative concentration in the tract adjoining Bathinda District while there is a sparse distribution of these

in the tract adjoining Patiala District. On the basis of the density of these sand features, the plain may be sub-divided into two zones ;

- (i) Zone with relative concentration of sand-dunes;
- (ii) Zone with only occasional occurrence of sand-dunes.

(i) Zone with relative concentration of sand-dunes

This zone roughly covers about 75 per cent of the area of the upland plain of the district. This upland plain, which is strewn with sand-dunes, adjoins Bathinda District which partakes in some measure the topography of the eastern parts of the Rajasthan Desert. The presence of sand-dunes gives an undulating character to the topography of this part of the district. At some places, there is fair concentration of the sandy features.

The boundary of this zone roughly coincides with 790 feet contour line. Traditionally, it is called the "*jungle*" area (because in the past here existed dense forests). It may be mentioned, however, that as a result of human action, the land has been in the process of transformation, in recent years particularly. The sand-dunes and sand-mounds have disappeared from many places with the reclamation of land consequent upon the extension of canal and tube-well irrigation. The landscape gives a fairly flat look now in most parts.

(ii) Zone with only sparse distribution of sand-dunes

This zone is predominantly level, with only occasional occurrence of sand-dunes adjoining the zone discussed above. Here the land is well developed agriculturally, the plough extending to every cultivable part of the plain. In the area adjoining Patiala District, the sand-dunes are conspicuous by their absence. In the Sangrur District as a whole, the occurrence of sand-dunes decreases from south-west to north-east. But the development of tube-well irrigation in recent decades, in combination with or without canal irrigation, has played a very significant role in modifying the landscape of both the zones into a level land. The boundary of this zone corresponds with that of the traditionally known '*powadh*' area.

Thus the upland plain of the district, though apparently a part of the level and featureless surface consists of two relatively different sub-units.

(b) Floodplain of the Ghaggar

The floodplain of the Ghaggar is a low-lying area along the banks of the river which traverses through the southernmost part of the district. This is a relatively narrow floodplain, its width generally remaining well within about 5 kilometres. Previously when there were no checks to

the floods, the whole of the low-lying tract was victim of the floods during the rainy season. Waterlogging conditions prevailed till recently. Antiwaterlogging measures taken in recent years have, however, improved these conditions. The construction of embankments has reduced the menace of floods. The old flood plain has since been brought under cultivation.

This floodplain is characterised by a variety of features including depressions and pools of water which are present here and there.

It follows from the above that the physiographic personality of Sangrur District has been shaped by water and wind. Its topography is predominantly of an upland plain which is alluvial in origin and strewn with sand-dunes in varying degree.

(c) River System and Water Resources

(i) Main Rivers and Tributaries and Canals

Most of the area of the district is without any trace of major water channels. It is drained by only two seasonal streams. River Ghaggar traverses through the southernmost part of the district. Sirhind *Cho* is the other small torrent which constitutes part of the surface drainage of the district. Apart from these two water channels, some stagnant pools of water, called 'ponds', which are found near the settlements, are distributed over the whole district.

Ghaggar.—In Sanskrit literature, River Ghaggar has been indentified with 'lost Saraswati'. In any case, it is certain that in the past River Ghaggar formed part of a bigger river system which used to flow through this part of the Punjab. Satluj and Yamuna rivers were thought to be tributaries to this system. The uplift of the Yamuna-Satluj divide is said to have led to the shifting of the river courses—the Satluj shifting its course towards the west and the Yamuna towards the east. As a consequence, River Ghaggar was left as a misfit river. Now it exists only as an inland drainage stream.

The present Ghaggar which traverses through Sunam Tahsil of the district, originates in Sirmur District of Himachal Pradesh. After emerging from the Shiwalik Hills, it is joined by a number of small torrents at different points of its course. The stream enters the plain area near Mubarakpur village in Patiala District. Later in its down stream journey, it receives the water of Tangri, Patiala Nadi, Markanda and Saraswati which are also seasonal streams.

The Ghaggar enters Sangrur District near village Pakki

Khanauri after about 70 miles (112 km) journey through Patiala District. Its direction in Patiala District is north-east to south-west. But as soon as it enters Sangrur District it follows a nearly westerly direction. Near village Chandu, it is connected by an escape channel with lake Bhupinder Sagar in Patiala District.

In its upper course the river contains some water throughout the year, but in its lower course it is generally dry. Here it carries water only during the rainy season when it is in heavy floods. Previously, these floods used to cause lot of damage to the adjoining areas. But now with the progressive channelisation of the stream, the floods are being brought under control. In Sangrur District, the channel of the river is not very wide.

After flowing through the district, it leaves it near village Karail (Tahsil Sunam) and enters Hisar District of Haryana. For some distance, it flows through Bathinda District. Finally traversing through Sirsa District of Haryana, it loses itself in the sands of Thar Desert of Rajasthan.

Sirhind Cho.—It is also known as Sunamwala Cho or Mansurwala Cho. It originates from the waters near Rupnagar which get accumulated in the rainy season. It enters the district near the village Bhullarheri in Malerkotla Tahsil. It flows in south-westerly direction and loses itself in stagnant waters near the town of Sunam.

Small stagnant pools of water are sporadically distributed over the whole plain. These are the local depressions filled with rain water. These are used for bathing the cattle and for providing drinking water to them.

(d) Geology

(i) Geological Formation

The area forms a part of Indo-Gangetic alluvial plain. The sediments comprising the alluvium are sands of various grades, *kankar* and clay. Occurrences of gravels and pebbles have been reported from some of the drilling undertaken in the district. Blown sands also occur as dunes in the area specially in the western, northern, and north-western parts. Light grey fine to medium grained micaceous and normally occurs at 5 to 8 metres below the land surface. *Pandoo*—sticky clay—is usually found at shallow depths of less than 2 metres below the surface. At places the brownish black soil characteristic of boggy lands is found at shallow depths of less than a metre from the surface. *Kankar* is associated practically with all types of soils. All the above sediments are of Quaternary Age.

Kankar—In the area occurs as (a) massive beds (b) cavernous beds, and in (c) nodular and (d) granular forms. The first two varieties of

kankar are intimately associated with the paleochannels/buried channels in the area as floodplain deposits, while the latter two forms are related to the geo-hydrological conditions in the area.

Alkaline soils in the area occur as thin surfacial coatings of about 6 cm thick layers on the surface. These soils are mainly found along the floodplains of the buried channels in the area. A preliminary survey indicates that these soils are rich in sodium sulphate/sodium carbonate salts which can be economically extracted.

Saltpetre appears as thin surfacial layers especially during the hot months.

(ii) Mineral Resources

Bedded Kankar.—A reserve of about 4.4 million tonnes of *kankar* has been estimated around Nadampur, Matran, Nandgarh and Balad Khurd (all in Tahsil Sangrur). The average grade of the deposit is 45 per cent acid insoluble; 21.1 per cent calcium oxide (CaO) and 5.7 per cent Magnesium Oxide (Mg O).

Bedded *kankar* has also been reported from Feteahgarh, Bhadsan, Jaulian, Sangatpure, Panwan, Kakra, Phaguwala, Ramnagar, Jalan, Raisinghwal, Roshanwala, Ghabdan (all in Tahsil Sangrur) and Tolewal, Jakhepal Bas and Satauj (in Sunam Tahsil).

The *kankar* around Sunam-Sangrur has been estimated at about 42.5 million tonnes out of which nearly 15.4 million tonnes is that of bedded variety and the rest belongs to nodular and concretionary varieties. The average grade of the *kankar* is about 48.8 per cent insolubles, 21.5 per cent CaO, and 3.9 per cent Mg O.

Nodular Kankar.—Nodular *kankar* practically occurs throughout the area at an average depth of 1-2 metre below the surface.

About 16.8 million tonnes of *kankar* has been estimated around the villages Sulhar (Tahsil Sunam), Nandgarh, Nadampur (Tahsil Sangrur), etc. with an average grade of 40.8 per cent acids insoluble, 27.7 per cent CaO and 2.8 per cent MgO.

Saltpetre.—Next to Firozpur in importance is the Sangrur District which is also rich in deposits of saltpetre. Occurrences are reported from various villages in the blocks of Cheema, Sunam and Barnala.

Kallar.—The district is reported to have about 70,310 hectares of *kallar* affected land during the year 1973-74. Extraction of sodium salts from *kallar* from this district alone is likely to give substantial revenue return and in addition it may reclaim the land without initial

expenditure in effective chemical treatment. As a result, 6687 hectares of *kallar* affected land have been reclaimed by 1982-83.

(iii) Seismicity

History of the past 200 years for which records are available shows that Sangrur District has been affected by earthquakes of moderate intensity. Although no major epicentral tract has been located near Sangrur, a number of earthquakes originating in the western Himalayas ranging from Hindukush to west U.P. hills have been experienced here. The prominent among these are the Kangra earthquake of 4 April 1905, the Chamba earthquake of 22 June 1945 and the Kinnaur earthquake of 19 January 1975. The maximum intensity experienced in this area due to the Kangra earthquake of 4 April 1905 could have reached VI M M².

The chief tectonic feature affecting the region are the main Himalayan Boundary fault which comprises a number of thrusts called Jawalamukhi, Krol, Nahan, etc.

Considering the tectonic features, the area may experience slightly higher seismic intensity of VII MM than recorded so far at the place. This is further corroborated by the seismic zoning map of India prepared under the auspices of Indian Standards Institution wherein the area has been shown in zone III, which further corresponds to seismic intensity of VII MM. Studies made in U.S.A. and other advanced countries reveal that seismic intensity VII MM corresponds to horizontal ground acceleration of 18-140 Cm/sec² or an average acceleration of 67 cm/sec². The wide range of acceleration is due to the fact that acceleration is larger on soft filled up ground and much less on hard rock.

Considering the above, it is inferred that important structures on consolidated foundations in Sangrur District may be designed for horizontal acceleration of 7 per cent gravity (0.07 g). This factor may be suitably increased for weaker foundations. Regarding vertical acceleration the general practice is to make a provision for 50 per cent that of horizontal acceleration.

². Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale of 1931

SCALE

SPECIFICATION

VI. Felt by all; many frightened and run outdoors. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster or damaged chimneys. Damage slight.

³. *Ibid.*

VII. Everybody runs outdoors. Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well built ordinary structures; considerable in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken. Noticed by persons driving motor cars.

(e) Flora (Botany)

Sangrur District is one of the 12 districts of Punjab and is carved out of the erstwhile princely States of Patiala, Nabha and Jind. The climate in the area is very hot in summer and markedly cold in winter. The mean maximum temperature during June is 106.8° F (41.6°C), whereas the mean minimum temperature during January is 42.8° F (6°C) and the annual rainfall is approximately 110. cm. The soil of the district is Indo-Gangetic alluvium. On the whole, the district resembles in several aspects the district of Hisar (now in Haryana).

Before 1947, irrigation and drinking water system was meagre in the district. Thereafter, there has been gradual improvement in supply of water for irrigation and drinking, and there is considerable change at present. Even today, there are certain places which are experiencing great difficulty in supply of water. In order to overcome this difficulty, ponds are still excavated for storage of water during rainy season and utilised during drought periods.

The fauna and the flora are similar to that in the adjoining parts of Patiala plains. *Kikar* (*Acacia nilotica* (L.) Wild ex. Del. subsp. *indica* (Bth.) Bren) grows abundantly throughout the district, whereas *ber* (*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk.) is planted near wells and fields. In certain places mango-aam (*Mangifera indica* L.) is grown in plenty. The *pipal* (*Ficus religiosa* L.), *barota* and *neem* (*Azadirachta indica* juss) are planted near villages. *Shisham* (*Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb.) has been planted along canals and *siras* (*Albizia procera* Bth or *Albizia lebbek* Bth) are seen along the roadsides. In addition to these *frass* (*Tamarix aphylla* (L.) Karst) is common near villages and it is useful for roofing. There are patches of jungle in certain localities in the district mostly confined to *Jand* (*Prosopis cineraria* (L.) Macbr.) *karir* (*Capparis decidua* (Forsk.) Edgew.) *reru* and *jal* (*Salvadora oleoides* Decne.). The *dhak* (*Butea monosperma* (Lamk.) Taub.) is also common in marshy places whereas the *khajur*-date palm (*Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb.) is found in sandy areas.

The reserve forest of the district is known as *birs* and a portion of this is used for raising crops for the district animals and is irrigated from *cho*. *Aish Ban Bir* lies some 3 km east of Sangrur town. Pigs, deer and occasionally wolves are found in it. There was a provision for charging a nominal fee for grazing the animals in *birs*. The *birs* provide a plentiful supply of somak-palinji, *palwa* [*Dichanthium annulatum* (Forsk.) Satph], *khabbal* or *dabh* [*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.], *Panni Vetiveria zizanioides* (L.) Nash.) and *pala* grasses and afford a kind of relief to the cattle at the time of drought. The principal trees of *birs* and *jal* (*Salvadora oleoides*

Decnes), *kair* (*Acacia catechu* Wild.), *Jand* [*Prosopis cineraria* (L.)], *kikar* (*Acacia nilotica* (L.) Wild. ex Del. Subsp. *indica* (Bth) Brenan.) and *beri* (*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk.). The height of the trees varies from *bir* to *bir*. At the time of famins, the fruit of *jal* (*Salvadora oleoides* Decne.), *jand* [*Prosopis cineraria* (L.) Macbr.] and *ber* (*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk.) are eaten by poor, whereas bark and leaves of those trees are used as fodder for cattle. The fruits of *jal* (*Salvadora oleoides* Decne.) and *kair* (*Acacia catechu* Wild.) and *Jand* [*Prosopis cineraria* (L.) Macbr.] are called *pinju* and *sangar* respectively, which are used as vegetable. Ceratin trees of *bir* are also used for fuel and timber.

Sometimes in the past, deforestation had been effected by the private land owners due to consolidation of holdings in the district with the result that the fuel resources had become uneconomical. There was an acute shortage of forests in the district resulting in soil erosion and devastating floods. The strips along roads, rails and canals were transferred to the Forest Department for scientific management some 22 years back. Since their transfer, the Forest Department has been raising fuel plantation to meet the growing demand of firewood of the district and to save the land from erosion and floods. The Forest Department has also launched scheme called 'Farm Forestry' throughout the State of Punjab, the implementation of which has been highly appreciated by the farmers. Since 1972-73, 13,69,343 plants have been planted along the fields in the district which amply shows that greenery has come back. Forest Department is concentrating on the development of forests which play a vital role in the economy of the district. With the raising of nurseries and fuelwood, plantation along the strips as well as fields the supply of firewood has improved to a great extent. Firewood is needed in large quantities to release cow-dung to use it as manure in order to increase food production. Timber from *Shisham*, *kikar*, *dalbergia sissoo* Roxb., *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Wild. ex DC subsp. *indica* (Bth.) Brenan, *mango* *Mangifera indica* L. and *jaman* etc. *Zyzygium cumini* (L.) skeels are used for manufacturing furniture and agricultural implements. Mostly, the timber is used in the construction of buildings in rural areas.

Timber from *shisham* and *kikar* is used in cottage industries, agriculture requirement and development of communications. Fuel-wood is also obtained in addition to timber, Approximately 2,120 cu. m of quantity is sold every year in the district. Income from sale of grass and *kana* is also divided. The principal produce forest in the district is timber and fuel-wood. *Panni* and grass are minor elements of forest produce. The cottage industries for preparation of furniture, charpais, pawas and

baskets and packing cases, etc. depend upon the forest produce. In addition to this, paper industry also depends on forest produce. Eucalyptus trees are raised in plenty to help the paper industry.

(f) Fauna (Zoology)

Wild boar, blue bull, jackal and common Indian hare and common mongoose are found in the district. Black and grey partridges, blue rock pigeon and common myanah are also found in the fields and jungle areas of the district.

There is a separate wildlife staff posted in the district which provide protection to the wildlife in the fields, and jungle areas. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 has been enforced in this State, w.e.f. 1 April 1975. Every effort is made to enforce Wild Life Laws and thus provide protection to the wild life in the district. The public is also being educated by way of various publicity medias like meetings, conferences, lectures, appeals, distribution of wildlife literature amongst masses, etc.

There is no wild life sanctuary in the district.

The different zoological types found in the district are detailed below :

(1) Pisces (Fishes).—The different varieties of common fishes available in the district are : *Notopterus notopterus* (*parri*), *Amibly Pharyngodon mola* (*sheesha*), *Catla catla* (*theil*), *Cirrhinus mrigala* (*murakh*), *C. reba* (*bhangar*), *Chela cachius* (*chilwa*), *Esomus damricus*, *Labeo bata* (*bata*), *L. calbasu* (*kalabans*), *L. rohita* (*rohu*), *Osteobrama cotio cotio* (*chiddu*), *puntius chola* (*chiddu*), *P. sarana* (*chiddu*), *P. sophore* (*chiddu*), *Salmostoms baeaila* (*chitwa*), *Botia darion*, *Mystry* (*Mystus*) *cavasius* (*cheenger*), *M. (Aorichthys) seenghala* (*seenghara*), *M. (Mystus) vittatus* (*kangir*) *Clarias batrachus* (*magur*), *Hetero Pheustes fossils* (*sanghi*), *Pseudotriptus atherinoides*, *Ompox bimaculatus* (*cheenger*), *O. pabda* (*pabda*), *Wallago attu* (*mullu*) *Nangra viridescens*, *Channa punctatus* (*dotta*), *Macrognathus aculeatus* (*bam*), *Mastacembelus armatus* (*bam*), *Chanda baculis* (*shusha*), *C. nama* (*sheesha*) *Glossigobius gutum* (*gobi*), etc.

(2) Amphibians (Frogs and Toads).—The common frogs found in the district are : *Rana tigrina* Daudin (Indian bull frog), *Rana breviceps* Schneider (Indian burrowing frog) and *Bufo melanostictus schneider* (common toad).

(3) Reptiles.—Snakes are found all over the district. The most common of these are the dreaded *Bungarus caeruleus* (Common Indian krait), *Vipera russalli* (russelles viper), *Echis carinatus* (*rhoorsa*), *Typhlops porrectus* (blind snake), *Leptotyphlops blandfordi*, *Python molurus molurus*

(Indian python), *Ery johin johni* (johnis sand boa), *Lycodon striatus* (wolf snake), *Ptyas mucosus* (rat snake), *Psamophis leithi* (gunther sand snake).

Common lizards found in the district are *Hemidactylus* *Brookia* Grey : found under stones, *Hemidactylus Flaviridis* Ruppell found in and outside the houses, *calotes versicolor* (daudin) found in lawn and hedges. In bushes and areas of thick vegetation, *Mabuya macularia* (Dum. of Bibr.) *ophiomorus tridactylus* (blyth) and *varanus moniter* linn. are found.

Two species of tortoises are found in the district *geoclamys hamiltoni* (Gray) and *chitra endica* (Gray).

(4) **Birds.**—The birds commonly found in the district are of two types, viz. resident birds and migratory birds (which visit the area in winter), as given below :

(5) **Resident Birds.**—Little grebe *podiceps ruficollis capensis*, *salwadori* ; little cormorant, *phalacrocorax niger* ; little green heron, *butorides striatus chloriceps* ; Indian pond heron, *ardeola grayii grayii* ; cattle egret, *bubulcus ibis coromandus* ; eastern large egret, *egretta alba modesta* ; little egret, *egretta garzetta garzetta* ; night heron, *nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax* ; little bitter, *Txbrychus minutus minutus* ; lesser whistling teal, *dendrocygna javanica* ; large whistling teal, *dendrocygna bicolor* ; spotbill duck, *anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha* ; cotton teal, *nettapus coromandelianus coromandelianus* ; crested honey buzzard, *pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis* ; pariah kite, *milyus migrans govinda* ; brahmyn kite, *haliastur indus indus* ; Indian shikra, *accipiter badius dussumieri* ; white-eyed buzzard eagle, *butastus teesa* ; bonelli lawk-eagle, *hieraaetus fasciatus fasciatus* ; king vulture, *torgos calves* ; cinereous vulture, *aegyptius monachus* ; Indian white-backed vulture, *gyps bengalensis* ; short-toed eagle, *citcaetus gallicus gallicus*, larger falcon, *falco biarmicus juggar* ; north Indian grey partridge, *francolinus pondicerianus interpositus* ; Indian black partridge, *francolinus francolinus asiae* ; Punjab jungle bush quail, *perdicula asiatica punjaubi* ; Indian sarus crane, *Grus antigone antigone* Indian moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus indica* Redwattled lapwing, *vanellus indicus indicus* ; Indian blackwinged stilt, *Himantopus himantopus himantopus* ; Indian river tern, *sterna auran-tia* ; Blackbellied tern, *sterna acuticauda* ; Blackbellied sandgrouse, *patrocles orientalis orientalis* ; Blue rock pigeon, *columba livia* ; Indian ring-dove, *streptopelia decaocto decaocto* ; Indian red turtle-dove, *streptopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica* ; Senegal dove, *streptopelia senegalensis cambayensis* ; Large Indian parakeet, *psittacula eupatria nipalensis* ; Northern roseringed parakeet, *psittacula krameri borealis* ; Common hawk cuckoo, *cuculus varius varius* ; Indian koel, *eudymys scolopacea scolopacea* ; Common crow pheasant, *centropus sinensis sinensis* ; Indian Barn owl

tyto alba stertens ; Northern spotted owl, *achena brama indica* ; Indian great horned or eagle owl, *Bubo bubo bengalensis* ; Indian little nightjar, *caprimulgua asiaticus asiaticus* ; Indian house swift, *aspus affinis affinis* ; Palm swaft, *cypsiurus parvus* ; Indian Pied kingfisher, *ceryle rudis leucomelanura* ; Indian small blue kingfisher, *alcedo atthis bengalensis* ; White breasted kingfisher, *halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis*, Bluecheeked bee-eater, *merops superciliosus persicus* ; Bluetailed bee-eater, *merops orientalis orientalis* ; Bluebearded bee-eater, *nyctiornis athertoni athertoni* ; Blue-jay, *coracias benghalensis benghalensis* ; European hoopoe, *upupa epops epops* ; Grey hornbill, *tockus birostris* ; Northern green barbet, *megalaima zeylonica caniceps* ; Copper smith, *megalaima haemacephala* ; Maharatta woodpecker, *picoides mahrattensis mahrattensis* ; Northern goldenbacked woodpecker, *dinopium benghalense benghalense* Singing bush lark, *mirafra javanica contilans* ; Black crowned finch-lark, *eremopterix nigriceps affinis* ; Indian crested lark, *galerida cristata chendoola* Indian Striated swallow, *hirundo daurice erythropygia* ; Indian Grey shrika, *lanius excubitor lathora* ; Indian baybacked shrika, *lanius vittatus vittatus* ; Kingcrow, *dicrurus adsimilis albicinctus* ; Rosy pastor, *sturnus roseus* ; Brahminy myna, *sturnus pagodarum* ; Indian myna, *acridotheres tristis tristis* ; Bank myna, *acridotheres ginginianus* ; Northern Jungle myna, *acridotheres fuscus fuscus* ; North Western tree pie, *dendrocitta vagabunda bristoli* ; Indian house crow, *corvus splendens splendens* ; Indian jungle crow, *corvus macrorhynches culminatus* ; Punjab raven, *corvus corax subcorax* ; Northern small minivet, *pericrocotus cinnamomeus peregrinus* ; North Westren iora, *aeginthina tiphia septentrionalis* ; White checked bulbul, *pycnonotus leucogenys leucogenys* ; Renvented bulbul, *pycnonotus cafer* ; Westren yellow eyed babbler, *chrysomma sinense hypoleucum* ; Common babbler, *turdoides caudatus caudatus* ; Large Grey babbler, *turdoides malcolmi* ; streaked fantail warbler, *cisticola juncidis cursitans* ; Rufousfronted wrenwarbler, *prinia buehanani* ; Indian streaked wren-warbler, *prinia gracilis lepida* ; Northern Westren Plain Wren Warbler *Prinia socialis terricolor* Northern ashay wren-warbler, *prinia socialis stewarti* ; Gangetic jungle Wren-Warbler, *Prinia sylvatica gangetica* ; Indian tailor bird, *orthotomes sutorius guzuratus* ; Bristled grass warbler, *chattornis striatus* ; Straited march warbler, *megalurus palustris taklon* ; Indian magpie robin, *copsychus saularis saularis* ; Brown rock chat, *cercomela fusca* ; Dark-Grey bush chat, *saxicola ferra* ; Brownbacked Indian robin, *saxicoloides fulicata cambalensis* ; North Western Paddyfield pipit, *anthus novaeseelandiae waiti* ; Large pied wagtail, *mots motacilla moderaspatisensis* ; Indian thick-billed flower pecker, *dicaeum gaile agile* ; Indian purple sunbird, *nectarinia asiatica* ; Indian white-eye, *zosterops palpebrosa palpebrosa* ; Indian house sparrow, *passer domesticus indicus* ; Sind jungle sparrow, *passer*

pyrrhonotus ; Indian yellowthroated sparrow, *petronia xanthocoris xanthocollis* Indian baya, *ploceus phillippinus phillippinus* ; Black-throated weaver bird, *ploceus benghalensis* ; Indian streaked weaver bird, *ploceus manyar flaviceps* ; Red munia, *estrilda amandava amandava* ; White throated munia *lonchura malabarica malabarica* ; Indian spotted munia, *lonchura puncturata punctulata* ; striolated bunting, *emberiza striolata striolata* ; Crested bunting, *melophus lathamii* ; etc.

(6) **Migratory Birds.**—White stork, *ciconia ciconia* ; *ciconia* ; Black stork, *ciconia nigra* ; Brahminy duck, *tadorna ferruginea* ; Common shelduck, *tadorna tadorna* ; Pintail, *anas acutia* ; Common teal *anas crecca ecrecca* ; Mallard, *anas platyrhynchos* ; Bluewinged teal, *anas querquedula* ; Common pochard, *aythya ferina* ; White-eyed pochard, *aythya nyroca* ; Longlegged buzzard, *buteo rufinus rufinus* ; pale harrier, *circus macrourus* ; Eastern Common crane, *grus grus lilfordi sharpe* ; Sociable lapwing, *vanellus gregarius* ; Dusky redshank, *tringa erythropus* ; Little green shank, *tringa stagnatilis* ; Green shank, *tringa nebularia* ; Spotted sandpiper, *tringa glarola* ; Common sandpiper, *tringa hypoleucos* ; Western turtle-dove, *streptopelia orientalis meena* ; Pied crested cuckoo, *clamator jacobinus serratus* ; Indian wiretailed swallow, *hirundo smithi filifera* ; Indian Golden Oriole, *oriolus oriolus kindoor* ; Common Indian starling, *sturnus vulgaris paltaratskyi* ; Northern grey headed flycatcher, *caloceryza celyonensis caloceryza* ; Northern White browed fantail flycatcher, *rihipidura aureola aureola* ; Moustached sedge warbler, *lusciniola melanopogon mimica* ; Northern bluethroat, *erithacus svecicus svecicus* ; Northern pied bush chat, *saxicola caprata bicolor* ; Pied chat, *cenathus picata* ; European tree pipit, *anthus trivialis trivialis* ; vinaceous breasted pipit, *anthus roseatus* ; Central Asian water pipit, *anthus spinoletta coutellii* ; Northern yellowheaded wagtail, *motacilla citreola citreola* ; Western yellowheaded wagtail, *motacilla citreola citreola* ; Western yellowheaded wagtail, *motacilla citreola werae*, Black-backed yellowheaded wagtail, *motacilla citreola calcurata* ; Grey wagtail, *motacilla caspica caspica* ; Indian white wagtail, *motacilla alba dukhunensis* ; Masked wagtail, *motacilla alba personata*.

(5) **Mammals.**—Those found in the district are : *Hemiechinus auritus collaris*, longeared hedgehog ; *paraechinus micropus micropus*, Indian hedgehog, *Suncus murinus*, house shrew ; *Pteropus giganteus giganteus*, Indian flying fox ; *Myotis formosus formosus*, hodgson's bat ; *Plecotus auritus homochrous*, hedgson longeared bat ; *Fundulus pennanti*, the northern palm squirrel ; *Myoxotis indica*, the Indian crested porcupine ; *Rattus rattus*, the common Indian rat ; *Musculus linnaeus*, the house mouse ; *Tatera indica indica*, the Indian gerbille ; *Mus dooduga dooduga*, the Indian field mouse ; *Lepus nigricollis*, the Indian hare ; *vulpes bengalensis*, the Indian

fox ; *Canis aurea*, Asiatic jackal ; *Viverricula indica*, the small India civet ; *Herpestes edwardsi*, the common mongoose ; and *Macaca mulata mulata*, the rhesus macaque⁴.

The migratory birds visit all the suitable habitats of the district like *jheels* (lakes) marshes, rivers, orchards, irrigated and cultivated fields etc. Depending upon the species, the birds stay in the district from 6-8 months. Some birds are passage migrants and are seen in the district for a few days only.

(g) Climate⁵

(i) Climatic Divisions and Seasons and Their Duration.

The climate of the district is on the whole dry and is characterised by a short monsoon, a hot summer and a bracing cold winter. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from November to March is followed by the hot season lasting up to the end of June. The period from July to mid-September constitutes the rainy season, of south-west monsoon. The second half of September and October may be termed the post-monsoon or transition period.

(ii) Temperature and Humidity

Temperature.—At Sangrur, there is a meteorological observatory functioning since 1970. The available data of this station are not sufficient for the preparation of normals. The account which follows is, therefore, based on the records of this observatory together with records of observations in the neighbouring districts where similar climatic conditions prevail. Temperature starts rising from middle of February and from about the beginning of March increase rapidly till June which is generally the hottest month. The mean daily maximum temperature during June is around 104°F (40°C) and the mean daily minimum is around 80.6°F (27°C). The heat is intense in summer. On individual days, the day temperature may occasionally exceed 116°F (47°C) or 118.4°F (48°C). Scorching dust laden winds which blow during the hot season render the weather very trying. Afternoon thundershowers which occur on some days bring some relief although temporarily. With the onset of monsoon by the end of or the beginning of July, there is a drop in the day temperatures but nights continue to be as warm as in June. Due to increased humidity in the monsoon the weather is oppressive in between the rains. At the end

⁴ Zoological Survey of India, Regional Station, Dehradun

⁵ Material supplied by the Deputy Director General of Observatories (Climatology and Geophysics), Pune

of rainy season, by the middle of September, there is a decrease in temperature, the drop in the night temperatures being more rapid. After October, both day and night temperatures decrease rapidly. January is usually the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at about 68°F (20°C) and the mean daily minimum at about 56.6°F (7°C). In winter, particularly in January and February, cold waves in the wake of passing western disturbances affect the district and the minimum temperature occasionally drops down below the freezing point of water. On such occasions frosts are likely in the district.

Humidity.—During the south-west monsoon, season July to September the relative humidity is high, being 75 to 80 per cent in the mornings and about 55 to 65 per cent in the afternoons. High humidities of more than 70 per cent also prevail during the winter months, December to February. It is comparatively drier during rest of the year. April and May are the driest period of the year when in the afternoons the relative humidity is 25 per cent or less.

(iii) Rainfall

There are five raingauge stations in the district, which started functioning from 1954. Average rainfalls, monthly as well as yearly, and the number of rainy days recorded at these five stations and for the district as a whole based on data upto 1980 are given in the Tables 1 and 2. The frequency of annual rainfall in the Sangrur District from 1954 to 1970 are given in Table 3. The period of availability of data of these stations being not sufficiently long, the description that follows is based on these short period data augmented by the rainfall data of the neighbouring districts. The average annual rainfall in the district is about 590 mm, the maximum (about 73 per cent) falling in the months of July to September, July being the wettest month. The rainfall in the district increases from south-west towards the northeast and varies from about 490 mm, at Sunam to about 670 mm at Malerkotla. There is some rain, mostly in the form of thundershowers, during the pre-monsoon month of June. Some rain is also received with passing western disturbances during winter. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is large. In the 17 year period 1954 to 1970, it is seen that the highest annual rainfall in the district amounting to 182 per cent of the normal occurred in 1955. The lowest annual rainfall which was 58 per cent of the normal occurred in 1965. The annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 per cent of the normal in five out of 17 years. For the district as a whole, two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once. Considering the rainfall at individual stations. It is seen that similar rainfall has occurred at least once in four out of five stations. Barnala and Malerkotla had however such rainfall twice. It will be seen from Table 1 that the annual rainfall in the district was between 450 and 750 mm in 10 years out of 17.

On an average, there are 27 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from about 24 at Sunam to about 31 at Malerkotla.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded in the district was 377.5 mm on 9 August 1976 at Barnala.

(iv) Atmospheric Pressure and Winds

Winds are generally light but do gain some strength during the late summer and early part of the monsoon season. In the south-west monsoon season winds from easterly and southeasterly directions are more common with north-westerlies blowing on some days. In the post-monsoon and winter seasons, the predominant wind direction is north-westerly. In the summer, winds are generally from north-westerly direction but on some day they blow from south-east.

Special Weather Phenomena

The district is scarcely affected by monsoon depressions. During the cold season, passing western disturbances affect the weather over the district causing few thunder storms. Rain during June and the monsoon season is often accompanied with thunder. Dust storms occur occasionally during the hot season.

TABLE
Normals and Extremes of Rainfall

Station	No. of years of data	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July
Sangrur	17 (a)	20.5	13.0	19.6	4.2	14.5	44.9	190.3
	(b)	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.6	1.4	2.5	6.9
Sunam	17 (a)	14.0	12.1	13.8	4.0	12.0	48.0	119.5
	(b)	1.4	1.1	1.3	0.3	1.0	1.7	4.9
Barnala	18 (a)	19.5	13.2	13.4	5.4	7.2	30.1	182.6
	(b)	1.3	1.1	1.5	0.3	0.8	1.5	5.4
Dhuri	17 (a)	20.5	17.5	16.0	4.9	15.7	51.5	218.2
	(b)	1.6	1.2	1.6	0.6	0.8	2.0	5.8
Malerkotla	17 (a)	21.8	18.2	21.4	5.8	35.2	51.3	198.7
	(b)	2.1	1.5	1.7	0.7	1.3	2.1	7.6
Sangrur District	(a)	19.3	15.0	16.8	4.9	16.9	45.0	181.9
	(b)	1.6	1.2	1.6	0.5	1.1	2.0	6.1

(a) Normal rainfall in mm

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain 2.5 mm or more)

—1
in the Sangrur District

Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as % of normal and year*	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal and year*	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours**	
								Amount	Date
149.6	101.2	35.5	3.6	14.3	611.2	162 (1960)	64 (1954)	(m.m.) 192.4	12 July 1960
7.0	4.4	1.5	0.4	1.1	30.5				
130.4	86.8	35.2	1.5	11.8	490.1	189 (1955)	44 (1962)	160.0	11 July 1960
6.5	3.7	1.1	0.2	0.8	24.0				
129.0	120.1	37.5	2.8	7.7	568.5	172 (1955)	61 (1968)	212	26 July 1964
5.8	4.1	0.8	0.3	0.7	23.6				
163.0	115.8	41.2	2.4	16.1	682.8	167 (1955)	30 (1965)	175.0	5 July 1967
6.1	4.2	1.1	0.3	0.9	26.2				
141.2	110.9	54.0	3.6	11.2	673.3	194 (1955)	45 (1965)	199.0	5 July 1967
6.6	4.2	1.8	0.4	1.1	31.1				
142.6	107.0	40.7	2.8	12.2	587.7	182 (1955)	58 (1965)		
6.4	4.1	1.3	0.3	1.1	27.3				

*Years given in brackets

**Based on all available data up to 1970

SANGRUR

TABLE—
Normals and Extremes of Rain in

Station	No. of years of data	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Sangrur	10 (a)	11.4	12.7	11.7	6.4	14.1	41.6	145.0	119.6
	(b)	1.4	2.0	1.7	0.7	1.5	2.5	7.1	6.5
Sunam	10 (a)	19.0	16.8	7.2	11.6	12.9	48.8	148.1	169.0
	(b)	1.4	1.8	1.8	0.6	1.5	3.3	9.4	7.3
Barnala	10 (a)	7.4	13.6	6.0	6.8	1.3	45.9	121.8	139.2
	(b)	0.8	1.5	0.9	0.5	1.0	3.0	6.9	7.9
Malerkota	10 (a)	12.1	22.0	15.1	7.6	17.3	47.9	159.6	161.5
	(b)	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.2	2.5	7.8	6.4
Dhuri	10 (a)	8.8	8.9	4.2	..	12.9	42.9	114.1	123.9
	(b)	0.6	0.9	0.5	..	0.7	1.6	4.7	5.0
Average Sangrur District	(a)	11.7	14.8	8.8	6.5	11.7	45.4	137.7	142.6
	(b)	1.1	1.5	1.2	0.5	1.2	2.6	7.2	6.6

TAVARA

2 Sangrur District of 10 years data from 1961 to 1970

Station	No. of years of data	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Sangrur	10 (a)	11.4	12.7	11.7	6.4	14.1	41.6	145.0	119.6
	(b)	1.4	2.0	1.7	0.7	1.5	2.5	7.1	6.5
Sunam	10 (a)	19.0	16.8	7.2	11.6	12.9	48.8	148.1	169.0
	(b)	1.4	1.8	1.8	0.6	1.5	3.3	9.4	7.3
Barnala	10 (a)	7.4	13.6	6.0	6.8	1.3	45.9	121.8	139.2
	(b)	0.8	1.5	0.9	0.5	1.0	3.0	6.9	7.9
Malerkota	10 (a)	12.1	22.0	15.1	7.6	17.3	47.9	159.6	161.5
	(b)	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.2	2.5	7.8	6.4
Dhuri	10 (a)	8.8	8.9	4.2	..	12.9	42.9	114.1	123.9
	(b)	0.6	0.9	0.5	..	0.7	1.6	4.7	5.0
Average Sangrur District	(a)	11.7	14.8	8.8	6.5	11.7	45.4	137.7	142.6
	(b)	1.1	1.5	1.2	0.5	1.2	2.6	7.2	6.6

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur)

TABLE 3

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the Sangrur District
(Data 1954—1970)

Range in mm	No. of years
250—350	1
350—450	1
450—550	5
550—650	2
650—750	3
750—850	3
850—950	1
950—1050	..
1050—1150	1

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

The district of Sangrur was formed in 1948. The name of the district derives from its headquarters, Sangrur, said to have been founded by one Sanghu, a Jat, about 400 years back. The Sangrur District as of today comprises parts of a few erstwhile distinct administrative units, the Phulkian States of Jind, Nabha and Patiala; the Mohammadan State of Malerkotla; and some parts of then district of Ludhiana. It is interesting to note that Sangrur itself was earlier a part of Nabha State. History of the district is, therefore, complicated, although it is traceable through its various components. In brief, history of the district is given as under :

(a) Ancient Period

The recent excavations carried out by the Archaeological Department, Punjab, at the various places of Malerkotla Tahsil of Sangrur District, give sufficient proof that the district is quite rich in ancient history. From the close scrutiny of the available data, the researchers have traced the ancient history of the district from the pre-Harappan period. Almost the whole of the excavated places fall in Malerkotla Tahsil of the Sangrur District. The important sites so far excavated in the Malerkotla Tahsil are as under :

- (1) Rohira
- (2) Mahorana
- (3) Bhudan
- (4) Bahwa
- (5) Bhasaur
- (6) Dhingri
- (7) Jandali
- (8) Malaud Rorian (Theh Loharan)
- (9) Mohammadpur

Description of the important sites and conclusions drawn from the excavated material, are briefly given hereunder :

1. Rohira

It lies about 6 km from Mandi Ahmadgarh and about 13 km from Malerkotla. It is situated along the line of depression which follows the

ancient course of river *Satluj*. It is worthwhile to mention here that it was near Rohira that thousands of Sikhs were massacred by Ahmad Shah Abdali, in a great holocaust, known as Wada Ghallughara, in 1762.

Recently, an exciting discovery of a pre-Harappan settlement—a precursor of the Indus Valley of Harappan civilisation has been made at an ancient mound at Rohira which has now emerged as the second important pre-Harappan site in India. Kalibangan in the Sriganganagar area of Rajasthan was the first site to reveal an important pre-Harappan settlement after 10 years of continuous excavation. Experts believe that from the Kalibangan area, pre-Harappan people started moving in the northern or north-eastern direction along some of the streams which have now dried up. The ancient water courses are marked by ranges of sand dunes. The different stages of this movement towards the *Satluj* have remained uninvestigated so far¹.

The mound is 10 metres above the surrounding fields. Originally, it covered an area of more than 30 acres. However, only 15 acres of it is now left, the rest having been brought under cultivation. Out of this, an area of 900 sq. metres has been taken up for excavation.

The earliest settlement at the site is believed to have begun around 2,300 B.C. Attracted by the fertile soil and availability of water, people from Sind and Baluchistan started moving and following the path of the *Satluj* or the Ghaggar settled at Rohira.

They started living in thatched huts on the virgin soil. Before long they started building houses of sub-dried bricks. The houses were well laid out and were fairly spacious.

A large number of beads of terra-cotta, carnelian agate, bangle pieces of terra-cotta and bone styluses discovered there testify to the prosperity of the region and its trade relations with distant lands.

This period is designated as pre-Harappan. The finds at this place are comparable to those of Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Banawali (Bhiwani District), Balu (Jind District) and Kot Diji and Amri in Pakistan.

By about 2,000 B.C. a new set of people is believed to have settled at the site. Their pottery was more sturdy and their equipment superior. There is no evidence of any upheaval.

A citadel which possibly ran all-round the residential complex was constructed to guard against invaders.

¹ *The Tribune*, 9 March 1982

Houses of bead makers with a large number of finished and unfinished beads and two copper chisels have been recovered.

These finds point to the advanced technology of the Copper-Bronze Age. Certain finds of gold beads attest to the prosperity of the people. They used fine, well baked pots, jars and troughs. Clay figurines of bull, terra-cotta and idli-shaped cakes have been found in abundance. A well made of baked bricks has also been discovered. At least five phases of house construction have been found.

The most notable find is a terra-cotta seal depicting a mythological scene of ritual killing.

The site was possibly deserted by 1700 B.C. and the newcomers 'Bara folks' (named after Bara site near Ropar), occupied it. The use of incised pots, vessels and water jars gave a distinctive character to this culture. The use of corn bins is a typical feature of this area.

The new people who made Rohira their abode from 1100 to 600 B.C. used the painted grey ware. They were followed by people who used black ware (600 to 200 B.C.). Even though their regular habitation has not been found in the area under excavation, surface explorations and pits dug in the area indicate their presence at the site.

There is evidence of Sunga-Kushan pottery. The area around the east has structures typical of Kushan bricks with finger marks. Some terra-cotta figurines including one of mother goddess, a few small coins of Indo-Perthian King Gondo Pharnese (first century A.D.) and late Kushan coins have also been discovered².

Since the area of Sangrur lies in close proximity to the most known battlefield of Kurukshetra of epic times, there is the least doubt of its having been under the influence of vedic culture. It must have been a settlement of the Aryans. The *Rigveda* is the earliest literary record of the socio-cultural development and affords us the first glimpse of the life of its people. The most important god of the Vedic period is Indra. A thorough analysis of the character of various Vedic gods reflects the heroic character of the Aryan society. The heroic society of the Vedic period was tribal in character. The ideal of the hero is laid down in the *Mahabharata*: "Fame is all that one should acquire here. That fame can be acquired by battle and by no other means." The *ashramas* of teachers and sages in forests were their military academies humming and throbbing with the activities of young athletes and cadets.

² *The Tribune*, 12 August 1982

Further, the Mahabharata contains profuse and useful information on various aspects of the political and socio-culture life of the land. From the scrutiny of the Mahabharata, it is presumed that Yaudheyas, a martial tribe occupied the present area of Sangrur along with the allied territories in the proximity of Kurukshetra. Yaudheyas were a *gena* community who were famous for their valour. Their coins have been found mostly in the Eastern Punjab and in the region between the Satluj and Yamuna.

The area of present Sangrur District alongwith adjoining areas came under the Maurya Dynasty in B.C. 322. It was Chandragupta Maurya who established Maurya Dynasty after overthrowing the Nandas.

This area also enjoyed the blessings of the Gupta administration, from the beginning of the 4th Century to the end of the 6th Century. Because of the efficient administration, Gupta era has been known as the Golden age of Hindu period. Chandragupta Vikramditya was the most famous king of the Gupta Dynasty.

In the beginning of the 7th Century, Prabhakara Vardhana ruled over this area whose capital was at Thanesar, not far from the present area of Sangrur District. His brother Harsha Vardhana who reduced anarchy to order in Northern India, and reigned for forty-one years, from AD 606—47. However, later on, Harsha Vardhana shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kanauj, because of the extension of the territory of the empire.

Early in the 8th Century, Thanesar ceased to exist and another line of kings, Tomar Rajputs, established itself in the South East Punjab. After about a century, the Tomars were supplanted by the Chauhans of Ajmer.

(b) Medieval Period

During the last quarter of 10th century, Raja Jaipal ruled over Punjab including the present area of Sangrur District. His capital was at Bathinda close to the present area of Sangrur District.

Sunam was an important province during the Sultanate period. Balban's cousin Sher Khan was incharge of the governorship of Sunam. He was very energetic governor who successfully repulsed many incursions of Mongols, king Jalal-ud-din was the first Sultan of the Khilji Dynasty. During his reign, Mongols at least 100,000 strong invaded India in 1292, reached Sunam, but were defeated. Ala-ud-din Khilji was the most famous Sultan of this Dynasty who enforced very strong administration. He successfully dealt with

Mongols who made several incursions into the Punjab. during the last decade of the 13th century. During his reign, Akhur Beg Tatak was the Governor of Sunam. The Sultanate of Delhi which held away in the Punjab for several hundred years until it was overthrown by the Mughals early in the 16th century.

During the times of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq, a rebellion took place in Sunam and the adjoining areas. The root cause of the rebellion was the refusal of the peasants to pay the land tax. They erected *mandals* (strongholds) and defied the authorities from their mandals. Muhammad-bin-Tughluq marched against them, captured the leaders, and brought them to Delhi where they were put to the sword.

During the Sultanate period, Sunam had strategic position and it was on the main route to Delhi. Muhammad-bin-Tughluq led expedition against Nagarkot, an ancient town in the Kangra District, via Sunam.

Under the Mughals, the Punjab formed important province of their empire with successive governors as heads of administration. Sunam and Sirhind were the important provinces during the Mughal Rule and the most of the area of the modern Sangrur District fell under them. In between the Mughal Rule, mention is also required to be made of Sher Shah Suri who gave efficient administration. Akbar, Jehangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb were the important rulers of the Mughal Dynasty. Akbar, the most illustrious king of the Mughals made marvellous achievements in the secular field. But the total reversal of his secular policy during the times of Aurangzeb, led to the downfall of the empire. After the death of Aurangzeb, Sikhism had become a militant power in Punjab. Banda Bahadur, the faithful disciple of the Tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh shook the very foundation of the Mughal power in Punjab.

After the death of Aurangzeb, the Mughal Empire became weaker throughout India. By this time, Sikhism had become a militant power in Punjab. Banda Singh Bahadur, the faithful disciple of the Tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh shook the very foundation of the Mughal Empire in Punjab. The Sikhs from *Doab* and *Majha* came in large numbers under the banner of Banda Bahadur, to take revenge on Wazir Khan, the Faujdar of Sirhind who was mainly responsible for the endless sufferings to the Guru Gobind Singh and his sons. The Phulkian Sikhs who are known as such after the name of their common ancestor 'Phul' and who later on succeeded in establishing political power in Cis-Satluj Punjab, did not give much physical assistance to Banda Bahadur, but they

gave much liberal financial assistance to him for fighting against the Mughal Rule. Wazir Khan was alarmed and he deputed Sher Muhammad Khan of Malerkotla to deal with the Sikhs coming from the north. Before they could join the main force of Banda Bahadur, Sher Muhammad Khan and his brother Khizar Khan joined against the Sikhs. At Ropar (now Rupnagar), Sher Muhammad Khan fell upon the Sikhs in the battle. Khizar Khan was killed. There prevailed a confusion in his ranks, and the Sikhs availing themselves of the situation, marched further to join the Banda's forces. In the battle of Chhapar Chiri (near Sirhind) in 1710, Sher Muhammad Khan and Khwaza Ali of Malerkotla who were assisting Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind, were killed. After the fall of Sirhind, Banda sent out the Sikhs to occupy the country to the South, East and West. All the *Parganas* in the north between Satluj and Yamuna including Sunam fell into the hands of Banda.

Thus Banda was the first empire builder for the Sikhs. He was an able and enterprising leader who led the Sikhs to victory and broke the charm of the invincibility of the mighty Mughal Empire. Though Banda reigned for a very short period in the province of Sirhind including Sunam and other areas of the district of Sangrur, he introduced many reforms. He was on the side of oppressed and down-trodden. He abolished *zamindari* system (landlordism) in his area and recognised the proprietary rights of the tillers of the land.

During the Fifth Afghan invasion in 1761, Ahmed Shah Abdali, after defeating Marathas at Panipat in 1761 fell upon Ala Singh of Patiala who had sold provisions to the Marathas at Panipat. He sacked Barnala, terrified Ala Singh and compelled him to pay tribute. Ala Singh could barely save himself from excommunication by pleading with Jassa Singh Ahluwalia.

During the Fourth and Fifth Afghan invasion, the Sikhs were able to plunder the retreating Afghan forces and were able mostly to relieve them of their spoils. Ahmed Shah Abadali this time had come only to teach a lesson to the Sikhs. In 1762 after re-occupying Lahore and receiving intelligence that great numbers of Sikhs had moved southwards, Abdali immediately set out in pursuit. He covered a distance of 150 miles in two days and caught up with the Sikhs at the village of Kup. It was an unequal fight. Most of the 30,000 Sikhs were non-combatants, old men and women and children. Sikh horsemen could not indulge in their favourite, hit-and-run tactics and had to engage Afghans, who outnumbered them, in hand to hand fight. Sikh soldiers

put their women and children in the centre and moved down like a living fortress from Kup to Barnala where they expected Ala Singh of Patiala coming to their rescue. Afghan took a heavy toll of life. This holocaust is called vada ghalughara in which a large number of Sikhs were killed. Thereafter, Ahmed Shah Abdali reached Barnala. Barnala was a fortified town, within the territory of Ala Singh, the founder of the Patiala house. On reaching there, the Shah expected Ala Singh to come and pay him the homage. Paying of homage by Ala Singh at this juncture would have incurred the great displeasure of his co-religionists. In the circumstances, he preferred to remain aloof. This provided a chance to a number of his staunch enemies, viz. Lachbmi Narayan, the Diwan of Sirhind and the Nawab of Malerkotla who were already jealous of his growing power. Ahmed Shah Abdali marched on Barnala and pillaged its surroundings and burnt down the town. Ala Singh escaped, but later on he was taken prisoner. With the intercession of Shah Wali Khan, the grand wazir of Durrani, Najib-ud-Daula, the Rohilla Chief, his life was spared on producing his allegiance and paying tribute of five lakhs rupees, and another amount of one and a quarter lakh to appear before the Shah with long hair and beard unshaven. According to Latif, Ala Singh's wife, Rani Fattu paid the invader another sum of rupees 4 lakhs to secure the release of her hunsband. Ala Singh had already paid one and a quarter lakh for maintaining his hair and his beard. Besides, the Shah himself is said to have been impressed much with the manly deportment of Ala Singh, so that he conferred a rich *khiṣat* upon him and despatched a *firman* to the Sirhind Governor to restore his *jagirs*. The title of Raja was also conferred upon him and after promising a tribute, Ala Singh secured his release and struck a coin bearing the Shah's name as the bestower of the kingdom.

Since the present Sangrur District contains areas of erstwhile Phulkian States of Patiala, Nabha and Jind, and Mohammedan State of Malerkotla, its history is linked with the history of the above States. However, its main link is with the Phulkian States. Sangrur proper was once the headquarters of the Phulkian State of Jind. Phul, whose name means 'blossom', was the grand common ancestor of the Phulkian Sardars. He was blessed by the Guru Har Gobind, and from him many noble houses trace their descent. He left six sons, of whom Taloka was the eldest, and from him descended the families of Jind and Nabha States. From Rama, the second son, sprang the greatest of the Phulkian houses, that of Patiala. The four other sons only succeeded to a small share of their father's possessions.

Like other Phulkian States, the history of Jind State dates back to 1763 when the Governor of Sirhind, a protege of Ahmed Shah Abdali was defeated by the Sikhs and the province of Sirhind was partitioned among the Phulkian Sardars. Sukhchain, the grandson of Phul was notable rural head who had Balanwali under him. After his death, Balanwali fell to Alam Singh, his elder son, Badrukhan, to his second son, Gajpat Singh and Dialpura to Bulaqi. Thus the first notable Chief of Jind State was Sardar Gajpat Singh who made Jind as his capital in 1746. He continued to be a vassal of Delhi Empire by paying tribute. In return, he obtained an imperial *firman* conferring upon him the title of Raja and the authority to coin money in his name. His position was further strengthened by a matrimonial alliance with the chief of Sukarchakya *Misl*, in the Trans-Satluj region. In 1774, the marriage of Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakya was celebrated with Raj Kaur, the daughter of Raja Gajpat Singh, at Badrukhan. Now some historians believe that Maharaja Ranjit Singh was born at Badrukhan on 13 November 1780.

Immediately, after the above matrimonial alliance, there arose a quarrel between the two Phulkian houses of Nabha and Jind. Sardar Hamir Singh, the Raja of Nabha was got imprisoned by Sardar Gajpat Singh of Jind. Thereafter, the Raja of Jind attacked Sangrur, Nabha and Bhadson which were strong places in Nabha Territory. However, a strong defence was put up by Sardarni Deso, wife of Sardar Hamir Singh, for four months. At the same time, she begged the Raja of Patiala to interfere. The Raja of Patiala interposed with other Sikh Sardars, compelling Raja Gajpat Singh to restore Amloh and Bhadson, and release Hamir Singh. Sangrur was retained and had since been included in the Jind Territory.

Raja Gajpat Singh was a constant ally of the Patiala Chief and accompanied him to many of his expeditions. The town of Jind was much enlarged by Raja Gajpat Singh who built a large fort on its northern side. He died at the age of fifty-one in 1786 at Safidon. The possessions of Gajpat Singh were divided between his sons, Bhag Singh and Bhup Singh, the latter taking the estate of Badrukhan, and the elder, Jind and Safidon, with the title of Raja. Raja Bhag Singh was twenty-one years old when he became chief. He was first, of all the great Cis-Satluj chiefs to seek an alliance with the British Government. Raja Bhag Singh had shrewdly been held aloof from the combination against the British; and when Scindia's power in northern India was ultimately broken, he was obliged under the treaty of 30 December 1803 to surrender his possessions of west of Yamuna. Lord Lake awarded Bhag Singh by confirming

his title over Guhana. He afterwards accompanied Lord Lake upto Beas in pursuit of Jaswant Rao Holkar and persuaded his nephew Maharaja Ranjit Singh not to aid the Marathas in their fight against the English. His mission was a success. Holkar was obliged to leave Punjab for Indore without entering the territory of Phulkian Chiefs. For this, Bhag Singh was awarded the *Pargana* of Bawana to the south-west of Panipat, as his reward from the British.

In the time of Raja Bhag Singh, a dispute arose between Patiala, Nabha and Jind and therein mediation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was sought. Raja Bhag Singh gained in territory by his nephew's (Maharaja Ranjit Singh) visit; and during the expedition of 1806 he received from the Maharaja the following estates: Ludhiana, consisting of twenty-four villages worth Rs 15,380 a year; twenty-four villages of Jhandiala from the same family, worth Rs 4,370; two villages of Kot, and two of Jagraon, worth Rs 2,000 a year; all taken from the Rani of Rai Alyas of the Muhammadan Rajput family of Raikot; while from the widow of Miah Ghos he acquired two villages of the Basia District. During the expedition of the following year, the Maharaja gave him three villages of Ghungrana, conquered from Gujar Singh of Raipur, and twenty-seven villages of Morinda in Sirind, conquered from the son of Dharam Singh, and all together worth Rs. 19,255 a year. Thus Raja Bhag Singh gained much through his relationship with Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the lion of Punjab.

(c) British Period

The active British influence in the erstwhile State of Jind was visible during the rule of Raja Bhag Singh when he alongwith other Phulkian Sardars approached the British Government for seeking protection against the rising power of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. There is no doubt that Ranjit Singh was very moderate towards the Phulkian Rajas and he was never hesitant to solve their intricate problems whenever such situations occurred. But, in due course, with the rising power of Ranjit Singh, they became suspicious of his designs and hence sought British protection. Accordingly, the leaders of the Cis-Satluj Sikh states including the rulers of Patiala, Nabha and Jind decided in a conclave to send a deputation to the British Resident in Delhi, Mr. Seton. Consequently, a delegation consisting of the Raja of Jind, Bhag Singh, Bhai Lal Singh of Kaithal the Diwan of Patiala, Sardar Chain Singh and the confidential agent of Nabha Ghulam Hussain was despatched to Delhi and presented their memorandum to the British

Resident on 1 April 1809. They pledged their loyalty to every succeeding power in Delhi and formally sought protection of the British. The British were very glad to entertain their offer and accordingly they made a treaty on 25 April 1809 with Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The Maharaja agreed not to carry his military exploits in the Cis-Satluj territories. Thus the hope of the Maharaja to unite the whole Sikh nation met with a disaster. According to Prof. Sinha "his (Ranjit's) failure to absorb the cis-Satluj states was a tragedy of Sikh militant nationalism and the success of the cis-Satluj Sikhs with the aid of the British Government marked the disruption of the great creation of Guru Gobind Singh".

In order to defend the cis-Satluj states, the British took the area of Ludhiana from Raja Bhag Singh and made there a permanent cantonment. With the lapse of time the values attached to a thing undergo a change. Paradoxically the Malwa Chiefs carved out independent states out of the Mughal territories. For the fulfilment of this object, they were assisted by the peasantry who had borne the brunt of Mughal atrocities. Strangely they again were made tools in the hands of their chiefs and were used to their advantage. The peasantry made them strong and independent but these chiefs again enslaved them. By the treaty of 1809 with the British, as soon as the Cis-Satluj states were free from the fear of Ranjit Singh, they tried to demolish and rob each other. Hence, the British found another excellent opportunity to meddle in their affairs and issue another proclamation on 22 August 1811 to protect them against each other as well. This increased their power of interference, patronage, reprimand and even armed intervention, so that these states as time went on, became absolute dependencies of British rather than independent rulers in treaty alliance with the British power, of equal rank in law if not in fact.

After the death of Raja Bhag Singh in 1819, Fateh Singh became the next ruler of Jind State. His reign was very short and quite uneventful. He died in 1822, at the age of 33, leaving one son, Sangat Singh eleven years of age.

The installation of Sangat Singh took place on 30 July 1822, at Jind in the presence of all the Phulkian Chiefs. There was lot of deterioration in the sphere of administration during the period of Raja Sangat Singh. The usual results which a minority produces in native states, soon began to show themselves in Jind. The affairs of the Raja fell into the utmost confusion, the territory was ill-managed, the people discontented, and no attention was paid to the remonstrances of the British authorities regarding grievances that he was called upon to

redress. To such a point did this recklessness proceed, that the political Agent at length recommended that the monthly and quarterly cash payments received by the Raja on account of the Ludhiana Cantonment, should be suspended until the Raja should satisfy all just claims pending against his territory and subjects.

Raja Sangat Singh had very cordial relations with Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He made frequent visits to Lahore Court and received many presents and *jagirs* from the Maharaja. The British did not approve of these activities of the Raja. But it was almost impossible to prevent the cis-Satluj chiefs carrying on independent negotiations with Lahore, when almost every one of them had agents and Vakils at that Court.

The mismanagement of Jind continued to increase. Raja deserted his capital altogether. Further, the detention of British subjects in confinement without just cause by the Jind authorities, was in 1834, reported to Government by the Governor General's agent. The Raja was reprimanded by the British for his lapses. But the general inefficiency and oppression of the administration remained the same.

A short time afterwards, the Raja left on a visit to Lahore, to be present at the Dussehra festival to which he had been specially invited by Ranjit Singh with whom he seemed more anxious to remain on good terms than with the English Government. This visit gave just cause of dissatisfaction to British Government, occurring so soon after the censure which had been passed on the Raja for his unauthorised negotiations with the Lahore Court.

The natural faults of Sangat Singh's character were carefully encouraged by his ministers for their own ends. He squandered the money in a thousand extravagances, more especially in his expeditions to Lahore. The repeated extortions from all classes of his subjects made him very unpopular. The administrative duties were completely neglected, life and property became insecure, while the most faithful servants of the State sought, in British territory, an asylum where they might be secure from the molestations and oppressions of the Raja and his minister, Diwan Singh. Raja Sangat Singh shifted the headquarters from Jind to Sangrur in 1827 because of the place being nearer to Patiala and Nabha, the other two Phulkian states.

Raja Sangat Singh died at the young age of 23, without a heir to succeed. There were many claimants to his throne. The Raja of Nabha advanced a claim as the descendant, with the Jind house, from a common ancestor, but this claim was at once disallowed, for his branch of the family had separated from that of Jind, previous to the founding

of the principality of Raja Gajpat Singh. However, in this context, the right of Sardar Sarup Singh of Bazidpur having been admitted by the British Government the question arose, what principle should be held to govern the disposition of the several portions of the territory. This territory consisted of three distinct portions; that which was possessed by Raja Gajpat Singh, the founder of the family, through whom Sarup Singh claimed, and which comprised the districts of Jind and Safidon, the best portion of the territory; secondly the grants made by Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Lahore to the Jind Chief, previous to the treaty of 1809, including Ludhiana, Basia, Morinda, and lastly certain grants made by the Maharaja subsequent to that treaty.

Raja Sarup Singh was formally installed in the presence of all the Phulkian Chiefs and the British Agent in April 1837. However, he was deprived of much of his territory, and Basia, Ludhiana and Morinda were taken away by the British. Since Raja Sarup Singh rose to power by virtue of the British support, he remained loyal to them. When the Second Sikh War broke out in 1849, Raja Sarup Singh proved his devotion to the Government, and offered to lead his troops in person to Lahore, to join the English Army. After the annexation of the Punjab, the Raja of Jind was one of the few chiefs permitted to retain independent powers, with the exception of the right of capital punishment, which was conceded to him after the mutiny. He showed himself deserving of the privileges granted to him, by endeavouring to reform his administration after the English System of revenue and police.

When the mutiny broke out in May 1857, Raja Sarup Singh was not behind the Maharaja of Patiala in active loyalty. At the head of his force, he reached Karnal where he undertook the defence of the city and cantonments. His contingent did not exceed 800 men, but it was orderly and well-disciplined, and its presence at Karnal gave confidence, and secured that station from plunder. Raja Sarup Singh was the only chief who was present with army before. In this respect, he was more fortunate, though not more loyal or courageous than the Maharaja of Patiala and the Raja of Kapurthala, both of whom desired to join the besieging force; but their presence was considered more useful elsewhere. The services of the Raja were duly appreciated by the British. The Governor-General, in his notification of 5 November 1857 declared that the steady support of the Raja of Jind called for the marked thanks of the Government. But Raja Sarup Singh received rewards more substantial than mere thanks. He was amply rewarded in territory and in this context, thirteen villages conveniently situated near Sangrur were also ceded to the Raja in perpetuity.

In recognition of his service in recapturing Delhi for the British, the confiscated house of the rebel Shahzada Mirza Abu Bakr, situated in Delhi, was bestowed on the Raja (Sarup Singh), and his salute was raised to eleven guns. Further, the Raja Sarup Singh was awarded the title of "Farzand dilband rasikhul itikad Raja Sarup Singh Bahadur Wali Jhind", (Beloved son, firm in loyalty, Raja Sarup Singh Bahadur, the ruler of Jind). Two villages, Badrukhan and Bumhamwadi, an isolated plot of land near Sangrur, were held by kinsmen of the Raja nominally in the Thanesar District, but really 80 miles distant from Thanesar. Raja Sarup Singh was allowed to purchase the interest of Government in these villages and hence the Badrukhan Chiefs became feudatories of Jind.

Raja Sarup Singh had been nominated a Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India in August 1863, but he was too ill to visit Ambala to be invested, and died before the honour could be bestowed. It was both strange and unfortunate that the three great Chiefships of Patiala, Nabha and Jind should have become vacant almost simultaneously.

Raghubir Singh, the son and heir of Raja Sarup Singh was in every way worthy of his father. He was, at this time, about 30 years of age, and had been thoroughly trained in judicial and administrative matters, in which the late Raja was an excellent teacher; for he had kept his territory in excellent order, and had been eminently just in his dealings with his subjects.

The installation of the new Chief took place on 31 March 1864 in the presence of Sir Herbert Edwards, the Agent of the Lt. Governor, the Maharaja of Patiala, the Raja of Nabha, the Nawab of Malerkotla, and many other chiefs. The principal residence of Raja Raghubir Singh was at Sangrur, but he did not neglect the administration of the distant parts of the estate. He was a man of excellent judgement and honesty. He made Sangrur a beautiful town, constructing bazar on the lines of Jaipur with pukka shops, gardens, tanks, temples and other public religious buildings, as also a metalled road around the town.

During the time of Raja Raghubir Singh, a revolt broke out in Dadri because of the new revenue assessment, which was on the lines of the British system. However, the Raja of Jind was able to crush the revolt. Raja Raghubir Singh rendered help to the British Government on the occasion of agitation launched by Namdhari Sikhs, also called Kukas. On 13 January 1872, there was a meeting of Kukas at Bhaini (District Ludhiana), and a group of about 150 of these, started off under the leadership of the Jats of Sakaraundi in the Patiala State territory. They were

armed with axes, sticks etc. only, and were said to have declared that the town of Malerkotla would be the object of their attack. They went to Payal in Patiala territory (now in Ludhiana District) without causing any disturbance, and reappeared next day near to Malaudh (Ludhiana District), the seat of Sardar Badan Singh, on which they made a sudden onset with the idea, probably, of getting arms and money. In this attack, two men were killed on each side and a few wounded and the gang succeeded in securing three horses, one gun and one sword. They next proceeded to Kotla, and on the morning of 15 January 1872, made a sudden attack on the place and treasury of the Nawab, but were driven off when the Kotla guards had recovered from their surprise and pursued to Rurr in the Patiala territory (Patiala District) where they were captured and handed over to Malerkotla authorities. On getting the news of attack on Malaudh and Kotla, Mr. Cowan the Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana, started for the latter place, and telegraphed for troops, which arrived soon after. Mr. Cowan executed by blowing from guns at Kotla 49 of the captured men, and others were tried by the Commissioner (Mr. Forsyth) and executed on the following day. The Jind Chief showed loyalty to the British Government. On the request of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, he sent two guns, a troop of horses, two companies of infantry to Malerkotla to suppress the Kuka Movement.

Again during the Second Afghan War in 1878, he sent a contingent of 500 sepoys, 200 *sawars* with a large staff and 2 guns. The forces along with equipment reached at Thal in 1879 and rendered valuable services there. In 1882, during Egyptian attack, the Raja of Jind offered to help the British with troops and ammunition but his offer was declined. In 1887, Raja Raghbir Singh died. His only son Balbir Singh had died during his lifetime. His grandson Ranbir Singh who was born in 1879 was only a minor. He was put up under regency and full powers were vested in him in 1899. He ruled the Jind State till independence in 1947. Since major portion of the erstwhile State of Malerkotla is now included in the Sangrur District, it is worthwhile to narrate briefly here the history of erstwhile Malerkotla State.

Malerkotla

Malerkotla State appears to have come into existence in 1454. In this year the founder of the State Sadr-ud-din, commonly known as Sadr Jahan, was married to Taj Murassa Begum, the daughter of Behlol Lodhi. Sadr Jahan was a saint, sarwani Afghan of Daraband of Khurason, who was a disciple of Pir Rukn Alam-a-Multani Pir and had settled at Bhumai (Malerkotla Tahsil) a place which lay on a tributary of River Satluj. At

this place, Behlol Lodhi was blessed by him. After conquering the areas of Delhi he had married away his daughter to the saint. In marriage, he gave 12 large and 56 small villages in dowry. Subsequently, Sadr Jahan contracted marriage with the daughter of a Bhatti Chief of Kapurthala. He is said to have died in 1515, leaving behind three sons Isa, Hassan and Musa by the Lodhi princes and a daughter from Bhatti lady. The royal family of Malerkotla descended from Isa. The descendants of Hassan became "Mujawars" the attendants of the shrine of Sadr Jahan. Musa died in the lifetime of his father. The Subah of Maler settled the dispute of the brothers and after giving a *jagir* to the descendants of Hassan left the remainder for Isa. Isa left a son named Muhammad Shah who succeeded his father whereas Hassan left two sons Suliman and Mirza. One of the sons of Hassan killed the Subah of Maler as he had not felt happy at the decision given by the Subah. For committing this offence, he was expelled from the kingdom. His cousin Muhammad Shah had also to share the punishment and went to the Rai of Sunpat or Sunbat. In these days, Sher Shah had overthrown Humayun and Muhammad Shah purchased the territory after borrowing the amount from Rai of Sunpat which he paid to Sher Shah. His cousins had no share as they had not contributed anything. Muhammad Shah died leaving three sons of whom the eldest Khawaja Maudud succeeded in 1545. Khawaja had three sons, the eldest of whom was Fateh Mahammad Khan who was fifth in descent from Sadr Jahan, was the first to enlarge his family estates and founded Kotla near Maler in 1656. He frequented Delhi court and received from the emperor Aurangzeb in 1657 the *patagnas* of Kadrabad and Nawangaon in *jagir*. He died in 1659 leaving four sons. The eldest Firoz Khan, succeeded him as Rais. He died in 1672. His eldest son Sher Muhammad Khan was a prominent general of his time. He served in the Bihar campaign and his services were rewarded by a *jagir* of 70 villages. He also served in Badaun aiding the imperial forces in the suppression of the revolt of the Ali Muhammad, the Rohilla. In his days, began the incessant warfare with Sikhs. He was deputed by the Subah of Sirhind to check the Majha Sikhs in crossing the Satluj but he was defeated. Later on he was killed in 1710 in the battle of Chapper-Chiri (near Sirhind) in which Banda Bahadur routed the forces of the Subah of Sirhind.

It is to be noted that whereas the Sikhs under Banda destroyed Sirhind utterly, and butchered Wazir Khan and his entire family, they spared the State of Malerkotla altogether. It was due to the fact that when tender sons of Guru Gobind Singh were being bricked alive by Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind, the only one to protest against this heinous

crime was Nawab Sher Mohammad Khan of Malerkotla who said, "the sins of the father should not be visited upon the tender sons. If we could not defeat the Guru, why wreak vengeance on these poor little ones³".

The next Rais, Gulam Hussain, was a timid man of a weak and peaceable disposition. In his life time, he excluded his sons from the chiefship and installed his brother Jamal Khan on the throne. A notable chief in his days, he had warfare with Sikh Chiefs. In the battle of Sanghera with the Raja of Patiala, he was defeated. He lost Sanghera ilaqa in *pargana* Ballian including Hadiya which Ala Singh made his capital. From this time onwards up to the end of 18th century, Malerkotla Afghans were all out in extending unstinted help to Ahmed Shah Abdali or his heirs or pleasing Sikhs for grinding their own axe. Abdali's help occasionally, paid them. Side by side, they had cultivated friendship with the house of Patiala, whereby a tiny Muslim State could exist in the centre surrounded by the misls.

Jamal Khan received robe of honour from Ahmed Shah Abdali in recognition of his services in suppressing the Sikhs. In 1747, after the departure of Ahmed Shah Abdali, Adina Beg joined hands with the Sikhs and took possession of Ropar. Jamal Khan went to expel insurgents but was killed in an action. Strangely, Jamal Khan was a party in harassing Abdali forces in league with Ala Singh of Patiala while he was retreating from Punjab in 1747.

Jamal Khan left five sons, the eldest of whom Bhikhan Khan became Rais. He was a temporiser and at the same time a friend of Sikhs and Ahmed Shah Abdali. In 1762, he joined hands with Ahmad Shah Abdali and played significant part in routing Sikhs in a *wada ghalughara* in 1762. In 1763, he joined hands with the Suba of Sirhind. But the Suba was defeated at Harnaulgarh. Thereafter, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia slew Bhikhan Khan in an action.

Bhikhan Khan left two sons, Wazir Khan and Fateh Khan, who were infants. Bahadur Khan, a brother of Bhikhan Khan succeeded him. His reign was a series of disasters. He was killed in an engagement with the Sikhs in Jhal in 1766. Bahadur Khan also left two sons, Himat Khan and Delar Khan, again the chiefship went to the eldest surviving brother of Jamal Khan named Umar Khan. He had engagement with the Raja of Patiala in 1766 and fought a battle at Tibba but with the intervention of the Rai of Raikot the matter was settled. Raja Amar Singh of Patiala promised to hand over 116 villages to the Maler Afghan but in fact he made over only 74. Even then the Khan thereafter cemented his alliance by aiding the Raja of Patiala in the battle of Selba.

³ Gopal Singh Dr., A History of the Sikh People (1469-1978) (New Delhi, 1979), p. 307

After his death in 1782, Ata-Ullah-Khan, the eldest of five sons of Jamal Khan succeeded him. He fought a battle with Sardar Chuhan Singh of Bhadaur and recovered Kawanwala from him. At the instance of Diwan Nanumal, a dismissed Diwan of Patiala, Ata-Ullah-Khan, attacked Patiala but he was defeated at Khanpur. In 1794, Sahib Singh Bedi of Una, a benefactor of the Sikhs, attacked Malerkotla but with the intervention of Raja of Patiala he retreated. By 1788, Marathas had become prominent in the area between Yamuna and Satluj under the command of Scindia. But they were defeated by Lord Lake at Laswari. The Afghan of Malerkotla assisted Lord Lake. In 1808, Maharaja Ranjit Singh demanded one and a half lakh rupees from the Khan of Kotla. On his inability to pay the full amount, he deputed the Tahsildars and Thanedars to release the balance. By 1810, Malerkotla had come in under protectorate of the British who reinstated the dispossessed chief of Malerkotla and the staff of Maharaja was asked to go.

Meanwhile Wazir Khan, son of Bhikhan Khan made a representation to the British for the restoration of their rights over the throne. By that time, Ata Ullah-Khan was dead. There were many contestants alongwith the sons of Ata Ullah Khan but the balance was struck by the British in favour of Wazir Khan.

The claims of Ata-Ullah-Khan's son named Rehmat Ali Khan were ignored on the plea taken by the British to the effect that the law of primogeniture would prevail for succession. Wazir Khan's life was uneventful, as he swelled the rank of eulogisers and was most eager to extend help to the British in men and money. Among other activities *inter alia*, he assisted the British in the Gorkha War in 1814. He died in 1821 and was succeeded by his son, Amir Khan. He meticulously followed his father in governing his territory. He assisted the British in 1839 in the Kabul War popularly known as the First Afghan War. During the First Anglo-Sikh War, he fought on the side of the British at Mudki and Ferozeshah. In recognition of his service, he was awarded the title of Nawab and *jagir* of three villages. He helped the British in the Second Gorkha War and passed away in 1846. He was succeeded by his son Mehboob Ali Khan better known as Sube Khan. Like other Sikh chiefs, he sided with the British during the mutiny of 1857. He died in 1859. His son Sikhander Ali Khan, spent most of his time quarrelling with his relations. Both of his sons died young. On this, Sikander Ali Khan nominated Ibrahim Ali Khan the eldest son of Dilawar Ali Khan as his heir. The Nawab attended viceregal Durbar in 1869 held in honour of Amir Sher Ali Khan of Kabul. He died in 1871. Ibrahim Khan succeeded Sikander Ali Khan at the age of 14.

During his time, Kuka incident took place, the reference of which has been made elsewhere. Ibrahim Ali Khan attended imperial assemblage at Dehli in 1877. The next year, he sent a contingent in aid of the British for Frontier Service. The Nawab also supplied a number of transport animals for the British forces on their departure, to, and return from, Kabul. He attended the viceregal Durbar in 1880 held at Lahore and again at Ropar in 1882.

In 1884, the untimely death of his eldest son Sahibzada Ashiq Ali Khan and his Begum disturbed his mind and he withdrew from the worldly affairs. The State was put under the management of some superintendents appointed by the Government and this arrangement continued up to 1903. The Superintendents who managed were Kazi Ahmed Shah, Mr. G.E. Wakefield, the retired Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana and the Nawab of Loharu. In 1903, Sahibzada Ahmed Ali Khan took charge of the affairs of the State. He attended the Durbar at Lahore in 1905. He married the cousin of the Nawab of Rampur and had a son Iftikhar Ali Khan.

Lord Minto, Viceroy and Governor-General of India visited Malerkotla State on 26 November 1906 when Mohd. Ahmed Ali Khan was acting as a regent. Nawab Ibrahim Ali Khan passed away in 1908 and Mohd. Ahmed Ali Khan became the Nawab of Malerkotla in 1911. He was invited to the Coronation Durbar at Delhi and attended the various functions in connection with the coronation of His Majesty King Emperor George V. At the outbreak of the great war against Germany in 1914, he placed his troops and all resources of the State at the disposal of the British Government. The Nawab of Malerkotla also helped the British during the Third Afghan War.

Nawab Mohd. Ali Khan of Malerkotla took keen interest in the administration of the State and welfare of his subjects. During his rule, various administrative reforms were carried out. Two revenue settlements took place under the supervision of Late Ch. Mohd. Din. Grain Markets at Ahmedgarh and Himmatana were also built. Education received special attention. In addition to a High School, an Intermediate College was also opened where free education was given to the State subjects and to students from outside. Some new roads and buildings were also built. During his rule, the State administration was known for efficiency and the Chief Court was raised to the status of a High Court. Besides introducing administrative reforms, the Nawab also paid special attention to industry. Two steel rolling mills were established at Malerkotla which had always been a good iron market. Cotton ginning factories, expellers and cottage industries, and factories for producing cycle parts, which came into

existence during his rule, provided more employment opportunities to the people. The rail line between Ludhiana and Jakhal was built during his rule. He also gave active support to the British during the Second World War.

Partition of India and creation of Pakistan led to the outbreak of communal riots and heavy loss of life on both sides of the border. However, due to communal harmony prevailing in the State and the personal interest taken by the ruler, no communal riot took place within the Malerkotla State territory and all continued to live in perfect peace and harmony during this period of unrest. Nawab Mohd. Ahmed Ali Khan passed away on 18 October 1947 and Nawab Mohd. Iftikhar Ali Khan became the Nawab of Malerkotla who was already incharge of State administration as Chief Minister of the State.

The history of the Malerkotla State during first half of the twentieth century (upto 1947) is a history of unflinching loyalty to the British. The State helped the British with men, money and transport during the First and Second World Wars. The rulers of Malerkotla ruthlessly suppressed any freedom movement or anti-British movement if at all that happened within the State territory. The Nawab of Malerkotla, despite his meagre resources was always competing with his wealthy Sikh neighbourly princes in grandeur and lavish expenditure. He even legalized 'Satta' in the State.

The Nawab Mohd. Iftikhar Ali Khan of Malerkotla was held in high esteem by people of Malerkotla. He died issueless on 20 November 1982.

The Struggle for Freedom

The people of the Sangrur District were not under the direct control of the British Government. These were governed by the Phulkian Chiefs who owed their allegiance to the British. Hence the freedom struggle of the people was mainly the struggle against the princely rulers of Phulkian States of Jind, Nabha and Patiala, who were following a repressive policy promoted by the British. Still the national movements had their impact on the people of this area and they also contributed in the main struggle for freedom from the British Rule. The Ghadar Movement (1913-15) inspired some people of the area. Moreover, Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal Movement was a fight of the people against the despotic princely rulers. The Indian National Congress was carrying on the freedom struggle through the Praja Mandal in the area. A brief description of the freedom movement in Sangrur District is given in the succeeding paragraphs:

The Ghadar Movement

The Ghadar Movement was the first purely secular movement which aimed to liberate India by force of arms. The rebellion was planned in the United States and Canada. Funds were raised from Indians living in foreign countries. The headquarters of the movement were at San Francisco. Sohan Singh Bhakna was the President and Lala Hardyal was the General Secretary of the party⁴. Pt. Kanshi Ram of Rupnagar District was the Treasurer of the Ghadar Party. A weekly paper called 'Ghadari' (The Rebellion) was started with Lala Hardyal as Chief Editor. Through the journal, the organisation got wide publicity and in course of time came to be known as the Ghadar Party.

In the first issue of 'Ghadar' published on 1 November 1913, the objective of the party was stated in the following words: "Today, there begins in foreign lands, but in our country's language, a war against the British Raj.....What is our name? 'Ghadar'. What is our work? 'Ghadar'. Where will 'Ghadar' break out? In India. The time will soon come when rifles and blood will take the place of pen and ink."⁵

Many articles and poems from 'Ghadar' were re-printed in booklets of which four became very popular, viz. (i) Ghadar-di-Goonj (Echo of the Mutiny) (ii) Ilan-i-Jang (Declaration of War) (iii) Naya Zamana (The New Age) and (iv) The Balance Sheet of British Rule in India. Echoes of the mutiny became very popular. The following extracts from 'Gadar di Goonj' indicate that the Ghadrates were highly inspired persons:—

Though Hindu, Mussulmans and Sikhs we be,
Sons of Bharat are we still,
Put aside your arguments for another day,
Call of the hour is to kill. (Vol. 1 No. 23)

While we were all sunk in stupor,
The foreigners took over our government,
In pointless disputes we got involved,
Like quarrel some whores our time we spent.
Some worship the cow; others, swine abhor,
The white man eats them at every place,
Forget you are Hindu, forget you are Mussulman,
Pledge yourselves to your land and race.
(Vol. 1, No. 17)

⁴ The Tribune, 30 June 1982

⁵ Khushwant Singh and Satindra Singh, — 1915, *Ghadar* p. 19

'Ghadar' printed occasionally the following advertisement in its "Wanted Columns":

Wanted	—	Enthusiastic and heroic soldiers for organizing Ghadar in Hindustan
Remuneratoin	—	Death
Reward	—	Martyrdom
Pension	—	Freedom
Field of work	—	Hindustan

In the *Gurudwaras* in the United States, Canada, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore, it became customary to recite poems from *Ghadar* and hold discussions on political problems after evening prayers. Within a few months, the Ghadar Party had the unanimous support of the entire Indian immigrant community of the Pacific Coast and had changed the Sikhs from the loyal British subjects to ardent revolutionaries⁶.

As war clouds gathered over Europe, leaders of the Ghadar Party began to talk of utilising the opportunity if Great Britain was involved in hostilities. Special supplements of *Ghadar* were published on 28 July and 4 August 1914, explaining to the readers their duty in the event of a war. Men were exhorted to volunteer for revolutionary service and funds were collected to pay for their passage. Several thousand men enlisted and there was a rush to catch boats leaving for India⁷.

The Sikhs were also infuriated when the passengers of the ship 'Kamagata Maru', mostly Sikhs, were harassed and were not allowed immigration to Canada. It also drew the attention of the world towards the plight of Indian immigrants in Canada. The Punjabis living in foreign lands became ready for the revolution in India.

The first band of revolution sailed from San Francisco in August 1914 by the *Korea*. Ram Chandra, a leader of the party, addressed them in the following words: "Your duty is clear. Go to India. Stir up rebellion in every corner of the country. Rob the wealthy and show mercy to the poor. In this way gain universal sympathy. Arms will be provided for you on arrival in India. Failing this, you must ransack the police stations for rifles. Obey without hesitation the commands of your leaders"⁸.

⁶ *Ibid*, p. 20-21

⁷ *Ibid*, p. 35

⁸ *Ibid*, p. 36

But the Ghadarites soon discovered to their chagrin that the political climate in India was far from conducive to revolution. They made desperate efforts to get some base in the peasantry. They went to religious festivals at Amritsar, Nankana Sahib (Pakistan), and Tarn Taran (Amritsar District) and openly exhorted the people to rise. There was little response from the peasants and the revolutionaries had to fall back on their own resources, which were admittedly rather meagre. Being short of funds, the Ghadarites had to take recourse to dacoities. One such dacoity was committed on 29 January 1915 in a village (Thanvi) in the then Malerkotla State. Plans were made to raid arsenals and government treasuries but they did not get much success in this respect. The Ghadarites were to equip themselves with bomb and hand grenades. Bomb factories were set up at Amritsar, Jhabal (near Ludhiana) and Lohat Badi (Malerkotla Tahsil).⁹

In spite of the frantic efforts made by Kartar Singh Saraba, Pandit Kanshi Ram, Prithvi Singh and other revolutionaries, the Ghadar movement failed because of the leakage of information by Kirpal Singh who had been planted by the British among the Ghadarites. But the eruption of the Ghadar brought about a complete change in the outlook of the Sikh community. The return of the Ghadarites was the first live contract that the Sikh peasants experienced with politics of any kind. It marked the beginning of the end of three quarters of a century of unquestioned loyalty to the British raj. Although the rebellion was suppressed and submerged in the enthusiasm generated by the war, it continued to ferment and erupted a few years later and gave the Akali movement its more radical aspect. Akali terrorists known as the Babbars were largely recruited from the ranks of the Ghadarites to avenge the excesses perpetrated on the Sikhs. The Babbars went about from place to place preaching sedition and spreading disaffection. Jathedar Kishan Singh was the moving spirit behind the Babbar Akali movement. And, when the Ghadarites returned home after serving their terms of imprisonment, they formed the nucleus of the left-wing political movement in the Punjab, whether Socialist or Communist.¹⁰

A number of revolutionaries participated in the Ghadar Movement from the Sangrur District. Most of the participants were from village Thikriwala (Barnala Tahsil). Santa Singh s/o Badan Singh of village Kaleke¹¹ and Dyal Singh son of Badan Singh of village Dirba (Sunam Tahsil) were the members of the Ship Committee of Kamagata Maru.

⁹ Ibid, p. 43

¹⁰ Ibid, P. 57

¹¹ Ibid, p. 63

Following three persons of Barnala Tahsil were arrested on charge of joining the Kamagata Maru passengers at Budge Budge¹² (Calcutta):

Serial No.	Name	Father's Name	Village
1	Mastan Singh	Kahan Singh	Moom
2	Chanda Singh	Sarmukh Singh	Thikriwala
3	Jai Singh	Kala Singh	Bihla

Santa Singh, son of Panjab Singh of village Kudri (Barnala Tahsil) was one of the passengers of the above ship who was presumed to be killed.¹³ Moreover in connection with the Gadhar Movement, the following persons of village Thikriwala (Barnala Tahsil) had to undergo different terms of imprisonment in the Sri Hargobindpur Conspiracy Case of Gurdaspur District.¹⁴

Serial No.	Name	Father's Name	Penalty
1	Sher Singh	Lehna Singh	7 Years' R.I.
2	Kesar Singh	Jwala Singh	3 Years' R.I.
3	Gundoo	Jwala Singh	3 Years' R.I.
4	Veer Singh	Ganesh Singh	21 Years' R.I.
5	Atma Singh	Arjan Singh	14 Years' R.I.
6	Bela Singh	Jiwan Singh	7 years' R.I.

Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal

There were certain movements, such as the Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal or the Kisan and Muzara Movement which took place in the princely states. These movements had a little or no impact in the then Jind State.

¹² Ibid, p. 66

¹³ Ibid, p. 67

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 84

But in the areas of Sunam, Bhawanigarh, Barnala, etc. which were then part of the Patiala State but now form a part of the Sangrur District, these movements had considerable impact. The Punjab States Subject Movement came into existence in 1928 under the name of the Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal. This organization at that time co-ordinated the activities of other States in India to bring the specific organization on the democratic lines. Its first meeting was held at Lahore on 30 December 1929. The main objects of the Praja Mandal were to agitate against the princely rulers and request them to rule on democratic lines. They were also requested to end their tyrannical rule and also the undue harassment to the political workers and release political detainees. At that time, in Patiala State autocracy prevailed. Political leaders were arrested, never to be released. In Jind State, laws were enacted to the detriment and distress of the people. Attitude of the administration of Jind State was oppressive. Fifty respectable residents of the State were imprisoned for raising voice in favour of the above mentioned movements.

In the first meeting in 1929 of the Mandal, held at Ludhiana, it was narrated that the subjects of the States were coerced by the suppressive measures of the rulers. Anybody who wished to seek some sort of reforms in any branch of the State administration, was thrown in the jail without specifying the cause of his offence. False cases were often made against people involved in these activities. The princes bothered more to please political agents of the British Government than to care for the public. The second meeting of the Mandal was held in October 1930 at Ludhiana. The headquarters of the branches were made outside the State, such as at Ludhiana and Lahore. The Federal Scheme evolved in London at the Round Table Conference concerned only British territories and did not propose to give even a little of power to the people in the princely states. Whatever power fell to the share of princely state passed into the hands of the rulers. This scheme frustrated the Mandal. Even the Indian National Congress did not interfere much in the matters of the states. The All India States People's Conference was held in New Delhi in 1933. This conference discussed the difficult problems of the people of the princely states. It was stated that political activities were being curbed through unlawful means by the rulers. Fundamental rights were being denied to the people. The conference by passing the resolutions, and through speeches/ memoranda apprised the rulers and the British Government of the will of the people. By another resolution, the conference recommended the appointment of Non-official Enquiry Committee consisting of leaders from other provinces to go into the alleged maladministration of Malerkotla.

Sewa Singh Thikriwala, popularly known as "Kirpan Bahadur", was the real hero of the Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal to raise the voice of the people against despotic rule in the princely states. He was able to organise the *Muzara* Movement, Kirti Kisan Sabha, Akali Agitation and Biswedari Movement. He belonged to Tahsil Anahadgarh now called Barnala. Ever since the abdication of the Ex-Maharaja Ripudaman Singh of Nabha, he was actively organizing Akali agitation in favour of the exiled Maharaja against the British Government. False charges were framed by the erstwhile Patiala State against him and he was imprisoned many times, tortured and released at will of the administration. He was arrested for the last time in November 1930. He died in jail in 1934.

The death of Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala caused a serious setback to Riasti Praja Mandal Movement, yet the movement received a great impetus by the death of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh in 1938. The Congress Mandal also joined Praja Mandal. The first elections of Praja Mandal of Patiala State were held at Sunam.

The acting president of the Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal, alone had gone from Patiala State, to attend the meeting of All India Congress Working Committee at Bombay. On return, he wanted to start Disobedience Movement, but could not do so on account of poor response from the Mandal. At Sunam, a meeting in sympathy with the fasting Mahatma Gandhi was held in cembra but before any further programme could be finalised, the acting president of the Mandal was arrested by Ambala Police at Sunam railway station.

On 11 July 1936, the meeting of the Kisan Movement was held at village Longowal in the Sangrur District. Hira Singh Bhathal, with his wife and others again reached Longowal to join the conference, but they were forced to leave the village. For the third time on 24 July 1936, Karam Singh Mann, Bar-at-Law, Lahore, who was elected to preside over the conference, reached Longowal along with others. They were persuaded by friendly villagers to return as no conference could be held there. In 1937, Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal decided to hold Kisan conference shortly.

Accordingly, the First Kisan Conference was held in village Kamalpur, P.S. Jagraon, District Ludhiana, on 2 January 1938, wherein the zamindars were asked not to pay land revenue, etc. Consequently, the Praja Mandal workers set out for forming committee at district and tahsil levels, particularly in Sunam. By 1939, there were 866 members of Kisan Committee, out of which 782 were in Sunam District and 65 in Barnala District.

The Vice-President of the All India Kisan Sabha, N.G. Ranga, announced in 1939 to observe 1 September 1939 as "Fourth-All-India Kisan Day" but due to one reason or the other it could not be observed in the princely states. Another Kisan Conference was held at Bopa Rai Khurd in Raikot, Ludhiana District, on 9 September 1939. Thereafter the Kisan Movement and *Muzara* Movement so intermingled in their activities and objectives that they could be distinguished only in nomenclature.

The *Muzara* Movement was started by the discontented elements among the *Muzaras* (tenants) for the non-payment of *batai* (share of crop) to *biswedars* (landlords). It had its origin in Barnala District. Its main object was to incite the tenants against the payment of *batai* to the *biswedars*. They voiced the grievances of *muzaras* against *biswedars* by holding meeting out-side the State, at Budhlada in Hisar District (Haryana). A *Muzara* Committee was formed and it was resolved to request the Maharaja Patiala through deputations to settle their outstanding disputes with *biswedars*. But the Maharaja did not pay heed to their demands. Accordingly, they were constrained to approach the British Government for redress of their grievances. Consequently, a *muzara jatha* started on foot towards Shimla. The members of *jatha* came back and only five of them set out from Chamkaur Sahib (Rupnagar District) to meet the Resident, and the latter referred their case to the Patiala State. Accordingly, the deputationists met Revenue Minister, Patiala, who assured to redress their grievances. Thereafter, the deputationists narrated the proceedings to their *jatha*. The Patiala State Government appointed a Commission, but the tenants were not allowed by landlords to present their case before the Commission.

Consequently, agitation was started for the non-payment of *batai* to *biswedars*. In view of these activities the authorities threatened the *muzaras* to be proceeded against legally, should they decide to meet the Resident. Under these conditions, the members of the *jatha* assembled at Budhlada and left for Kasu Begu by train and thereafter marched on foot to Lahore to present their case to the Resident. Again they were not allowed to see the Resident on the ground that their case was still under consideration of the Commission. They returned on 12 July 1939 to their villages.

During 1940-41, the *muzaras* held meetings at Budhlada (Hisar), Takhtupura (Ferozpur) and Sehna (Ludhiana) and demanded the early publication of the Inquiry Report of the Commission. In 1942 *muzaras* with their leaders reached Patiala to lay their grievances before the Resident who happened to be there in connection with an industrial exhibition.

Thereafter the activities of the *Muzara* Movement and Kisan Movement fell into the hands of Communists. In 1942, the District Magistrate, Sunam, issued notices in connection with the banning of the Communist conference at Ugrahan.

The Kisan Conference was organized jointly by the Communist Party and the *muzaras* of the State in general and those of tahsils Mansa (now in Bathinda District) and Sunam in particular, at village Rar (Tahsil Mansa) District Bathinda. Another Kisan Conference was held in 1945 to protest against the pre-planned looting and beating of Patiala State *Muzaras* by the State officials and *biswedars*.

Through public meeting, the Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal was voicing its demand for responsible Government. For the first time the people in the states were witnessing open criticism of the autocratic rule of the princes. According to the Praja Mandal, the only solution for all the ills was full responsible Government with the rulers as constitutional heads and the only way to achieve it was through a people's struggle.

India's Independence in August 1947 brought about little change in the attitude of the princes, at least in the East Punjab. The much awaited reforms were to wait for about a year more. The Praja Mandal and the Akalis continued with their demands and remained quarelling over the details of future set up. But after a very short interval, they patched up their differences, forged a united front and started demanding a responsible Government. The Akalis issued an ultimatum to the East Punjab States to introduce responsible government or face a *marcha*. The Praja Mandal had already been threatening a struggle. So the reforms could no longer be postponed.

The situation in other states was also showing signs of unrest. Of the six smaller states the three—Nabha, Jind and Faridkot—witnessed Praja Mandal—led satyagraha which gave lot of headache to the rulers and their administration. Kapurthala, Kalsia and Malerkotla remained comparatively quiet but there too the new post-war spirit of awakening was quite evident. In these states too, the Praja Mandal was very weak. The Muslims were predominantly on the side of the Nawab and the peasantry sided with the Akalis and the Communists. The State was an exception to the mass slaughter and emigration of the Muslim population in the wake of country's partition. In the towns of Malerkotla and Ahmedgarh where Hindus were in substantial numbers, some activity of the Praja Mandal was witnessed and the State promised to introduce constitutional reforms.

From the above account, it is clear that there was great upsurge among the people of nearly all the states, although political rivalries among various groups and parties were also growing. Now it was not the old simple battle between the rulers and the Punjab Riasti Praja Mandal. Instead it was a battle for supremacy also. Events were moving fast and the issue of constitutional reforms could no longer be shelved. In Malerkotla and Jind, the rulers promised to introduce these reforms at the earliest. The lead was given however, by the Maharaja of Patiala who announced constitutional reforms at his Birthday Durbar in January 1948. It was followed by other states.

All this showed that it was no longer possible for states to continue in their old ways. The Praja Mandal was on the war path. Administration was crisis-ridden and the Central Government at Delhi was none too sympathetic. In such a situation the movement for merger of these states gained ground. The Praja Mandal's stand was quite clear on this issue. A non-official poll taken by the Jind State Praja Mandal in Jind and Charkhi-Dadri (in Haryana) showed that people there overwhelmingly wanted merger with the Punjab. The traders were also anxious to move out of the oppressive atmosphere of the states and breathe in the free air of the Punjab where the political, economic and administrative conditions were better and far more satisfactory.

With the formation of the PEPSU, the Praja Mandal also changed its name to the PEPSU Pradesh Congress. All the princes in the East Punjab States except the Maharaja of Patiala were not given even constitutional position. Even the Patiala ruler was no more than the constitutional head of the State and the real power passed into the hands of peoples' representatives. On 1 November 1956, on the reorganization of the states, the PEPSU was merged with the Punjab. With this even the constitutional position of the Maharaja of Patiala ended. This was in fact the end of one era and the beginning of another. The Praja Mandalists now claimed that they had achieved consummation of the great struggle which they had launched nearly thirty years earlier.

Shahid Udham Singh

Though the people of the States remained suppressed under the oppressive rule of their rulers, yet they played a significant role in the freedom movement of the country. The people of Sangrur District were not lagging behind in this respect. They are proud of Shahid Udham Singh, born on the soil of Sunam in Sangrur District, who played a commendable role in the freedom struggle along with many other heroes

of this district and the country as a whole. A brief life sketch of this great martyr is being given in succeeding paragraphs:

Udham Singh was born on 26 December 1899 at Sunam. As ill luck would have it, both Udham Singh and his brother Sadhu Singh became orphans at a very tender age. One Chanda Singh, a resident of Sunam, took mercy on them and got them admitted to an orphanage in Putlighar (Amritsar). When Udham Singh was being brought up at the orphanage and receiving his education, the whole environment in the country was surcharged with revolutionary fervour. This type of atmosphere stirred up the revolutionary in Udham Singh to earn him a place of pride in history. The Jallianwala Bagh Tragedy on Baisakhi day in 1919 resulting in massacre of thousands of innocent people at the hands of General Dyer further heightened his resolve to play a significant role in the freedom struggle of the country. He resolved to avenge the death of thousands of his innocent compatriots who had gathered only to demand independence for their country at a public meeting.

In order to fulfil the cherished mission of his life, Sardar Udham Singh managed to reach England in 1923. But he had to leave England as he was recalled by Sardar Bhagat Singh to India. He took an active part in the anti-British activities at Lahore and as such was awarded rigorous imprisonment for the a period of four years. After his release in 1932, he again reached England to fulfil his mission. By this time, General Dyer had died of paralysis. Sir Michael O' Dwyer and Lord Jellicote, the other two responsible for Jallianwala Bagh Tragedy were to participate in the seminar to be arranged in Caxton Hall on 13 March 1940, as representatives of Central Asian Society and East Indian Association. The hall was packed to the full and Sardar Udham Singh managed to reach near the stage. When Sir Michael O' Dwyer returned to his seat after delivering a very emotional speech, he was shot dead by Udham Singh, who did not attempt to run from the scene, but he voluntarily offered himself for arrest in order to warn the British Government against excesses with the Indian people. This daring step of Sardar Udham Singh gave a new spirit to the young revolutionaries of the country. Though Sardar Udham Singh was hanged on 31 July 1940, on the charge of murder, his spirit continued to inspire the minds of freedom loving people of this country. The remains of this great martyr were brought to Sunam, his home town on 31 July 1974 from England and were finally cremated with full State honours. In order to pay the deepest homage to Shahid Udham Singh, a memorial has also been raised at Sunam.

The Impact of the visit of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose.—Since the area of Sangrur District fell in the princely states, it was not frequently visited by national leaders due to various restrictions imposed by the native rulers. Still from time to time, the national leaders of repute made short visits to inspire people for the noble cause of freedom. In 1938, Netaji Subhash Chander Bose, while going from Lahore to Hisar in a train, inspired the people of this area for a revolution. He made short but inflammatory speeches at stations when the train halted for some time. Such speeches were delivered at Dhuri, Sangrur, Sunam and Lehragaga in the district. At Sunam, Netaji addressed a very large gathering. He exhorted the people to be ready for great sacrifices and not to be afraid of princes, while struggling for independence. The visit of Netaji had much impact on the minds of the suppressed people of this area.

Independence and its aftermath

At the time of Independence in 1947, Raja Ranbir Singh was ruling the Jind State with headquarters at Sangrur. Accordingly, with the rest of the country, the Jind State also became free from the British paramountcy. As in the rest of the country, people celebrated achievement of Independence with great enthusiasm. Among the states, Maharaja Yadavindra Singh of Patiala played a significant role in the history of India by his sympathetic alliance and co-operation with the nationalist forces of the country and took a leading part in the negotiations with British Cabinet Mission in 1946. He so moulded the opinions of the ruling Princes as to bring them in line with the progressive leaders of the country and helped them achieve independence particularly in the crisis of 1947 when it was feared that some of them might play an obstructive role.

Under the independence Act of 1947, India was declared a free nation with Dominion status with effect from 15 August 1947. As a result of this epoch-making change, Punjab was partitioned. A part from the administrative divisions of personnel and assets, the most disturbing factor in the process which had not been clearly foreseen or provided for was the mass migration of the members of different communities from the West Punjab to the East Punjab and *vice-versa*. The intensity of disturbances was also felt in the Sangrur District alongwith adjoining areas. Though there was a lot of bloodshed during the partition period in the whole of the district, Malerkotla State was an exception to it. A great consideration was shown towards the Mohammedans of Malerkotla because of the fact, when Guru Gobind Singh's sons were bricked alive by Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind, it was only Sher Mohammad Khan, the then Nawab of Malerkotla who condemned the

heinous crime. Even though the wholesale transfer of communities had not been envisaged in the constitutional provisions, the force of circumstances compelled the people to be uprooted *en masse* and leave their hearths and homes to seek security and safety across the borders. The number of people moving with whatever they could collect, exceeded the wildest calculations of the respective Governments who were found utterly unprepared for the greatest exodus in history. The exodus of non-Muslims from all parts of West Pakistan into the East Punjab disrupted the whole economy and created a situation without parallel. Immediate measures had to be adopted for the relief and resettlement of the vast uprooted population suddenly reduced to a stage of utter penury and misery. Large number of refugees were completely demoralised on account of want and destitution. The partition found the entire Government machinery in a state of paralysis. In the face of the colossal problem, prompt action was taken by the State and Central Government to arrange for the speedy relief and resettlement of the refugees and restore ordered life in the state. Simultaneously a programme for their effective rehabilitation was launched and was completed in phases over several years.

Formation of PEPSU and its Merger with Punjab

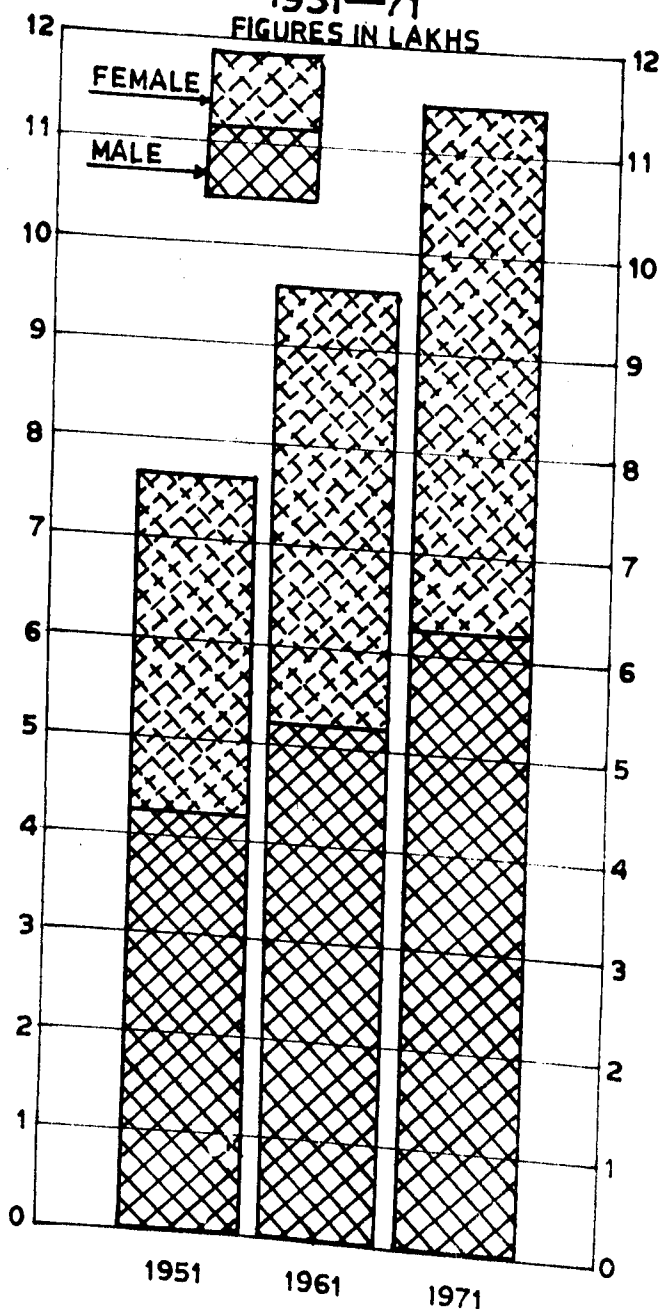
The Patiala and the East Punjab States Union, or the PEPSU as it was popularly called, had come into existence on 20 August 1948, with the integration of the Princely States of Patiala, Nabha, Jind, Faridkot, Kapurthala, Kalsia, Nalagarh and Malerkotla. This union came into being under the active guidance of Sardar Vallabha Bhai Patel who was then Home Minister and incharge of Indian State Department. Maharaja Yadavindra Singh of Patiala was appointed as the Rajpramukh (Head of State). Similarly, Malerkotla, an independent erstwhile princely Muslim State, was declared a Tahsil of the Sangrur District. At this time, the Jind State with minor variation was changed into Sangrur District. Some of the parts of the erstwhile Jind State were ceded to Mohindergarh District (Haryana) and Sunam, Bhawanigarh, Tapa and Barnala area formerly a part of erstwhile princely state of Patiala were attached to the Sangrur District.

The States Reorganisation Commission which had been appointed by the Government of India on 29 December 1953, submitted its report in 1955 and recommended the merger of the PEPSU with Punjab. The Government accepted the Commission's recommendation and implemented it with effect from 1 November 1956. Thus, with this merger,

the loss suffered by the Punjab due to the partition of the province, with 17 districts gone to Pakistan, was to some extent compensated.

The boundaries of the district further underwent a change on the reorganisation of Punjab in 1966. Jind and Narwana tehsils were transferred to the newly created State of Haryana. At present, the district has four tahsils, viz. Malerkotla, Sangrur, Sunam and Barnala.

GROWTH OF POPULATION SANGRUR DISTRICT 1951—71



SOURCE—Census of India, 1971, Series 17—Punjab, Part II—A, General Population Tables, P.72

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

(a) Population

(i) Total Population

According to the 1981 Census, the total population of the district was 14,10,250, comprising 7,58,058 males, forming 53.76 per cent of the total population, and 6,52,192 females, forming 46.24 per cent of the population. Of the total population of the district, 10,88,609 (77.19 per cent) live in rural areas while 3,21,641 (22.81 per cent) live in urban areas. Of the people living in rural areas, 5,87,170 were males and 5,01,439 females. Out of those living in urban areas, 1,70,888 were males and 1,50,753 were females.

Growth of Population.—Population of the district increased by 18.69 per cent during 1971—81 as against the decadal increase of 20.16 per cent during 1961—71. The variation in population during the last thirty years is shown in the following table:

Decennial variation in population of the
Sangrur District 1951—81

Year	Persons	Decade Variation	Percentage decade variation	Males	Females
1951	.. 7,67,017	N.A.	N.A.	4,21,309	3,45,708
1961	.. 9,54,307	+187,290	+24.42	5,20,792	4,33,515
1971	.. 11,46,650	+192,343	+20.16	6,23,090	5,23,560
1981	.. 14,10,250	+2,63,600	+22.99	7,58,058	6,52,192

(Census of India, 1971 Series 17 Punjab Part II—A, General Population Tables, p. 72 and Census of India 1981, Series—17 Punjab, Part II—General Population Tables)

Emigration and Immigration.—According to the 1961 Census, out of the 9,54,307 persons enumerated in the district, 68 per cent were born at the place of enumeration. In the rural area, this percentage comes to 71 per cent and in the urban area to 53.5 per cent.

About 82.4 per cent of the male population was born where they were enumerated against the female percentage of 50.9. The low figure for females arises from the extra factor of their leaving the ancestral place on marriage.

Another 12.4 per cent of the population was born at another place within the district. This percentage was 6.8 in the case of males and 24.6 in the case of females. Similarly, this percentage in the case of persons born in the other districts of Punjab was 6 and 20 per cent, respectively which was again due to the factor of marriage. Even in this case, the percentage of males was higher than the percentage of females.

The Punjab born persons formed 95.4 per cent of district population. The remaining 4.6 per cent hailed from areas shown below :

Place of birth	Number
Other States of India	.. 11,806
Pakistan	.. 51,110
Other countries	.. 623
Information not available	.. 29
Total	.. 63,568

(Census of India 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 17, Sangrur District, p. 26)

Persons born in other Indian States were from Uttar Pradesh (7,034) Rajasthan (3,365) and Delhi (1,407).

The Pakistan born persons (51,110) were mostly those who migrated to the district in the wake of the partition of the country (1947). The persons reported to have been born in countries other than Pakistan were mostly the children of the Punjabis who in their youth went abroad and had now come back or had sent back their children.

Density of Population.—As per the 1981 Census, density of population of the Sangrur District was 276 persons per sq. km. as against 225 persons per sq. km. in 1971.

The tahsil-wise density of population of the Sangrur District according to the 1981 Census, is given in the following table:

Tahsil /District	Density of Population per sq. km.		
	Total	Rural	Urban
Sangrur Tahsil	274	203	3,445
Sunam Tahsil	238	196	5,076
Malerkotla Tahsil	342	261	8,899
Barnala Tahsil	255	204	2,783
Sangrur District	276	216	4,362

(Census of India, 1981, Series 17—Punjab, Part II, General Population Tables)

Sex Ratio.—According to the 1981 Census, out of the total population of 14,10,250 of the district 7,58,058 were males and 6,52,192 were females, i.e. a ratio of 53.76 : 46.24. In the Sangrur District, there were 860 females per 1,000 males against the corresponding figure of the Punjab State which stood at 879. However, during the last thirty years, there has been a little improvement in favour of females which is revealed from the following table:

Year	Females Per Thousand Males					
	Sangrur District			Punjab		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1951	821	816	840	844	854	807
1961	832	828	849	854	865	817
1971	840	832	874	865	868	856
1981	860	854	882	879	884	865

(Census of India 1971, Series 17—Punjab Part-II-A, General Population Tables, p. 69 and Census of India 1981 Series—17 Punjab Part II, General Population Tables)

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 Sangrur District

Age-Group	Total			Rural		Urban	
	Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
All Ages	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
0—9	..	310.4	302.2	320.2	302.8	319.6	299.4
10—14	..	128.0	126.1	130.3	127.0	130.8	121.8
15—19	..	88.8	89.3	88.2	89.0	88.0	91.2
20—24	..	80.7	77.8	84.0	76.3	83.0	85.4
25—29	..	76.5	75.1	78.1	74.4	77.8	78.6
30—34	..	66.2	58.8	61.8	57.6	61.3	64.8
35—39	..	45.7	45.2	46.4	44.4	46.0	49.0
45—49	..	36.2	37.6	34.4	37.6	34.6	37.8
50—54	..	40.1	43.3	36.3	44.0	37.0	39.5
55—59	..	19.1	21.6	16.2	22.0	16.3	19.6
60—64	..	28.3	31.6	24.5	32.5	25.0	26.9
65—69	..	10.7	12.9	8.1	13.3	8.2	11.2
70+	..	25.4	28.7	21.4	29.7	21.9	23.5
Age not stated	..	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.3

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 17, Sangrur District p.23)

Too much reliance cannot be placed on the inferences drawn from these figures, since a district is a small geographical area and the inflow and outflow of population in various age-groups as a disturbing factor can be quite substantial.

The age pyramid has a broad base and tapers rather obliquely. 310 persons per thousand of the population were below the age of 10, and only 84 were of 55 years and above. Roughly speaking, four out of every 10 persons were below the age of 15.5 in the groups 15 years to below 55, and only one past the age of 55 but below 55.5. Males below the age of 15 years were 428 per 1,000 ; corresponding figures for females 450. For ages between 15 and below 55 years, the males counted 476 per thousand males but the women were 479. In ages 55 years and above the males were 96 and females were only 71.

Large number of persons shift from villages to towns for education and employment. The low paid men leave their families in village homes and live in towns by themselves. When past the age of useful work some among them return to 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 years and above, the distribution among males is 430, 472 and 98 per thousand males in the rural areas and 421, 497 and 82 in the urban area. The corresponding figures for females in rural areas are 450, 478 and 72 and in urban areas 451, 485 and 64.

Marital Status.—In the following table, population in various age groups in the district, according to the 1961 Census is further distributed according to their marital status. To comprehend the significance of these statistics, one thousand males and one thousand females for the Sangrur District as a whole and for rural and urban areas are distributed according to their marital status :

One thousand males and females according to 1961 Census in the Sangrur District classified according to Marital Status

Marital Status	Total		Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Never married	..	571	481	570	476	572
Married	..	381	452	380	455	388
Widowed	..	47	66	49	67	38
Divorced or Separated	..	1	1	1	1	1
Unspecified	..	N	N	N	1	N

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 17, Sangrur District. p. 23)

About 57 per cent males and 48 per cent females were unmarried. Higher proportion of unmarried males is because of shortage of females, which aspect has been studied earlier. Correspondingly, there is a higher proportion among married females than males.

The proportion of married males is higher in towns than in villages. This proportion is reverse in case of married females. This is because a large number of males shift from villages to towns for livelihood leaving their families behind.

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

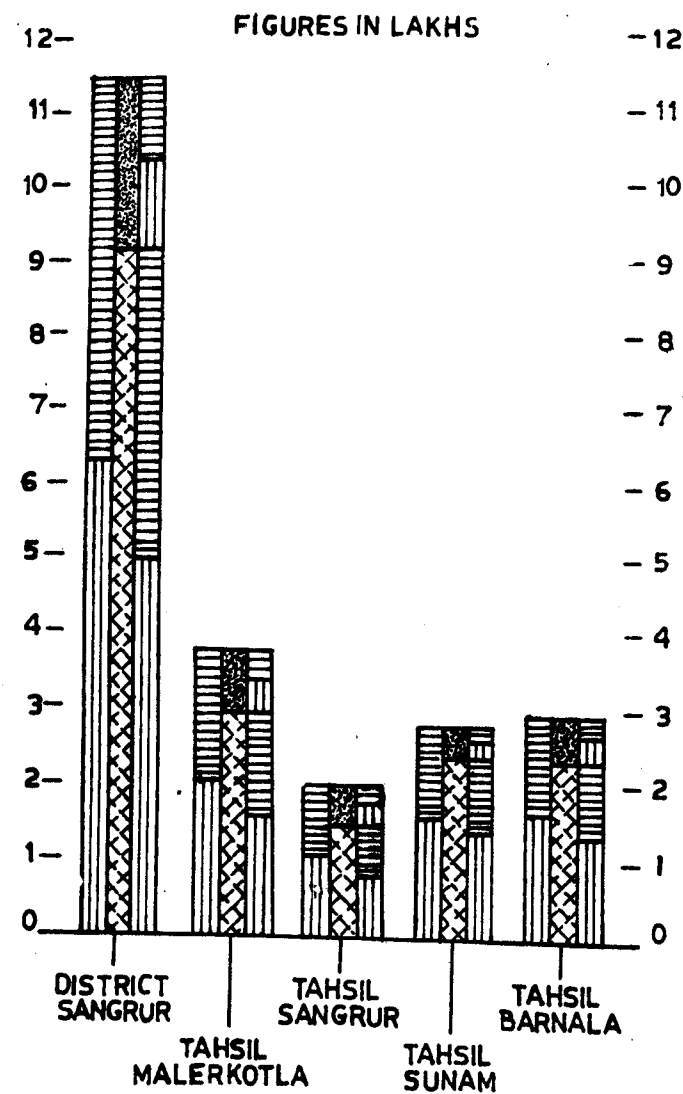
The following table shows the tahsil-wise distribution of population between rural and urban areas in the district, according to the 1981 Census :—

District/Tahsil	Persons	Males	Females
Sangrur District	14,10,250	7,58,058	6,52,192
Rural	10,88,609	5,87,170	5,01,439
Urban	3,21,641	1,70,888	1,50,753
Malerkotla Tahsil	4,47,670	2,39,731	2,07,939
Rural	3,37,940	1,81,469	1,56,471
Urban	1,09,730	58,262	51,468
Sangrur Tahsil	2,46,513	1,32,534	1,13,979
Rural	1,78,505	96,471	82,034
Urban	68,008	36,063	31,945
Sunam Tahsil	3,37,037	1,82,573	1,54,464
Rural	2,75,157	1,49,758	1,25,399
Urban	61,880	32,815	29,065
Barnala Tahsil	3,79,030	2,03,220	1,75,810
Rural	2,97,007	1,59,472	1,37,535
Urban	82,023	43,748	38,275

(Census of India 1981, Series—17 Punjab, Part II, General Population Tables)

POPULATION AT A GLANCE SANGRUR DISTRICT 1971

FEMALE ——— URBAN
MALE ——— RURAL



SOURCE:- Sangrur District Census Hand Book, 1971

(iii) Displaced Persons

Partition of the country in 1947 forced migration of the people on a large scale. While it is true that the extent of violence and the size of loss of human life might have been more elsewhere, yet the number of people who had to migrate from one place to another during the Partition was undeniably the largest in the history of mankind. As in other districts of Punjab, majority of the Muslim population from Sangrur District also migrated to Pakistan (the town of Malerkotla still has the largest concentration of Muslim population compared to any other town in Punjab), whereas, a large number of Hindus and Sikhs displaced from Pakistan took refuge in the district.

There is no doubt that there was lot of bloodshed on both sides of the Punjab, during the holocaust of 1947. The Hindus, the Sikhs and the Mohammedans of the Punjab had to migrate enmass to their new homelands amidst much carnage. However, the behaviour meted out to the Mohammedans of Malerkotla was an exception. They were persuaded to stay in India and were granted the fullest protection. Malerkotla is the only place in the whole of Punjab (India) where Muslims are still in a large number. During the holocaust of 1947, the Muslims of Malerkotla were spared by the Sikhs, mainly on historical considerations. When the two young sons of Guru Gobind Singh were being bricked alive in the walls under the orders of Subah (Governor) of Sirhind, the then Nawab of Malerkotla, Sher Mohammed Khan, was the only one to protest against the heinous crime. He advised the Subah to spare the two innocent lives and said, "the sins of the father should not be visited upon the tender sons. If we cannot defeat the Guru, why wreak vengeance upon poor little ones". His protest was ignored by the Subah. However, this act of the Nawab of Malerkotla did not go unrewarded. Sikhs as grateful followers of the Guru, showed due consideration not only to the family of the Malerkotla ruler but also to his Muslim subjects in 1947 and any Muslim who had entered the territory of Malerkotla State was spared by the Sikhs.

However, except from Malerkotla proper, a large number of Mohammedans migrated to Pakistan from the district. The vacuum created by the out-going Mohammedans, was filled up by a large number of the Hindus and the Sikhs dislocated from Pakistan. Since Sangrur District was devoid of industry and commerce, it failed to attract a large number of displaced persons as some other districts of the Punjab. Barnala and Sangrur tahsils of Sangrur District accommodated a larger number of displaced persons as compared to Malerkotla and Sunam tahsils. The displaced persons settled in the district mainly belonged to Layallpur (now Faisalabad), Sialkot, Lahore, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Montgomery and Bahawalpur districts of Pakistan.

The partition of Punjab and the subsequent mass migration introduced the new element of refugees in the social set up of the East and the West Punjab. Refugees from the West Punjab mingled with the inhabitants of the East Punjab. This mingling of the population led to so many new social developments. A large number of the Sikhs and Hindus from the Rawalpindi and Multan divisions who were engaged in trade resettled in the backward towns and villages of the East Punjab. This quickened the pulse of social life. The drab bazaars with ill-kept shops were completely changed, yielding place to well stocked and orderly shops. The refugee shopkeepers greatly increased the circulation of goods even in the villages. The townsmen in the districts of the East Punjab were socially backward and their women kept *pardah*. The vivacious refugees women, particularly from the Rawalpindi Division, brightened the town life. The free and easy culture of the West Punjab had a liberalizing influence on the women of the East Punjab, who, emulating the example of their sisters from the West Punjab, began to discard the *pardah*.

(b) Language

There is no uniformity in the language spoken by the people of the district. The main reason for this is that this district has a unique structure. It contains portions of erstwhile Jind, Patiala, Nabha and Malerkotla states. Some of its areas were under British domination. Accordingly, the people of Sangrur District as a whole, have mixed language. There is however, no doubt that Punjabi is the predominantly spoken language in the district.

In Malerkotla Tahsil, and particularly in Malerkotla Town, because of the considerable proportions of the Mohammedan population, there is impact of Urdu language which is spoken by a number of people. The area of Barnala Tahsil falls in close proximity with the area of Bathinda District. The language of its people is typical Malwai. Bangru is not unknown in a few villages of Moonak and Khanauri sub-tahsils (Tahsil Sunam) which border with the Narwana Tahsil of Jind District (Haryana). In 1827 when Sangrur town was made the capital of the erstwhile Jind State, many families of Jind area (now falling in Haryana) settled at Sangrur for the purpose of employment, etc. Naturally, the language of these people, serving in various departments of Government, has had some impact on the language of the people of Sangrur.

The following languages are thus spoken in the Sangrur District:—

(1) Punjabi

- (2) Hindi
- (3) Bangru
- (4) Urdu

The typical traits of the language spoken in various parts of the Sangrur District are being discussed in the succeeding paragraphs. The language of the rural people of Malerkotla Tahsil is Punjabi. As the Ahmadgarh area lies very close to the area of Ludhiana District, its language almost resembles with that of people of Ludhiana Tahsil. However, the language of the people of Malerkotla proper is a mixture of Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and Sindhi.

The language of Sangrur Tahsil has some deviation from the language of the other tahsils. As already stated above, Sangrur was the capital of Jind State and accordingly people from Dadri, Safidon and Jind (Haryana) etc. settled at Sangrur which was their State headquarters. Thus, the local people of Sangrur are under the influence of Haryanvi dialect to some extent. Still many local people of Sangrur living in different *mohallas* speak different dialects. The book entitled 'Badrukha' published by the Language Department, Punjab, also gives a glimpse of the Punjabi dialect spoken in Sangrur Tahsil. It contains a detailed list of typical Punjabi words spoken in Badrukha area in Sangrur Tahsil. For example they, pronounce *ਬ* (*Buba*) for *ਵ* (*Wva*) i.e. they will pronounce *ਹਬਾ* (*Habba*) instead of *ਹਵਾ* (*Hawa*). In many cases, they omit the pronunciation of *ਹ* (*Hah*). For instance, they pronounce *ਨੇਰੀ* (*Neri*) and *ਮੀਨਾ* (*Mina*) instead of *ਹਨੇਰੀ* (*Haneri*) and *ਮਹੀਨਾ* (*Mahina*). Further *ਧ* (*Dhada*) is spoken as *ਤ* (*Tatta*) and *ਭ* (*Bhabha*) is pronounced as *ਪ* (*Pappa*). In some cases they omit the accent of *m* (*ah*). For example they pronounce *ਕਾਸ਼* (*Kash*) *ਸ਼ਮਾਨ* (*Shaman*) for *ਅਕਾਸ਼* (*Akash*) and *ਅਸਮਾਨ* (*Asman*). Sometimes they make a combination of two words. They will say *ਮਖਾਇ* (*Makhai*) for *ਮੈਂ ਮਾਖਿਆ* (*Mein Akhia*). Further *ਤੈਤੁ ਮੈਤੁ* (*Taitte Maitu*) instead of *ਤੈਨੂੰ ਮੈਨੂੰ* (*Tainu Mainu*) is the typical trait of the Punjabi language spoken in Sangrur Tahsil.

The language of people of Barnala Tahsil is typical *Malwai*, their dialect resembles to much extent with the dialect of people of Bathinda District. They generally say *ਗੋਲੀ ਦੀ ਮਾਰ* (*Goli Di Mar*) for a very short distance, and *ਰਸਾ ਕੁ ਦਿਨ* (*Rasa-ku-Din*) for a small fraction of the day. They speak *ਸ਼ੁਪ* (*Shup*) instead of *ਸੁਪ* (*Sup*) snakes. The people of Barnala Tahsil generally pronounce *ਸ਼* (*sha*) for *ਸ* (*Sasa*). For *ਵ* (*Wva*) they pronounce *ਬ* (*buba*) i.e., they will speak *ਬਚਾ* (*Bachha*) for *ਵਚਾ* (*Vachha*).

Further they speak ਤੀ (Te) for ਸੀ (Cee). For instance instead of ਗਿਆ ਸੀ (Gya cee) they say ਗਿਆ ਤੀ (Gia te). Some typical Punjabi words spoken in this area are given as under :

ਸਬ (ਰਸਾ) Sub (rassa) ਲੋਟ (ਸਹੀ) Lot (sahi)
ਗਡੀਰੀ (ਛੋਟੀ ਗਡੀ) Gadiri (chhotti gaddi) ਮਦ (ਦਿਡ) Madd (dhid) ਰਕਾਨ ਸਾਰੇ
ਕੁਣਾਂ ਵਾਲੀ ਔਰਤ Rakaan (Sare guna wali Aurat) ਕੰਧੋਲੀ ਛੋਟੀ ਕੰਧ Kandholi
(chhotti kandh) ਬੇ (ਸੁਰੰਗ) Bain (Surang).

In Barnala Tahsil the dialect of the people of Tapa area has also some deviations from the language of the rest of the tahsil area. Some typical words spoken in this area are given below :

ਗਪ ਵਾਢਾ (ਗਪ ਮਾਰਨਾ) (gap vadhna (gup marna)
ਬਾਂਡਾ (ਵਿੰਗੀਆਂ ਟੰਗਾਂ ਵਾਲਾ) baanda (wingian tungan wala)
ਲਗਵਾਉਣ (ਲਗਾਉਣਾ) lagwaun (lagouna)
ਝਮਣਾ (ਖਾਣਾ) jhamna (khanna)

Moreover, there are certain families in Tapa proper which have their own typical code language. For instance while at home they may speak :

ਮਾਪਨੇ ਰੂਪਨੇ ਮਾਪਨੇ ਨੂੰ, ਰੋਪਨੋਟੀ ਦੇਪਨੇ ਦੇ
(ਮਾਂ ਰੂੰ ਮੈਂਨੂੰ ਰੋਟੀ ਦੇ ਦੇ)

Mapneh Tupneh Mapneh Nun, Ropnauti Dapneh De
(Maan Too Mainu Roti De De)

Further, the language of the people of Sunam Tahsil is entirely different from the language of the other tahsils in the district. Actually, in Sunam Tahsil itself, many languages/dialects are spoken. In Sunam and its surrounding villages, Punjabi is spoken. The language of the people of Sunam Tahsil touching Patiala border resembles much with the language of the people of Patiala District. They frequently use words ਗੈਲ ਗੈਲ (Gail Gail) which means alongwith. Another word often used by them is ਬਿਚ ਮੇ (Bich Men) which simply means "on." As we move towards Moonak and Khanouri, a little impact of Bangru dialect is observed, though its affinity to Punjabi is not lost. Some typical words spoken in Sunam Tahsil are given below :

ਥਾਈ—(ਧਰਮਸ਼ਾਲਾ) (Thayee-Dharamshala)
ਲਾਵੇ—(ਨੇੜੇ) (Lawe-Nerhe)
ਕੀਤੌਰ ਚਲੇ—(ਕਿਥੇ ਚਲੇ) (Kitaur chale—Kithe chale)
ਉਰੇ ਆ ਰੋਹ—(ਇਧਰ ਆ ਜਾ) (Ure aa roh—Idhar aa ja)
ਕੇਥੇ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ—(ਕਿਥੇ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ) (Kethe gya sein—Kithe gaya cee)

Under the Punjab Official Language Act, 1967, Punjabi in the Gurmukhi script became the official language of the State on the occasion of Baisakhi (13 April) 1968. Accordingly, the official work at the district level and below is done largely in Punjabi. Since Punjabi has been given the place of official language, people of the area show a greater enthusiasm for the study of this language which is widely read, spoken and written in the district. Virtually, Punjabi is the mother-tongue of all the people of the district. Moreover, daily newspapers in Punjabi which are now published in large scale and read by a large number of people, have also contributed a lot to the development of Punjabi language in the district. The extensive study and reading of the written Punjabi language have also moulded the dialect of the people to some extent.

(c) Religion and Caste

Principal Communities

The total population of the district, according to the 1971 Census, was 11,46,650. The Sikhs accounted for 66.90 per cent of the total population. The Hindus are 27.14 per cent of the total population. The Muslim formed the third religious community in the district with 5.62 per cent of the total population.

The religion-wise population of the district according to the 1971 Census, was as under :

Religion	Percent- age to the total popula- tion	Total	Persons		Males		Females	
			Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Sikhs	66.90	7,67,071	6,87,118	79,953	3,76,098	43,150	3,11,020	36,803
Hindus	27.14	3,11,197	1,94,178	1,17,019	1,05,247	62,103	88,931	54,916
Muslims	5.62	64,448	31,392	31,392	16,928	17,503	14,464	15,553
Christians	0.07	806	553	253	290	132	263	121
Jains	0.26	2,982	388	2,594	184	1,361	204	1,233
Buddhists	..	12	..	12	..	5	..	7
Religion not stated	0.01	134	125	9	83	6	42	3
Total	100.00	11,46,650	9,13,754	2,32,896	4,98,830	1,24,260	4,14,924	1,08,636

(Census of India, 1971, Part II C(1) and Part V-A, Distribution of Population by Religion and Scheduled Castes, p. 20)

Hindus

The number of Hindus in the district, according to the 1971 Census, was 3,11,197 (1,67,350 males and 1,43,847 females), which formed 27.14 per cent of the total population.

There are many temples of Hindus in the district. The Hindus are often seen going to the temples of Shiva, Narain, Devi etc., in the mornings and in the evenings. They worship their gods and goddesses with flowers and *sandal*, singing *bhajans* or hymns, ringing bells, and holding a lighted lamp with four wicks in their hands. This ceremony is called *arti utarna*. The worshippers receive *charnamat* or holy water, leaves of the *tulsi* plants and some *patashas*, called *Devi ka bhog* or *parshad*. The worship of *pipal* tree and of *Mohammadan* saints are also common among the Hindus. They have great reverence for the Sikh gurus and do go to the *gurudwaras*, particularly on the occasion of *gurpurbs*. On these occasions, they also participate in the *langar* at *gurudwaras*.

Caste is a distinctive feature of the Hindus. The castes and sub-castes found in the district are : Brahmans, Khatris, Jats, Rajputs, and Banias.

Brahmans.—The Brahmans in the district are mostly from the Saraswati and Gaur stock. The Saraswats derive this name from the River Sarasvati. The Gaurs originally migrated from Uttar Pradesh. The Saraswats are divided into *Dhai Gharas*, *Athwans* and *Baunjais*. The distinction among these groups has disappeared and they now intermarry. The Brahmans are a handsome, and literate community and are engaged in government and private services, business and agriculture. A small number of them perform priestly duties. In the erstwhile Jind State, the Brahmans were given preference in Government services.

Khatris.—Khatris trace their origin from the Kshatriyas. Whatever be their origin, their customs, taboos, etc. of the past times are no longer there. In short, they intermarry within the group or outside the group, but, like other Hindus, within their sub-castes. They are of good indisposition and generally literate. They are engaged in trade, commerce, industry, private and government services, and also join the army.

Banias.—The word 'Bania' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'banijya' or trade. As the name implies, they are primarily a trading class. They have deep rooted links in trade, commerce and industry. Since they are able to carve out enviable fortune in business, they generally desist from the temptation of joining services. They are traders par excellence, as this class has been engaged in business since generations. Their main sub-castes are Aggarwal, Oswal, Maheshwari,

Saralia or Dasa. They trace their origin from Agroha in the Hisar District and claim to be the descendants of Raja Ugarsen. The most prevalent sub-castes of Banias in the district are Garg, Goyal, Jindal, Bansal, Singla and Mittal.

Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes.—The number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes in the district according to 1981 Census, was 3,59,259 (1,94,034 males and 1,65,225 females), which formed 25.47 per cent of the total population. These are divided in groups, sub-groups, castes and sub-castes. Previously, like others, they did not marry in other groups but this rigidity is on the wane these days. A list of their castes and sub-castes is given in Chapter XVII, 'Other Social Services'. Formerly, their avocations were restricted and they could not change them. Things have, however, changed after Independence. The Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are now at liberty to adopt any profession they like. They are engaged in trade, commerce, industry, private and government services including police and even in the armed forces. Since 25 per cent of the civil posts are reserved for them, the literate Scheduled Castes find it more lucrative to join civil services, where, if fulfilling the necessary conditions, they are entitled to reservation in appointments and promotions. Illiterate Scheduled Castes, however are generally engaged in agriculture. Before independence, they were not allowed to own land but all restrictions in this regard have been dispensed with under the Constitution of India. They can now purchase land or any other immovable or movable property just as other members of the society can acquire property anywhere in the country. According to government policies, the surplus land with the government is being allotted to them at a nominal price.

Jains.—According to the 1971 Census, the Jains numbered 2,982 (1,545 males and 1,437 females) forming only 0.26 per cent of the total population of the district. Jainism is essentially a faith of Indian origin and is still popular in the country. It has had twenty-four leaders called *Tirthankaras*. The first of these was Rishabha, while a senior contemporary of Lord Budha, was the last *Tirthankara*.

Jainism preaches the observance of doctrine of non-violence (*ahinsa*) in a very scrupulous manner. Violence, according to Jains, is of three kinds, i. e. physical violence which covers killing, wounding and causing any physical pain; violence in words and violence through ill feeling towards others. Besides, there are seven vows which help to develop in a person the good qualities of self-restraint, self denial, and self-renunciation. In addition, there are five ordinary vows for layman, viz. not to kill, not to lie, not to steal, to abstain from sex and to renounce property. These vows according to Jain's tradition, are called *Anuvratas*.

There is a Jain Sweitambar Tara Panthi Sabha, Sangrur. It was formed about 220 years back for religious preaching especially, the teachings of Lord Mahavir. Morning prayers are held everyday at the Sabha building. In every 'Chaturmas' (four month period), from the end of July to the end of November every year, *Saints* or *nuns* stay for four months for the religious preachings.

Gujjars.—Both Hindu and Muslim Gujjars are found in Sangrur District. Muslim Gujjars are found in large number in and around Malerkotla. Their main avocation is to rear the milch cattle and sell milk.

There are *dhai gots* of Gujjars-Kasna, Gursi and Barkat but there is no restriction in respect of marriage within these *gots*. A Gujar can marry within his own *got* or in any other. Other chief *gots* in this district are Chechi, Bhubhe, Pajar and Chauhan.

Rajputs.—In the present district of Sangrur, Rajputs are in a very small number. The rigid gradation among the Rajputs has waned, though it might carry some conviction with the older generation. At present, the Rajputs of all grades contract marriages in their own as well as in other grades. Rajputs were essentially from the ruling class. Since they were from the royal stock, their standard of living, expenses on marriages and other rituals were very high. Their superiority complex would prevent them from cultivating land. Even if circumstances forced them to resort to farming, they would not perform many agricultural operations themselves. Their women would never come out to assist their menfolk, would never fetch water from a well and nor would they attend to menial jobs. Consequently, the Rajputs had to part with a sizeable portion of their produce to others, the produce left with them being hardly sufficient for their subsistence. Their condition was going from bad to worse. Their sound physique and warlike spirit have, however earned them many jobs in the army. There, they could show their worth and were able to justify their position in the armed forces.

Today, the Rajputs continue to serve in the armed forces but are also engaged in agriculture and government service. They have little aptitude for trade and commerce.

Sikhs. According to the 1971 Census, the Sikhs in the district numbered 7,67,071 (4,19,248 males and 3,47,823 females) forming 66.90 per cent of the total population.

Founded by Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1539 A. D.), Sikhism is a thoroughly modern and progressive religion. Its main principle is the worship of one invisible God. The main tenets of the religion are universal toleration, acts of benevolence, self-denial and equal social and political rights for all.

Sikhs believe in the *karma* and the transmigration of the soul. Sikhism attaches great importance to the institution of *langar* or free kitchen, according to which the high and low have to sit side by side and dine together, thereby annihilating all distinction of caste and creed. Every Sikh to become a "Singh" (lion) has to partake *Amrit*, the baptism of the sword (*khanda*). After baptism, he has essentially to wear the five Ks', viz. the *keshas* (unshorn hair), the *kachha* (short drawers), the *kangha* (comb), the *kara* (iron bangle) and the *kirpan* (sword). The Sikhs venerate ten Gurus and their holy book, the *Granth Sahib*.

The Namdharis constitute an important sect of Sikhs. Although they have full faith in the ten Sikh Gurus, they believe that personal guruship is necessary and will continue. The headquarters of the Namdharis are at village Bhaini Sahib in Ludhiana District and their present guru is Baba Jagjit Singh. A branch of the main headquarters has been opened recently at Jiwan Nagar in the Sirsa District (Haryana). They wear white turbans, tied in a conspicuous and distinctive manner and keep a rosary around the neck. They cook and take their meals in iron utensils.

The peasants of the Punjab State in Majha, Doaba and Malwa are mostly Sikhs and are known as Jats. A special mention is to be made of the Jats inhabiting this district. After partition, the non-Muslim cultivators, mostly Sikhs, from Pakistan, settled here. They belong to different *gots* (sub-castes) which are described in detail in the account that follows.

Jats.—Jats, who are muscular, stout, tall (those attaining height of six feet among them are not uncommon), handsome, with reddish brown complexion and generally long lived. Besides, being good husbandmen they make excellent soldiers, as they still possess the military spirit infused by Guru Gobind Singh. Sangrur, the headquarters of the district was also founded by a Jat named 'Sanghu'.

The important Jat *gots* in the district are : Sidhu, Gill, Aujla, Dhaliwal, Dhillon, Grewal, Chahal, Sandhu, Bhangu, Sanghera, Cheema, Kahlon, Khangura. However, in the villages of Bhawanigarh Sub-Tahsil Ghuman, are in large number, whereas Sidhu, Gill, Aujla, Dhaliwal, Poonia Kamboh and Dhillon Jats dominate in Sunam Tahsil. There are many Chahal Jats in Lehragaga Sub-Tahsil. The Sidhu and Dulat Jats dominate in Longowal Sub-Tahsil. It may be mentioned here that Shaheed Bhai Mani Singh was a Dulat Jat of Longowal. The Mann, Sidhu, Dhillon, Grewal, Kahlon, Chahal, Sohal live in the villages around Dhanaula. However, there is a large number of

Sidhu and Sandhu Jats in Barnala proper. The other *gots* of Jat Sikhs in Barnala Tahsil are Dhaliwal, Bhangu and Cheema. The Sekhon and Sandhu Jats are in a large number in Sangrur Tahsil. In Malerkotla Tahsil, the Gill, Grewal, Chahal, Sandhu and Dhindsa Jats dominate.

Kambohs.—The Kambohs are among the finest cultivating castes in Punjab and inhabit the district in good number. In Sunam proper, it is Kambohs who dominate. Shaheed Udham Singh was also a Kamboh of Sunam.

Sainis.—The large number of Sainis are found in Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur and Rupnagar districts of the State, but they are found in small number in the Sangrur District as well. They also rank among the best agriculturists. They own small holdings of land. Further, they are experts in cultivation of vegetables and gardens. Their women-folk also help them in agricultural operations. While ploughing and harvesting are carried out by men, it is the women who weed the fields, watch the crops and take the daily meals to their men-folk in the fields.

The Sainis are also very skilful and industrious cultivators. They produce three or four crops in a year from the same land. Sainis are found both among Hindus and Sikhs. They are found in good number in Moonak Sub-Tahsil of Sunam Tahsil.

Sansis.—The ancestors of Sansis were once stated to be called "Sursenas" and the Yadu Rajputs of Mathura. From the Yadus descended the Bhatti Rajputs. The Bhatti Rajputs flourished in Rajasthan for some centuries before Muslim invasions and particularly before the invasion of Ala-ud-Din Khilji, who ransacked Chittor, and drove away some recalcitrant Rajputs. Of them, the Bhatti Rajputs wandered towards the Punjab. Of this stock, among others, there was a Sansi tribe named after its leader "Raja Sansmal or Sensi". This tribe kept wandering about for five centuries. Some of them settled in Firozpur and Bathinda districts and other parts of the Punjab. Kirtu Sansi and Raja Sansi of the Sansi tribe were very prominent and powerful.

Sansis are both Hindus and Sikhs. They speak their own dialect and have their own customs, though they are now adopting fast the Hindu and Sikh customs. In Sangrur District, they are mostly Sikhs though intermarry with Hindu Sansis. The notable castes of the Sansis inhabiting the district are *Chohan* and *Nirmals*.

Christians

The number of Christians, majority of them Protestants, is very

small. According to the 1971 Census, the number of the Christians in the district was 806 (553 males and 253 females) which formed only 0.07 per cent of the total population.

Christianity has been able to get a foothold in India on account of the social services performed by its dedicated missionaries, who also started educational and medical institutions. Before Independence, the Christian converts could also seek better employment from the then rulers. But, they were not in a position to make adequate progress in the district.

The converts were mostly from the lower classes of Hindus and Muslims. Some Muslim Rajputs, quite influential in their area and holding the title of Zaildars and Lambardars embraced Christianity, but they could not bring their brethren into its fold. With the passage of time, certain converts reverted to their original faiths.

To conclude, it can be remarked that Christian missionaries have not made significant impact in Sangrur District and as such their contribution in the social sphere is not worth particular mentioning.

Islam

Sangrur is the only district in the State where Muslims are in a large number as compared to other districts. According to the 1971 Census, the number of Muslims in the district was 64,448 (31,392 male and 33,056 females), forming 5.62 per cent of the total population.

Islam is the Arabic proper name of the Mohammedan religion. It means surrender to God's will and includes the acceptance of the the articles of faith, commands and ordinances, revealed through Prophet Mohammed. The essential aspects of Islam are a belief in the Last Judgement, along with the requirements of prayer (*namaz*) five times a day, attendance at religious services in a mosque, giving alms for the care of the poor, fasting during day time in the holy month of *Ramzan*, and, if possible, making a pilgrimage to Mecca sometime during one's lifetime.

The main concentration of Muhammadans is in and around Malerkotla proper. They take a lot of interest in the growth of vegetables and small-scale industries. There is a Mousoleum of Sheikh Sadr-ud-Din in the town. Every Thursday, a fair is held at the shrine when offerings are made in the shape of money, jewellery and grain. On the first Thursday of every lunar month, the fair is held at large scale and is attended by thousands of people. These fairs are attended mostly by Hindus, though Sadr-ud-Din was Muhammadan saint.

(d) Social Life

Since the district is predominantly an agriculturist tract, a large number of people here are agriculturists. Pressure of population on land has been significant. The limited land cannot meet the increasing demand of the growing population. Accordingly, many people have been compelled by the forces of circumstances to leave their villages and seek employment elsewhere. This economic factor gave a great setback to the institution of joint family. The younger generation had to live separately from the joint families. It, however, cannot be said that the institution of joint family has disappeared totally. In certain cases, the younger people keep their families with their parents or otherwise extend financial help to them in the time of need, i.e. at the time of marriages, repaying of the outstanding debts, purchasing of land and building of houses. They would often send their families to their parents or would keep the parents with them for a period convenient to both sides. Thus, in real sense, the link of joint family did not break. The younger generation had the benefits of both the systems, i.e. the single-family and joint family system. Also, those who had immovable property in the villages would retire to the villages when they could not earn more in the urban areas.

Though the *purdah* system (covering of face by women) is fast disappearing in many of the advanced districts of the State, it still has some hold in the rural areas of the district. But on the whole, this custom is on the wane. *Purdah* system is more prevalent among Mohammedans and many Muslim women are generally seen in their *Burqas* (veil).

After Independence, the position of women has considerably improved and they have gained substantially in status. They are no longer merely slaves to their home and hearth. They receive higher education and do various kinds of jobs in schools, colleges and offices, etc. They are seen in various fields of life along with their male counterparts. It is beyond doubt that this tremendous change in the status of women has come, mainly because of the spread of education, which, in the post-partition period, has revolutionised the life of the people of this backward region. But in Khanauri and Moonak sub-tahsils, women in general are still backward, generally illiterate and under the influence of *purdah* system.

(i) Property and Inheritance

The property and inheritance were governed by the customary laws in the district. With the passing of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, things have, however, changed. Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists inherit property under this Act. The property of the deceased is

distributed equally among his sons, daughters, widow, mother, etc. However, during his lifetime, a person may dispose of by will or other testamentary disposition, any property, which is capable of being so disposed of by him in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, or under any other law in force at that time and applicable to a Hindu. In case a person dies intestate, his sons, daughters, widow, and mother inherit the property in equal share. The adoption of children and the maintenance allowance to the wife are governed by the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956. Among the Muslims, the property of the deceased is inherited in equal shares by his sons, daughters and wife under the Shariat Act, 1937. The wife is the sole owner of the *mehr* given to her at the time of marriage. Inheritance, among the Christians, is governed by the Indian Succession Act, 1925. In Sangrur District, it is only in a few cases that women have claimed their share in father's property. In many cases, in order to avoid future disputes, wills are made by the heads of the families during their life time in favour of sons or other male members.

(ii) Morals and Marriages

Morals.—Morals do not differ in the district in any way from those in other districts of the State. The age-old institution of prostitution ended at the time of Independence. No new licences were issued in the Punjab State. The institution was subsequently banned in the whole of India. The other moral offences of enticing away girls or women for immoral purposes are governed under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956. Since the district is industrially backward, the number of persons employed in industry and of those who leave their families back is negligible, no moral problem arising from separated families is actually felt.

Marriages.—Marriages amongst the Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Jains and Christians are performed according to their respective customary and traditional ceremonies. Civil marriages are performed to avoid social taboos and ostensibly to save the heavy costs involved in traditional marriages.

Among the Hindus, marriage is enjoined as a religious obligation because a father is believed to achieve salvation only through a son.

Usually the marriage is arranged by the parents. However, the boy and the girl are now generally allowed to have a glance at each other. The parents of the girl approach the parents of the boy either directly or through a mediator. In urban areas, amongst educated classes, matrimonial alliances are contracted through advertisements as well. The use of the services of *nai* as mediator has become obsolete. After preliminary

inquiries about the required particulars, the parties agree to effect matrimonial alliance. After consulting the priest, the date is fixed for engagement. The father of the girl offers money and sweets to the boy, who is also given seven dry dates out of which he is to eat one. After this ceremony, generally after consultation of the horoscope of the boy, the date for marriage is fixed by the priest. Before the actual ceremony of marriage a number of ceremonies are performed at the house of the boy and at that of the girl. These are *biah ka shagan karna* (beginning of marriage), *haldat* and *ban* or *batna* ceremony, *ghi ungal dena*, *kangna* or *rakhri bandhana*, etc.

A day before the marriage day *ghori* ceremony is performed. The bridegroom rides on the mare and goes around the locality/street. (Among certain castes this ceremony is not performed). After this, the bridegroom does not come back and rather stays either in some temple or with some friend. On this day the *sehra bandi* ceremony is performed. If convenient some people perform these ceremonies on the marriage day itself. Then the *barat* proceeds to the bride's house either the next day or on the same day, as the case may be, singing and dancing. At the bride's house, the relatives and friends gather to receive the *barat* where *milni* of parents and relatives takes place. The performance of *Jaimala* ceremony between the bride and bridegroom is also becoming popular. The marriage party is served with sumptuous food.

At the time of *lagan* fixed by the pandits, the actual *phas* take place before the sacred fire under the *bedi* before the priests and in the presence of relatives and friends. During performance of *phas*, a number of ceremonies *madh parkh*, *ganth jirna kanya*, *dan* etc. are also performed. Next day the party returns with the bride and dowry and other gifts. At the bridegroom's house at the entrance, the mother of the bridegroom perform the *bahu ka utarna* ceremony. She sprinkles some water from the vessel and drinks a few drops from it. Oil is also put on the two ends of the frame of the entrance door. Thereafter *kangna khelna* ceremony takes place. In the *munh dekhai* ceremony, the bride is presented some gifts, usually cash, on showing her face to the female relatives and friends. After staying for a day or two, the couple visits the bride's house. It is called *phera pana*, with which the marriage ceremonies come to end.

The Marriages amongst Sikhs were performed according to Hindu rites prior to 1909. With the passage of Anand Marriage Act, 1909, the marriages are now performed by *anand karaj*.

The marriage system of Sikhs closely resembles that of the Hindus. The notable difference is that *lawan* (*phere*) are performed around the *Adi Granth*, which is always on the spot. Some texts from the *Adi Granth* are recited. The couple is supposed to have received *pahul* before *lawan*. This condition is sometimes relaxed and the couple may be advised to receive *pahul* at some later stage after marriage, if not already done.

Marriage rites under *anand karaj* are cheap and simple. Unlike the Hindus the services of Brahmans are not required; but instead the *granthi* (religious preacher) performs the duties. Dowry system, as amongst the Hindus, is also prevalent.

The marriage system among the Namdharis is the simplest and the cheapest. It was introduced in 1863 by Baba Ram Singh. Earlier marriages were solemnised according to the Hindu system, which involved a lot of time, money and cumbersome ceremonies. All these were reduced to the making of four rounds of a sacrificial fire (*hawan*).

The would be union by marriage is determined by parents, but the blessed approval of the Guru is most essential. The boy should not be under 18 and the girl under 14. A Namdhari girl is generally married to a Namdhari. No dowry is allowed. Expensive and showy customs have been done away with.

After the bath the couple attends the congregation, where the Guru is present to grace the ceremony. After baptism their handkerchiefs are knotted together. The *lawan* from the *Adi Granth* are read as they make four rounds, the bridegroom always leading. Five *pauris* (stanzas) of the Anand Sahib (hymns of bliss) are also chanted. The *bhog* ceremony follows. The distribution of *prasad* completes the wedding. From there the girl goes to her new home and returns after a fortnight.

Marriage among the Muhammadans is called *nikah*. Muhammadan marriage is a mutual contract agreed upon by the man and woman and certain prescribed rituals are performed at the time of the ceremony.

The marriage among Muhammadans is arranged by the parents of the boy and girl either by direct negotiations or through some mediator. The initiative is taken by groom's parents. The amount of the *mehr* by the bridegroom to the bride is settled. *Mangni* (betrothal) takes place and on the appointed day of marriage the marriage party goes to the bride's house. With the usual feast the *nikah* takes place. The bride's *vakil* (agent) obtains her consent in the presence of two witnesses and conveys it to the groom. The Mullah or his deputy obtains the consent of the bridegroom and sanctifies the *nikah* (confirms the marriage).

Among the Shias, the consent of 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 Christians is solemnised in the Church and the priest performs the marriage ceremonies. Before the marriage

ceremony, he baptises the bride and bridegroom. If a Christian wants to marry a girl of some other faith she must accept Christianity and *vice-versa*. After the ceremonies, the friends and relations are served with a feast. There is not much difference in rituals among the Roman Catholics and the Protestants.

The Jains have the same system of marriage as the Hindus. The notable difference is that marriage ceremonies are performed by their own priest instead of a Brahman.

Widow Remarriage.—Widow remarriage among the Hindus is not common. People marrying widows are considered to be of inferior status. Despite best efforts made by the Arya Samaj in this field, there has been no perceptible progress. Among the Scheduled Castes, widow remarriage is performed not according to customs but as an economic necessity. Amongst the Jat Sikhs, widow is remarried to the *devar* or *jeth* (younger or elder brother of the deceased). Namdharis also preach widow remarriage. Widow remarriage among Jains is not popular. Christians and Muslims, however, remarry widows.

(iii) Birth and Death Ceremonies

Birth Ceremonies among Hindus.—Religious ceremonies start among (the orthodox) Hindus before the birth of a child. The expectant mother is served with gifts (*reet*) by her relations in the rural areas. At the time of accouchement, the *dai* (midwife) comes to the house. After severing the navel string and burying it in the ground, she receives some cash and sweets and then washes the infant. She also bathes the mother and receives in return some gifts.

Chuchi dhual ceremony is generally performed by the unmarried sister-in-law of the woman, she washes her nipples with warm water and receives some gifts. The breast feeding starts only after this ceremony.

Ghuti is given to the infant. It contains *sanna*, *amaltas*, *saunf*, *harar* and black salt, boiled with a piece of cotton (*phoa*). **Chhuani**, made of *ajwain*, *ghee* and sugar, is first distributed among girls, and then given to the mother for three days. On the fourth day *moi* or *panjiri* made of flour, *ghee* and sugar is given to her. *Panjiri* made of wheat flour, *ghee*, sugar and dry fruits, is given to the mother on the tenth day, and, in case the child is boy, is also distributed among the brotherhood.

On the sixth day, the *chhatti* ceremony is performed. *Karhi* and boiled rice are distributed in the brotherhood. A suit of clothes, plus cash and sweets are also given to the father's sister. Among the Sikhs, more gifts are given.

On the 10th day, the members of the family and the *nain lip* (paste with cow dung) the whole house, clothes are washed, all earthen vessels broken and new ones bought in their place. On the 11th day, the Brahman comes to the house, lights the *hom* (sacred fire), and by way of purifying the house sprinkles, i.e. with the Ganges water, and thus comes to end the *sutak* or impurity. Before this no outsider, such as a Brahman, Kshatri or Vaishya, will eat and drink from the kitchen of the house. After this cooked rice or *halwa* is distributed among the brotherhood.

On the same day the various menials bring toys for the infant. Thus the *Khati* brings a small bedstead and receives a garment and a rupee. The *nai* and the brahman put *dub* grass on its head, each receiving a fee.

The mother of the wife sends sweets, *panjiri*, gold and silver ornaments, suits of clothes for the woman and for the boy. This is called *Chhuchhak* or *Hua Ka dena*.

On the 40th day the mother takes bath and distributes *panjiri* among the brotherhood. This is called *Chhila* ceremony.

Birth Ceremonies among Muhammadans.—Muhammadans in this State do not as a rule observe any ceremony before birth. In accouchement the mother is laid on a quilt spread on a *charpai*, her head being kept towards the north and her face towards Mecca. The *dai* severs the *narwa* or navel string and buries it in the ground.

Afterwards a *Qazi* is sent for and he recites the *bang* in the child's right ear and the *takbir* in its left ear, receiving some cash and some *gur*/sweets. Some date-juice is then poured into the child's mouth as a token of welcome if it is a boy.

Some old woman gives the infant the *janam ghutti* which contains *sanna*, *amaltas*, *saunf* (anise), *harar* and black salt boiled in a piece of cotton (*phoa*). This is called *ghutti* in the Punjab. The infant's aunt washes the mother's nipples with warm water, receiving some money and ornaments. This is called the *chuchi dhual*.

For three days only *chhuani*, a mixture of *ajwain*, *ghee* and *gur* is cooked and given to the mother to eat. After three or four days, *panjiri* or *moi*, made of wheat flour, *ghee*, *goond* (or gum of *kher tree*) and sugar is given to the mother and also distributed among the relatives and brotherhood. On the sixth day the mother is bathed and her clothes changed. Cooked *senwrit*, sweet boiled rice and large *chapatis*, baked *potsherd*, are distributed among the poor and the brotherhood. This ceremony is called *chhatti*.

The mother is also bathed on the 10th, 20th and 40th days, and on the latter day the midwife receives asuit of clothes, a piece of *gur* (*gur ki bheli*) sweets and some money. This is called *chhila*. The mother is kept inside the room for 10 days and sleeps in the same room for 40 days. A lighted *chirag* and a piece of iron (a sword or chain) are kept in the room at night, and are supposed to avert the bad influences of evil spirits. At the door of the room a fire is kept burning, and if any outsider wishes to enter, she throws *ajwain* and *rai* on it. No cat or dog is allowed to enter the room. The mother is considered impure for 40 days in towns and for 10 days in villages and no one eats from her hand during that period.

Circumcision (*sunat*) is a ceremony of importance. It is performed at any time before the age of twelve in the presence of the *baradari*. A child who is born circumcised is called *rasulia*, though it is a rare phenomenon.

Birth Ceremonies among Sikhs.—The Sikhs do not consult priests on birth of a child. They name the child by opening the *Adi Granth* at random and after the first letter of the writing on the page. Jat Sikhs generally do not observe forty days seclusion (*chhilla*) unless required for special reasons. Some of the Sikhs perform *kesi dahi* ceremony by putting curd in the hair of boy—a ceremony corresponding to *mundan* among the Hindus.

Birth Ceremonies among Christians.—A child born in a Christian family is Christened by the priest. This ceremony is called baptism. The Christians also rejoice at the birth of the son but they do not dislike the birth of a daughter. The mother observes no period of impurity.

Death Ceremonies.—In case of death among the Hindus, the dead body is bathed and wrapped in a cloth. The body is put on bier and carried to cremation ground with recitation of *mantra*. The bier is put on pyre and put to fire by sprinkling *samagri* and ghee. On the third day, a few persons go to collect the *phul* (the ashes). Those are broken into pieces and immersed into the Ganges at Hardwar (U.P.), in the presence of a priest. Similar custom prevails amongst the Sikhs with the only difference that the ceremonies are performed by a Granthi or any learned man. They immerse the ashes into the rivers of Punjab, many do so at Kiratpur in Rupnagar District.

Hindus mourn their dead for thirteen days. This mourning ends by feeding the Brahmins. Sikhs end the mourning with *Bhog* ceremony.

The Muhammadans, after bathing the dead body and wrapping it into white cloth, take the bier to the mosque. The Mullah reads the *Kalma* and then the dead body is buried in the graveyard. A stone slab

is sometimes placed on the grave and every man attending the funeral covers the grave with earth. The Mullah prays for the dead for three days.

Like the Hindus, the Jains also cremate the dead body. The only difference is that the Jains do not mourn the dead, but instead forget all about it immediately after the death.

The Christians bury their dead in a cemetery in a coffin. An epitaph is sometimes fixed on the grave indicating particulars about the dead person.

(iv) Home Life

Dwellings.—Types and quality of residential units in a particular geographical area are fairly indicative of the pattern and quality of life of the people inhabiting that area. On the basis of homesteads revealed after excavations, historians have drawn conclusions regarding the standard of living of the people of the Indus Valley Civilization. Knowledge about the dwelling units in which people lived on a particular period of time is, therefore, very relevant to assess the pattern of life of the people. With prosperity and advancement of knowledge, it is but natural that people should think of having better-quality houses.

As in other parts of the country, there has been lot of improvement in the housing pattern of the people of Sangrur District, as compared to pre-partition days. The percentage of *kachcha* houses in the district has considerably decreased. In the towns of Sangrur District, people have *pukka* houses of bricks and cement. However, in the suburbs of the towns, some *kachcha* houses are visible. Even in the rural areas, *kachcha* houses are not found now in a large proportion.

During the pre-partition days, Hindus and Sikhs were discouraged by the Muhammadans to build *pukka* houses in the areas where the latter were dominating. However, after partition of the country in 1947, Hindus and Sikhs became free from this situational inhibition, and they constructed a large number of *pukka* houses after the partition. In Sangrur District, there is a lot of difference in the nature of dwellings in the urban and rural areas. There are good *pukka* houses in the towns of Sangrur, Sunam, Lehragaga, Dhanaula, Barnala, Tapa, Dhuri and Malerkotla. Barnala is the most flourishing town of the district, once being the headquarters of the erstwhile Phulkian State of Patiala. There are many three-storeyed well constructed buildings in Barnala town. The recently constructed houses, however, are of modern designs. Cement and iron are mostly used in the construction of modern dwellings. In the houses in rural areas, separate apartments are built for the cattle. Many people in the rural areas have good *pukka* houses, due primarily to the fact that

economic condition of the agriculturist class, now, is much better as compared to that in earlier times. High yield from land through modern and scientific methods of farming has ameliorated the economic condition of farmers. However, houses in the Moonak Sub-tahsil are not of good standard, there still exist many *kachcha* houses. There are no brick-kilns, and people use bricks which they themselves bake through indigenous methods.

Furniture and Decoration.—In urban areas, the items of furniture generally used by the people are practically the same among different classes of people but for their quality and variety. In modern times, the status of the people is judged by the standards of their dwellings and the decoration thereof. Since furniture and decorations have become a matter of prestige, people vie with one another in having costly and elegant things. The preferred items of furniture are modern types of beds and cots, dressing table, sofa set, dining table and chairs, electric fans, air conditioners, floor carpet or rug particularly for the drawing room, steel almirahs, etc. Table radios or portable transistors are found in almost every home, rich or poor. Television and tape recorder are also becoming popular not only in urban areas, but also in rural areas of the district. The well-off people in rural areas have almost all the items of furniture as those found in urban areas. In the houses of economically weaker sections of people, chairs and a small table besides old type of furniture like *pihri*, *muhra* could be invariably seen. Pots and pans of stainless steel are becoming popular though their high prices are a disincentive to their extensive use. Modern cutlery is in big demand and the well-to-do entertain guests in dinner sets of fine-type chinaware. In the rural areas also, people use utensils made of stainless steel, and modern cutlery, but they have still not abandoned the use of bronze and brass utensils like *thalis*, *karahis*, *glasses*, *lotas*, *kettles*, etc.

Dress and Ornaments.—In the rural areas of the district, the dress of a farmer consists of a *safa* (turban), a *kurta* (shirt), and a *chadara* (knee deep cloth tied round the waist). This type of dress is used in summer, while in winter there is an addition of, usually, a cardigan or pullover and especially a *loi*, (thin warm cloth), or a blanket. Besides, a loose-fit pyjama is also invariably used by the people. The educated villagers, especially the younger generation, have started using western type of clothes like pant-shirt, and pant-coat. The women generally wear *salwar-kameez* suit and cover their heads with *dupattas*. In winter, women wear *khesis*, woollen shawls and cardigans.

The educated people in urban as well as rural areas have mostly taken

to the western dress, i.e. pants, shirt, bushshirt, coat, pullover, etc. The use of pyjama and *kurta* is confined to homewear. The Sikhs wear turban, but among others it is confined to the old people. The younger people do not use any headgear.

In the urban areas of the district, the women wear shirt, *salwar* and *dupatta*, but among the younger generation *sari* is becoming very popular. The school as well as the college-going girls also wear *salwar* and shirt. The use of western trousers, even among younger women is very rare in the district.

Ornaments are generally worn by the females. Earlier, ornaments made of gold were used by them. But now gold is being substituted either by silver or artificial jewellery. In urban areas, it is only the middle aged women who wear a small quantity of gold, a small chain around the neck, a nose pin, a ring and ear rings. The modern young and educated ladies who generally move out wear artificial jewellery besides a ring made of gold. Ladies from very well-off families also wear, besides the gold ornaments, diamond jewellery. Silver ornaments are becoming very popular among the lower middle class, mainly due to the reason that precious gold has soared beyond their reach.

In rural areas ladies generally use silver jewellery, although in some well-to-do families gold jewellery is also used. The newly married women display a good deal of jewellery, the commonest among which are : *shingar patti* on the forehead, *chaunk* on the head top, ear rings and *jumkian* in the ears and a *nath* (a large nose-ring). The *nath* is used only at the time of one's marriage and is replaced by *tili* or *dandi* thereafter. The women also wear bangles and a variety of rings. They also wear *mattermala* (a kind of golden necklace). The newly wedded brides also wear *chura* of white plastic in decorative designs. Formerly, the *chura* was made of ivory.

However, the dress of women in the Moonak and Khanauri sub-tahsils is distinctly different from that in other parts of the district. It is similar to that of Haryanvi women because this area lies very close to Jind District of Haryana. Many women and especially above the age of forty wear *Ghagra* (a loose lower garment). The shirt they wear is generally very short and it hardly touches the *Ghagra*. These women make extensive use of ornaments made of silver, while those of gold are rarely used.

Men do not wear much jewellery except on festival occasions when *kanthas* (gold necklaces) are often seen. However, now-a-days these necklaces are made of rough metal and are polished in golden colour. Finger rings are commonly worn.

Food.—In the morning, an average villager takes *roti* (wheat loaf) *dahi* (curd) and tea or *lassi* (butter-milk). Mid-day meal includes *roti* with onion and mango pickle in addition to some pulse or vegetable. In the afternoon, parched gram or maize is eaten by many. The evening meal (dinner) consists of *roti* with some cooked pulse or vegetable. During winter, maize *rotis* with *sag sarson* (cooked mustard leaves) is taken. Meat and eggs are also taken by the people. On the occasions of marriage and festivity, the use of rice is very common. Tea has become very popular and is taken at least thrice a day. It is replacing *lassi* to a great extent. In the post-partition period, on account of the rise in price of *desi* ghee, the use of vegetable oils, as cooking medium, has become almost universal. People of the Sangrur District have also liking for sweet-meats.

As in other parts of the State, smoking is not uncommon in the district. The people of Sangrur also make use of liquor though in less proportion as compared to the neighbouring districts of Ludhiana, Patiala and Bathinda. However, the use of *jard'a* (tabacco plus calcium) is on the increase and especially in Bhawanigarh area, people make excessive use of it.

(v) Communal Life

Fairs and Festivals.—Fairs and festivals are as old as mankind, arising from the innate desire to congregate and divert from the humdrum routine of life. They provide an index to the cultural, social and domestic life of the people. Many among them are based on legends and aim at propitiating deities and persons believed to be blessed with supernatural powers, and invoking them for the grant of desires and for warding off troubles and curing ailments. With the spread of knowledge and gradual control of man over elements of nature and disease, the faith in old legends is waning, and consequently there are signs of some of the fairs and festivals fast losing in importance. It is valuable to record these legends and fairs and festivals before they completely fade away, since they portray the flight of human imagination whom it was not 'polluted' by rationalism.

Festivals of socio-religious nature provide an atmosphere of devotion and enjoyment. Some festivals mark the seasonal changes and some are local in character and are associated with some place, saint or *pir*. The fairs and festivals attracting large gatherings are taken advantage of by Government, religious and social organisations, and business firms, for doing publicity.

As in the adjoining districts, the religious festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm in the district. *Gurpurbs* are the largest religious festivals of the Sikhs which are celebrated with great devotion and love for the *Gurus*. A large number of Hindus also participate in these celebrations. Big *diwans* are held on the birthdays of Guru Nanak Dev and Guru Gobind Singh and on the martyrdom days of Guru Arjan Dev and Guru Tegh Bahadur. The *Gurpurb* of Guru Ravi Dass is also celebrated in February, with great enthusiasm. People also show great enthusiasm in celebrating the religious festivals of Shivratri, Holi, Janam Ashtami, Rakhi, Dussehra, Diwali, Tikka, Ram Naumi, Nirjala Ekadashi, Guga Naumi, etc. The seasonal festivals of Lohri, Maghi, Basant and Baisakhi are also celebrated with a good deal of fanfare.

Janam Ashtmi of Sangrur deserves special mention. Virtually, the whole population of Sangrur, belonging to different religions and castes, participates in its celebrations. The fair Guga Naumi is held at many places in the district. Dussehra is celebrated almost in all towns of the district with great pomp and show.

In Sangrur District, and especially in Malerkotla, there is a good number of Mohammedans. Actually, Sangrur is the only district in the Punjab where Mohammedans are in insignificant number. They celebrate their festivals with a good deal of emotions. Their important festivals are Moharram, Shab-i-Brat, Ramzan, Id-ul-Fitr and Id-ul-Zuha.

Among the Jains, Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated by taking out a procession of pictures of Lord Mahavir. The Jains observe fasts on that day. The Jayanti falls in the month of Chaitra, (March-April) and is celebrated with great enthusiasm at Moonak.

The national festivals are the Republic Day (26 January), Independence Day (15 August) and birthday of Mahatma Gandhi (2 October). In fact, besides people, Government machinery is actively involved in the celebration of national festivals.

Besides the above fairs and festivals, there are certain local fairs which are celebrated by the people in the district.

To commemorate martyrdom of sixty-six Namdharis in connection with anti-cow slaughter movement, 'Kukas' Martyrdom Day' or 'Kuka Fair' is held at Malerkotla on January 17 and 18 every year (68 Namdharis were gunned down by British Government on 17 and 18 January 1872). Basant Panchami fair is held at Malerkotla at the Smadh of Baba Roda. Another local religious fair 'Mela Hazrat Sheikh Sadr-ud-Din' is also held at Malerkotla in the memory of Sheikh Sadr-un-Din who founded

Malerkotla State during the time of Bahlol Lodhi. The festival of *Nirjla Ikadashi* is also celebrated with much enthusiasm. It is celebrated at the *smadh* of Bawa Atma Ram where devotees take a sacred bath and make offerings of flowers and *patashas* at the *smadh*.

In Sangrur Tahsil, at Nankiana Sahib, a big 'Baisakhi' fair is held.

The 'Gugga Mari' fair at Gharachon (Tahsil Sangrur) attracts a large number of people. It is held in the month of August-September for a period of four days. Another fair known as 'Mela Kuti' is also held at Gharachon for a period of three days in the month of February-March. It is celebrated both by the Hindus and the Sikhs, especially Ghuman Jats. The devotees make offerings at the *smadh* of Baba Faqiria who lived here 400—500 years ago. On this occasion singing and *gidha* parties show their performance; wrestling matches held on this occasion attract a large number of spectators.

A big fair known as 'Mela Gurudwara Bhai Mani Singh' is held at Longowal in the month of November-December for a period of three days to commemorate the martyrdom of Bhai Mani Singh. Wrestling, *kabaddi* and other games are the characteristic features of this fair. 'Mela Kali Devi' and 'Janam Ashtami' are also important fairs of Sangrur proper.

In Sunam proper, 'Mela Smadh' fair is held in September-October for one day at the *smadh* of a Saint named Baba Mansa Ram. Another fair known as 'Mela Pir Banoi' is held in the month of March-April for a period of three days in the memory of Pir Khawaja Mahmood Banoi whose tomb exists there. However, with the migration of Mohammedan population to Pakistan, the importance of this local fair has considerably decreased. To commemorate the martyrdom of Udham Singh who shot dead Sir Michael O' Dwyer, the man behind the Jallian-Wala-Bagh tragedy of 1919, Udham Singh Memorial Tournament is held for a period of four days, from 23 January to 26 January at Sunam.

A big fair called 'Mahavir Jayanti' is held at Moonak to celebrate birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir, the founder of Jainism.

In Barnala Tahsil, a national fair known as 'Shaheedi Dihara Sardar Sewa Singh' is celebrated at village Thikriwala in January-February for three days. The recital of *Guru Granth Sahib*, poetic symposium, lectures on the life of Sardar Sewa Singh and competitions in *kabaddi*, wrestling, horse riding, and singing are the special features of this fair. This fair is held to commemorate the martyrdom of Sardar Sewa Singh who formed Praja Mandal in the then Patiala State and pressed

the political and other demands of the public before the then ruler Maharaja Bhupinder Singh. He was put behind the bars where he went on hunger strike and died. A fair known as 'Beebrian Da Mela' is held at Sehna in memory of young women who burnt themselves alive in the fire at this place and in whose honour a temple exists there. The fair of 'Chet Chaudash' is held at Tapa in March-April in memory of Baba Sukha Nand. People of Tapa have great faith in him and do not take false oaths if the name of Baba Sukha Nand is invoked.

A very big fair called 'Jor Mela Mastuana Sahib' is held in the month of February in the memory of Sant Baba Attar Singh who did a tremendous task in the field of education in this backward region. This fair continues for three days and people come in large number from distant places. Poetic symposiums are held on this occasion. This fair is managed by students and teachers of Akal Degree College Mastuana.

In the predominantly agricultural district of Sangrur, cattle shows and fairs are not uncommon. Big cattle fairs are held at Sangrur, Dhanaula, Lehragaga, Sunam, Bhawanigarh, Malerkotla, Bhadaur, Barnala and Dhuri.

Games, Sports and Recreations.—Almost all sorts of modern games and sports are played in schools and colleges, the more important among these being hockey, football, volleyball, cricket, boxing, athletics, basketball, etc. Nowadays, girls are also taking interest in games and sports. Among the indigenous games, mention may be made of *kabaddi* wrestling, playing-cards, chess, *chaupat* and kite-flying. Dramas, cultural shows including *bhangra* and dance, cinema, etc. form the usual sources of entertainment.

Sportsmen from Sangrur District have excelled in boxing in many State level and (national) competitions. Boys and girls from schools and colleges of Sangrur District have participated in many festivals of State Level and outside Punjab and given creditable performance in *gidha*.

Folk Songs and Cultural Life.—Folk songs express the innate (or most intimate) ideas and sentiments of the people. These are sung on different occasions. Brief extracts from some of the folk songs, (both in Punjabi and Roman scripts along with their English rendering) common in this region, are given below :

ਪਿੰਡ ਜੋ ਬੜਖੇ ਦਾ ਸੁਣਾਵਾ ਹਾਲ ਜੀ

ਪਿੰਡ ਜੋ ਬੜਖੇ ਦਾ ਸੁਣਾਵਾ ਹਾਲ ਜੀ,
ਸੁਣ ਲਓ ਸਰੋਤਿਓ ਕਰੋ ਖਿਆਲ ਜੀ,
ਜੈਸੀ ਮੇਰੀ ਮੱਤ ਮੈਂ ਕਹੂੰ ਜ਼ਰੂਰ ਜੀ,
ਬੜਖਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਸ਼ਹੂਰ ਦੁਰ ਦੁਰ ਜੀ।

ਬੜਖਿਆਂ 'ਚ ਜਨਮੇ ਦਾਤੇ ਰਾਜ ਸੂਰਮੇ,
ਕਾਰਨ ਧਰਮ ਦੀ ਕਰਨ ਉਰਮੇ,
ਗਿਣ ਨਾਉਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਦੱਸੁ ਮੈਂ ਆਪ ਜੀ,
ਬੜਖੇ ਪਿੰਡ ਨਾਲ ਦਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਾਪ ਜੀ।

ਬੜਖਿਆਂ 'ਚ ਜਨਮਿਆ ਰਾਜਾਰਣਜੀਤ ਜੀ,
ਜੀਹਨੇ ਚਲਦਾ ਦਰਿਆ ਅਟਕਾਤਾ ਠੀਕ ਜੀ,
ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਫੌਜ ਨੂੰ ਲੰਘਾਇਆ ਮਗਰੋਂ ਸੰਧੂਰ ਜੀ,
ਬੜਖਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਸ਼ਹੂਰ ਦੁਰ ਦੁਰ ਜੀ।

ਬੜਖਿਆਂ 'ਚ ਜਨਮਿਆ ਰਾਜਾ ਹੀਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ,
ਜੀਹਨੇ ਕਰੇ ਤੇ ਨਸਾਫ ਕੱਢੇ ਵਲ ਬਿੰਗ ਜੀ,
ਕੀਤੇ ਤੇ ਨਸਾਫ ਬਹਿ ਗੱਦੀ ਤੇ ਆਪ ਜੀ,
ਬੜਖੇ ਪਿੰਡ ਨਾਲ ਦਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਾਪ ਜੀ।

ਬੜਖਿਆਂ 'ਚ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਰਮਤੇ ਜੋ ਸੰਤ ਜੀ,
ਜੀਹਦੀ ਕਰਨੀ ਦਾ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਨਾ ਅੰਤ ਜੀ,
ਘੱਪ ਘੁੰ ਭੀ ਨਾਉਂ ਬਾਕ ਹੋਣ ਪੂਰ ਜੀ,
ਬੜਖਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਸ਼ਹੂਰ ਦੁਰ ਦੁਰ ਜੀ।

Pind Jo Barukhe Da Sunavan Hal Ji

*Pind Jo Barukhe da sunavan haal ji,
Sun lo saroty karo khial ji,
Jaisi meri matt main kahun zarur ji,
Barukha pind mashahur dur dur ji.*

*Barukhain 'ch Janmay daate raj soormay,
Karan dharan di karn oormey,
Gin naun unah de dassun main aap ji,
Barukhey pind naal da nahin milap ji.*

*Barukhian 'ch janmyan raja Ranjit ji,
Jihney chalda darya atkata theek ji,
Pahlan fauj nu langhaya magron sandhur ji,
Barukha pind mashahur dur dur ji.*

*Barukhian 'ch janmyan raja Hira Singh ji,
Jihney kare te nasaf kadhe wal bing ji,
Kite te nasf beh gaddi te aap ji,
Barukhe pind naal da nahin milap ji.*

*Barukhian 'ch rahinde ramtey jo sant ji,
Jihdi kar'ni da auonda na unt ji,
Ghup Ghoon bhee naun baak hon pur ji,
Barukha pind mashahur dur dur ji.*

Description of Badrukhan village

(It is an extract from a poem written by one Gujjar Singh of the village Badrukhan and compiled in the book 'Badrukhan' by Language Department, Punjab. In the poem, he has depicted the importance of village Badrukhan by referring to various personalities associated with it. If Badrukhan is important for its association with important personalities like Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Raja Hira Singh of Nabha, it is also famous for saints (*darvesh*) like Ghup Ghoon. Ghup Ghoon whose real name is not known, used to utter 'ghup ghoon, ghup ghoon ' and for this he became known to the people of the area as Baba Ghup Ghoon. He is famous for making many prophecies which came out true. Village Badrukhan is a medium size village of about 4,476 inhabitants, at a distance of 5 km from Sangrur on Sangrur-Barnala Road).

*I, here, give the description of village Badrukhan,
O, audience, listen to it with great attention,
I will describe it according to my knowledge,
The fame of Badrukhan village is spread far and wide,
Badrukhan is the birthplace of donors, kings and the
brave,
They performed marvellous deeds for the sake of religion
Here, I tell you the names of these personalities,*

*There is no village comparable with Badrukhan.
(Maharaja) Ranjit (Singh) was born in Badrukhan
who stopped the flow of river,
First of all he got his military across the river and thereafter the elephant,
The fame of Badrukhan village is spread far and wide.*

*Raja Hira Singh was born in Badrukhan,
Who did justice and set the things right,
Seating himself on the throne, he did justice,
There is no village comparable with Badrukhan.*

*Badrukhan is the dwelling of the saints,
Whose good deeds are unlimited,
Whatever was said by Ghup Ghoon, came to be true,
The fame of Badrukhan village is spread far and wide.*

ਕਿਕਲੀ ਕਲੀਰ ਦੀ

ਕਿਕਲੀ ਕਲੀਰ ਦੀ,
ਸ਼ੀਸ਼ਾ ਮੇਰੀ ਭਾਬੋ ਦਾ,
ਰੁਮਾਲ ਮੇਰੇ ਵੀਰ ਦਾ,
ਗੱਡੀ ਆਈ ਖੰਡ ਦੀ,
ਭਾਬੋ ਫਿਰੇ ਵੰਡਦੀ,
ਦੁਪੱਟਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਭਾਈ ਦਾ,
ਫਿੱਟੇ ਮੂੰਹ ਜਮਾਈ ਦਾ।

Kikkli Kleer de

*Kikkli kleer dee,
Shisha meri bhabho da,
Rumal mere vir da,
Gaddi ayee khand dee, bhabho phire vand dee,
Dupatta mere bhai da,
Fitte muh jamaai da.*

The game of Kikkli

(Kikkli is a game which is played by young girls in the village. In the evenings, they gather in the courtyards and dance together by holding their hands crossed and feet joined).

The (game of) Kikkli is played round the peg,
The mirror belongs to my sister-in-law,
The handkerchief belongs to my brother,
A train-load of sugar has arrived,
The sister-in-law (brother's wife) is liberally distributing,
The cloth covering my head (dupatta) has been given
to my brother,
The son-in-law should be condemned.

The following verse has been taken from the *gidha* folk songs exhibit the moments of intense happiness or joy. When rural people of Punjab are in the state of ecstasy, they begin to dance and sing such verses, with their hands in clapping rhythm.

ਚਿੱਠੀ ਪਾ ਦੇ ਬੇ ਅੰਮਾ ਦਿਆ ਜਾਇਆ

ਚਿੱਠੀ ਪਾ ਦੇ ਬੇ ਅੰਮਾ ਦਿਆ ਜਾਇਆ,
ਭੈਣ ਪਰਦੇਸਣ ਨੂੰ।
ਤੇਰੀ ਭਾਬੋ ਪਾਉਣ ਨਾ ਦੇਵੇ,
ਭੈਣ ਚਿੱਠੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਪੁਲ ਬੰਨ੍ਹਦਾ।
ਬੀਰਾ ਚਿੱਠੀ ਲਿਖਦੇ ਮਦਰਸੇ ਬਹਿ ਕੇ,
ਭਾਬੋ ਕਿਹੜਾ ਮਗਰ ਫਿਰੇ।

Chithi Pa De Be Amma Dia Jaya

*Chithi pa de be amma dia jaya,
Bhain pardesan noon.
Teri bhabho paun na deve,
Bhaine chithian de pul banh da.
Bira chithi likhde madrasse bah ke,
Bhabho kehra magar phire.*

O' My Brother, Write a Letter

*O' my brother, write a letter,
To your sister who is abroad.
Your sister-in-law does not allow me to write a letter,
Otherwise I may make a flood of letters.
O' brother write the letter while you are in school,
My sister-in-law is not always following you.*

ਜੇ ਮੈਂ ਜਾਣਦੀ ਧਨੌਲੇ ਮੰਡੀ ਲਗਣੀ

ਜੇ ਮੈਂ ਜਾਣਦੀ ਧਨੌਲੇ ਮੰਡੀ ਲਗਣੀ,
ਸੱਸ ਨੂੰ ਵੜੇਵੇਂ ਚਾਰਦੀ।

Jey Main Jaandi Dhanaule Mandi Lagni

*Jey main jaandi Dhanaule mandi lagni,
Sass noon baraven chardi.*

Had I Been Aware Of the Market Being Held at Dhanaula

*Had I been aware of the cattle fair being held at Dhanaula,
I would have fed my mother-in-law with cotton seeds.*

ਭਦੌੜ ਦੇ ਮੂੰਡੇ

ਪਿੰਡ ਭਦੌੜ ਦੇ ਮੂੰਡੇ ਸੋਹਣੇ, ਜੇਬਾਂ ਰਖਦੇ ਭਰੀਆਂ,
ਮੇਲੇ ਜਾ ਕੇ ਪੌਣ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ, ਡਾਂਗਾਂ ਰਖਦੇ ਖੜ੍ਹੀਆਂ,
ਮਾੜੀ ਕੁੜੀ ਨਾਕਦੀ ਵਿਆ ਹੁੰਦੇ, ਵਿਆਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੁਰਾਂ ਪਰੀਆਂ,
ਵੇਲਾਂ ਧਰਮ ਦੀਆਂ, ਵਿਚ ਦਰਗਾਹ ਦੇ ਹਰੀਆਂ।

Bhadaur De Munde

*Pind Bhadaur de munde sohne, jeban rakhde bharian,
Mele ja ke paon bolian, dangan rakhde kharian,
Mari kuri ni kadi viahunde, viahunde huran parian,
Velan dharm dian, vich dargah de harian.*

Boys of Bhadaur

The boys of Bhadaur are handsome, they keep their pockets full (with money),

They sing folk songs at the fair and keep long sticks ready in their hands,

They do not marry ugly girls, they marry fairy like girls,

It is only the righteousness which pays in the long run.

ਜੰਗਲ ਤੇ ਪੁਆਧ

ਜੰਗਲ ਦੀ ਮੈਂ ਜੰਮੀ ਜਾਈ, ਚੰਦਰੇ ਪੁਆਧ ਵਿਆਹੀ,
ਹੱਥ ਵਿਚ ਖੁਰਪਾ ਮੱਥੇ ਚਾਦਰ, ਮੱਕੀ ਗੋਡਣ ਲਾਈ,
ਗੋਡਦੀ ਗੋਡਦੀ ਪੈ ਗਏ ਛਾਲੇ, ਆਬਣ ਨੂੰ ਘਰ ਆਈ,
ਆਉਂਦੀ ਨੂੰ ਸੱਸ ਦੇਵੇ ਗਾਲ੍ਹਾਂ, ਘਾਹ ਦੀ ਪੰਡ ਨਾ ਲਿਆਈ,
ਵੱਡੇ ਕੱਟੇ, ਵੱਗ ਰਲਾਵਾਂ, ਮਹਿੰ ਨੂੰ ਲੈਣ ਬਸਾਈ,
ਪੰਜੇ ਬੁਢੀਏ ਪੁੱਤ ਮਰ ਜਾਣ ਤੇਰੇ, ਛੀਵਾਂ ਮਰੇ ਜੁਆਈ,
ਗਾਲ੍ਹ ਭਰਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ, ਕੀਹਨੇ ਕੱਢਣ ਸਿਖਾਈ ?

Jungle Te Puadh

*Jungle dee main jammī jaayee, chandre puadh viahi,
Hath vich khurpa modhe chadar, makki godan laayee,
God di god di pai gaye chhale athan noon ghar ayee,
Aundi noon sass deve gahlan, ghah dee pand nan lyae,
Vachhe, katte, vagg ralawan, maihn noon lain kasayee,
Panje budhiye put mar jan tere, chhivan mare juayee,
Gahal bharavan dee, kihne kadham sikhayee ?*

Jungle and Puadh

This song depicts the poor economic condition of the people living in the area. It also indicates that women-folk of the area also work in the fields.

I was born in the jungle area, but I was married in the area of accursed Puadh,

Now I have a *khurpa* (a small agricultural implement) in my hand and a cloth sheet on my shoulder and I have been deputed to weed the maize field,

While weeding small swells appeared on my hands I returned home at the dusk,

Reaching home I was abused by my mother-in-law for not bringing the sheaf of grass,

Calves of cows and buffalo I will send in the flock for grazing, the butcher will take away the buffalo,

The old woman, dead be your five sons and the sixth to die should be your son-in-law,

Who has taught you to abuse me in the name of my brothers

ਜਿਉਣੇ ਮੌੜ ਨੇ ਲੁਟੀਆਂ ਤੀਆਂ ਲੋਗੋਵਾਲ ਦੀਆਂ।

ਬਣਕੇ ਕਿਧਰ ਨੂੰ, ਰਫਲ ਚਲਾਈ ਐ,
ਤੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਚਿੱਟੀ ਚਾਦਰ ਖੋਲ੍ਹ ਵਿਛਾਈ ਐ,
ਲਾਹ ਦੇ ਗਹਿਣੇ ਗੱਟੇ ਕਿਉਂ ਵਕਤ ਨੂੰ ਗਾਲਦੀਆਂ,
ਜਿਉਣੇ ਮੌੜ ਨੇ ਲੁਟੀਆਂ ਤੀਆਂ ਲੋਗੋਵਾਲ ਦੀਆਂ,
ਕੋਈ ਬੈਠ ਕੇ ਰੋਵੇ ਦਿੱਤੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੁਹਾਈਆਂ ਨੇ,
ਕਰਕੇ ਕੀਲਾ ਗਹਿਣੇ ਮੈਂ ਤਾਂ ਮਸਾਂ ਬਣਾਈਆਂ ਨੇ,
ਅੱਖ ਬਚਾ ਕੇ ਚੋਰੀ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਬਚਨਾਂ ਭਾਲਦੀਆਂ,
ਜਿਉਣੇ ਮੌੜ ਨੇ ਲੁਟੀਆਂ ਤੀਆਂ ਲੋਗੋਵਾਲ ਦੀਆਂ।

Jeune Maur Ney Lutiyan Tian Longowal Dian

*Banke kidhar noon, rafal chalai ah,
Tian de vich chiti chadar khol vichhai ah,
Lah de gaihne guttey kion vakat noon galdian
Jeune Maur ne lutiyan tian Longowal dian.
Koi baith ke rovey, ditiyan ktsey duhaian ne,
Karke kila gaihne main ta masan banayian ne,
Akh bachakey chori kahinde bachna bhalidian,
Jeune Maur ne lutiyan tian Longowal dian.*

The Women of Longowal were robbed by Jeune Maur

(The above folk song refers to the activities of the notorious dacoit

Jeuna Maur in the area. A dacoity which he committed in the village Longowal during the 'Tian festival' has been depicted here.)

Where are you going after doing all the fashions,
A white cotton-sheet has been spread in Tian (fair),
O' women, hand over all your ornaments without
wasting much time,

The women of Longowal were robbed by Jeuna Maur.
Some were crying while others were making appeal
for mercy,

After mortgaging a piece of land, I got made these
ornaments with great efforts,

Some women were trying to slip away to escape from
being robbed,

The women of Longowal were robbed by Jeuna Maur.

ਲਹਿਰਾ ਲਹਿਰ ਸਮੁੰਦਰ ਕੀ

ਲਹਿਰਾ ਲਹਿਰ ਸਮੁੰਦਰ ਕੀ,
ਯਹਾਂ ਮੋਹਨ ਦਾ ਵਾਸ।
ਇੰਦਰ ਵਰਸੇ ਰੁੱਤ ਆਪਣੀ,
ਮੋਹਨ ਬਾਰਾਂ ਮਾਸ।

Lehra Lehar Samunder ki

*Lehra Lehar Samunder ki,
Yahan Mohan ka vaas.
Inder versay rutt aapni,
Mohan barah maas.*

Lehra is the Wave of the Sea

*Lehra is the wave of the sea,
Where Mohan dwells,
Here clouds shower rain during the rainy season,
Mohan dwells here throughout the year.*

ਬਰਨਾਲਾ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਨਗੀਨਾ

ਬਰਨਾਲਾ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਨਗੀਨਾ,
ਕਣਕ ਆਈ ਇਕ ਚਿਨ,
ਰਹਿ ਗਈ ਮਹੀਨਾ।

Barnala Shehar Nagina

*Barnala shehar nagina,
Kattan ayee ik din,
Rah gyee mahina.*

Barnala is a Magnificent Town

Barnala is a jewel of a town,
I came here for a day, but spend
the whole of the month.

ਬਹੁ ਆਈ ਭਦੌੜ ਦੀ

ਬਹੁ ਆਈ ਭਦੌੜ ਦੀ,
ਚਰਖਾ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਦੌੜਦੀ।

Bahu ayee Bhadaur Di

*Bahu ayee Bhadaur di,
Charkha lai ke daurdi.*

The Bride has come from Bhadaur

The bride has come from Bhadaur,
She runs with her spinning wheel.

ਬਹੁ ਆਈ ਧਨੌਲੇ ਦੀ

ਬਹੁ ਆਈ ਧਨੌਲੇ ਦੀ,
ਸ਼ਕਰ ਖਾਂਦੀ ਤੁਲ੍ਹੇ ਦੀ।

Bahu ayee Dhanaule Di

*Bahu ayee Dhanaule di
Shakkar khandi tauley di,*

The Bride has come from Dhanaula

The bride has come from Dhanaula,
She eats shakkar (unrefined sugar)
from the earthen vessel.

(e) Rehabilitation

The partition of the country in 1947 brought untold miseries and turmoil to the people on both sides of the Punjab (East Punjab in India and Western Punjab in Pakistan). Unprecedented communal riots, arson

and loot compelled the minorities to migrate to the other side of the border. The non-Muslim minorities, mostly the Hindus and Sikhs of West Punjab, migrated to East Punjab (India) whereas the Muslim population of the East Punjab (and of Sangrur District) migrated to West Punjab (Pakistan). This unexpected event of colossal magnitude created numerous problems for the Government. The migrants were escorted safely up to the border and arrangements had been made to rehabilitate the migrants from Pakistan temporarily or permanently. First of all, the Government was to ensure their safe arrival, and arrangements were also to be made for providing them with shelter, food, clothing and medical aid. Since the migrants were without belongings and money, the problem of rehabilitation was further aggravated. The matter of prime importance was to find the places where they were to be sheltered. They could not straightway be shifted to the villages, as it was not possible to provide them with free rations. The pre-requisite for making rehabilitation more effective was that they should be first concentrated at a few particular places. After making arrangements for allotting lands and creating avenues of employment or commercial facilities, they were to be dispersed. Since the accommodation for the very large number of migrants could not be arranged in a short time, the Government and private educational institutions were closed for an indefinite period and were used for housing the refugees. With a view to expediting rehabilitation, big camps were also established.

In comparison with other districts of the State, the displaced persons did not feel tempted to settle in Sangrur District for more than one reason. The land holdings left by the Muslims were small, the district lacked adequate industrial or commercial avenues, a large number of Muslims, especially from Malerkotla proper did not shift to Pakistan, and as such there was not sufficient evacuee land to rehabilitate a large number of refugees in the district.

The rehabilitation of the displaced persons was of three types, rehabilitation of the school-goers, of agriculturists, and of those engaged in trade, commerce and industry.

Educational Facilities.—All educational institutions in the State were closed from July 1947 to February 1948. Consequently, one academic year of the students admitted to these institutions was lost. These institutions were reopened in March 1948, the students were to be promoted to the next class. The next academic year was to end in 1949. The students were granted fee concessions, and provided with text-books, and the examination fees were subsequently refunded to them. The college-goers were granted stipends and loans to enable them to continue their

studies. All these arrangements were not sufficient to induce the displaced children to continue their studies. Some parents could ill-afford even to feed them as they themselves were living on free rations.

Rural Rehabilitation

Settlement of Agriculturists.—The description of land available in various tahsils of the district, for quasi-permanent allotment to the displaced persons is given below :

Name of Tashil	Nehri	Chahi and Abi	Barani or Sailab	Uncultivated	Total
					(Standard Acres)
Sangrur	9,067	6,059	21,331	27,746	64,203
Barnala	4,208	1,192	9,761	1,319	16,480
Malerkotla	2,705	5,880	9,678	2,272	20,535
Sunam	6,800	2,213	26,384	2,553	37,950

(Source : Land Resettlement Manual, Punjab & PEPSU p.442)

Grading of villages.—The need for grading villages which were to be allotted in erstwhile Punjab and PEPSU arose from a desire to ensure that better villages were allotted to those who had abandoned better lands. Villages in Sangrur District were graded according to the percentage of irrigated area in a village, as under :

Grade	Extent of irrigated area in the village
Grade I	40 per cent or above
Grade II	30 to 40 per cent
Grade III	20 to 30 per cent
Grade IV	below 20 per cent

An analysis by grades of area available for quasi-permanent allotment, in various tahsils of Sangrur District is given as under :

Name of Tahsil	I	Grade of II	Area (Standard Acres) III	IV
Sangrur	13,501	18	8	..
Barnala	12,736	2,328	1,748	139
Malerkotla	11,578	108	120	79
Sunam	13,617	2,262	1,325	3,646

(*Sourcest Land Resettlement Manual Punjab and PEPSU* pp 457-458)

Scheme of Sub-Allocation.—The allocation of land to the displaced claimants in Sangrur District was made according to the scheme of allocation. According to this scheme, claimants from the Bar circle of Gujranwala Tahsil were settled in Tahsil Sangrur. The claimants from the Bangar circle of Gujranwala Tahsil were settled in the Bhawanigarh portion of Sangrur Tahsil. The displaced persons from the Rakh Branch and Gugera Branch circle of Sheikhpura tahsil and those from the Charkhari I Circle of Daska Tahsil of Sialkot District were settled in the then Barnala District comprising Barnala and Malerkotla tahsils of the present Sangrur District and Phool Tahsil of the present Bathinda District. Further, claimants from the smaller towns of Gujranwala qualified for suburban allotment, were got settled around Sangrur.

The claimants were to file their claims in respect of the land left by them in Pakistan. The Government of India had entered into an agreement with the Government of Pakistan, whereby each country had agreed to make available the land records of the claimants for verification of their field claims. After allotment of land, the cultivators were given loans for purchasing of cattle and agricultural implements.

Allotment of Urban Immovable Property.—The house, shops, and industrial establishments and other urban immovable properties, built or unbuilt, left by the Muslims were allotted to the displaced persons. They were also required to prefer their claims under the Displaced Persons (Verification of Claims) Act, 1950. Those claims were also required to be verified. Those who did not have urban property in Pakistan were allowed

to get the houses at the fixed price. Small urban loans and grants were introduced to help the displaced persons to restart their trade, commerce and industries. These loans were advanced at $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent interest and its recovery started two years after the disbursement. The loans, together with interest, were to be realized over a period of six years.

The last and final stage of rehabilitation was the payment of compensation to the claimants. The claims were verified under the Displaced Persons (Verification of Claims) Act, 1950, and the payment was to be made under the provisions of Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954. The work of payment of compensation actually started in 1957. Payments were made to the claimants by imposing cuts as in the case of agriculturists. For instance, persons with higher claims were paid in lesser proportion compared to those with smaller claims. person with a claim upto Rs 2,000 received 66 per cent, whereas those with a claim upto a lakh of rupees received only 20 per cent. Thereafter, the percentage decreased sharply. It was only 11.11 per cent of the verified claim of 18 lakhs of rupees. The cut in the compensation in the permanent allotment of land was also effected on the basis of the graded-cut formula.

In the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954, a provision was made to invite claims from those who could not file their claims under the Displaced Persons (Verification and Claims) Act, 1950, if they could justifiably explain that they could not file their claims on valid grounds. There were certain cases in which the displaced persons had not entered India before 1950. Such persons were also entitled to file their claims which were got verified on priority basis and were finalised along with other claims.

The rural and urban displaced persons who settled in Sangrur District belonged mainly to Gujranwala, Sialkot, Sheikhpura, Lahore and Lyallpur (now Faisalabad) districts of West Punjab. A large number of displaced persons from Gujranwala and Sheikhpura settled around Sangrur, while a significant number from Sialkot and Sheikhpura settled in Barnala Tahsil.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

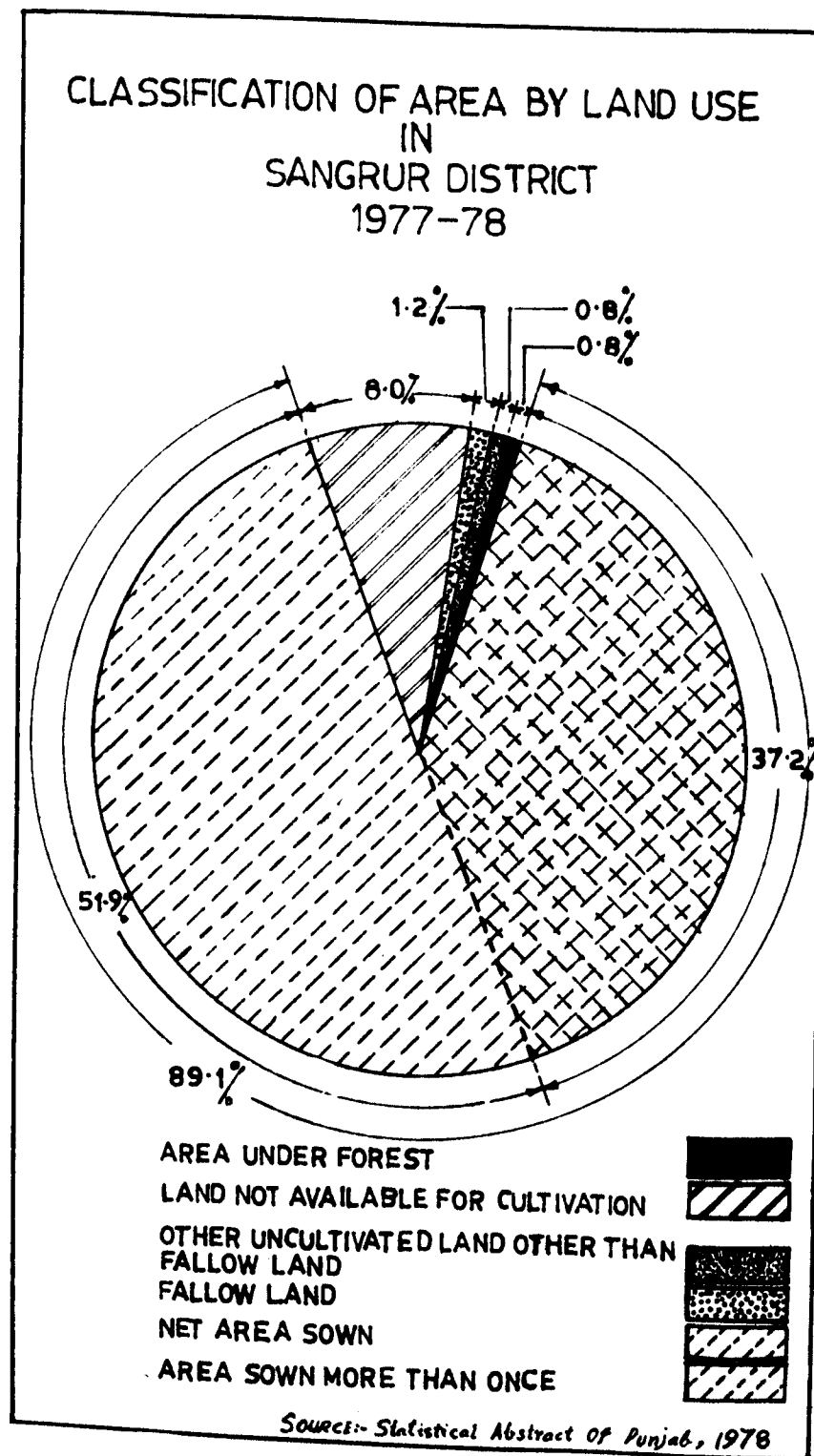
The economy of Sangrur District is predominantly agricultural. According to the 1971 Census, 79.69 per cent population of the Sangrur District was rural as against the corresponding figure of 76.27 per cent for the Punjab State. Of the total working force, 71.48 per cent was dependent on agriculture as cultivators and agricultural labourers. The break-up of persons engaged in agriculture in the district as per Census of 1971 was as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
As cultivators	1,82,742	309	1,83,051
As agricultural labourers	73,337	311	73,648
Total	2,56,079	620	2,56,699

(a) Land Reclamation and Utilization

Land Utilization.—Pattern of land utilization in Sangrur District, during 1968-69 to 1977-78, is given in the following table:—

1. *Census of India, 1971, District Census Handbook, Series 17, Sangrur District, p. 93*



Classification of area by land use in Sangrur District during 1968-69 to 1977-78

Particulars	(Thousand hectares)										
	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	
1 Total area according to village papers	516	509	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511	511
2 Area under forests	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
3 Land not available for cultivation	39	40	41	42	42	41	41	41	41	41	41
4 Other uncultivable land excluding fallow land	13	9	8	7	7	7	6	5	4	4	4
5 Fallow land	8	8	9	8	10	9	17	7	5	6	6
6 Net area sown	452	448	449	450	448	450	443	454	457	456	456
7 Area sown more than once	174	199	186	216	225	234	247	265	257	272	272
8 Total cropped area (6+7)	626	647	635	666	673	684	690	719	714	728	728

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1972 to 1978)

The area, according to village papers is based on returns of area prepared by village staff for revenue purposes in the district, whereas area by professional survey is worked out by the Surveyor-General of India. There is some difference in the two sets of figures because of different methods adopted by them. In 1977-78, the area of the district was 511 thousand hectares, and about 89 per cent of the land was under cultivation.

The area under forests in the district during 1977-78 was 4 thousand hectares. This includes actually forested area on the lands, classed or administered as forest under any legal enactment dealing with forests whether State owned or private except in areas not cadastrally surveyed. The area under forests given in this section does not tally with that of the Forest Department owing to the fact that certain lands, though not wooded, are taken as forest by the the Forest Department, while these are not treated as such by the Director of Land Records, Punjab.

Land not available for cultivation includes absolutely barren and unculturable land, mountains, deserts, etc. which cannot be brought under plough except at exorbitant cost, or land covered by buildings, roads and railways and water or otherwise appropriated for non-agricultural purposes. The total area of land not available for cultivation in the district was 41 thousand hectares in 1977-78.

'Other uncultivated land, excluding fallow lands' denotes land available for cultivation, either not taken up for cultivation or abandoned later on for one reason or the other and includes culturable wastes, permanent pastures, other grazing lands, and lands under miscellaneous tree crops and groves. In 1977-78, the area under this head was 4 thousand hectares in the district.

'Fallow lands' denotes cultivable land which after abandonment remains uncultivated over a long period called 'old fallows' and those kept uncultivated during the current year are called 'current fallows'. The area under current fallow lands in the district during 1977-78 was 6 thousand hectares.

'Net-area sown' is the area on which sowing is actually done during the course of a year. In 1977-78, the net area sown in the Sangrur District was 450 thousand hectares. Area sown more than once is that portion of the net sown area which was sown more than once in a year. Total cropped area is the gross area under all crops in a year and is the total of net area sown and area sown more than once. Such area in the Sangrur District, during 1977-78, was 728 thousand hectares. The culturable area per agricultural worker in the district during 1975-76,

was 1.63 hectares as against 2.23 hectares in 1960-61. The net area sown per agricultural worker also decreased in 1975-76 to 1.59 hectares from 2.03 hectares in 1960-61. The percentage of the area sown more than once to the net area sown in the district, during 1975-76, was 58.37, whereas it was 37.24 in 1960-61.

(ii) **Reclamation of Waterlogged Area, Swamps, etc.**—There is no river running through the district except seasonal Ghaggar stream, which passes through the district for a very short distance from Khanauri to Moonak besides two seasonal hill torrents called Sirhind *Cho* and Jhambowali *Cho*. These rivulets cause damage to the standing crops by causing floods, water-logging soil erosion, etc. Most of the *kallar* affected area especially in Lehra-gaga and Sunam blocks, are such where underground water is brackish and causes '*kallar*' in the soil. Water level has risen high and large fertile lands are becoming waterlogged. While the reclamation of saline, alkaline and waterlogged areas is the responsibility of the Irrigation Department, the reclamation of other types of culturable waste lands is handled by the Department of Agriculture.

The area under *thur* and *sem* in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is shown below :

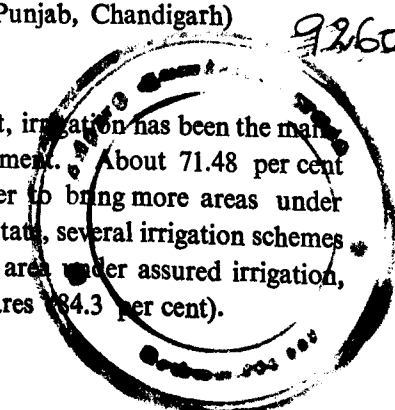
Year	Thur	Sem	Total
1972-73	5,719	1,452	7,171
1973-74	5,052	1,265	6,317
1974-75	4,689	632	5,321
1975-76	2,903	362	3,265
1976-77	1,741	164	1,905
1977-78	1,034	519	1,553

(Source: Financial Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh)

(b) Irrigation

In this predominantly agricultural district, irrigation has been the main stay of its economy, prosperity and development. About 71.48 per cent of its population depends on land. In order to bring more areas under irrigation and to step up its intensity in the State, several irrigation schemes have been taken up. As a result, the total area under assured irrigation, during 1977-78, was 384.6 thousand hectares (84.3 per cent).

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(i) **Rainfall.**—Rain in the district falls mostly in the months from July to September. In winter, scattered rainfall takes place from mid-December to mid-February. The average annual amount of rainfall in the district during the last five years, from 1974 to 1978, was 51.57 centimetres. With the extension of irrigation facilities after Independence, there has hardly been a failure of crops for want of rains in the district. This is well borne out by the following statement of monthwise rainfall for a five-year period from 1974 to 1978 :—

Rainfall in the Sangrur District, 1974 to 1978

Average rainfall during the month of														
Year	Annual Rainfall	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Area under crops failed for want of rain (hectares)
	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	
1974	27.51	—	0.27	0.60	—	0.12	8.14	10.28	5.89	1.09	—	—	1.12	—
1975	48.52	0.83	0.33	0.41	0.09	0.19	3.91	14.51	14.20	13.58	0.47	—	—	—
1976	62.55	3.40	2.18	0.58	0.25	1.24	5.61	17.67	29.58	2.04	—	—	—	—
1977	68.03	3.22	—	—	5.73	3.66	2.11	26.22	14.60	10.31	1.30	—	0.88	—
1978	8.53	..	2.51	2.87	1.35	0.90	0.90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1975 to 1978 and Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur)

Irrigation facilities.—Irrigation and agricultural production are positively correlated. Major sources of irrigation in the district are canals, tube-wells, wells and pumping-sets. The gross area irrigated during 1973-74, in the district, was 584.5 thousand hectares (85.5 per cent) which rose to 647.1 thousand hectares in 1977-78 (88.9 per cent).

The table given below shows the net area irrigated in thousand hectares along with the percentage to the net area sown, through different sources of irrigation in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78:

Year	Government canals	Wells including tube-wells and pumping-sets	Other sources	Total	Percentage to net area sown
1973-74	131.2	232.8	—	364.0	81.0
1974-75	118.8	258.0	—	376.8	85.0
1975-76	130.3	241.2	1	371.6	81.8
1976-77	143.1	237.6	—	380.7	83.3
1977-78	134.0	250.3	0.3	384.6	84.3

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1978)

Canals

Three branches of Sirhind Canal, viz. the Bathinda Branch, Kotla Branch and Ghaggar Branch, and Bhakhra Main Canal pass through the district. These canals have been taken off from the River Satluj. Two branches of Sirhind Canal, Kotla Branch and Bathinda Branch, enter the district near Jabo Majra and Ahmedgarh in Malerkotla Tahsil and serve Malerkotla, Barnala and Sangrur tahsils. The Ghaggar Branch and Bhakhra Main Canal irrigate Sunam Tahsil. These canals irrigated 143.1 thousand hectares and 134 thousand hectares of area in the district during 1976-77 and 1977-78, respectively. Following table shows the area irrigated

by the canals in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78 :

Year	Area irrigated by canals (thousand hectares)
1973-74	131.8
1974-75	118.8
1975-76	130.3
1976-77	143.1
1977-78	134.0

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1978)

Wells (including Tube-wells and Pumping-sets)

Next to canals, wells are an important source of irrigation. Well irrigation in the Punjab is very old. Bullocks and camels provide the main source of power for running the persian-wheel. However, in recent years the number of pumping-sets run by diesel and hydro-electric power has considerably increased in the district. Well irrigation, unlike canal irrigation does not cause waterlogging. The number of wells (percolation), tube-wells and pumping-sets installed in the district and used for irrigation purposes during 1973-74 to 1977-78 is given below:

Item	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Wells (percolation)	15,278	14,978	10,542	4,345	2,710
Tube-wells and pumping sets	24,637	24,668	23,874	25,519	30,882

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1978)

(c) Agriculture including Horticulture

(i) Set-up and Activities of the Agriculture Department

The department is represented in the district by a Chief Agricultural Officer, who is under the control of Director of Agriculture, Punjab, Chandigarh. The Chief Agricultural Officer, has the overall charge of entire agricultural activities in the district. He and his

officials guide the farmers in proper cultivation of land, proper use of artificial manures and in arranging good quality seeds. He is assisted by 1 Seed Development Officer, 2 Subject Matter Specialists, 1 District Agricultural Information Officer, 2 Project Officers (Reclamation), 1 Assistant Pilot Project Officer, 2 Soil Testing Officers, 1 Agricultural Officer, 1 Assistant Agricultural Engineer (Implements), 1 Junior Agricultural Engineer (Implements), 1 Statistical Officer, 72 Agricultural Inspectors, 78 Agricultural Sub-Inspectors, 8 Statistical Assistants besides ministerial/technical Class III and Class IV staff.

To look after plant protection, there are 4 Plant Protection Inspectors, 1 Agricultural Sub-Inspector, 3 Mechanics and 7 *Beldars* working under the control of Chief Agricultural Officer.

The Agriculture Department guides the farmers in the layout of gardens, in the extension of new orchards, in controlling various pests and diseases affecting agricultural crops and gardens, in the management and procurement of fertilizers and good quality seeds, and in laying out demonstration plots to bring home to the cultivators the superiority of varieties recommended for cultivation in the district. It also helps the fruit-growers in getting enhanced supply of canal water for establishing and developing new orchards. Loans are advanced by the Government to the cultivators for repairing old wells and constructing new ones and installing tube-wells and pumping-sets. Besides, *taccavi* loans are advanced for the development of horticulture. Loans for the reclamation of land are also advanced to the cultivators.

(ii) Soil and Crops

Soils.— Land of the district is largely a flat plain, with the exception of two monsoon torrents namely the Sirhind *Cho* and Jambowali *Cho* and the *Chaggar* River, the *Chaggar* traverses in the eastern side of the district near Moorak and Kharauri. Also there are some sand dunes which inhibit agricultural production. The soil of Malerkotla tahsil is clay loam, rich for cultivation. The underground water table is high and water is suitable for irrigation purposes and installation of shallow tube-wells is also feasible. The soil of Sangrur and Barnala Tahsils is generally sandy loam, and enjoys the facility of irrigation from canals. Most of the area of Sunam Tahsil is backward. The water table of the area is low, and the underground water is brackish which causes '*Kallar*' in the soil. Besides, Barnala Tahsil and some areas of Sangrur Tahsil and Dhuri Sub-tahsil also have brackish water.

Major and Subsidiary Crops.—There are two main harvests, the *rabi* (*hari*) or spring harvest, and the *kharif* (*sawani*) or autumn harvest. The *rabi* crops are sown in October-November and harvested from mid-March to mid-May. Late sowing of some H.Y.V. e.g. wheat (HDM 1553, WG-377) and Barley (C-64) are also sown up to December-January. The *kharif* sowings take place from June to August and harvesting lasts from early September to late December. Sugarcane and cotton are counted among the autumn crops though sown earlier. The cultivation of some crops falls in between the *kharif* and *rabi* seasons and these are classed as *zaid* (extra) *kharif* and *zaid* (extra) *rabi*. Thus *toria*, which matures late in December, is a *zaid kharif* crop and melons which are harvested late in June, are among the *zaid rabi* crops.

The principal *rabi* crop is wheat while minor ones or subsidiary crops are barley, gram, oilseeds (*sarson*, *taramira*, *alsi* and *toria*) and winter vegetables such as peas, cabbage, cauliflower, turnip, carrot, etc. The principal *kharif* crops are paddy, sugarcane, cotton and groundnut, while maize, *jowar* and *bajra* are minor crops. *Kharif* vegetables include tomato and lady finger, *kharif* pulses are mainly *moong*, *mash*, *arher*, soyabean etc. while grapes, pear, peach, guava etc. are the *kharif* fruits grown in the district.

Detailed particulars regarding the area under different crops and their total production in the district from 1973-74 to 1977-78 are given in Appendices I and II at the end of this chapter. The important *kharif* and *rabi* crops are described as under :

Wheat

Among foodgrains, wheat is the most important *rabi* crop of the district and is the staple diet of the people. It is sown a few weeks after the retreat of summer monsoons, generally in early November. At that time, the soil is most easily worked and sufficient moisture is usually present to foster growth until the light winter showers. It requires about four to five months to mature and is harvested between April and May.

With the improvement in irrigation facilities, the area under this crop has increased from 230 thousand hectares in 1973-74 to 306 thousand hectares in 1977-78. During 1977-78, it produced 793 thousand metric tons of wheat. Farmers in the district have in general adopted High Yielding Varieties (H.Y.V.), the cultivations of which permit late sowing up to the months December and January.

Paddy

Next to wheat, it is an important crop of the district. Increased irrigation facilities, and heavy rains and floods resulting in waterlogging, have contributed to the increased cultivation of this crop. Area under this crop in the district during 1973-74 was 18 thousand hectares and in 1977-78, it increased to 53 thousand hectares. Consequently, production of this crop has also gone up from 44 thousand metric tons to 186 metric tons. The increase in area under rice cultivation is due to the fact that the income from rice is more than that from maize or any other kharif crop. Its nursery is sown in May and June and the transplantation is done at the end of the June and in the beginning of July. Its harvesting season is October-November.

Maize

It is another major *kharif* crop of the district. It is consumed mostly in winter. It is sown in irrigated lands. Hybrid varieties have found favour with the farmers. Production of the crop in the district during 1973-74 was 75 thousand metric tons and in 1977-78, it was 81 thousand metric tons. The reason of its decreasing production is that the area under maize cultivation has progressively been diverted to paddy cultivation. The area under maize cultivation has decreased from 69 thousand hectares during 1973-74 to 55 thousand hectares during 1977-78. The diversion of area from maize to paddy cultivation is due to the fact that the income derived from maize is less than that from paddy.

Bajra

It is also a *kharif* crop of the district. It is sown in early July when summer rains sets in and is reaped in October-November. Production of the crop in the district was 26 thousand metric tons in 1977-78. The area under *bajra* cultivation in 1973-74 was 29.6 thousand hectares ; it decreased to 25.6 thousand hectares in 1977-78. This too is due to diversion of area in favour of high-yielding varieties.

Barley

It is a *rabi* cereal, sown from October to early January and harvested in early April. It requires less water than that required by wheat. With the improvement in irrigation facilities, the area is being diverted to other remunerative crops and as such the area under the crop has decreased from 18.6 thousand hectares in 1973-74 to 10 thousand hectares in 1977-78 and produce decreased from 20 thousand metric tons to 17 thousand metric tons of barley.

Pulses

Pulses are the main source of proteins in the food. The pulses grown in the district are gram, *mash*, *moong*, *arhar* and *masur*. Gram is an important cash crop and occupies large area like other major crops of the district. The area under gram cultivation was 45 thousand hectares during 1973-74 which decreased to 36 thousand hectares in 1977-78, the production was 35 thousand metric tons during 1973-74 as compared to 36 thousand tons in 1977-78.

Oilseeds

Groundnut, rape and mustard, linseed and sesamum are the oilseeds grown in the district. Of these, groundnut is the most important crop. It is grown in sandy loam and clay loam types of soil. During 1970-71, it was grown in 27 thousand hectares, out of which about three-fifths of the area was in Malerkotla Tahsil alone, one-fifth in Sangrur Tahsil and the remaining one-fifth was shared by Sunam and Barnala tahsils. The area under groundnut gradually increased from 27 thousand hectares in 1970-71 to 28.4 thousand hectares in 1973-74 and to 32.6 thousand hectares in 1977-78. The production of this crop in the district during 1973-74 was 22 thousand metric tons which increased to 30 thousand metric tons in 1977-78.

Cotton

Cotton is a major *kharif* cash crop sown all over the district. The intensity of this crop, sown in the district varies from tahsil to tahsil. In 1970-71, about 35 per cent of the total area under cotton in the district was sown in Malerkotla Tahsil, 35 per cent both in Sangrur and Sunam tahsils and remaining 30 per cent in Barnala Tahsil.

It has two varieties, i.e. American and *desi*. *Desi* cotton is more popular than American, because American cotton cannot stand heavy rains and rough weather as the *desi* cotton can. Moreover, practically there has been no substantial difference between the yield of American cotton and *desi* cotton.

The area under cotton varied from 65 to 72 thousand hectares during 1960-61 to 1964-65. It declined to 54 thousand hectares in 1965-66 and 43.6 thousand hectares in 1970-71. During 1977-78, the area under this crop again increased in the district ; it was 87.9 thousand hectares (American 22.9 and *desi* 65) because, waterlogging, which was the major cause of decline in area/crop has been checked by the Drainage Department and suitable quantities of chemical inputs/medicines have been used by the farmers to get better returns from the reclaimed soil.

Sugarcane

Sugarcane is one of the major cash crops of the district. It is grown all over the district in irrigated lands—about 40 per cent of sugarcane in the district is grown in Malerkotla Tahsil, 26 per cent in Sunam, 17 per cent in Barnala and 16 per cent in Sangrur tahsils. The area under sugarcane in 1960-61 was only 8 thousand hectares and varied between 10 and 12 thousand hectares from 1961-62 to 1964-65. There was sharp increase in area during 1955-56, when it reached 17 thousand hectares. In subsequent years, it varied from 13 to 15 thousand hectares. During 1977-78, the area under sugarcane was 13 thousand hectares which produced 86 thousand metric tons of sugarcane.

Barseem

Barseem is an important green-fodder crop of *rabi*. It is sown in larger areas in Malerkotla Tahsil than in Sangrur and Sunam tahsils; and in Barnala Tahsil, it is grown less than that in other tahsils of the district. It is sown during the last week of September and first week of October. It is a highly nutritious fodder and keeps on growing after repeated cuttings throughout the winter and early summer seasons. The crop gets ready within 60 days after sowing.

Chillies and potatoes are also grown in the district. During 1977-78, the area under chillies was 4.76 thousand hectares and 0.4 thousand hectares under potatoes. The production of chillies and potatoes was 4.1 thousand metric tons and 7.2 thousand tons, respectively, during 1977-78. The district occupies second position (after Patiala District) in the State in the production of chillies.

Vegetables.—There is ample scope for increasing the production of vegetables in the district because agro-climatically, it is suitable for the production of almost all the vegetables. The land in Malerkotla, Sangrur and Sunam tahsils is suitable for raising the production of quality vegetables.

The total area under vegetables, excluding chillies, in the district, during 1977-78, was 2,380 hectares. Following vegetables are grown in the district:

Winter Vegetables:—Cauliflower (*phul gobhi*), cabbage (*band gobhi*), potato (*alu*), turnip (*shalgam*), carrot (*gajar*), radish (*muli*), spinach (*palak*), fenugreek (*methi*), onion (*piroz*), garlic (*lassan*), capsicum (*shimla mirch*) and peas (*matar*).

Summer Vegetables:—Lady finger (*bhindi*), bottle-gourd (*ghia kaddu*), ash-gourd (*petha*), pumpkin (*halwa*

kaddu), brinjal round and long (*baingan*), tomato (*tamatar*), musk-melon (*sarda kharbuza*), bitter-gourd (*karela*), sponge-gourd (*ghia*), water-melon (*tarbuz*), chillies (*mirch*), arum (*arvi*), and sweet-potato (*shakarkandi*), long melon (*tar*), squash melon (*tinda*).

Chillies and potatoes are also grown in the district. During 1977-78, the area under chillies was 4.76 thousand hectares and 0.4 thousand hectares under potatoes. The production of chillies and potatoes was 4.1 thousand metric tons and 7.2 thousand tons, respectively, during 1977-78. The district occupies second position (after Patiala District) in the State in the production of chillies.

Fruit Crops and Gardens.—Fruits and vegetables are among the most important foods of mankind as they are not only nutritious but are also indispensable for the maintenance of health. From the view point of an agriculturist, they are of great importance as he is assured of high returns from their cultivation even on a small area.

The Subject Matter Specialist Horticulture, Sangrur, is in charge of horticulture in the district. He is under the administrative control of Director of Horticulture, Punjab, Chandigarh. Prior to 1979, he was under the administrative control of Chief Agricultural Officer, Sangrur. The Subject Matter Specialist, Sangrur, is assisted by 5 Horticulture inspectors, (one each posted at Sangrur, Barnala, Malerkotla, Sunam, and Demonstration-cum-Grape Nursery, Kheri), 1 Clerk and 18 *Beldars*. During 1977-78, the area under fruits was 329 hectares.

The Demonstration-cum-Grape Nursery was set up at Kheri (tahsil Sangrur) in February 1974. The nursery occupies an area of 44 acres 3 kanals 4 marlas though it started with an area of 11 acres 4 kanals. Its area has been divided into different categories of fruit plants, i.e. under grapes 3 acres 5 kanals 5 marlas, pears 13 acres 1 kanal 14 marlas, *kinos* 5½ acres, mangoes 12 acres 5 kanals 1 marla, *ber* 1 acre 6 kanals 5 marlas, guava 3 acres 5 kanals 3 marlas, and nursery plants 3 acres. The remaining area 7 kanal 16 marlas is occupied by buildings and roads.

In the nursery, peach, pear, lemon, *kino*, *ber*, guava, *jaman*, papaya and mango plants are grown. Government has also established a fruit nursery near Sangrur which produces nursery plants of citrus and other fruit plants like guava, *bers*, grapes, peach, pears, plums, and pomegranate.

(iii) Farmers' Training Camps

The programme of farmers' training and education was introduced in the district in March 1972 as a centrally-sponsored scheme. The main object of the scheme is to increase agricultural production and also to popularise multiple cropping by involving a large number of farmers in the High Yielding Varieties Programme and other agricultural activities. Under the scheme, farmers' training camps at district/block/village level are organized in the beginning of the cropping season. The extension staff and progressive farmers are imparted training in seminars attended by experts of the Punjab Agricultural University and those of the Agricultural Department, Punjab. Practical Demonstrations in respect of seed treatment, drill sowing, and efficient application of fertilizers are given at these camps.

(iv) Small Farmers Development Agency*

The Small Farmers Development Agency, Patiala, having Patiala and Sangrur districts in its jurisdiction, was established at Patiala on 8 March 1971.

The objectives of the agency are: to ameliorate the economic condition of down trodden class of rural masses; to identify small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers out of weaker section; to analyse the problems of weaker section and draw up schemes for raising their income; to make necessary arrangements to provide them credit facilities, to provide them subsidy and to make necessary marketing arrangements of their products. It encourages small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers to take up subsidiary occupations and provide loans for opening dairies, piggeries, poultry and shops to supplement their income. The loans given to them under these schemes are further subsidized by the Government.

Besides, the Livestock Production Programme Agency, Patiala, has been established in January 1978. Its main objective is to envisage the proper rearing of cross-bred female calves from the age of 4 months by agricultural labourers/small farmers and marginal farmers with assistance in the form of cattle feed to their calves for their proper development which, in turn, will increase the yield of milk. The cost of cattle feed is subsidized to the extent of 66½ per cent for agricultural labourers and 50 per cent for small/marginal farmers.

This scheme is implemented in the district through the field staff of the Animal Husbandry Department. The Veterinary Assistant Surgeon of the area concerned verifies the possession of the calves. The beneficiaries are issued ration cards indicating the agency from which the feed will be available.

*From 1970, the SFDA's and MAFALAs have been substituted by the District Rural Development Agency in the district.

The subsidy on cattle feed is released after receipt of the bill from the agency holder and the bill is duly verified by Veterinary Assistant Surgeon of the area concerned. During 1977-78, 391 beneficiaries and in 1978-79, 696 beneficiaries got benefit under this scheme in the district.

(v) Agricultural Co-operatives

Agricultural operations involve lot of energy, time and expenses of the farmer for a profitable harvest. While the farmer does not mind devoting his energy and time which are at his disposal, he has to look 'outward' for the purchase of agricultural machinery, agricultural implements, quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides. He has also to incur expenditure for employment of agricultural labour and for redemption of his parcels of land in case they have been mortgaged earlier by him or by his forefathers. If the land is fertile and agricultural operations are a complete success, a farmer may be able to finance these operations from his profits. This, however, is a rarity and the farmer has to depend upon others for borrowing money. In earlier days, he used to borrow money for these operations and also for incurring expenses on marriages, etc. in the family from money-lenders who used to charge exorbitant rates of interest. In this context, co-operative societies have come to the rescue of the farmer. The co-operative movement seeks to protect him both against economic deprivation and moral degeneration. What is difficult for an individual to achieve in isolation and by his own sources alone, is undertaken by a co-operative society whose affairs are managed by the members themselves. There are a number of co-operatives in the sphere of agriculture which have served different purposes from time to time. The first co-operative society in the district, "The Balian Co-operative Credit Society", was registered in 1916 in village Balian, Tahsil Sangrur, with a membership of fifteen and a share capital of Rs 150. Since then, co-operative movement has flourished in the district.

The co-operative societies functioning in the agricultural sector in the district are described below:

(1) Primary Agricultural Credit/Service Societies.—The co-operative agricultural service societies constitute the important sector of the Co-operative Movement in meeting the credit requirements of farmers for fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. The short term loan requirements of the societies are met by the Central Co-operative Banks, while long-term loans are advanced to the agriculturists by a chain of Primary Land Mortgage Banks. These societies play an important role in the campaigns launched by Government to increase agricultural production. In view of the rise in the price of chemical fertilizers, the borrowing limit of members of these societies has been raised from Rs 6,000 to Rs 9,000.

The major objectives of the primary agricultural credit/service societies are to supply agricultural credit, distribution essential consumer commodities, provide storage and marketing facilities and loans for light agricultural implements and machinery.

The yearwise number of co-operative Agricultural Credit/Service Societies and their membership from 1973-74 to 1977-78 in the Sangrur District was as under:

Year	No. of Societies	Member-ship	Share capital (Rs in lakhs)	Loans advanced during the year (Rs in lakhs)	Deposits (Rs in lakhs)
1973-74	740	1,25,934	122.27	511.60	28.60
1974-75	740	1,25,934	122.27	132.89	31.39
1975-76	740	1,28,137	141.80	624.08	30.73
1976-77	740	1,29,383	156.91	637.94	30.18
1977-78	740	1,31,675	167.73	757.27	28.22

(Source: Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

There was one Central Co-operative Bank functioning in the district with 49 branches at different places. Besides, there are 4 branches of the Primary Land Mortgage Bank operating in the district, one each at Sangrur, Sunam, Barnala and Malerkotla to meet the demand for long-term finance to the agriculturists. These banks advanced loans worth Rs 170 lakhs to the farmers during 1977-78 for the purchase of land, tractors, sinking tube-wells, etc.

(2) **Agricultural Non-Credit Societies.**—These societies are formed under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912. The societies are formed for the purchase of agricultural requirements like, implements, machinery, manures, seeds etc.; for the sale of agricultural produce; for the insurance of cattle, crops, etc.; for purposes of cattle-breeding and for similar other purposes like village uplift, better farming, better living, etc. There were 762 agricultural non-credit societies in the district in 1977-78.

Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Societies

The art of marketing is more difficult than that of production, especially in the case of agricultural produce. The marketing of farm products should be so systematic, scientific and well organized as to enable the farmer to negotiate a square deal and get a fair share of the value of his produce. For this purpose, agricultural co-operative marketing societies are functioning at different places in the district. Besides providing marketing facilities, these societies make arrangements for the supply of agricultural necessities and consumer articles in the rural area.

At the State level, there is the Punjab State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation (MARKFED), wholesale societies at the district level and marketing societies at the market level.

The number of co-operative societies and their membership etc. from 1973-74 to 1977-78 in the Sangrur District were as under:

Year	No. of societies	Member-ship	Share capital (Rs in lakhs)	Working capital (Rs in lakhs)	Value of goods marketed (Rs in lakhs)
1973-74	10	8,004	11.79	152.45	1,311.21
1974-75	10	8,250	2.76	170.40	1,429.37
1975-76	10	9,533	3.07	255.99	1,625.14
1976-77	11	10,649	13.75	235.53	1,777.78
1977-78	11	10,849	14.07	330.58	1,913.93

(Source: Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

Co-operative Farming Societies

Co-operative farming is, in a sense, an extension of the concept of joint family system to agriculture. It is a compromise between collective farming and peasant proprietorship and has all merits of large-scale farming without abolishing private property. It implies an organization of farmers on the basis of common efforts for common interests. Under this system, all landowners in the village form a co-operative society for cultivating the land. The land is pooled but each farmer retains the right to property. The produce is distributed among the members in proportion to the land and labour contributed by each. They are allowed to withdraw from the co-operative farm whenever they so desire.

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The number and membership of co-operative societies from 1973-74 to 1977-78 yearwise in the district was as under:

Year	No. of Societies	Membership	Share capital (Rs in lakhs)
1973-74	76	1,518	7.44
1974-75	76	1,518	7.39
1975-76	76	1,518	7.39
1976-77	78	1,558	7.59
1977-78	78	1,558	7.52

(Source: Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

Other Societies

Besides the above, there are a number of other co-operative societies in the agricultural and allied fields. Their number in the district in 1977-78 was as under:

Serial No.	Type of Societies	Number (1977-78)
1	Co-operative Collective Farming Societies	78
2	Co-operative Milk Supply Societies	292
3	Co-operative Housing Societies	81

(Source: Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur and Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1978)

(v) Progress of Scientific Agriculture

Agricultural production can be increased either by extensive cultivation or by intensive cultivation. Extensive cultivation is possible by bringing larger areas under cultivation by claiming waste lands, fallow lands, etc. Intensive cultivation consists of applying scientific methods in cultivation, provision of better seeds evolved through agricultural research and use of improved implements, chemical fertilizers, etc. A few of these are detailed below :

Agricultural Implements.—Use of improved agricultural implements is an important input for increasing agricultural production. The Department of Agriculture has been giving demonstrations in the use of improved agricultural implements and the farmers in the district are rapidly adopting the modern techniques and implements in cultivation. To train the farmers in successful operation of improved agricultural implements, a scheme for demonstration of the implements has also been started in the district under the Intensive Agricultural Development Programme.

The persian wheels are being replaced by tube-wells and pumping-sets. The traditional system of threshing wheat under the feet of bullocks has almost been discarded in favour of the mechanical method of using power threshers operated with tractors or small motors. The farmers are also using precision machines like seed-drills, seed-cum-fertilizer-drills, corn planters, etc. However, improved agricultural implements, viz. iron plough, disc-harrows, shellers, sprayers, maize and wheat threshers, combine harvestors for wheat and paddy, etc. are becoming very popular. In 1973-74, the number of diesel engines in the district was 47,951, it rose to 63,914 in 1979-80. Similarly, tractors are becoming equally popular, and their number in the district has increased from 5,028 in 1973-74 to 8,697 in 1979-80.

The old type of agricultural implements still in vogue in the district are *hal* (plough), *khurpa*, sickle, *kasola*, etc. But the improved implements are being gradually adopted by the farmers in view of their utility and scope for use. The Department of Agriculture is also stressing upon farmers to adopt scientific methods through individual contracts with field staff, and by radio talks and discussions.

Seeds.—Quality seed is the basic input for increasing productivity per unit area. According to Government of India's norm, seed should be replaced after every 3-4 years. As such seed production programme has been accelerated to intensify seed supply programmes by setting up the Punjab State Seeds Corporation and the State Seed Certification Authority. Besides, various schemes have been implemented to provide improved seeds, seedlings and plants which give higher yield and better quality produce. The private agencies and the National Seeds Corporation also assist the farmers in the supply and distribution of various types of seeds.

The Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Act, 1950 provides for the use of pure seeds and seedlings recommended by the Department of Agriculture and makes it incumbent on cultivators in any notified area, to use only improved varieties of seeds stored by authorized agents.

Seed Farm.—There is only one government seed farm at Chural Kalan in Lehragaga block in the district. It was opened in 1958 and remained closed from 1970 to 1978. During *rabi*, wheat seed is produced in the farm and in *kharif* it produces seeds of *moong* and cotton.

High Yielding Varieties.—In order to increase the total production of foodgrains, a few high-yielding varieties of crops are grown in the district. The yield per hectare of these varieties is higher as compared to the other varieties. The high-yielding varieties of crops sown in the district are detailed below :

Name of crop	Variety
Wheat	.. W.G.357, H.D.2009, H.D.1533, KSML-3, WL-11
Paddy	.. IR-8, Jaya, PR-106, PR-103, Palman-579
Maize	.. Ageti-76, Ganga-5, Composite Vijay
Sugarcane	.. CO-1148, Coj-64, Co-1158
Gram	.. G-214, G-235, G-130
Groundnut	.. M-13, M-145
Cotton	.. F-414, Bikaneri G-27

(Source : Chief Agricultural Officer, Sangrur)

The area under high-yielding varieties of wheat, paddy, and maize, during 1977-78, was 306, 60 and 15 thousand hectares, respectively.

The percentage of area under high-yielding varieties to the total cropped area in the Sangrur District for wheat, paddy and maize, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given below :

Name of crop	Percentage of area under high-yielding varieties to total cropped area in the Sangrur District.				
	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Wheat	.. 98.57	97.67	99.29	..	100.00
Paddy	.. 100.00	69.23	100.00	..	100.00
Maize		56.45	44.44	..	32.73

(Statistical Hand book of Punjab, 1976-77, issued by the Economic Adviser to Government, Punjab, Chandigarh.)

Crop Rotation.—The rotation of crops is adopted by the farmers to increase the fertility of soil by leaving the land fallow and by mixed cropping. Suitable crop rotations thus help in maintaining the fertility of soil and the farmers of the district are well aware about this fact. Besides, the rotations differ according to the type of soils/areas and other prevailing conditions.

The rotations generally followed in the Sangrur District, according to the type of soils/area are : if the soil is clay loam which is found in Malerkotla Tahsil, the main crop rotations being followed are paddy-wheat, maize-wheat, *kharif* fodder-wheat, etc. ; if the soil is sandy loam, the main crop rotations being followed are groundnut-wheat, maize-wheat, cotton-wheat, *kharif* fodder-wheat etc. ; and if the soil is saline and alkaline, the main crop rotations being followed are green-manuring and paddy-wheat.

In addition to the above rotations, vegetables-followed-by-vegetables rotation is also followed in clay loam soil and to some extent in all other types of soils except in saline and alkaline soils.

Fallow Cultivation.—The cultivation of land which was left fallow in the past for gaining fertility is called fallow cultivation. However, with the progress of scientific methods of cultivation, availability of irrigational facilities, good manuring, judicious rotation of crops, and above all with the decrease in per capita land holding because of increasing population, this practice is being gradually abandoned. In 1978, only 6 thousand hectares were left as fallow land in the district.

Fertilizers and Manures.—Fertilizer is the major input which plays a vital role for increasing agricultural production. To bring the district at the level of other developed districts, enhanced consumption of fertilizer becomes inevitable. With every crop removed from the land, the soil is exhausted of its fertility and this deficiency is made good by the enhanced supply of nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potash in balanced proportions. These inputs are essential to improve texture and fertility of the soil.

Chemical Fertilizers

Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are important nutrients required by crops in large quantities because soils are generally deficient in one or more of these nutrients. Therefore, concentrated fertilizers of each of these nutrients, as well as mixtures of single nutrients fertilizers are manufactured and applied to the soils to raise fertility of the land. With a view to knowing the exhausted nutrients of the soil of a particular

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area, laboratories have been set up, at various places, by the State Marketing Federation (MARKFED) and the Agriculture Department. Farmers can get the samples of soil from their fields tested in a laboratory and improve the fertility of their lands in the light of test reports received from the laboratory.

The following table shows the use of chemical fertilizers in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78 :

Year	Fertilizers used (‘000’ Nutrients tonnes)
1973-74	141
1974-75	136
1975-76	126
1976-77	31
1977-78	44

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1978)

Local Manurial Resources

Rural Compost and Cattle-Dung Manure.—It is a well-known fact that compost is a very useful organic manure for increasing fertility of the soil. In addition to major nutrients, it also contains micro-nutrients, which are most essential particularly for high-yielding varieties. The farming community is not fully aware of its importance and about 50 per cent of compost in the rural areas is wasted as fuel in the form of dung cakes. It consists mainly of vegetable substances mixed with animal dung and urine. It, therefore, contains all the elements present in the plant itself and provides an appropriate additive to the soil for restoring the ingredients removed from it by the crop. In view of the importance of this manure, Government has launched a campaign to make the best use of farmyard manure and other wastes. The East Punjab Conservation of Manures Act, 1949 (1950 Amendment) provides for the setting up of manure conservation committees and empowers the State Government to notify particular areas for the purpose of conserving manure and makes it incumbent on cultivators to take such measures as may be necessary for the purpose. The rural compost scheme was made permanent in the State in October 1966.

The rural compost prepared in the district during the last five years, i.e. from 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given below :

Year	Rural compost prepared (in lakh tonnes)
1973-74	7.00
1974-75	7.20
1975-76	7.50
1976-77	8.30
1977-78	8.50

(Source : Field Manure Officer, Punjab, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, District Rupnagar)

Green Manuring.—Green manuring is an effective method of increasing soil fertility at a relatively low cost. It is very economical to produce crops after green manuring as the cost of chemical fertilizers is very high and for that reason, beyond the reach of an average farmer. It increases the fertility of soil by direct addition of nitrogen to the soil, besides improving physical properties of the soil and conservation of moisture. The crops generally used for green manuring are *guara*, *dhaincha*, *saunhemp* and *senji*.

The extension of Green Manuring Scheme was introduced in the State in April 1961. It aims at popularising the use of green manure in the State. The area under green manuring in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given below :

Year	Area under Green Manuring (Area in hectares)
1973-74	11,000
1974-75	11,500
1975-76	12,000
1976-77	12,622
1977-78	12,800

(Source : Field Manure Officer, Punjab, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, District Rupnagar)

Town compost and Sullage Utilization

Town Compost.—Composting of the urban waste has been recognised all over the world as a sound system for its disposal from the point of view of sanitation as well as supply of rich organic matter. 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. The town compost scheme was introduced in the state in 1944. Under the scheme, all town wastes are collected and allowed to decompose in various trenches. The quantity of town compost prepared in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Town compost prepared (in metric tonnes)
1973-74	33,000
1974-75	33,500
1975-76	34,000
1976-77	35,000
1977-78	35,500

(Source : Field Manure Officer, Punjab, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar District Rupnagar)

Sullage Utilization.—The water, as the plant nutrients, and organic matter supplied by sewage, sewerage or sullage, are highly useful for almost all crops. These are easily available for fields in the vicinity of towns.

(viii) Agricultural Insect-pests and Diseases and Obnoxious Weeds

Insect-Pests and Diseases.—It is not possible to get optimum benefit of fertilizers and hard labour put in by the farmers in raising the crops unless they are properly protected from the ravages of various insect-pests and diseases. The crops are protected by providing facilities to the farmers for ground and aerial sprayings. Special campaigns are launched to control insect-pests of sugarcane and *rabi* oilseed crops. Plant protection squads in the blocks help the farmers combat the pest menace on 'no profit no loss' basis. For controlling seed-borne diseases and improving germination of some crops, treatment is being undertaken extensively. Use of weedicides is being taken up on a large scale

for controlling the weeds effectively and economically. Special campaigns are also launched for rat control.

The scheme of plant protection was launched in the district in 1952. Under the scheme, 4 Plant Protection Inspectors, 1 Agricultural Sub-Inspector, 7 Beldars and 3 Mechanics are employed to guide the cultivators as to how to escape from these diseases which adversely affect agricultural productivity.

Following are the major pests and diseases which damage crops, vegetables and fruits in the district :

Crop Pests and Diseases

Wheat	..	Termites
Maize	..	Maize borer (i) Top borer (ii) Stem borer
Paddy	..	1 Grass hopper 2 Leaf Folder 3 Rice hispa 4 Bacterial leaf blight
Sugarcane	..	1 Shoot borer 2 Top borer 3 Mite 4 Black bug 5 Pyrilla 6 Red rot 7 Wilt 8 Termite
Gram	..	1 Gram Catter Piller 2 Pod borer 3 Wilt
Sarson (Mustard)	..	1 Jassid 2 Leaf minor 3 White fly
Cotton	..	1 Jassid 2 Pink balworm 3 Leaf seller 4 Grey bevel 5 White fly 6 Mite

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Chillies	..	1 Jassid and Aphid 2 Termite 3 Virus 4 Die back 5 Juisips
Groundnut	..	1 Tikka disease 2 Termite 3 Jassid and Aphid 4 Groulies
Fruit Pests and Diseases		
Grapes	..	1 Catter pillar
Pear	..	1 Catter Pillar 2 Cage worm
Kinnoo	..	1 Citrus Pyrilla 2 Leaf minor 3 White fly 4 Citrus Canker
Mango	..	1 Mango hopper 2 Mealy bug 3 Shoot borer 4 Mango malformation
Ber	..	1 Powdery mildew

Vegetable Pests and Diseases

Potato	..	1 Jassid and Aphid 2 Early blight 3 Late blight 4 Virus 5 Potato cutworm
Tomato	..	1 Jassid 2 Virus 3 Fruit borer
Cabbage and Cauliflower	..	1 Jassid 2 Cabbage catter pillar
Bhindi	..	1 Jassid and Aphid 2 Root knot 3 Spotted ballworms

Brinjal	..	1 Jassid 2 Fruit borer 3 Shoot borer 4 Brinjal hadda
Cucurbits	..	1 Jassid 2 Powdery mildew 3 Downy mildew 4 Fruit fly 5 Red pumpkin beetle
Store Grain Pests	..	1 Khapra beetle 2 Rice Weevil 3 <i>Susri</i> 4 Gram Dhora
Miscellaneous Pests	..	1 Rats 2 Sparrows 3 Parrots 4 Jackals (Rarely)

(ix) **Research Stations.**—There is only one Sugarcane Research Centre of Punjab Agricultural University functioning at Kheri in Sangrur block in the district. It developed A1-15 variety of *arhar*.

(d) **Animal Husbandry, Poultry and Fisheries.**—Rearing of livestock is an important allied agricultural activity. The farmer has, traditionally, been depending on draught animals for ploughing, on milch cattle, mainly cows and buffaloes, for milk and other dairy products for domestic use and for supplementing his farm income. With increase in population, size of land holding has decreased. The farmer is, therefore, now in need of adding to his agricultural income through livestock and dairy products, poultry and piggery, etc. After Green Revolution, the State is poised for White Revolution and the farmer is ready to play his role in making the White Revolution a success. To achieve this objective, State is also helping the farmer through large scale cross-breeding programmes, improved feeding and management practices, and by effective campaigns against disease control among animals.

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Following table shows the number of livestock in the district from 1956 to 1978:

Particulars	1956	1961	1972	1977
Livestock	11,696	11,318	9,486	12,715
Cattle	5,006	5,234	4,040	4,122
Buffaloes	3,297	3,966	3,898	4,299
Horse and Ponies	555	39	29	32
Donkeys	150	155	64	58
Mules	2	5	9	23
Sheep	1,224	913	519	665
Goats	1,653	693	713	662
Camels	249	1,967	159	111
Pigs	59	1,114	55	183
Poultry	994	1,270	1,767	2,560

(Source : Census of India 1961, Punjab Census Handbook No. 17, Sangrur District and Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1978 and District Animal Husbandry Officer, Sangrur)

At the district level, the District Animal Husbandry Officer at Sangrur works under the administrative control of the Manager, Indo-Swiss Project, Patiala.

(i) **Animal Health Wing and Animal Breeding Wing.**—At the district level, the Animal Husbandry Department comprises two wings, viz. the Animal Health Wing and the Animal Breeding Wing.

Animal Health Wing.—It is under the charge of the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Sangrur, who is assisted by 49 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and 87 Veterinary Compounders, besides Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main activities of this wing are : to treat animals for surgical incidence and against systematic disturbance ; to publicize the hygienic

milk production ; to organize farmers' training camps ; to ensure hygienic meat supply ; to deal with vetrolegal cases ; to regulate the supply of rice polish for poultry, to attend to contagious diseases against animals ; to promote poultry, piggery, sheep and goat raising ; and to keep a watch on cattle fairs and cattle export, etc. These activities are carried out through 23 veterinary hospitals and 39 permanent outlying veterinary dispensaries (as on 31 March 1978).

Animal Breeding Wing.—Breeding work in the district is looked after by the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Sangrur, who is assisted by 3 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and 74 Livestock Assistants, besides Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

For the improvement of cattle breed in the district, cattle breeding programme is being implemented through artificial insemination centres, Intensive Cattle Development Programme Units, Key Village Units, and ICDP Units. Frozen semen exotic Brown Swiss breed from Switzerland is being used in the institutions of this district. Apart from this, the main activities of the breeding wing are : to keep up the breeding efficiency of bulls ; to produce semen from bulls and supply it to the Key Village Units for artificial insemination ; to organize camps for increasing the production efficiency of cows and buffaloes ; to hold camps for calf health ; to organize calf rallies in villages ; and to propagate enhanced high quality fodder production. The activities are carried through 3 Artificial Insemination Centres each under the charge of a trained Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and 23 Key Village Units, each under the charge of a trained Stock Assistants. Particulars of these institutions for artificial insemination in the district are as under :

Artificial Insemination Centre	Year of opening	Key Village Units Attached
Dhanaula	17-1-1958	1 Kube 2 Bhani Mahraj 3 Kalake 4 Dhul Kot 5 Nangla 6 Pather 7 Shekha 8 Karamgarh 9 Kot Dina 10 Pharbahi

Artificial Insemination Centre	Year of opening	Key Village Units Attached
Dhuri	1951	1 Mullowal 2 Bhalwan 3 Banphori 4 Ghanauri Kalan 5 Memsal 6 Mugra
Malerkotla	6-12-1956	1 Langrian 2 Guara 3 Bhasour 4 Chaonda 5 Bhulran 6 Bathan

Semen Bank, Sangrur.—For the improvement of cattle breed in the district, a Regional Semen Bank at Sangrur was opened on 21 December 1974. The bank preserves the collected semen with the help of liquid nitrogen which is produced by Liquid Nitrogen Plant at Sangrur. It is supplied to Artificial Insemination Centres and Key Village Units to preserve semen for a long time.

To look after the collected semen in the Semen Bank, Sangrur, 1 Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, 1 Stock Assistant, and 2 Liquid Nitrogen Plant Operators, and other miscellaneous staff have been posted at Sangrur.

Development of Gaushalas

Each *gaushala* is provided by the Government with a certain number of animals of improved breed and is required to secure an equal number from its own resources. This scheme was introduced in the Punjab during 1956-57 under the Second Five-Year Plan. There were, in 1977-78, 11 *gaushalas* in the district at Sangrur, Bhiwanigarh, Dhanaula, Barnala, Tapa, Dhuri, Malerkotla, Sunam, Ahmedgarh, Lehragaga and Chhahar (Tahsil Sunam).

Gosadans

There is no *gosadan* in the district.

Cattle Fairs and Shows

In 1967, the Punjab Government nationalized the cattle fairs throughout the State by promulgating the Punjab Cattle Fairs (Regulations) Ordinance, subsequently replaced by the Punjab Cattle Fairs (Regulation) Act of 1967. In each district, a Cattle Fair Officer with necessary supporting staff has been posted to organize cattle fairs and shows in the district. Good quality cattle are brought to these fairs and shows which

serve a very useful purpose in bringing the breeders and buyers in direct touch, besides, yielding handsome income to the authorities by way of various kinds of fees. In the Sangrur District, cattle fairs and shows are held at Atal, Barnala, Bahadur Singh Wala, Bagrian, Bhawanigarh, Dhanaula, Duggan, Johalan, Malerkotla, Lehragaga, Sangrur, Sunam and Tapa.

Castration

Castration is one of the most feasible means of controlling the reproductive ability of scrub and inferior bulls. Breeding through such bulls causes deterioration in the genetic potential of the progeny. Government has been making strenuous efforts for the elimination of undesirable male calves through castration. During 1977-78, 4,955 cattle were castrated in the district.

Control of Menace of Wild and Stray Cattle.—Great damage is done to the crops by wild and stray cattle in rural areas. 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. Under the scheme, cattle-catching parties have been organized to round up wild and stray cattle. This scheme is being operated by the General Manager, Buffalo Breeding Farm, Bir Dosanj, Nabha.

(ii) **Area under Fodder Crops.**—Fodder crops are the main food of the cattle. The availability of cultural wastes, permanent pastures and grazing lands are decreasing day by day. With the decrease in grazing facilities, fodder crops have gained much importance. The area under such crops was 81,142 hectares in 1977-78. The important among the fodder crops are *chari*, *guara*, green maize, *berseem*, etc. Of these *berseem* is the leading crop in the district. Green grasses are also available during the rainy season. Following table gives the area under fodder crops in the district from 1974-75 to 1977-78 :

Fodder Crops

Kharif Crops	Year			
	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
			(Area in acres)	
<i>Jowar (Chari)</i>	23,605	24,076	21,452	13,073
<i>Guara</i>	12,467	9,275	5,358	11,572
<i>Other Fodders</i>	20,220	19,091	19,714	21,041
Total	58,292	52,442	46,524	45,686

	Year			
	1974-75	1975-76	(Area in acres)	
			1976-77	1977-78
Rabi Crops				
<i>Berseem</i>	22,080	22,072	21,978	18,427
Oats (<i>Javi</i>)	60	97	437	137
Other Fodders	5,167	6,593	19,407	16,856
Total	27,307	28,762	41,822	35,455
Grand Total	85,599	81,204	88,346	81,141

(Source : Chief Agricultural Officer, Sangrur)

(iii) Dairy Farming

A diet consisting mainly of cereals is not an adequate source of nutrition and the sturdy Punjabi farmer needs a generous supply of milk and milk products to enable him to work hard in the fields in all types of weather conditions. The State Government is conscious of the important role which milk plays in the diet of the community and is, therefore, encouraging the development of modern dairy farming as a subsidiary to agriculture. Buffaloes and cows constitute the main source of the supply of milk. Milk production in the district is about 329 thousand kgs. per annum procured in the organized sectors. Punjab Dairy Development Corporation and M/s Hindustan Milk Food Manufacturers Ltd. Nabha (Patiala District) are the milk procuring agencies in the district. With a view to encouraging dairy farming and providing incentives to dairy farmers, a milk plant and chilling centres are being established in the district.

According to Livestock Census of 1972, the number of milch cows and buffaloes was 1,12,900 and 20,600, respectively in the Sangrur District.

(iv) Sheep Breeding

Sheep rearing is picking up in the district, but it is only the small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections of society who have adopted sheep farming as their subsidiary occupation/means of livelihood. The activity has not prospered for want of incentives.

The potential for development of sheep rearing in the district exists mainly in Barnala, Mahal Kalan, Sehna, Ahmedgarh, Sunam and Lehra-gaga blocks as pastures are available in these areas and the climate is comparatively dry and conducive to sheep rearing. During 1972, the number of sheep and goats in the district was 51,900 and 71,300 respectively. This number rose to 66,469 and 66,182 in 1977.

(v) Poultry Farming

There has been a considerable change in the dietary habits of people of the district during the last few years. They have been steadily switching over to non-vegetarian nutritious diet and with the result that demand for eggs and poultry birds is increasing day by day. Government is also encouraging poultry breeders by advancing loans for poultry farming. The number of poultry birds in the district rose up from 1,75,700 in 1972 to 2,56,000 in 1977. The plant established at village Upli (Tahsil Sangrur) for manufacture of egg trays is the first of its kind in North India.

(vi) Piggery

Government has been laying great emphasis on pig production in the district. Pig farming is not well developed in the district and pig rearing is confined only to economically backward people. The community block of Barnala, Mahal Kalan and Sehna are comparatively better placed in the matter of pig keeping. There are also adequate arrangements for the supply of piglets in Sunam, Lehra-gaga and Bhawani-garh blocks. The blocks of Malerkotla, Ahmedgarh, Dhuri and some parts of Sangrur could not develop this activity on commercial lines due to the religious sentiments of a large number of the inhabitants. According to Livestock Census of 1972, there were only 5,500 pigs in the district. Their number rose to 18,300 in 1977.

(vii) Fisheries

The office of the Fisheries Officer, Sangrur, was established prior to 1959. It was upgraded in June 1976 to the level of District Fisheries Officer who is incharge of Fisheries Department in the district. He is under the administrative control of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Patiala. The District Fisheries Officer, Sangrur, is assisted by 4 Fisheries Officers (one each posted at Sangrur, Barnala, Malerkotla and Sunam), 7 Field Assistants [including 5 Field Assistants appointed under Conservation Scheme (Canals)], 9 Fishermen, 1 Laboratory Assistant, besides other class IV staff.

Fisheries have tremendous potential in the district. Fish are cultured in village ponds but are also caught from notified waters, viz. the Ghaggar

River (from village Khanauri to Shakhal Bridge), Sirhind *cho* (from village Mehsimpur to village Satoj), and Ghaggar, Kotla and Sunam—Rajowali branches of the Sirhind Canal. All these notified waters pass through the district. The village ponds are very fertile for pisciculture and the main varieties cultured in the district are *rohu*, *mrigel*, *cartla*, common carp, etc. Their breeding is done at Fish Feed Farm, Sangrur. The common carp breeds in February and March while the *rohu*, *mrigel*, etc. breed in July and August every year. The area stocked with fish seed in the district and was 33 hectares, in 1978 when the income from fish production was Rs 27,000. Out of this income, a sum of Rs 8,515 was realized by selling 1,72,025 fish seed units which were produced in the Fish Seed Farm, Sangrur. A sum of Rs 10,400 was realized by auction of stocked ponds. The different varieties of fish found in the district are mentioned in I 'General' Chapter in its section 'Fauna'.

(viii) Animal Diseases and Veterinary Hospitals

Animal Diseases.—Animals suffer from a number of diseases in the district. The most common diseases are as under :

Category of Animal	Disease
Cattle	Foot & Mouth, B.Q., Parasitic, Sirrah, Pica, Degnela
Buffaloes	H.S. Sirraha, Parasitic, Degnela & Pica
Horse/Ponies	Diseases of Respiratory & Digestivetract
Donkeys	Ditto
Mules	Ditto
Sheep	Emterotoximice Sheep Pox Parasitic
Goats	Parasitic Diseases of Respiratory & Digestive tract
Camels	Kumari, Sirraha, Respiratory & Digestivetract.
Pigs	Swin fever, Parasitic & Respiratory & Digestivetract
Poultry	Fowl Pox, coccidoss, E-coli, Parasitic

Veterinary Hospitals.—To combat animal diseases in the district, a network of veterinary hospitals/dispensaries has been created. In 1977-78, there were 23 veterinary hospitals, 39 outlying dispensaries and 3 artificial insemination centres in the district. The number of cases treated by these institutions, during 1977-78, was 1,75,803. Besides, 2,18,239 vaccinations were performed/inoculated to the animals, and 30,172 animals were covered under the artificial insemination method. The list of veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and artificial insemination centres as on 31 March 1978, is given in the following table :—

Veterinary Hospitals and Permanent Outlying Dispensaries and Artificial Insemination Centres in Sangrur District as on 31 March 1978

Veterinary Hospitals	Permanent Outlying Dispensaries	Artificial Insemination Centres
Sangrur Tahsil		
1 Sangrur	1 Deh Kalan	
2 Gagarpur	2 Saron	
3 Cheema	3 Ghabdan	
4 Bhawanigarh	4 Duggan	
	5 Sheron	
	6 Rajpura	
	7 Gharachon	
Barnala Tahsil		
5 Dadhahur	8 Pharwahi	Dhanaula
6 Barnala	9 Sehjra	
7 Thikriwala	10 Chiniwal Kalan	
8 Dhanaula	11 Gehol	
9 Hadiaya	12 Bihla	
10 Sehna	13 Kattu	

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Veterinary Hospitals	Permanent Outlying Dispensaries	Artificial Insemination Centres
11 Tapa	14 Thuliwal	
	15 Bhatlan	
	16 Jalaldiwal (temporary)	
	17 Ugoke	
	Malerkotla Tahsil	
12 Dhuri	18 Bhularheri	Dhuri
13 Sherpur	19 Kakarwal	
14 Malerkotla	20 Kanjla	Malerkotla
15 Bagrian	21 Mandian	
16 Ahmedgarh	22 Lasoi	
17 Rurekeklan	23 Dhadogal	
	24 Naromajra	
	25 Umarpur	
	26 Lohatbaddi	
	27 Talewal	
	28 Rasulpur	
	Sunam Tahsil	
18 Longowal	29 Chhajli	
19 Sunam	30 Medewas	
20 Kaurian	31 Mehlan	
21 Lehragaga	32 Andana	
22 Moonak	33 Mouran	
23 Dirba	34 Balran	
	35 Dudian (temporary)	
	36 Lakhmirwala	
	37 Bhaikeshore (temporary)	

(Source : District Animal Husbandry Officer, Sangrur)

(e) Forestry

There is a Divisional Forest Officer at Sangrur whose office was established in May 1978. Jurisdiction of the division extends to the entire district and the division has been divided into four ranges, viz. Sangrur, Barnala, Malerkotla and Lehragaga. The Divisional Forest Officer, Sangrur, was assisted (as on 31 March 1980) by 3 Forest Rangers, 2 Deputy Rangers, 13 Foresters, 65 Forest Guards, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Assistant and 10 Clerks, besides ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

(i) **Importance of Forestry in the Economy of the District :—** Forest Department is raising forests to meet the growing demand of fuelwood, small wood-based industries and to release cowdung from its use as fuel and to save the land from erosion and floods. The forests of the district are situated in the *birs*, and along the rail, road and canal strips. Also the trees are planted by the farmers along the boundaries of their fields to meet their day to day demands, because sometime back deforestation had been effected by private landowners due to consolidation of land holdings in the district. The strips along roads, railway lines and canals were transferred to the Forest Department for scientific management some years back. The Department has launched a scheme called 'Farm Forestry' throughout the State of Punjab and its implementation has been highly appreciated by farmers. The existing forests comprise mainly of *shisham*, *kikar*, eucalyptus hybrid, *magnifera indica*, *morus alba*, *syzygium cumini*, *azadirachta indica*, *melozedorch*, however, there is also a sprinkling of other species like *pipal*, *khazur* and *beri*.

Shisham, *kikar* and eucalypts trees occur in large number in the district, whereas the remaining species are mostly found scattered in varying proportions. Since the soil in the *birs* of the district varies from saline and the P.H. value is high, the species found most in the *birs* include *kikar*, *masquite*, *dhak*, *neem*, etc. *Shisham*, *kikar* and eucalyptus are the predominant species in the strip forests and being valuable species, are planted on extensive scale. The ground flora comprises large number of grasses and herbs. Most of the strips especially those in the waterlogged and low-lying areas bear profuse growth of *saccharum munjia* (*kana*), *spontaneum (kahi)* *conchris* species (*anjan*), *Desmostachya-bipinata* (*dala*), and *typha elephantiana* (*batar*). *Typha angustata* grows in stagnant waters on vast stretches and indicates permanent waterlogging conditions.

Area under Forests.—The area of the Sangrur District is level plain and fit for agriculture. Reserve forests do not exist in the Forest Division, Sangrur. The forest areas consist of unclassified evacuee forests, areas under section 38 of the Indian Forests Act, 1927 and private areas closed for a certain period under section 4 of the Land Preservation Act, 1900. The Forest Division, Sangrur, also manages the strips along P.W.D. roads, railway lines, canals and drains. In 1977-78, and 1978-79, the area under forests under the control of the Sangrur Forest Division, Sangrur was 7,026.36 hectares. The rangewise area (1977-78) in the division is as under :

Name of range	Total area (hectares)	Percentage of the district area
Sangrur	1,439.75	
Barnala	1,613.00	
Malerkotla	1,721.60	
Lehragaga	2,252.01	
Total	7,026.36	1.32

The forests in the district are classified, according to the legal status, into Protected and Unclassed, which are mentioned below:

Protected Forests

There is no area under Reserved Forests in the Sangrur Forest Division. All rail, road, canal and drain strips have been declared as Protected Forests by the State Government. These strips were transferred* for scientific management to Forest Department. These strips were being stocked mainly with *shisham*, *kikar* and eucalyptus trees; some other species like mango, *jaman*, etc. are also found on these strips.

The *birs* of the Sangrur District have also been included in Protected Forests. Previously, these *birs* were used as grazing lands. The *birs* are not situated in compact blocks, on the contrary they are like

*Vide Development Department Notification No. 5002-D-51/6264, dated 15-11-1951 and vide Notification No. 4870-D-51/4791, dated 16-8-52

detached islands here and there. Almost all the *birs* contain inferior scattered crop of *kana*, bushes, *kikar*, *beri*, *jand*, grass, etc. and at certain places big sandy blanks are also met with. In nutshell, the existing vegetation is of no commercial importance except that it yields low grade fire-wood. Efforts are afoot to rehabilitate these *birs* by replacing the existing vegetation and blanks with the species having economic value.

During 1977-78, the area under Protected Forests was 4,142.51 hectares which increased to 7,974.36 hectares in 1979-80.

Unclassed Forests

During 1978, the area under Unclassed Forests in the division was 16 hectares which increased to 85 hectares in 1979-80. These forests are stocked mainly with *shisham*, *kikar* and eucalyptus trees; other species like mango, *jaman*, *drek*, *pipal* and *beri* trees and *kahi*, *kana*, and *ponni* grass are also found in these forests.

The area under forests in the district as on 1979-80 was as under :

Particulars	Area (in hectares)
(i) Reserved Forests	Nil
(ii) Protected Forests—	
Road strips	1,128.42
Link Road strips	1,215.00
Rail strips	401.25
Canal strips	2,365.07
Drain strips	2,397.07
Bir strips	467.41
(iii) Unclassed Evacuee Forests	85.00
(iv) Under section 38 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927	3,68.00
Total	8,427.22

(iii) Forest Produce

Trees and fuel-wood are the principal forest produce in the district; minor forest produce are fruits, *kahi-kana* and *panni*, which are generally auctioned every year. If properly tendered and scientifically preserved, forests can be a reliable source for supplementing the farm income of an agriculturist. While it may not be commercially viable to grow forests in place of crops, in cultivated lands, yet forests can be profitable grown in the lands which are not fit for regular cultivation. Maintenance and preservation cost of forests are not as high as in the case of crops. Forests produce of the district, though useful for timber and furniture making and for various other purposes, do not make it self-sufficient in wood and wood products. There is hardly any industry in the district which runs entirely on raw material from forests.

The annual income from the sale of forest produce in the district from 1973-74 to 1977-78 was as under:

Year		Major Produce	Minor Produce
		(Rs)	(Rs)
1973-74	..	6,84,922	7,30,026
1974-75	..	5,25,119	5,80,451
1975-76	..	12,83,349	13,41,170
1976-77	..	8,96,612	9,71,051
1977-78	..	13,15,724	1,40,603

(Source: Divisional Forest Officer, Sangrur)

(f) Floods

Floods are caused by overflowing of rivers or by excessive rains from year to year and from place to place. The Sangrur District is a flat plain without any river; the seasonal Ghaggar River flows along the southern part of the district near Moonak in the Sunam Tahsil. Also, there are two monsoon torrents, the Sirhind and the Jambowal Chos, which pass through the district. The floods caused some loss of human and animal lives, and also damaged the property and crops, in the district

in 1968, 1969, 1971, 1973 and 1976. In such situations, Government provides relief to the flood-affected people in the shape of gratuitous grant and *taccavi* loans, remission of land revenue/*abiana* and electricity charges to the tube-wells owners, and postponement of recoveries of previous *taccavi* loans, etc. in accordance with the magnitude of the calamity.

Besides, the Drainage Department executes various drainage and flood control schemes under the Master Plan on Flood Control. In Sangrur District, a number of drains were constructed by the department resulting in reclamation of thousands of hectares of waterlogged lands. These drains have brought manifold benefits to the district; these are helpful to control floods, to lower the watertable of waterlogged areas, to make land cultivable and to clear the blockades in the natural depressions which were formed, prior to the canalisation of main chos and excavation of drains, with the construction of canals, distributaries and roads without providing proper outlets for drainage.

The following table shows the damage caused by floods and heavy rains in the district during 1968 to 1978:—

Damage caused to private property and area under crops, produce and its value due to floods during rainy season in the Sangrur District, 1968 to 1978.

Year	Number of villages/towns affected	Area affected (sq.Km)	Human Lives lost (number)	Cattle heads lost (number)	Houses damaged (number)	Area affected (hectares)	Produce damaged ('00' Qts.)	Value ('000Rs)
1968	245	376	—	2	—	33,204	3,143	33,019
1969	—	105	4	2	105	5,260	—	5,749
1970	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1971	22	10	—	—	82	2,738	1,055	1,732
1972	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1973	19	33	—	2	515	327	40	289
1974	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1975	—	—	—	—	53	—	—	—
1976	16	37	—	20	249	2,647	—	396
1977	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	—
1978	32	28	—	—	35	2,750	..	3,922

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1969 to 1979)

(g) Famine

Although, draughts and famines have frequently been occurring in the erstwhile princely State of Jind, yet their history cannot be easily traced here. Most of the famines have occurred in the Narwana and Jind tahsils of the erstwhile Jind State and both these tahsils now form part of the State of Haryana. The famine affected areas now comprising the district of Sangrur were, at the time of occurrence, part of the erstwhile princely State of Patiala. The brief history of famines, which visited the district, is given below:

"The earliest famine of which men talk is that of Sambat 1840, known as the *chalia* or *chalisa*. This was a terrible famine which lasted for more than two years. The people could not get grain and many lost their lives either from want of grain or from sickness brought on by bad food and most of the people left their homes. The next famine was in Sambat 1869; it is known as the *dhauna* or the famine of 20 *sers*; it lasted for 8 or 9 months. Both harvests failed and the people suffered heavily. The *nabia* was the famine of Sambat 1890. Both harvests failed, and the price of grain rose to 38 *sers kachcha* per rupee in the course of the famine, the rate before it having been 4 maunds per rupee. Sambat 1894 also brought a famine, but it was not so severe. In Sambat 1905, there was also scarcity in the Jangal tract. The famine of Sambat 1917, commonly called the *stahra*, was a severe one. Both harvests failed and the rate rose from 3 maunds *kachcha* to 17 or 20 *sers kachcha*. Three lakh and thirty-one thousand maunds (*pakka*) of grain were distributed by the State to its subjects, and Rs 3,75,000 of land revenue remitted in the famine-stricken areas; relief works were also opened. State employees and others were allowed grain at low rates and the value deducted from their pay in instalments after the famine had ceased. The famine of Sambat 1925 was felt throughout the State. It is commonly called the *pachia*. Though the crops on wells were good, prices rose to 25 *sers kachcha*. In Sambat 1934 famine was felt all over the State. No rain fell in Sawan, and there was no crop on unirrigated lands. Collections of land revenue were suspended, but recovered next year. The famine of Sambat 1953 made its effects felt in every part of the State. Rain fell in Sawan, and crops were sown, but dried up for want of rain. The rate rose to 8 *sers pakka* per rupee. Takavi to the amount of Rs 10,000 was distributed in Anahadgarh and Mohindergarh (now in Haryana). Relief works comprised a *kachcha* road from Barnala to Bhikhi (now in Bathinda District) which employed 2,312 persons and cost Rs 36,400; repairs to the forts at Bathinda and Ghuram (Rs 4,914); and additions to the mausoleum of Maharaja Ala Singh (Rs 37,800). Grain to the value of Rs 14,864 was distributed and blankets to the value of

Rs 7,000. The American Mission also distributed grain with assistance from the State. In Sunam, a charitable institution (*sadabart*) fed 80 persons daily. The total expenditure on relief works came to Rs 1,97,830. The famine of Sambat 1956 was severely felt throughout the State, but more especially in Sardulgarh, Narwana, Akalgarh, Sunam, Bhawanigarh and Mohindergarh. The year was rainless, following a succession of bad harvests, and the grain famine was aggravated by a water famine in Sardulgarh and a fodder famine everywhere. Twenty-eight villages were affected in Anahadgarh, 28 in Mohindergarh and 104 in Karamgarh (also known as Bhawanigarh)."¹

With the improved and increased irrigation facilities, no famine has occurred in the district since the beginning of this century.

¹ Punjab States Gazetteers Vol. XVII A, Phulkian States, 1904 (Patiala, Jind and Nabha), p. 137

APPENDIX I

Area under principal crops in Sangrur District, 1973-74 to 1977-78
(thousand hectares) (Vide page 107)

Crops	Year				
	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Cereals					
Rice	18	26	20	32	53
Jowar	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.4
Bajra	29.6	31.2	38	34.9	25.6
Maize	69	62	72	68	55
Wheat	280	258	282	308	306
Barley	18.6	37.2	23.1	11.8	10.0
Pulses					
Gram	45	38	44	39	36
Mash	2.68	1.01	0.43	0.22	0.26
Moong	2.80	1.67	1.23	0.75	0.91
Massar	0.28	0.24	0.20	0.17	0.18
Oil seeds					
Groundnut	28.4	35.3	40.9	42.3	32.6
Rape and Mustard	13.2	15.4	13.2	6.6	15.1
Sesamum	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Linseed	0.1	0.1	0.1	(a)	(a)
Other crops					
Sugarcane	13	14	12	12	13
Dry Chillies	3.40	2.89	5.0	8.88	4.76
Tobacco	—	—	2	—	—
Potatoes	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4
Cotton (American)	3.3	8.0	11.5	7.9	22.9
Cotton <i>Desi</i>	64.5	69.2	68.9	57.3	65.0

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1978)

(a) Denotes less than 50 hectares

APPENDIX II

Production of Principal crops in Sangrur District, 1973-74 to 1977-78
(Thousand metric tons) (Vide page 107)

Crops	Year				
	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Cereals					
Rice	44	47	61	104	186
Jowar	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3
Bajra	27	22	32	28	26
Maize	75	102	121	88	81
Wheat	693	620	735	750	793
Barely	20	47	33	16	17
Pulses					
Gram	35	30	43	32	36
Mash	1.5	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1
Moong	1.54	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.5
Massar	0.15	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Oil Seeds					
Groundnut	22	31	35	38	30
Rape and Mustard	30	12	8	4	7
Sesamum	—	(b)	(b)	—	—
Linseed	—	—	00.1	—	—
Other Crops					
Sugarcane	74	75	74	72	86
Dry Chillies	3.74	3.2	4.00	5.1	4.1
Tabacco	—	—	—	—	—
Potatoes	4.9	7.0	4.9	4.6	7.2
Cotton (American)	1.22	2.88	4.23	2.25	6.43
Cotton (<i>Desi</i>)	106.9	20.70	21.22	17.25	17.16

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1978)

(b) Denotes less than 50 metric tons

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

(a) Old—Time Industries and Industrial Development

Carved out of the four erstwhile Princely States of Malerkotla, Patiala, Nabha and Jind, Sangrur District has been a predominantly agricultural area. Even now (as per the 1971 Census), 80 per cent of its population lives in rural settlements. It has also been declared industrially backward by the Government of India.

However, the district has been known in the adjoining areas for some of its handicrafts. Bhadaur was well known for bell-metal cups and brass wares, Sunam for cotton *pugris* (turbans) and *chautahis*, Barnala Tahsil for its earthenwares like *chilms*, *huqqas*, *surahis* and *sajjis*, Sangrur and Malerkotla for *phulkaris*. Sangrur Tahsil was also well known for ornamental work and also for *phulkaris* and embroidered *desi* shoes. The Raja of Sangrur, Raghbir Singh, sent a few persons to Calcutta for getting training in goldsmithy. Sangrur, Sunam and Barnala had a number of artisans whose products like wooden carts, wooden boxes, *peehees* were treasured by the village folk in the adjoining areas. Malerkotla boasted of artistic work of *tila* and *zari*, ivory work, brass and copper utensils, *khes*, *durries* and embroidered *desi* shoes. It was also known for manufacturing small agricultural implements like *tasla*, *kahi*, *karahi*, *tawa* and bucket. These articles were sent to places as far as Jaipur and Jodhpur (Rajasthan). The cotton ginning and processing factory was also established at Malerkotla in A.D. 1904. Besides, in Dhanaula, Dhuri and a few other small towns of the district, a number of artisans produced ornaments, wooden carts and ornamental boxes, which were famous in those days. This picture of medieval times persisted long before the advent of British Rule in the Punjab. During the Second World War when there was shortage of iron, steel rerolling mills were established at Malerkotla, Barnala, Sangrur and Sunam to reroll the scrap metal. At Malerkotla, the workers started the manufacture of spare parts of cycles and sewing machines when their imports were restricted due to Second World War. These industries received some setback when a large number of Muslim labour migrated to Pakistan in the wake of partition of the country in 1947. However, this gap was filled up before long. *Desi juti* and agricultural implements of Malerkotla are still famous. It is the only industrial town worth the name in district, though, a few small-scale industries are also being run at Sangrur, headquarters of the district, Barnala, Dhuri, Tapa and Sunam. So

far as the medium and large-scale industries are concerned, the district hardly has anything to boast except for the Markfed Fertilizers and the Malwa Sugar Mills at Dhuri, and the Ganesh Solvex Oil Mills at Malerkotla.

(b) State Aid to Industries

The Punjab has made tremendous progress in the field of industrial development ever since 1947. It provides a number of facilities and concessions to the entrepreneurs who want to set up new industrial units in the State. Man, machine and money are the three most important requisites for setting up industries or for expansion of the existing units. Out of these three, the district has sufficient man-power and with proper training and motivation, people of the district are capable of fulfilling the man-power needs of the district for its industrialisation. However, in respect of money and machinery, co-ordinated and planned strategy is required to develop industries in the district. Unaided efforts in this direction may not produce the requisite results. The Government has, therefore, stepped in to fill up the gap. The State Government has encouraged the setting up of industries/small-scale industries in the State by providing financial assistance under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935¹, on easy terms and low rate of interest. The loans advanced under this Act, are recovered in easy instalments extending over four to seven years. The amount of loan granted to the entrepreneur ranges between Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. Apart from this, financial assistance is also available to the small-scale units from the All-India Khadi and Village Board. Nationalized Commercial Banks also advance working capital and other loans to industries for short period. The funds are also available from the Punjab Financial Corporation to the medium and large-scale industrial units for medium and long terms.

The Sangrur District was declared industrially backward in 1970 by the Government of India. Besides the financial concessions/facilities mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, a number of additional financial concessions/facilities are available to entrepreneurs who are going to establish industrial units in the backward district of Sangrur. To set up an industry here, an entrepreneur used to get 10 per cent subsidy before March 1973, which has since been increased to 15 per cent ; 33 per cent subsidy for purchase of improved tools and equipments, and a subsidy on electricity rate to the extent of 25 per cent are also available.

The Industries Department has advanced loans in the form of financial assistance to the entrepreneurs in the Sangrur District under the

¹The Scheme has been discontinued w.e.f. 1981-82.

Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, during 1973-74 to 1977-78. The year-wise details of these loans are given in the following table :

Year	Loans		Grant-in-aid and Subsidy	
	Units	Amount (Rs)	Number of Units	Amount (Rs)
1973-74	36	1,96,000	—	—
1974-75	32	2,00,000	7	6,000
1975-76	36	2,23,000	21	17,000
1976-77	31	1,99,000	9	7,000
1977-78	47	2,50,000	18	13,000

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1978)

Other measures taken for the promotion of industries in the District are Discussed below :

1. **Quality Marking Scheme.**—This is another measure taken by the State Government for the growth of small-scale industries in the State. It provides testing and instructive facilities to the industrialists and renders guidance to them in improving the quality of their products and in standardising the products of small-scale industrial units. The following quality marking centres have been set up in the Sangrur District under the quality marking scheme :

(i) The Punjab Government Common Facility Centre, Light Engineering Goods, Malerkotla

(ii) Quality Marking Centre, (Engineering Goods), Malerkotla

2. **Other Organizations for the development of Industries.**—A number of organizations have been set-up for the development and promotion of industries in the State. These are mentioned as under :

(i) **The Punjab State Small Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh.**—This Corporation was created by the Punjab Government in 1962, primarily to aid, assist, counsel, finance, protect and promote small-scale industrial units in the State. It started with the procurement and supply of essential raw material to the small-scale units. Under the revised policy, firm booking is made by the small-scale industrial units on quarterly basis

by depositing an advance of 2½ per cent of the value of the quantity booked. The main function of the corporation comprises procurement, storage and distribution of raw material whether indigenous or imported. The distribution is made on first come first served basis. It also helps in the setting up of industries at industrial focal points by providing the necessary infrastructure. Under the Employment Promotion Programme, the Corporation is supplying seed money out of the funds provided by the State Government. It also supplies machinery on hire-purchase basis under the scheme known as 'Supply of Machinery on Hire-Purchase basis'. The Corporation provides technical guidance to the entrepreneur for setting up new industrial unit. For modernising existing units, the Consultancy Wing of the Corporation is equipped for necessary counselling. Besides this, under the 'Marketing Assistance Scheme', the Corporation helps in marketing the products of the cottage and small-scale industries by providing eatable mark channel and for this purpose it has opened a number of emporia within and outside the State. It has also built 14 'C' type sheds in the industrial estate Malerkotla. No office of the Corporation is functioning in the district. However, the corporation has opened a depot at Malerkotla to supply raw material to the quota-holders.

(ii) **The Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation, Chandigarh.**—The Corporation was created in the year 1966 under the Companies Act, 1956 with a view to promoting new medium and large-scale industrial projects in the State. The Corporation generally holds 26 per cent equity shares and management is left to the private entrepreneurs. The medium and large-scale projects set up by the Corporation are not only helpful to the existing small-scale units, but also in the emergence of a number of new ancillary units in the small-scale sector.

(iii) **The Punjab Financial Corporation, Chandigarh.**—It was established in 1953 under the State Financial Corporation Act, 1951 with the object of providing maximum and long-term loans to industrial concerns located in the State. It advances loans between Rs 10 lakh and 15 lakh (Rs 30 lakh in the case of limited/private limited corporation/co-operative societies) to all types of units. In view of the shortage of electric power, the Corporation also advances loans to the industries to enable them to purchase their own generating sets. Besides, the Corporation also advances loans to persons holding valid route permits, for the purchase of commercial vehicles.

(iv) **The Punjab Export Corporation, Chandigarh*.**—It was initially started in 1963 to organize export of all such goods which were manufactured or could be procured from within the State. The Corporation assists industrial units in finding export markets for their products. Financial

help in the form of advance is provided to execute export orders channelized through the Corporation. In the Sangrur District, the Corporation has helped in increasing the export of wooden and handicraft products.

(c) Industrial Training Institutes

In the Sangrur District, there is only one Industrial Training Institute for boys at Sunam. It was established in 1977-78. In this institute training in engineering and non-engineering trades is given to the students. Besides, there are 5 industrial training schools for girls at Sangrur, Sunam, Dhuri, Barnala and Ahmedgarh. In these schools, the students are trained in tailoring, cutting and embroidery. In the Industrial Training School, Barnala, Punjabi Stenography training is also given. Deserving candidates are given stipends @ Rs 25 per month. Apart from these, there are Leather Footwear Centre, Handloom Development Centre, and Government Handicrafts Centre, all at Malerkotla and a Rural Artisan Handicrafts Training Centre at Barnala.

The detailed particulars regarding different industrial schools, institutions, and centres in the District are given in the following statement :

Government Industrial Training Institutes/Schools/Centres in Sangrur District

Number of seats sanctioned trade-wise during 1977-78

Serial No.	Name and Location of Institute	Year of establishment	Duration	Name of trade/course	Number of seats
1	Industrial Training Institute, Sunam	1977-78	Two years	Fitter Electrician Turner Machinist, Motor Mechanic Radio & T.V.	32 32 12 12 12 16
			One year	Carpenter Tractor Mechanic Stenography (Punjabi) Blacksmithy	16 32 32 16
2	Government Industrial School for Girls, Sangrur	1965	One year	Cutting & Tailoring Embroidery	32 16
3	Government Industrial School for Girls, Sunam	1965	One year	Cutting & Tailoring Embroidery	32 16
4	Government Industrial School for Girls, Ahmedgarh	1964	One year	Cutting & Tailoring Embroidery	32 16

Serial No.	Name and Location of Institute	Year of establishment	Duration	Name of trade/course	Number of seats
5	Government Industrial School for Girls, Barnala	1958	One year	Cutting & Tailoring Embroidery	32 16
6	Government Industrial School for Girls, Dhuri	1964	One year	Cutting & Tailoring Embroidery	32 16
7	Government Footwear Training Centre, Lehragaga	1959-60	One year	Manufacture of Western type shoes	20
8	Shoe-making and Leather Goods Training Centre, Dhanaula	1967-68	One year	Manufactures of fancy leather goods, attaché-cases, hand bags, briefcase, ladies purses etc.	15
9	Orientation Footwear Training Centre, Tapa	1965	Six months	Footwear, further advance training for a period of six months towards the trained scheme	10
10	Government Hide Flaying and Carcass Utilisation Centre, Malerkotla	1970	—	Bone-meal, meat and yellow	—
11	Government Tanning Centre, Malerkotla	1972	—	Glove leather, sports leather, garments leather, etc.	—
12	Government Handicrafts Training Centre, Malerkotla	1962	One year	Fancy leather goods, lamp shades, bamboo and cane crafts etc.	35
13	Rural Artisan Training Centre, Barnala	..	..	Calico printing, agriculture implements, blacksmithy etc.	40

(Source : General Manager, District Industries Centre, Malerkotla)

(d) Industrial Estates and Industrial Development Colony

The Punjab Government decided in 1956-57 to establish Industrial Estates in which built up industrial sheds were to be allotted to the small-scale industrialists on nominal monthly rent. There is an Urban Industrial Estate at Malerkotla with 30 sheds and a Rural Industrial Estate at Sunam with 8 sheds. The detailed information about Industrial Estates in the district is given below :

Industrial Estate, Malerkotla.—This industrial estate started functioning in 1962. There are 30 sheds in this industrial estate. Out of these, 10 are 'A' type* and 20 'B' type** sheds. The main items manufactured in the industrial estate are: auto-parts, cycle parts, agricul-

*Area of 'A' type sheds is 550 sq. yds.

**Area of 'B' type sheds is 291.6 sq. yds.

tural equipments, electric brass lamp holders and clamps, chill rolls, scissors, etc.

Rural Industrial Estate, Sunam.—It was developed by the Industries Department, Punjab, in 1964, with a total cost of Rs 91,990 on 30 acres of land. It is 56 km from Malerkotla. It has 8 sheds (2 'A' type, 1 'B' type and 5 'C' type)***. The main industries run in these sheds include, spices ayurvedic medicines, aluminium utensils and bandages.

Industrial Works Sheds.—Besides these industrial sheds, there are 4 rural industrial works sheds functioning at villages Barri (in Dhuri Block), Hamidi (in Ahmedgarh Block), Majhi (in Sangrur Block) and Gajjan Majra (in Malerkotla Block.) These were established in April 1969, March 1971, April 1970 and April 1972, respectively. In these sheds, footwear and handloom cottage industries are carried on.

(e) Sources of Power

The old-time industries used to run on manual or animal power but the pre-requisite of modern industrialisation is mechanical power and that too in large quantities and at low costs. The various sources of power are ; electricity, coal, oil, woodfuel, wind and water. Of these, the main sources are electricity, coal and oil, while the other sources are either scarce or too inadequate to be used for commercial purposes. Wood-fuel is too scarce to serve any useful purpose for industries although it is often used in homes, especially in rural areas, for cooking. Though, there are adequate water channels passing through the district, yet because of uniformly low flat level of ground, it is nowhere possible for water to gain height for generating electricity. However, at a few places along running canals, there are flour mills operated on running water. The newly established Department of Science and Technology in the State is assessing the possibility of making use of wind energy for commercial purposes. This will all depend upon the intensity of wind at different times during the year. Unless, wind intensity reaches a particular minimum it is not possible to exploit wind as source of energy. The position regarding coal and oil is far from satisfactory. The regions in which coal is available are too far off and its transportation entails heavy cost. The oil production in the country being too small can hardly meet the requirements.

***Area of 'A' type sheds 40' x 30'

Area of 'B' type sheds 40' x 25'

Area of 'C' type sheds 30' x 20'

Thus, ample supply of electricity can only meet the requirements of industrial expansion. Per—capita consumption of electricity is often cited as an index of economic development.

Prior to independence, there were one thermal and one diesel generating plants in the district at Sangrur and Malerkotla. The thermal plant which existed at Sangrur was scrapped and shifted to some other place. The Malerkotla Electric Power Supply Company used to supply electricity to Malerkotla town up to 22 February 1977 and thereafter it was taken over by the Punjab State Electricity Board. The hydro-electric power came to the Sangrur town and three surrounding villages on 25 March 1956.

There is no thermal power plant in the Sangrur District. The supply of hydro-electric power in the district is satisfactory. One grid sub-station with 220 KV capacity is functioning at Sangrur, 12 grid sub-stations with 66 KV capacity at Malerkotla, Dhuri, Katron, Sunam, Lehra—gaga, Moonak, Ahmedgarh, Bhawanigarh, Longowal, Barnala, Bhadaur and Mehal Kalan and 4 grid sub-stations with 33 KV capacity at Cheema, Amargarh, Dhanaula and Tapa.

The Sangrur District is served by the Sangrur, Bathinda, and Patiala Circles of Punjab State Electricity Board. The Sangrur Circle comprises 4 Electrical Divisions ; Tube-Well Division, Sunam; Distribution Division, Sangrur; Distribution Division Sunam; and Distribution Division Malerkotla. These are under the administrative control of Superintending Engineer, Sangrur Circle, Sangrur, Barnala Distribution Division of the district is served by the Superintending Engineer, Distribution Circle, Bathinda while Distribution Division, Nabha is served by the Superintending Engineer, Distribution Circle, Patiala.

The number of towns/villages electrified in the district, as on 31 March 1978, was 721. This implies that the whole of District was electrified in 1977-78. The number of industrial consumers of power supply and the number of units consumed by these industrial concerns in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Number of industrial consumers	Number of units consumed
1973-74	445	1,37,20,460
1974-75	418	3,01,84,688
1975-76	424	6,61,08,088
1976-77	528	1,10,83,574
1977-78	554	2,23,29,289

(Source : Superintending Engineer, Distribution Circle, Sangrur and Executive Engineer, Distribution Division, Barnala)

(f) Growth and Development of Industries

The Sangrur District was carved out of the areas of four princely states, viz. Patiala, Nabha, Jind and Malerkotla, while the district includes parts of Patiala, Nabha and Jind states; the Malerkotla state was added to it in toto. It was predominantly an agricultural tract. Two railway lines pass through the district, viz. Kalka-Bathinda and Ludhiana-Jakhal railway lines. Since there were only cottage industries at various places in the district, the district was selected by the Government for Rural Industries Project in 1962 to bring it on the industrial map of the State. To start with, the project was confined to four development blocks: Malerkotla, Ahmedgarh, Dhuri and Sangrur. The project proved successful and it was extended to the entire district on 11 January 1972. Techno-economic survey of the district was conducted in 1972-73 to find out the difficulties faced by the existing industries and to assess the industrial potential of the district.

The traditional industries of the district produced goods like embroidered *desi juti*, *phulkari*, bell metal cups, brasswares, gold and silver ornaments, wooden carts, wooden boxes and *peehris*. Malerkotla boasted of artistic works of *tilla* and *zari*, brass and copper utensils *khes durries* and embroidered *desi juti* and small agricultural implements. These articles were exported even to Rajasthan. Survey instruments were also being manufactured at Malerkotla. The Maharaja of Jind for promoting industries in the State sent a batch of goldsmiths to Calcutta and a number of carpenters to Roorkee (UP) to learn the crafts. When iron became scarce during the Second World War, re-rolling mills were established at Malerkotla, Ahmedgarh, Barnala, Sangrur, and Sunam to re-roll scrap metal. This industry, however, received a set back when a large number of Muslim artisans migrated to Pakistan in the wake of the partition of the country in 1947. This gap was however filled up by the local labour in the due course. The State Government, after the achievement of independence, decided to give facilities for setting up small-scale industries in the State. The Government of India's Industrial Policy of 1956 also envisaged the industrial set up for country. Small-scale industries were offered a number of incentives. As a result of these policies, the registered industrial units in the district showed an upward trend. By the end of 1977-78, there were three medium and large-scale industries and 2,300 small-scale working units and 722 village industrial units and more than 2,500 un-registered units in the district. The items of production include cycles, sewing machine parts, chill rolls, re-rolling mills, A.C.C./R.C.C. pipes, centrifugal pumps, paper, nuts and bolts electric, motors and capacitors, zinc sulphate and the traditional industries like *desi jutis*, blacksmithy, carpentry, weaving, etc.

(g) Industries and Manufacturers of the District

There are three units in the large and medium sector, and 3,022 registered small-scale/cottage units in the district. The details of these are given below :

(i) Large and Medium—Scale Industries

(1) **Sugar.**—Keeping in view the fact that no sugar mill was functioning in the Malwa area and sugarcane, its basic raw material, was available in abundance, a unit in the large-scale sector was established at Dhuri in 1936. Its total capacity of production is 92,000 quintals of sugar and 40,000 quintals of molasses per annum; its capital investment is Rs 107.48 lakh. Its produce is marketed throughout the country. It gives employment to 666 persons during the season and to 251 during the off-season.

(2) **Fertilizers.**—Keeping in view the huge demand for fertilizer in the area, this medium-scale unit was established in 1973 by the Punjab State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited (popularly known as MARKFED), Chandigarh, with a capital investment of Rs 95,03,479 to produce N.P.K. 15:15:7½ (MARKFED KHAD). Its annual capacity of production is 42,000 metric tons. Its produce is marketed to the co-operative marketing societies and private Markfed Khad licence holders in the district. During 1977-78, it gave employment to 97 persons.

(3) **Iron and Steel.**—Keeping in view the fact that there was no such unit previously functioning in the area, Century Iron and Steel Pvt. Ltd., Malerkotla, a medium-scale unit was set up in 1977. On the other side, there was big demand for its establishment because the raw material was easily available. Its annual capacity of production is 18,000 metric tons; the capital investment is Rs 86,31,000. Its produce is marketed generally in northern States of India. It provides employment to 153 persons.

(ii) Small-Scale Industries

Large and medium-scale industries may not utilise all available resources for industrialisation nor it is possible for all entrepreneurs to possess the huge capital to set up large and medium-scale industries. In backward areas, where raw materials are found in small quantity and, people do not have sufficient capital for investment, small-scale industries have a significant role to play. The range of products which can be produced by small-scale units is so large that any person who has initiative

and some capital, can set up one small-scale unit or the other. Different small-scale industries set up in the district are described below :

(1) **Agricultural Implements.**—There were, in 1977-78, 432 units engaged in the production of agricultural implements in the district. They produced improved agricultural implements like fertilizer-cum-seed-drills, maize threshers, wheat threshers, disc harrows, and ploughs. Although the industry is concentrated mainly at Malerkotla yet there are some units at Dhuri, Tapa, Barnala, Bhawanigarh, Sangrur, etc. During 1977-78, it produced goods worth Rs 58.96 lakhs and was employing 904 persons. The goods produced by this industry are marketed throughout the State and in the adjoining States as well.

(2) **Cycle Parts.**—In 1977-78, there were 98 units engaged in the production of cycle parts like carrier, stand, fork, etc. Most of these units are located at Malerkotla. Its basic raw material includes iron bars. During 1977-78, the industry produced goods worth Rs 120.84 lakhs and was employing 746 workers.

(3) **Re-rolling Mills.**—In 1977-78, there were 15 re-rolling mills engaged in re-rolling steel in the district. This industry is located at Malerkotla, Barnala, Sunam, Dhuri, and Ahmedgarh. During 1977-78, it produced goods worth Rs 230.60 lakhs and 302 persons were in its employment.

(4) **Power Capacitors.**—The only unit engaged in the production of voltage control sets was located at Malerkotla during 1977-78. It produced goods worth Rs 0.22 lakh and was employing 9 persons.

(5) **Electric Motors.**—During 1977-78, only one unit was engaged in the manufacture of electric motors in the district. It was located at Barnala. It produced goods worth Rs 0.65 lakh and 4 persons were in its employment.

(6) **Auto-Parts.**—During 1977-78, 14 units were engaged in the production of auto-parts in the district. This industry produces kamani, chill-rolls, tractor parts, etc. Most of the units engaged in the production of auto-parts, are concentrated at Malerkotla. During 1977-78, it produced goods worth Rs 4.20 lakhs and 42 persons were in its employment.

(7) **Sewing Machine Parts.**—Forty-four units were engaged in the production of sewing machine parts in the district during 1977-78. The industry produces sewing machine parts like bobbin binder, etc. Most of the units are located at Malerkotla. During 1977-78, this industry produced goods worth Rs 15.28 lakhs and was employing 316 persons.

(8) **Diesel Engine and Parts.**—There were 52 units engaged in the production of diesel engine parts during the year 1977-78. These diesel engines are required for centrifugal pump, wheat thresher, maize thresher, etc. During 1977-78, the industry produced goods worth Rs 31.50 lakhs and was employing 176 persons.

(9) **Centrifugal Pumps Parts.**—18 units were engaged in the district during 1977-78, in the production of centrifugal pumps and parts. This industry produced goods worth Rs 2.32 lakhs and was employing 38 persons in the same year.

(10) **Cold Storage and Ice.**—During 1977-78, there were 22 units functioning in the district. In 1977-78, these units produced ice and preserved fruits and vegetables worth Rs 9.88 lakhs and were employing 83 persons.

(11) **Rice Shellers.**—There were 26 rice shellers in the district during 1977-78. These units are located mainly at Sunam and Barnala. During 1977-78, these produced goods worth Rs 736.85 lakhs and were employing 254 persons.

(12) **Sports Goods.**—In 1977-78, there were 5 units engaged in the production of sports goods in the district. This industry is located mainly at Malerkotla and produces rackets, hockey sticks, bats etc. During 1977-78 the industry produced goods worth Rs 8.30 lakhs and was employing 21 persons.

(13) **Soap Making.**—In 1977-78, there were 40 units engaged in the production of washing soap and detergent. These units are located mostly in the urban areas. This is an industry which does not require huge and complex machinery. Only big utensils like *karaha*, tanks and mould patterns and a big *bhathi* are required. During 1977-78, it produced goods worth Rs 53.60 lakhs and was employing 138 persons.

(14) **Electroplating.**—Fifteen units were engaged in this industry in the district during 1977-78. The industry is located mainly at Malerkotla. In 1977-78 these units did electroplating work worth Rs 10.01 lakhs and were employing 64 persons.

(15) **Electrical Fittings.**—During 1977-78, there were 4 units engaged in the production of various electric goods such as plugs, switches and other electrical fitting goods in the district. During 1977-78, these units produced goods worth Rs 18.30 lakhs and were employing 62 persons.

(16) **Cement Pipes and Jallies.**—There were 18 units engaged in the production of cement pipes and *jallies* during the year 1977-78 in the

Sangrur District. Cement *jallies* are required for installing in buildings for ventilation purposes. This industry, during 1977-78, produced goods worth Rs 11.10 lakhs and was employing 50 persons.

(17) **Powerlooms (Cotton).**—There were 10 units during 1977-78 which produced cotton cloth worth Rs 7.29 lakhs and were employing 67 persons only.

(18) **Paper Mill.**—In 1977-78, there was only 1 unit engaged in the production of paper at Sangrur. It produced paper worth Rs 17.48 lakhs and 79 persons were in its employment during the same year.

(19) **Printing Press.**—During 1977-78, 23 units were engaged in the printing of stationery etc. in the district which did printing work worth Rs 6.63 lakhs and were employing 67 persons.

(20) **P.V.C. Products.**—Eleven units were engaged in the production of P.V.C. pipes, footwear and domestic goods in the district during 1977-78. These units are located mainly at Dhuri. During 1977-78, these units produced goods worth Rs 11.16 lakhs and were employing 43 persons.

(21) **Squashes.**—In 1977-78, there were 3 units engaged in the preparation of squashes, pickles and *murabba* etc. at Malerkotla and Barnala. These units were employing 6 persons and produced goods worth Rs 1.79 lakhs during 1977-78.

(22) **Candles.**—There were 15 units engaged in the production of wax candles during 1977-78 in the district. These units were located mainly at Barnala, Sangrur and Malerkotla. During 1977-78, these units produced candles worth Rs 3.35 lakhs and were employing 58 persons.

(23) **Sodium Silicate.**—Two units were engaged in the production of silicate goods during 1977-78 in the district. These units are located at Barnala and Ahmedgarh. This industry produced goods worth Rs 3.35 lakhs and was employing 58 persons during 1977-78.

(24) **Medicines.**—There were 2 units engaged in the production of allopathic and ayurvedic medicines during 1977-78 in the district. These are located at Malerkotla and Sangrur respectively. These units produced medicines worth Rs 1.2 lakhs and were employing 24 persons during 1977-78.

(25) **Fire Bricks.**—During 1977-78, there were 2 units engaged in fire bricks in the district. Both are located at Malerkotla. This industry produces superior bricks which are used for the construction of *bhathi* and chimney of a factory. During 1977-78, it produced bricks worth Rs 4.60 lakhs and was employing 74 persons.

(26) **Safes and Almirahs.**—During 1977-78, there were 19 units engaged in the production of safes, almirahs, racks etc. in the district. These goods are required for domestic and office use to keep the goods properly and safely. This industry produced goods worth Rs 15.21 lakhs and was employing 68 persons.

(27) **Biscuits.**—Four units were engaged in the production of biscuits and other bakery items at Malerkotla and Sangrur. During 1977-78, these units produced goods worth Rs 0.50 lakh and were employing 12 persons.

(28) **Hosiery.**—There was only 1 unit, in 1977-78 engaged in the production of hosiery goods, viz. socks, sweaters, etc. at Malerkotla. It produced goods worth Rs 1.20 lakhs and was employing 5 persons.

(29) **Fitting of Metallic Pipes.**—There were 13 units engaged in the production of fitting of metal pipes during 1977-78 in the district. These units are located mostly at Malerkotla and Barnala. During 1977-78, these units produced goods worth Rs 13.68 lakhs and were employing 80 persons.

(30) **Fabricated Metal Products.**—In 1977-78, there were 162 units engaged in the production of metal goods in the district. This industry is located largely at Malerkotla and produces *trunks*, *paties*, doors, shutters etc. During 1977-78, it produced goods worth Rs 79.91 lakhs and was employing 510 persons.

(31) **Wooden structure and Furniture.**—During 1977-78 there were 96 units engaged in the manufacture of wood furniture in the district. This industry is scattered all over the district. It produced goods worth Rs 17.19 lakhs and was employing 331 persons.

(32) **Pig Iron and Casting.**—There were 10 units engaged in this industry during 1977-78. These were engaged in casting of sewing machine stands, sanitary pipes and water pump parts etc. The units were located mostly at Malerkotla. These units produced goods worth Rs 12.92 lakhs and were employing 63 persons.

(33) **Nuts and Bolts.**—Nuts, bolts, rivets and nails manufacturing is an important industry in the district and is located largely at Malerkotla. These are required by all engineering as well as other industries and in the construction of buildings. In 1977-78, there were 12 units in the district. This industry produced goods worth Rs 4.38 lakhs and was employing 39 persons.

(34) **General Hardwares.**—General hardwares manufacturing is an important industry in the district. It is located largely at Malerkotla. It produces door-springs, bolts, fasteners, scissors, *kanghi*, *sangal*, *kandi* washers,

grease, etc. During 1977-78, there were 116 units in the district. In the same year, this industry produced goods worth Rs. 47.501 lakhs and was employing 379 persons.

(35) **Aluminium Utensils.**—In 1977-78, there was 1 unit engaged in the manufacture of aluminium utensils at Malerkotla in the district. In the same year, it produced utensils worth Rs 0.60 lakh and was employing 6 persons.

(36) **Dhoop.**—Only 2 units were engaged in this industry during 1977-78 which were employing 4 persons and it produced goods worth Rs 37,000.

(37) **Zinc Sulphate.**—During 1977-78, there was 1 unit located at Dhuri engaged in the production of chemical fertilizer in the district. In the same year, it produced fertilizer worth Rs 7 lakhs and was employing 4 persons.

(38) **Chill Rolls.**—In 1977-78, there were 13 units engaged in the production of chill-rolls in the district. These are used in rolling mills. During 1977-78, this industry produced goods worth Rs 55.25 lakhs and was employing 83 persons.

(39) **Tractor Trolleys.**—In 1977-78, there were 25 units engaged in the production of tractor trolleys in the district. This industry is fast expanding because the use of tractor is on the increase. During 1977-78, this industry produced goods worth Rs 27.40 lakhs and was employing 75 persons.

(iii) Cottage and Village Industries

Cottage and village industries play an important role in the economic uplift, particularly of the weaker sections of the society. Government is laying much stress on developing these industries by providing training and loan facilities especially for handloom weaving, sericulture, leather and other handicrafts, in various parts of the State. Industries which are carried on in the home of the artisans, assisted by the members of their families, are called cottage industries. The important cottage and village industries existing in the district are handloom weaving, leather tanning, leather goods including shoe-making, sports goods, bullock carts, *gur* and *khandsari* and agricultural implements. A brief description of these is given below:

(40) **Leather Shoes.**—In 1977-78, there were 669 units in the district engaged in this industry located mainly at Malerkotla and Sangrur. During 1977-78, these units produced *desi juti* shoes, etc. and employed 1,342 persons. It produced goods worth Rs 6.63 lakhs.

(41) **Bullock-Carts.**—Making bullock-carts still exists in the district. These are used by the small farmers to carry load for short distances. In 1977-78, there were 89 units, located mostly at Hadiaya and Dhuri in the district. These units produced bullock-carts worth Rs 15.90 lakhs and were employing 172 persons.

(42) **Handlooms.**—There were 260 units in the district of this industry during 1977-78 which produced cotton cloth worth Rs 30.30 lakhs and employed 300 persons.

(43) **Gur and Khandsari.**—In 1977-78, there were 3 units engaged in *gur* and *khandsari* industry, which produced goods worth Rs. 3.20 lakhs and was employing 256 persons.

(44) **Cotton Ginning, Oil Crushing and Atta Chakki.**—During 1978-79, there were 284 units of this industry located at various places in the district, mostly at Tapa, Dhuri, Malerkotla and Ahmedgarh. During 1977-78, these units employed 1,869 persons and produced goods worth Rs 1,168.48 lakhs.

(45) **Wooden Works.**—In 1977-78, there were 105 cottage and village industrial units engaged in the production of wooden goods, viz. wooden doors, bullock-carts, wooden boxes etc. in the district. In the same year, these units produced goods worth Rs 14.65 lakhs and were employing 205 persons.

(46) **Repair Workshops of Diesel Engines, Electric Motors and Agricultural Implements.**—In 1977-78, there were 79 units engaged in repairing of diesel engines, tractor engines, electric motors, radios, etc. to meet the local need of the people in the district. These units were employing 101 persons.

(47) **Ban Making.**—There were 37 units engaged in this industry in the district during 1978-79. It was employing 37 persons and produced goods worth Rs 3.50 lakhs.

(48) **Pottery.**—During 1977-78, 756 units were engaged in this industry in the district; it was employing 937 persons and produced goods worth Rs 75.60 lakhs (approx.)

(49) **Edible Oil and Soap.**—During 1978-79, only 39 units were engaged in this industry which was employing 152 persons, and produced goods worth Rs. 55.20 lakhs.

(50) **Village Oil Industry.**—Eighty-four units were engaged in this

industry in the district during 1978-79. These provided employment to 1,748 persons and produced goods worth Rs 117 lakhs.

(h) Role of Industrial Co-operatives

The main aim of industrial co-operatives is to give employment to weaker sections of the society on the basis of which industrial societies are organized for artisans. Poor artisans with meagre money unite together and form an industrial co-operative society. On 30 June 1978, there were 491 industrial societies in the Sangrur District, out of which 34 societies were of handloom industries, 266 of khadi and village industries, and 191 were small-scale societies. Small-scale societies located mostly at Malerkotla, Ahmedgarh, Barnala, Sangrur, Sunam, Dhuri, Tapa, Bhawanigarh, etc. are engaged in manufacturing spare parts of the sewing machine, diesel engines, centrifugal pumps, soap making, electric goods, cement pipes and Jallis, plastic goods, steel fabrication and domestic hardware goods, steel and wooden furniture etc. These societies are the only source for the poor artisans through which they avail of the facilities such as financial assistance, supply of raw material, technical guidance and marketing. Industrial co-operative societies organisation has changed and improved the economic condition of the artisans. Thus, this is the only organization which has enlightened the artisans and played an important role in the development of various industries.

Particulars regarding the industrial co-operative societies in Sangrur District during 1977-78, are given in the following table:

Name of the Industry	Number of Industrial Co-operative Societies	Membership	Value of goods produced Rs
Handloom Industries ..	34	922	45,000
Khadi and Village Industries ..	266	2,626	33,82,000
Small-Scale Industries ..	191	1,575	77,55,000

(Source: Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

The industrial co-operatives in the State were under the Co-operative Department upto April 1963, when they were transferred to the Industries

Department. In June 1974, these were again put under the Co-operative Department. The Industrial Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Ludhiana, was incharge of the industrial co-operative societies in the Sangrur District. Now the Deputy Registrar Co-operative Societies, Sangrur, is holding the charge of the Industrial Co-operative Societies, Sangrur District, and is assisted by four Assistant Registrars Co-operative Societies posted at Sangrur, Barnala, Sunam and Malerkotla.

The amount of loans and subsidies given by Government to the industrial co-operative societies in the Sangrur District during 1973-74 to 1977-78 is given below:

Particulars	Year					
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Loans advanced :	10,000	15,000	20,000	10,000	45,000	5,000
Subsidies given ..	1,888	2,389	1,780	1,319	1,880	800

(Source: Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

Following table shows the progress made by the industrial co-operative in the district, during 1973- to 1978:

Particulars	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Number of Industrial Co-operative Societies ..	334	355	404	419	383	381
Membership ..	4,489	4,692	4,925	5,722	5,047	5,103
Share Capital .. (Rs in lakhs)	16.53	16.96	16.30	16.40	19.01	19.60
Working Capital .. (Rs in lakhs)	34.45	34.94	36.31	36.63	42.09	61.48
Production .. (Rs in lakhs)	42.82	59.47	80.51	73.28	82.54	112.49
Sales (Rs in lakhs) ..	42.11	58.53	78.86	73.96	80.30	99.35

(Source: Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

(i) Labour and Employers' Organisations

Labour Organisations.—For a long time, a worker has been treated as a poor man always in need of some work for sustaining himself and his family. Rich employees have invariably treated him in a condescending manner. It was uncommon to think that a worker should work for a fixed number of hours what to say of measures for his welfare. In fact, exploitation of the worker had become an accepted norm in the society and any one talking of any reform in wages or working environment for the workers was viewed with suspicion. In course of time exploitation of workers led to dissatisfaction which occasionally found expression in strikes and stoppages of work. On the whole, the life of workers in the erstwhile princely states was worse than that of his counterparts in the former British territory.

For a considerable time, trade unions were regarded as illegal bodies and their members were rendered liable to punishment. But in spite of all the hardships against the trade unionists, they continued their efforts which ultimately led them to success and legal recognition of trade unions serve a useful social and economic purpose, in so far as they were meant for settling wages and bringing about harmonious relations between capital and labour.

The primary function of a trade union is to promote and protect the interests of its members. Welfare activities like organising mutual benefit societies, co-operatives, employment assistance, libraries, games and cultural programmes have been recognized as normal activities of a trade union under the Trade Unions Act, 1926. Since the independence of the country in 1947, there has been considerable growth of trade union movement in the Sangrur District and, as a result, there has been a constant increase in the number of registered trade unions. The particulars of trade unions, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, functioning in the district are given in the Appendix at the end of this chapter at page 164.

The benefit of collective bargaining through trade unions is, however, available to the worker only in the organised sector. The workers in the unorganised sector, as the term itself suggests, have not been able to organise trade unions even though the number of workers in the unorganised sector is quite large. Agricultural workers in rural areas, in construction industry, and in brick kiln industry are among the largest segments of unorganised labour. There are many other employments which are seasonal and local in character where the workers do not benefit from trade

unions. It is gratifying to note that Government has recognised handicaps of the unorganised labour and initiated various measures for the welfare of workers in the unorganised sector, especially for agricultural workers, construction workers and labourers working in brick-kilns.

Manufacturers Associations.—There is no manufacturer's association in the district.

(j) Welfare of Industrial Labour

Welfare of industrial labour is mainly of two types, viz. statutory and voluntary. In the first type fall those concessions which are required to be provided by law. The other type of concession amenities are those which are provided voluntarily by the management on humanitarian grounds or other allied and varied reasons. Industrialization in India commenced in the middle of the nineteenth century, when there were no statutory provisions for labour welfare. Consequently, the workers were forced to work in dingy and unhygienic conditions on meagre salaries with long working hours. These factors severely affected efficiency of the workers. It was only after the World War I (1914—18) that the problem of labour welfare was seriously thought of. With the appointment of the Royal Commission in 1931 and of other allied committees constituted from time to time, problems of labour welfare were more seriously looked into. After independence, more and more stress was laid on labour welfare. Statutory provisions regarding fixed working hours, hygienic conditions, fixed salaries, provision of creche, etc. have substantially contributed to the welfare of the labour. Provisions of canteens, sports and games and other allied concessions are provided voluntarily by enlightened managements for development of cordial relations between the employees and employers.

There are 60 per cent seasonal industrial units in the Sangrur District, mainly at Malerkotla. Economic condition of workers of these units is not good and Government is making efforts to improve their economic condition. One balwadi centre has been set up by the Labour Department, Punjab, at Malerkotla for the wards of industrial workers. In this balwadi centre are enrolled worker's children from 3 to 6 years of age. Two Labour Welfare Centres are also being opened at Malerkotla and Sangrur.

APPENDIX

(Vide page 162)

List of Registered Trade Unions in Sangrur District during 1978

Serial No.	Name of Trade Union	Date of registration
1	Punjab State Tubewell Association c/o Kartar Singh Aulakh V. & P.O. Kupkalan, Tehsil Malerkotla ..	19-12-68
2	Sangrur Central Co-op. Bank Employees Union, Sangrur	8-3-73
3	District Sangrur Municipal Employees Union, Dhuri ..	6-8-60
4	Zila Sahkari Saktra Sangh c/o Kashmira Lal Tea Stall, Lehragaga, District Sangrur ..	30-4-74
5	Municipal Services Union, Railway Road, Ahmedgarh	13-3-68
6	District Safai Mazdoor Union c/o District Congress Committee, Sangrur	..
7	Malwa Milk Plant Workers Union Sangrur c/o Shri Mohan Lal, H.No. 156, Ward No. 11, Dhuri ..	13-12-77
8	Malwa Sugar Mill Workers, Union Dhuri ..	25-8-56
9	Dhuri Sugar Labour Union, Dhuri ..	11-4-66
10	Malwa Sugar Mill Employees Union H. No. 189 Ward No. 3, Near Railway Hospital, Dhuri ..	15-1-73
11	Malwa Sugar Mill Mazdoor Dal, Dhuri ..	14-6-74
12	Markfed Fertilizer Workers Union, Dhuri, ..	9-6-75
13	District Labour Union, Malerkotla ..	23-10-78
14	District Engg. Workers Union, Malerkotla ..	3-1-64
15	Imari Labour Union c/o Karnail Singh, Mandi Road, Patti Bajwa, Barnala ..	16-3-71
16	Vishkarma Imart Mazdoor Union c/o District Congress Committee, Sangrur ..	20-10-75
17	District Trade Employees Union, Dhuri, c/o Ramesh Chand Jain, Ward No. 5, Dhuri ..	3-2-76
18	Rickshaw Workers Union, Barnala, H.No. 206, Mohalla Guru Nanak Pur, Barnala ..	3-2-76
19	Paledar Union c/o Mitu Ram, Thana West, Ward No. 1, Lehragaga ..	8-5-76
20	Mela Peshwan Beopar Mandal Union, Prem Bagh, Sangrur ..	24-1-74

CHAPTER VI

BANKING TRADE AND COMMERCE

(A) Banking and Finance

(a) History of Indigenous Banking

Till 1763, when the Phulkian states were formed, the history of indigenous banking of the Sangrur District is not much different from the rest of the parts of the present Punjab State. During the period 1763—1948, when PEPSU was formed in 1948, the indigenous bankers such as *sharafs*, *banias* and other indigenous money-lenders were doing the business of lending money, financing foreign and internal trade. They also gave financial assistance to the rulers of the princely state of Jind during the period of stress.

(b) General Credit Facilities

(i) Indebtedness, Rural and Urban

Indebtedness is the state or incidence of being in debt. Rural and urban areas are different in many ways and are different in respect of indebtedness as well. Because of the very structure of urban and rural societies, borrowings in the two areas are also resorted to for different reasons and even the behaviour of borrowers differs a lot in rural and urban areas.

Rural indebtedness is the incidence of borrowing money by the people in rural areas from various sources. Different amounts of money are borrowed by the people generally for effecting improvement and development of agriculture, for the purchase of new agricultural implements or the replacement of old implements, and for purchasing fertilizers and better seeds. It is, however, found that the small farmers do not utilise the borrowed money for the purpose for which they have borrowed it ; the money is used for unproductive purposes such as observance of orthodox customs, heavy expenditure on weddings, social and religious festivals etc. For obvious reasons, recovery of loans in rural areas is not high.

Urban indebtedness refers to the incidence of borrowing of different amounts, generally higher than those by ruralites, by industrialists and members of the business community from commercial banks and other Government, semi-Government and private financial institutions. These loans are seldom used for a purpose other than the one for which they had been borrowed. Because of the proper application of borrowings in urban areas, the rate of return from the loans is optimum and recovery from loans advanced in urban areas is generally satisfactory.

Rate of Interest.—The rate of interest charged in the district varies from place to place, from one lending agency to another and is related to the purpose for which the amount has been borrowed. It also varies with respect to surety or security offered.

The commercial banks in the district charge rate of interest fixed by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time. Their rates also differ from person to person and according to the amount advanced and for the purpose it is lent. The co-operative societies advance loans at the lower rates of interest ranging from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The amounts advanced under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, carry rates of interest at 10 per cent.¹

The indigenous money-lenders charge interest varying from 12 to 25 percent or even more. The unregistered money-lenders advance loans at a still higher rate of interest. Sometimes, in rural areas, the interest is calculated in kind when the loan is advanced in kind. For instance, a *sahukar* may advance loan in the form of a quintal of wheat and in return he recovers a quintal and a half in lieu thereof at the time of harvest. This practice is, however, gradually disappearing because of the coming up of the institutions which extend liberal financial assistance in the rural areas.

Since people have become literate and there are adequate banking facilities available to meet their requirements, the system of usury has become outdated. However, in the remote areas where people are still backward, the money-lenders take advantage of their ignorance and helplessness by charging high rate of interest.

(ii) Role of Private Money-lenders and Financiers

Money-lenders.—The money-lenders have been by far the most important credit agency since time immemorial. The money-lender or the *bania* still dominates the rural sector of the district economy. Though the co-operative movement has given a death blow to the money-lenders, yet they have not been eliminated altogether. Several methods of advancing loans are employed by the rural money-lender such as loans on personal surety, against produce, land, ornaments, property, etc. The village money-lender mainly advances loans to the needy and he is responsible for a good amount of banking credit available in the rural areas of the district. Generally, he runs his grocery shop in the village and advances loans to the village people for consumption purposes. Clearance of the debt is generally done at the harvesting time. Thus, the village money-lender still continues to be the refuge of the indigent cultivator in times of need.

¹The scheme has since been abolished.

The money-lenders are now required to get themselves registered with the concerned Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) and get a licence under the provision of the Punjab Registration of Money-lenders Act, 1938. Besides, they are required to maintain regular accounts in the books prescribed under the Act. The number of registered money-lenders in the District, as on 31 March 1978 was 79 (42 urban and 37 rural). Besides, there are a number of unregistered money-lenders.

(iii) Government and Semi-Government Credit Agencies

To save the loanee from the clutches of the traditional money-lender, a large number of Government and Semi-Government agencies have been established to provide finance in rural as well as in urban areas on fair terms and on reasonable rate of interest. These agencies include the Punjab Financial Corporation, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, joint-stock banks, co-operative banks and co-operative societies.

The Punjab Financial Corporation provides medium and long-term loans to industrial concerns established in the district. It has powers to provide finance upto Rs 20 lakhs in the case of a public limited company or a registered co-operative society and upto Rs 10 lakhs in other cases. The rate of interest charged by the Corporation is 3 per cent above the bank rate with a minimum of 9 per cent per annum. The loans are repayable in 10 years and these are advanced hypothecation of land, buildings, plant and machinery, etc. with a margin of 40 per cent of the net assessed value. In case of Government guarantee, the margin is reduced to 25 per cent.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission meets the financial needs of the khadi and village industries for short-term loans. For setting up new industrial units and for extension/modernization of existing units, financial assistance is provided by the Industries Department, Punjab, under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, at nominal rates of interest. Loans are also advanced by the State Government to the agriculturists for the purchase of agricultural implements, seeds, fertilizers, tractors, etc. *Taccavi* loans are also given to the agriculturists by the State Government for development and promotion of agriculture. The co-operative societies advance loans against promissory notes. 14 joint stock banks which were nationalised in July 1969, have also extended the loan facilities against personal sureties, shares and other easily marketable goods.

(iv) Joint-Stock Banks

In the Sangrur District, modern organised system of banking was introduced for the first time with the opening of the Jind Co-operative Bank at Sangrur in 1922, with a fully paid-up capital of Rs 1,50,000.

Half of the capital was provided by the Maharaja of the Jind State and the other half was subscribed by the public. On 14 October 1950, the Punjab National Bank opened its branch at Sangrur. The Sangrur Central Co-operative Bank also started functioning on 1 January 1952. With the passage of time, all the banks engaged themselves in expansion activities and a number of them opened their branches at various places in the District.

State Bank of Patiala is the lead bank for Sangrur District. Besides, the following banks are also functioning in the district :—

- 1 State Bank of India
- 2 Punjab National Bank
- 3 Union Bank of India
- 4 Central Bank of India
- 5 Indian Overseas Bank
- 6 Punjab and Sind Bank
- 7 New Bank of India
- 8 Lakshmi Commercial Bank
- 9 Syndicate Bank

The number of banking offices at various places in the District, as on 31 March 1978, is given in Appendix I, on page 184 at the end of this chapter.

The total deposits and banking credit in the district as on 31 March 1978 amounted to Rs 37.15 crores and Rs 15.35 crores, respectively.

(v) Post Office Saving Bank Accounts

The Post Office Saving Bank Accounts scheme was started in India on 1 April 1882. Earlier, it was known as Government Savings Bank whose foundations were laid in 1833 when the first such bank was started at Calcutta in 1833.

In 1977-78, the number of depositors who opened new accounts with the Post Office Saving Bank in the district was 62,887. The gross deposit in all the accounts with the Post Office Saving Bank in the district, as on 31, March 1978, amounted to Rs 1,87,13,012.

(vi) Co-operative Credit.—For a considerably long period, the usual sources of short-term finance of the farmers were the money-lenders who

charged exorbitant rates of interest and resorted to many malpractices to cheat ignorant and illiterate cultivators. In this background, the co-operative movement was launched in this country for imparting credit facilities to the farmers.

The idea of using co-operation in India as a means of combatting rural indebtedness and supplying rural credit was suggested first in the Report of the Frederick Nicholson in 1895-97. However, a real beginning of the Co-operative Movement in India was made with the passing of the Co-operative Credit Societies Act, 1904.

The Balian Co-operative Credit Society in village Balian (Tahsil Sangrur) was the first co-operative society registered in the District in 1916. It has a membership of 15 and a share capital of Rs 150. Since this area comprised a major portion of the Princely State of Jind, the movement did not make much progress as the necessary laws could not be framed speedily. However, after the independence, when this area became a part of the PEPSU, the Co-operative Movement made a considerable progress. In 1956, with the merger of the PEPSU in the Punjab, the area of present Sangrur District also became a part of the Punjab, and the Co-operative Movement made further progress under the Five-Year Plans. There were 1,993 co-operative societies in Sangrur District as on 30 June 1978. In addition, the Central Co-operative Bank functions at Sangrur with 30 branches at different places in the District.

Co-operative Credit Societies.—The Co-operative Credit Society (Bank) can be started with ten or more persons normally belonging to a village. The value of each share is generally nominal to enable even a farmer of meagre resources to become a member of the society. Each of the members is fully responsible for the entire loss of the society in the event of its failure.

On 30 June 1978, there were 821 Co-operative Credit Societies (740 Agricultural and 81 Non-Agricultural) in the district. Their function is to mobilise savings and to advance loans at reasonable rates of interest to the members for productive purposes.

The details pertaining to membership and working of the Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies functioning in the district during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given in appendices II & III at pages 186 and 187.

(e) Insurance and Small Savings

Insurance.—The agencies doing insurance business play an important role in tapping a portion of the public savings in the form of insurance

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premia. With the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has become the foremost and the largest single agency doing life insurance business in India. Prior to 1956, there was neither a branch office nor a chief agency of any insurance corporation in the district. Only the agents and inspectors of various insurance companies procured business for their respective insurance companies. With the establishment of the Life Insurance Corporation of India on 1 September 1956, the position became quite different. A branch of the Life Insurance Corporation of India was opened at Sangrur in 1959. Thereafter, a Development Centre of the Sangrur Branch was set up at Malerkotla on 1 April 1962. So far, there is only one branch of Life Insurance Corporation of India in the whole of the Sangrur District. The number of Development Officers and Agents in the district, as on 31 March 1978, was 179 and 129 respectively. Thus in the matter of coverage by life insurance agencies, the district has lagged behind as compared to other districts of the State.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India advances loans to the policyholders, Government and Semi-Government institutions/agencies for different purposes at varying rates of interest.

The following statement shows the performance of the Life Insurance Corporation of India in the Sangrur District, during 1973-74 to 1977-78 :

Year	Name of Branch		Number of policies	Sum assured
1973-74	Sangrur	—	2,107	Rs 29,971,000
1974-75	Sangrur	—	1,601	20,928,000
1975-76	Sangrur	—	1,876	24,468,000
1976-77	Sangrur	—	1,653	21,378,000
1977-78	Sangrur	—	1,461	19,733,750

(Source : Divisional Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Chandigarh Division, Chandigarh and Branch Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Sangrur)

Before the nationalisation of general insurance companies on 1 January 1973, a number of private companies were engaged in the work of general insurance. Besides, the Life Insurance Corporation of India had

also started the general insurance business with effect from 1 January 1964. On 1 January 1973, all private companies were nationalised and an apex body known as the General Insurance Corporation, came into existence. Functioning under the General Insurance Corporation are the general insurance wing of Life Insurance Corporation and 4 general insurance companies. The four general insurance companies are the Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company Ltd., the New India Assurance Company Ltd., the National Insurance Company Ltd. and the United India Fire and General Insurance Company Ltd.

General insurance policies of every type are issued for only one year and are renewable every year. The risks covered under the general insurance are broadly of three types, viz. fire, marine (transportation of goods) and miscellaneous insurance. Under the miscellaneous insurance, there are about 20 to 25 types of insurance including motor and all other types of insurance like fidelity guarantee, aviation insurance, burglary, personal accidents, etc. Besides the above, cattle insurance has also been introduced from 1974. It is also proposed to introduce crop insurance on experimental basis.

Small Savings.—The purpose of Small Savings Scheme is to mobilise public savings and to raise funds for financing development projects and to, simultaneously, encourage the habit of thrift among the people. Originally, the Small Savings Scheme was introduced by the Government of India during the First World War (1914—18). During the Second World War (1939—45), the Government of India started the Post Office National Savings Certificates Scheme in 1943 with a view to withdrawing excess purchasing power from the people. After Independence, the scheme was made more attractive for the people by offering higher rates of interest and inculcating in them the habit to save. This was done with the objective of meeting the rising developmental expenditure for the Five-Year Plans of the country.

Small Savings Scheme is a centrally-sponsored scheme and is controlled by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), Government of India. The National Savings Commissioner, Government of India, with his headquarters at Nagpur, heads the National Savings Organisation and looks after the small savings work in the country. Under his direct control, there are Regional Directors, National Savings, posted in different States. The Regional Director, National Savings, Punjab, is posted at Chandigarh. He has under him four Assistant Regional Directors, National Savings, at Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Chandigarh. In each district, there is a District Savings Officer, National Savings

Scheme. In some of the important districts, however, there are two District Savings Officers. All these officers are under the direct control of the National Savings Commissioner. In the Sangrur District there is one District Savings Officer at Sangrur.

The Directorates of Small Savings have been set up in the States to ensure better co-ordination between the Central Organisation and the State Governments. The Director Small Savings, Punjab, Chandigarh, is the head of the State Government's Small Savings Department. At the district level, the District Savings Officer is the co-ordinating agency between the Central Organization and the district authorities in the promotion and growth of the movement. The main advantage to a State under this programme is that out of the money invested by the people in Small Savings, two-thirds of it is available to the State Government as interest-bearing loan from the Government of India for financing developmental activities within the State.

The number of agents who canvassed and propagated for the Small Savings Scheme on commission basis in the Sangrur District, as on 31 March 1978, was 76.

The gross and net investments under the Small Savings Scheme in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below :

Year	Gross Investment	Net Investment
	Rs	Rs
1973-74	4,41,00,000	1,43,55,000
1974-75	4,28,00,000	(—)78,00,000
1975-76	2,60,00,000	(—)71,00,000
1976-77	2,17,00,000	(—)58,00,000
1977-78	3,55,00,000	1,43,91,000

(Source : District Savings Officer, Sangrur)

(d) Currency and Coinage

The adoption of decimal coinage system by Government of India in April 1957, brought about a tremendous change in the coinage system of our country. The old rupee was divided into half a rupee (*dheli* or *athani*), one-fourth of a rupee (*pauli* or *choani*), one-eighth of a rupee (*doani*), one sixteenth of a rupee (*anna*), one-thirtysecond of a rupee (*takka*) and one-sixty fourth (*pice*) of a rupee. An anna was equal to 4 pice or 12 pies, there being 3 pies in a pice.

Decimal system of currency and coinage has been adopted by almost all countries in the world. Therefore, with a view to bringing about uniformity and to facilitating comparison with currencies of other countries of the world, decimal coinage system was introduced in the country in 1957. Now a rupee consists of 100 *paise*, with coins in the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 *paise*. Currency notes are issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 rupees. Earlier, currency notes were also issued in the denomination of 1,000 rupees but these have been demonetised w.e.f. 16 January 1978. Simultaneously with other districts of the Punjab, the decimal coinage completely replaced the old coinage in the Sangrur District with effect from 1 April 1964. In the initial stages of the introduction of the new currency, the public in general and rural masses in particular faced some difficulties as the old system was deep-rooted in them. To acquaint the people with the decimal coinage, the Government issued pamphlets and displayed posters all over the country to facilitate the switch-over to new currency. In course of time, people became quite familiar with the new system. 'Naya paisa', named in the beginning, is now called 'paisa'. On the withdrawal of the old coinage from circulation, the prefix 'naya' became redundant and was dropped with effect from 7 June 1964.

The decimal coinage system has brought about a great transformation in the whole accounting procedure. Undoubtedly, it has made the accountancy and book-keeping much easier, quicker and simpler.

(B) Trade and Commerce

The main caste engaged in trade and commerce in this district is the *bania*. Since agriculture has been the major occupation of the people, items of export comprised mainly the foodgrains and other farm products. As the district was industrially backward, the chief items of import were cloth from Delhi and Ludhiana, bronze and brass vessels from Muradabad, Rewari, Patiala and Jagadhari. Further, gold and silver lace and glass bracelets were imported from Patiala, Delhi and Ludhiana.

Malerkotla, Dhuri, Sangrur, Sunam, Barnala and Dhanaula have been main centres of trade in the Sangrur District. Malerkotla town was previously the headquarters of Malerkotla State, and as such it was an important centre of trade and commerce. English cloth, salt, and lime were imported from Delhi, Amritsar and Lahore; while grain, instruments of survey, paper and iron utensils were exported to Ludhiana, Bathinda, Lahore and Patiala. Cotton was sent to Bombay or Karachi. Barnala was noted for its earthenware *chilms*, *huqqis* and

surahis. Sunam excelled in cotton *pagris*, *khes* and *chautahis*. Sangrur was very famous for gold and silver ornaments.

At present, there is no heavy industry in the District except the Malwa Sugar mills Ltd., Dhuri; there exist only small scale and cottage industries. Accordingly, the position of this district with respect of industrial goods is very poor. However, Malerkotla, Barnala and Sunam are gradually coming up on the industrial map of the State. Malerkotla town is a pioneer in the manufacture of spare parts of sewing machines and cycle parts. Badgemaking (for Defence) and leather processing are other important small-scale industries of Malerkotla. The small-scale industries of Malerkotla are flourishing mainly because of Mohammedan skilled workers and artisans who are concentrated in or around the town and are inclined to stick to one place only, thus the main industrial products exported from Malerkotla to other parts of the country are spare parts of cycle and sewing machines, defence badges and leather. The town of Ahmedgarh is well-known for the manufacture of *khurpas*, *kahis* and *datis*. Cotton textile industry is also emerging in the district.

Since agriculture is the main occupation of the people, there is brisk trade in agricultural products. The grain market of Barnala is the biggest in the district for the sale of wheat, maize and cotton. Tapa is also a good cotton market. The vegetables especially '*methi*' and '*gobhi*', grown around Malerkotla are sent out to many big towns of the country. This abundant cultivation of vegetables is done by the Kamboj and Arains, the two hardworking Mohammedan communities inhabiting the area.

To sum up, the main exports of the district are wheat, gram, cotton, *gur*, sugar, and other farm products and spare parts of cycle and sewing machines, defence badges and leather goods, and among imports kerosene, coal, cloth, iron and machinery are the main items.

(a) Course of Trade

The usual course of trade for agricultural produce in the district is from the agriculturist to the consumer through the middleman. There is no direct link between the grower and the consumer. Commission agents, whole-sellers and retailers act as middle men between the grower and the consumers.

The purchasers of the grain market gather at the shop of *kachcha arhtia* and the sale of the commodities starts in open auction, under the supervision of the auctioneers appointed by the market committee, through the commission agents turn by turn. Such sales are conducted

daily during the hours fixed for this purpose. *Kachcha arhtias*, who sell the commodities on behalf of the cultivators, receive commission on fixed rates permissible under the bye-laws of the market committee. The delivery of the goods is made at the shop of the *kachcha arhtia* and the purchaser himself arranges for their carriage to his premises at his own cost. The *kachcha arhtia* pays the sale price to the seller immediately after the transaction is completed.

(b) Trade Centres

(i) **Regulated and unregulated markets.**—In order to save the agriculturists from exploitation by middleman, the State Marketing Board has been set up by the State Government. The activities of agricultural markets are regulated by the Board under the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961, which provides for regulation of markets and formation of market committees. These regulated markets play an important role in helping the sale of commodities at fair and reasonable prices. The cultivator is now better protected against the various malpractices usually adopted earlier by traders (*Beoparis*) and other intermediaries. The whole of the district has been covered by the regulated markets and purchase centres to save the cultivators from unhealthy market practices and to ensure him the fair price for his produce.

In the regulated markets, all commodities brought by the growers, village traders, etc. are sold in open auction in the presence of dealers under the supervision of the auctioneers appointed by the market committee. Auction is held during the market hours at each shop turn by turn. When the auction is over, a receipt showing the weight, rate and net price after making necessary deductions is issued to the cultivator who later on showing the same, receives payment from the *arhtias*.

There are 10 regulated markets in the district : Sangrur, Barnala, Dhuri, Lehragaga, Malerkotla, Sunam, Ahmedgarh, Tapa, Khanauri and Bhawanigarh. In these regulated markets the main commodities for which transactions usually take place are wheat, grain, maize, paddy, oil seeds, cotton and groundnut, etc.

There is no unregulated market in the district as the whole of the Punjab State has been brought under the regulated markets.

(ii) Fairs (*melas*) and other Rural Marketing Centres

Fairs (*melas*).—A number of religious, social, recreational and seasonal fairs and festivals are held in the district at various places. Besides normal

activities at a fair, many kinds of trading activities also take place at these fairs and festivals. The important fairs and festivals held in the district are mentioned in Chapter III, 'People'.

Cattle Fairs.—These fairs are of great advantage to the agriculturists as they facilitate the sale and purchase of cattle. These are also a source of income to the Government by way of fees charged on the sale/purchase of cattle. Such fairs are held at Sangrur, Dhanaula, Sunam, Malerkotla, Bahadur Singwala, Allal, Bagrian, Tapa, Jallan, Bhawanigarh, Barnala, Lehragaga, Moonak, Amargarh, Dhuri and Dug-Bahadurpur. A big cattle fair is held every year at Sunam on the occasion of Baisakhi; cattle fairs at Malerkotla and Dhanaula are held regularly every month.

(c) Co-operation in Trade

(i) **Co-operative Marketing.**—Keeping in view the malpractices suffered by the cultivators in the marketing of agricultural produce, the need for co-operative marketing was felt by the Government. Consequently, a number of co-operative marketing societies were set up at various places in the district. The cultivators can now store their produce in the godowns of these marketing societies. Previously, they had to dispose it off immediately after harvesting. These societies act as a check against malpractices such as under-weighing, unauthorized deductions and delayed payments by the *arhtias*.

The District Whole sale Co-operative Marketing and Supply Society at Sangrur was registered on 12 November 1957 with a membership of 24 societies and share of members Rs 1,250. On 30 June 1978, its membership was 261 with a share capital of Rs 1.39 lakhs. The Managing Committee of the society consisted of 10 members, in addition to three Government nominees. The society opened its 3 branches at Khanauri, Bhawanigarh, and Badbar in 1969. In addition to the above, the following registered co-operative marketing societies are also functioning in the district :

Serial No.	Name of Society	Date of Registration
1	The Bhawanigarh Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Bhawanigarh	28-8-1951
2	The Dhuri Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Dhuri	20-4-1954

Serial No.	Nams of Society	Date of Registration
3	The Malerkotla Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Malerkotla	18-5-1954
4	The Sunam Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Sunam	11-1-1957
5	The Sangrur Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Sangrur	23-4-1957
6	The Barnala Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Barnala	15-11-1957
7	The Lehragaga Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Lehragaga	15-10-1958
8	The Tapa Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Tapa	4-12-1959
9	The Ahmedgarh Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Ahmedgarh	29-12-1960
10	The Moonak Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd., Moonak	18-1-1977

The co-operative marketing societies have the primary co-operative credit societies formed by agriculturists in rural areas, and also the individuals as their affiliated members, who contribute share capital and market their produce through these societies. These societies are registered under the Punjab Co-operative Societies Act, 1954.

The Central Co-operative Banks are the main financing agencies for the co-operative marketing societies. A number of godowns have been constructed by the co-operative marketing societies both in rural and urban areas, where storage facilities are provided to the members. The number of godowns owned by these societies in the District, as on 30 June 1978 was 531. These godowns are of much use in collecting the produce of cultivators in rural areas, and arrangements are made for its transportation to the nearest marketing society. The storage charges in these godowns are quite nominal.

The work done by the co-operative marketing societies in the District, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is shown in Appendix IV at page 188.

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(ii) **Co-operative Consumers' Stores.**—There is only one co-operative consumers' store in the district, namely, the Sangrur Central Co-operative Consumers' Store Ltd., Sangrur, which was registered on 5 August 1966. Its aims are to ensure fair distribution of various commodities to the consumers at reasonable rates. On 30 June 1978, it was running five branches (three at Sangrur, one each at Dhuri and Malerkotla) in the district. The membership of the store, as on 30 June 1978, was 3,770 with a paid-up share capital of Rs 3,52,230.00.

(d) **State Trading**

The State Trading Scheme in foodgrains was introduced in the Sangrur District along with the rest of the State in 1958-59 to provide essential commodities to the consumers at reasonable rates. On 31 March 1978, there were 113 fair price shops functioning in urban areas and 290 in rural areas of the district. The State Trading in foodgrains was introduced in the State during 1959. The total quantity of foodgrains purchased by the Food and Supplies Department under this scheme in the Sangrur District, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given as under:

Year	Quantity purchased (tonnes)
1973-74	1,98,201
1974-75	1,04,586
1975-76	1,36,150
1976-77	1,35,748
1977-78	1,31,253

(Source : District Food and Supplies Controller, Sangrur)

(e) **Merchants' and Consumers' Associations and Organs for Dissemination of Trade News****Merchants' Associations :**

There is no merchants or consumers' association functioning in the district.

Marketing Intelligence.—There is no such regular agency for the collection and dissemination of market news in the district. The public

in general visits the marketing centres periodically and keeps itself in touch with affairs of the market. The village traders who are regularly in touch with the market conditions often communicate the market news to the public. In some of the regular markets, the market committees exhibit the market news on a board for the public to know the market fluctuations. Market news are also communicated to dealers at different places through correspondence and by telephone. The co-operative marketing societies receive market information cards from allied societies. The All India Radio, Jalandhar, broadcasts a daily bulletin on the rates prevailing in various grain markets of the State.

(f) **Weights and Measures**

The weights and measures used in the District during the British period were as under:

- (a) In urban areas: Maund, 20-seer, 10-seer, 5 seer, 4-seer 1-seer, chhattank *tolas, mashas* and *ratls*.
- (b) In rural areas
- 2½ Maund (kachcha)=1 Maund
 - 1½ Maund (kachcha)=20 seer
 - 1 Maund (kachcha)=16 seer
 - 1 *dhari* (10 seer kachcha)=4 seer
 - 1 *panjseri* (5 seer kachcha) =2 seer
 - 2½ seer (kachcha)=1 seer

The weights and measures differed not only from district to district but also from state to state in many respects. All transactions between various districts and states had to clearly spell out the relationship between the weights and measures used by the parties to a transaction. This type of trading was bound to create some problems. Therefore to standardise weights and measures throughout the country, the Government of India passed the Standard of Weights Act, 1939, which came into force in 1942. Under the Act both the systems were prescribed, viz. the Indian System i.e. *tola, seer* and *maund*, and *avoirdupois* systems, i.e. *ib.*, *cwt.*, and *tons*. The Punjab Weights and Measures Act, 1941 brought some uniformity in the system of weights and measures.

All these measures did serve some useful purpose but the ultimate objective of introducing uniformity in the system of weights and measures was still not fulfilled. Also, many countries of the world had adopted the metric system of weights and measures and, therefore, for the sake of

uniformity in the weights and measures used in international trade and in trade within the country, the metric system of weights and measures was introduced with effect from October 1958, in accordance with the provision of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, passed by the Parliament and the Punjab Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, framed thereunder. In the case of weights, the use of old weights too was allowed for a period of two years and was discontinued from October 1960 when the use of metric weights was made compulsory. In the case of measures, a period of one year was allowed for the measures previously in vogue and, from April 1962, metric measures were made compulsory. The use of metric units also became obligatory from April 1962.

To begin with, the public in general and the rural masses in particular did experience difficulty in understanding the new system of weights and measures. To acquaint the people with the metric system of weights and measures, the Government issued pamphlets and displayed posters all over the country explaining in simple language the conversion of old measures into the metric ones. Thus in due course of time, people got accustomed to the use of the metric system of weights and measures.

There are 3 Inspectors, Weights and Measures, who verify weights, scales, etc. used in the district.

(g) Storage and Warehousing

Scientific storage of foodgrains and other products is of a very recent origin. Earlier, the storage of foodgrains was done in *bharolas* or back-rooms of the residential houses, in the open or in the bags. Thus used to affect the stored stuff as the houses in the villages were rarely cemented. Though, this old way of storage is on the decline, yet it does continue alongwith the modern and scientific system of storage.

In the second half of the 20th century, there has been tremendous progress in adopting methods and techniques of scientific storage. The co-operative agricultural societies have built up godowns, with the Government assistance, to facilitate storage in rural areas. The cultivators can store their produce in such godowns during the slack season and are under no obligation to resort to distress sale of their produce. They can also get advances on the basis of their produce stored in the godowns. The co-operative marketing societies also get loans and subsidies from the Government for the construction of godowns. In the *mandis*, the commission agents usually provide the back-rooms of their shops for

storage purposes. Such rooms are cemented and the commodities are safe from any kind of damage. On almost all important railway stations, godowns or sheds have been provided for temporary storages of goods and parcels.

Keeping in view the need for scientific storage of foodgrains and other agricultural commodities, it was decided to set up warehousing corporations in public sector as per recommendations of the All India Rural Survey Committee in 1954. Consequently, the Central Warehousing Corporation and a network of State Warehousing Corporations were established under the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporation Act, 1956. These corporations were reorganized under the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962 enacted by the Parliament.

The Punjab State Warehousing Corporation was set up in January 1958 and after reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Punjab in 1966, it was re-constituted under the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 with effect from 1 November 1967. The Punjab Government and the Central Warehousing Corporation are the two equal shareholders of the State Warehousing Corporation. Its main functions are to provide scientific storage at low charges and arrange for cheap and quick credit facilities against the storage produce; to acquire and build godowns and warehouses at such places with the State as it may, with the previous approval of Central Warehousing Corporation determine, to run warehouses in the State for the storage of agricultural produce, seeds, manures, fertilizers and notified commodities; to make arrangements for the transport of agricultural produce, seeds, manure, fertilizers and notified commodities to and from warehouses. Further, the Punjab State Warehousing Corporation acts as an agent of the Central Warehousing Corporation or of the Government for the purchase, sale, storage and distribution of agricultural produce, seeds, manures, fertilizers and notified commodities.

The Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporations have acquired expertise in scientific preservation of agricultural and other products. Though, functioning on business principle, they provide services at very reasonable rates for scientific storage of agricultural produce, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. The main benefits which have accrued to the agriculturists from the Warehousing Corporations are :

- (a) Scientific storage of their produce in rat-proof, dump-proof and leak-proof godowns. Stocks remain post-free throughout the period of storage by preventive and curative measures.

(b) Cheap credit is available from the scheduled banks on the pledge of warehouse receipt issued by a Warehouse Manager in token of the stocks stored in his warehouse. This credit is available to the depositors according to the credit restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

(c) Agriculturists have the opportunity to get market intelligence which enables them to sell their produce at appropriate occasion.

The stocks stored in warehouses are guaranteed against damages by pests, thefts, fire, floods, etc. The warehousing corporations store the produce in hired as well as in their own constructed godowns. To encourage the farmers to deposit their produce in the warehouse, these corporations generally allow rebate on storage to the farmers. Apart from providing storage services, warehousing corporations also undertake fumigation and chemical treatment of stocks stored in the godowns of the agriculturists to avoid infestation. Agriculturists are also trained and educated for scientific storage of their produce in their own houses, without charging anything from them.

In the Sangrur District, the Punjab State Warehousing Corporation had, as on 31 March 1978, its own constructed godowns at seven places with a total capacity 67,183 M.T.; the total hired capacity throughout the district was 15,752 M.T. The following table indicates the location of owned warehouses with their dates of opening and total capacity in the district :

Serial No.	Name of Warehouse	Date of opening	Total capacity during 1977-1978 (M.T.)
1	Ahmedgarh	12/64	9,988
2	Barnala	3/62	12,979
3	Dhuri	12/61	8,440
4	Lehragaga	2/68	7,059

Serial No.	Name of Warehouse	Date of opening	Total capacity during 1977-1978
5	Tapa	6/62	11,924
6	Malerkotla	5/65	7,752
7	Sunam	5/65	9,041

For the storage of perishable commodities like vegetables and fruit, cold storages are being set up. The cold storages help in increasing the life of perishable goods and this in turn helps the producer in getting a remunerative price for his produce, and the consumer in getting those perishable goods for longer time. The cold stores have 'falsified' the idea of seasonal fruits or seasonal vegetables. Thanks to the cold storages, the fruits and vegetables can be preserved safely for months together and the consumer can have them during any season of the year, after paying some extra charge. In the Sangrur district, a number of cold storages are being run in private sector.

APPENDIX I

(Vide page 168)

Number of Banking Offices at Various Places in the Sangrur District, as on
31 December, 1977

Town/Village	Number of Offices						Total
	State Bank of India	State Bank of Patiala	Punjab National Bank	Other Com- mercial Banks	Co- operative Bank		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Sangrur Tahsil							
Bhawanigarh ..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3
Dhuri ..	..	..	1	1	2	1	5
Duggan ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Gharachon ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Longowal ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Nadampur ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Sangrur ..	..	1	1	1	3	2	8
Saron ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Sheron ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Malerkotla Tahsil							
Ahmedgarh ..	..	..	2	1	2	1	6
Amargarh ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Bagarian ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bhadaur ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Chaunda ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Dhuri ..	..	..	1	1	2	1	5
Kup ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Ladda ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Lasoi ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Manvi ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Mimsa ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Sandaur ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Sherpur ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Barnala Tahsil							
Barnala ..	..	..	1	1	4	1	7
Badbar ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bhadaur ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Cheema ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
Dhaura ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Dhanau'a ..	..	1	..	1	..	1	3
Hadiaya ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Mahal Kalan ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Sanghera ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Sehna ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Sekha ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Talewal ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Tapa ..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3
Thikriwala ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Sunam Tahsil							
Chhajli ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Dirbha ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Kauhrjan ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Khanauri Kalan ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Khanauri Mandi ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Lehragaga ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
Moonak ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
Sunam ..	..	1	1	1	1	1	5
Sullar ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1

(Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1978, pp. 588—590)

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APPENDIX II

(Vide page 169)

Work done by the Co-operative Agricultural Credit Societies in the Sangrur District,
1973-74 to 1977-78

Co-operative Year ending June	No. of Co- operative Societies at the end of the year	Membership		Share capital paid up (Rs in lakhs)	Loans advanced during the year (Rs in lakhs)	Deposits (Rs in lakhs)
		Societies	Individuals			
1973-74	..	740	..	1,25,934	122.27	511.60
1974-75	..	740	..	1,25,934	132.89	31.39
1975-76	..	740	..	1,28,137	141.80	624.08
1976-77	..	740	..	1,29,383	156.91	637.08
1977-78	..	740	..	1,31,675	167.73	757.27

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 169)

Work done by the Co-operative Non- Agricultural Credit Societies in the Sangrur
District, 1973-74 to 1977-78

Co-operative Year ending June	No. of Co- operative Societies at the end of the year	Membership		Share Capital paid up (Rs in lakhs)	Loans advanced during the year (Rs in lakhs)	Deposits (Rs in lakhs)
		Societies	Individuals			
1973-74	..	81	..	4744	2.05	0.19
1974-75	..	81	..	4802	2.06	0.19
1975-76	..	81	..	4802	2.09	0.19
1976-77	..	81	..	4802	2.06	0.19
1977-78	..	81	..	4802	2.06	0.19

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

APPENDIX IV

(Vide Page 177)

Work done by the Co-operative Marketing Societies in the Sangrur District,
1973-74 to 1977-78

Co-operative Year ending June	No. of Societies	Membership			Share Capital paid up (Rs in lakhs)	Working Capital (Rs in lakhs)	Value of goods marketed (Rs in lakhs)
		Societies	Individuals	Total			
1973-74	10	7194	810	8004	11.79	152.45	1311.21
1974-75	10	7433	817	8250	2.76	170.40	1429.37
1975-76	10	8703	825	9533	3.07	255.99	1625.14
1976-77	10	9803	846	10,649	13.75	235.53	1624.90
1977-78	10	10,042	847	10,849	14.07	330.58	1913.93

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur)

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Old-time Roads and Highways and Modes of Conveyance

Economic development of a region depends, to a greater extent, upon its means of communications—roads, railways, airlines, inland navigation, ferries and bridges, gas and oil-pipe lines. Of all these modes of communication, roads, metalled or unmetalled, are the most universal, and, perhaps the oldest, to be used by man. Even today, no territory can enjoy the fruits of progress unless it is well served by a good network of roads. Construction of roads is not only helpful in the development of industries for transportation of raw materials from the source and of finished goods to centres of consumption, agricultural development is also promoted by roads connecting market towns and rural areas. Indian history is full of references which bear testimony to the existence of roads and the keen interest taken by the ancient, medieval and modern rulers of erstwhile states in the construction of roads. Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka, Muhammad Tughlaq and Sher Shah Suri are known to have constructed a good network of roads connecting various parts of their domains.

Before the advent of automobile vehicles and railways, the usual modes of conveyance in the district were the domesticated animals like bullocks, and the beasts of burden like camels, horses and donkeys. These were used not only for undertaking long distance journeys but also for transportation of goods from one place to another. Besides, bullock-carts and tongas were used by the people to travel reasonable distances. However, with the development of rail and road transport, old modes of transport were abandoned in favour of the modern ones. Today, even in the country side, people have started using modern means of transport.

(b) Road Transport

Roads in the country have been often compared to arteries in a human body as they play a vital role in the gigantic task of national reconstruction. The territory of the present Sangrur District comprises parts of the erstwhile princely states of Patiala, Jind and Nabha ; the Muslims State of Malerkotla ; and some portions of the British territory then forming part of Ludhiana District. The metalled and unmetalled

roads were maintained by the rulers of the then princely states. The roads maintained by the erstwhile princely states in the territory now comprising Sangrur District were ; Patiala-Sunam, Patiala-Sangrur, Nabha-Kotla, Barnala-Hadiaya, Jakhal-Moonak, Hadiaya-Bhikhi, Sangrur-Kotla, Sangrur-Nabha, Nabha-Bhawanigarh, Sangrur-Khilrian, Sangrur-Badrukhan, Sangrur-Jind, Dhanaula-Barnala, Ludhiana-Malerkotla, Nabha-Bagriana, Sangrur-Dhuri, Malerkotla-Sherwani Kot, Malerkotla-Panjgirain, Malerkotla-Kanganwal, Malerkotla-Kup, Kup-Panjgirain, etc. After the Independence, road construction got proper attention and now there is a network of roads in the district. The following figures give an idea of extension of roads in the district :

Year	Metalled roads (km)	Un-metalled roads (km)	Total length of roads (km)
1950-51	165	40	205
1955-56	330	6	336
1960-61	695	115	810
1977-78	2,210	491	2,701

(Source : Punjab District Census Hand-book No. 17, Sangrur District 1961, p. 19 and Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle P.W.D. (B &R), Sangrur)

(i) Classification of Roads

According to the Nagpur Road Plan of 1943, roads were classified into four categories, namely, National Highways, State Highways, District Roads and Village Roads. The total road length in 1977-78 in the Sangrur District was 2,701 km. The length of State Highways was

'Punjab States Gazetteers Vol. XVII A, Phulkian States, 1904 (Patiala, Jind and Nabha), pp-133, 295, 371

Punjab District Gazetteers Vol. XV A, Ludhiana District and Malerkotla State, 1904, p. 21

166.7 kms, district major roads 219.5 km, other district roads 200.6 km, and other district village roads 2,114.2 km. There is no National Highway passing through the Sangrur District. The State Highways, district major roads, minor roads, and other district roads are maintained by the Public Works Department (B & R). The various municipalities maintain roads within their respective municipal areas. A detailed description of each category of roads in the Sangrur District is given below :

State Highways.—These are main or arterial roads of the State and are generally connected to the National Highways. Sometimes they connect highways of adjacent States and also district headquarters or important cities. These are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department of the State. The highways passing through the Sangrur District are : State Highway No. 10, from Badalgarh (Tahsil Sunam) to Rampura Ganota (Tahsil Sunam) 22.63 km ; State Highway No. 11, from Momanabad (Tahsil Malerkotla) to Kakuwala and Sindranwala (Tahsil Sunam) 89.43 km; and State Highway No. 13, from Ramgarh to Pakho (Tahsil Barnala) 54.70 km.

District Major Roads.—These roads connect the areas of production and markets with each other and also with highways or railways. In fact these roads provide hauling service even into the heart of rural areas throughout the year. These are also constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department (B & R) of the State. On 31 March 1978, the total length of such roads in the district was 219.5 km.

Other District Roads.—These serve as important arteries of communication among different parts of the district. Their total length in the district, as on 31 March 1978, was 200.6 km.

Under this head are also included roads constructed and maintained by the local bodies (municipal committees) out of their own funds. Such roads connect the local markets, streets, State Highways, National Highways, railway stations and other roads in the area of a particular municipal committee.

Now 'other district roads' also include the roads formerly falling under the head 'district minor roads', the term which is no longer used to describe this category of roads.

Village Approach Roads.—These roads connect villages or group of villages with one another and to the nearest district roads. Such roads are intended to serve the interior rural areas. These are constructed by the collective efforts of the villagers. Previously, these roads were maintained by the Zila Parishad, Sangrur, but now these have been

transferred to the State Public Works Department. The total length of these roads in the district as on 31 March 1978, was 2,114.2 km.

(ii) Vehicles and Conveyances

In the urban areas, motor vehicles are fast replacing bullock-carts, as means of conveyance. However, in the countryside, the bullock-carts are still being used as means of transport. The bullock-carts are being fitted with pneumatic rubber tyres in place of traditional wooden wheels. Outside the town areas, the horse drawn vehicles (tongas, *ekkas* etc.) used for the carriage of passengers have largely been replaced by the motor bus. In *mandis*, however, they still continue to flourish side by side with motor vehicles for the transportation of goods.

Common pack animals, mules, horses, camels, donkeys, etc. are used for transportation of foodgrains and vegetables in the towns, but they are being replaced by cheap wheeled traffic. The *thelas* pulled by one or two men and used mostly in cities to carry goods from one place to another within the city limits are also being replaced by quicker modes of transportation. The quicker means of conveyance now used are buses, cars, jeeps, trucks, taxis, motor-cycles, scooters and tempos. Tractors have now become a popular means of transport with well-to-do farmers. The people have become speed conscious and prefer to travel by mechanised vehicles. All these quick modes of transport are often used only by the well-to-do people or others in emergency. The public in general, especially the ordinary citizen, still finds the bicycle a more reliable companion for short journeys.

Automobiles.—Though the automobile was invented in 1839, it became common in India only after the First World War. Now it has become a common means of travel and of transportation of goods for long distances. Its speed and reliability enable the user to cover a wider area in the minimum of time and with the minimum of trouble.

Automobiles include motor-cycles, scooters, jeeps, motor cars, taxis, buses, trucks, tractors and auto-rickshaws. The number of different types of motor vehicles registered in the district, during 1974-1978, is given in Appendix I at page 199.

Bicycles.—Cycle has become very popular as a means of conveyance for short distances. It is economical in cost and can be put to multiple uses. One can easily afford it without incurring considerable maintenance cost. It is an essential means of conveyance in big cities, especially for poor and lower middle class people; it has increased the mobility of

labour. Now a days villagers bring vegetables, milk and other agricultural produce to urban markets on cycles. It is cheap, flexible and handy without having standing charges.

Cycle-Rickshaws.—Cycle-rickshaw is a three-wheeled cycle pulled by a man with a sitting capacity of two persons and is used to cover short distances, generally within the city area. It is a cheap, convenient and easy type of conveyance. Its charges are low and it has not to wait for passengers for long as only two persons make the full load of a rickshaw; even if a single passenger has to hire the full rickshaw, he does not mind paying the full charges keeping in view the time saved and the comfort provided in the single-passenger journey. The rickshaw has the added advantage of its ability to pass through narrow streets. With these advantages, it has become popular in the district. Due to its popularity, the importance of tongas and *ekkas* has decreased. The construction of village roads has further increased the utility 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. Under the scheme 'Rickshaw *Chalak* (puller) Rickshaw *malik* (owner)', loans are procured by the State Government from commercial banks so as to enable the rickshaw-pullers to purchase their own rickshaws. Interest of these loans is reimbursed in full by the Government. Under the Punjab Cycle Rickshaw (Regulation of Licence) Act, 1976, licences are issued to the owners only.

Horse Carriages.—Even though buses and rickshaws are plying in all towns of the district, horse carriages are still used under the changed name 'horse carts'. The farmers and shopkeepers who cannot afford tractors (trollies) have maintained horse carts. As a means of conveyance, these carts are very helpful in carrying passengers and for carriage of goods from one part of the city to another, from town to town, from town to villages and *vice versa*. There is tough competition between the horse-drawn carriages, motor buses and cycle-rickshaws in which the horse carriages, like tonga and *ekka* have been hard hit. The rates of horse carriages are, however, quite reasonable and this is a major factor for their survival.

(iii) Public and Private Transport

The Provincial Transport Controller headed the Transport Department till June 1969. He was responsible for the enforcement of Motor Vehicles Act and the rules framed thereunder. The commercial wing of

the department also functioned under his control. In order to give equal justice to the private operators and State owned transport, the Transport Department was bifurcated in June 1969, in two wings, viz. the Commercial Wing and Non-Commercial Wing. The former, known as Punjab Roadways, was placed under the control of Director, State Transport, Punjab, and the latter under the State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, as Heads of the Departments. The Director, State Transport, being overall incharge of the Commercial wing, is concerned with the development and operation of State transport buses on commercial basis. The State Transport Commissioner is concerned with the issuing of route permits, enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Act and the rules framed thereunder, grant of route permits for stage carriers to both public and private operators and for public carriers, tempos, taxis, etc.

Before the Independence, road transport was largely in the hands of private owners, who were interested mainly in large profits and seldom cared for the convenience of passengers. With the increase in the network of roads and rapid industrialisation, road transport has expanded manifold. Therefore, the Government have started gradual and progressive nationalisation of this service. At present, there is a partial nationalisation of passenger transport service in the State and 60:40 scheme is in operation. Under this scheme, all further operations on the existing local routes not exceeding 16 km in length as well as monopoly routes shall be undertaken exclusively by the Punjab Roadways.

State Owned Services.—Most of the bus routes in the district are operated by the Sangrur depot of PEPSU Road Transport Corporation. This depot was set-up on 12 December 1970. The details of the routes operated by the Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Sangrur are given in Appendix II at the end of the Chapter on pages 200-203.

Private Bus Services.—A number of bus routes in the district are operated by the private transport companies. The particulars regarding the names of the private companies and the routes operated by them are given in Appendix III, at the end of the chapter on pages 204-209.

Goods Transport by Road.—It is entirely in the hands of private companies and owners. The State Government is following liberal policy for the grant of public carrier permits. Anybody who comes forward with a mechanically fit and road worthy vehicle is issued a truck permit. To facilitate inter-State movement of trucks for the transportation of goods from one State to another, the State Government has entered into liberal agreements with other States to facilitate free flow of goods throughout the country.

(c) Railways

The Sangrur District is in the jurisdiction of Delhi Division of Northern Railway, but it is backward in regard to rail density per unit area. There are only two railway lines passing through the district : Ludhiana-Jakhal and Ambala-Bathinda lines. The Ahmedgarh to Gurney section of the Ludhiana-Jakhal line, falling in the present Sangrur District, was opened on 10 April 1901 at the expense of the erstwhile princely states of Jind and Malerkotla, who contributed respectively 4/5th and 1/5th of its cost of construction. This is a broad gauge with a single track. The 14 railway stations falling on this line in the district are : Ahmedgarh, Rohira Halt, Kup, Malerkotla, Himtana, Dhuri, Bahadur Singh Wala, Sangrur, Bharur, Sunam, Chhajli, Gobindgarh Khokhar, Lehragaga and Gurney. The other railway line passing through the Sangrur District is known as Ambala-Bathinda line. The 9 railway stations falling on this line are : Kaulseri, Dhuri, Rajomajra, Alal, Sekha, Barnala, Hadiaya, Ghunas Halt and Tapa. Dhuri is the only railway junction in the district. The total route length of railways in the district is approximately 152 km. The average route length per 100 sq. km. of the area works out to only 2.9 km in the district.

Appendices IV and V (Pages 210 to 211) show the monthly average of railway passengers, goods traffic and earnings in the district during 1977-78.

Rail-Road Competition.—Every means of transport has its own sphere of economic service and its limitations. The problem of competition between various means of transport arises when some modes of transport extend a far and cut into the sphere of other means of transport. The road system in India was not properly developed until the end of the First World War when Government took up road construction on priority basis. The Railway Board Report of 1926-27 pointed out that the Indian Railways had begun to feel the pressure of competition from motor vehicles. The main complaint of the railways against the competing road vehicles was that on account of the flexible character of their service, the road vehicles were free to choose the best paying traffic. Railways had no such flexibility and as common carriers they had to accept whatever was offered to them. In 1933, Government of India appointed the Mitchell Kirkness Committee to study the problems and make suggestions for improving the situation. The Committee recommended a strict regulation of road traffic to eliminate competition. In 1937, the Wedgewood Committee also recommended the protection of railways against unfair competition from road transport by controlling, supervising, regulating and licensing of motor vehicles. In 1939, the Motor Vehicles

Act was passed for regulating motor transport. During the Second World War (1939—45), there was practically no rail-road competition. In 1950, Government appointed the Motor Vehicles Taxation Inquiry Commission which recommended the imposition of taxes on motor vehicles. Consequently, the rail-road competition was reduced due to heavy taxes imposed on road vehicles. However, with the development of agriculture and industry in the country and the consequent increase in traffic, the rail-road competition has become a thing of the past, and the two systems of transport are co-operating with each other to meet the increasing demands of modern industrilisation and scientific agriculture.

(d) Waterways, Ferries and Bridges

Waterways.—There is no navigable river/canal in the Sangrur District.

Ferries.—Before 1966, in the Sangrur District there were two ferries on the river Ghaggar in Tahsil Sangrur; one at Usmanpur and the other near the village of Nanhera on the Kaithal road. These were maintained by the State during the rainy season, and were operated in the months of *Sawan* and *Bhadon* by the *mallahs*, who charged two annas a person¹. But in 1966, on the reorganisation of the erstwhile Punjab State this part of the Sangrur District was allocated to the Haryana State. Presently, the ferry system is not prevalent in the district.

Bridges.—Bridges are constructed over the *chos*, streams, canals etc. for smooth running of road traffic.

(e) Air Transport

There is no aerodrome in the district. The nearest civil airport is Chandigarh, at a distance of 126 km from Sangrur. From there, regular air service is available to New Delhi, Amritsar, Jammu and Srinagar, and in summer, to Leh and Kulu. From May 1982, Ludhiana, at a distance of 80 km from Sangrur, has also come on the air map of India. Regular air service between Ludhiana and New Dehli is operated by Vayudoot, the feeder airline in the public sector.

(f) Travel and Tourist Facilities

It is State Government's endeavour to develop tourist facilities at existing places with a view to ensuring that the available potential for growth of tourist industry is fully exploited. One spot of tourist attraction is being run by the Punjab Tourism Development Corporation at Khanauri where snack bar and beer bar facilities are available.

¹ *Punjab States Gazetteers, Vol. XVII-A, I huklan States, 1904 Patiala, Jind and Nabha p. 296*

The District does not have any first class modern hotel; there are, however, a number of restaurants and hotels in urban areas. In some of the hotels, lodging facilities are also available. Besides there are a number of *dharamshalas* and *serais* in the district for travellers, tourists and visitors. Gurdwaras in urban as well as in rural areas provide free boarding and lodging to visitors.

Dak Bungalows and Rest Houses.—These are maintained by various departments of Government for the use of their employees while on official tour to the district. However, when available these might be utilized by members of the public for private occupation on prescribed rent which is higher than that chargeable from Government officials on tour. A list of dak bungalows and rest houses in the district is given in Appendix VI, on pages 212 to 213.

(g) Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones

Post offices in the district are under the control of Superintendent, Post Offices, Sangrur, who assists the Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Patiala Division, Patiala, in respect of the Sangrur District. To provide postal facilities to the public, letter boxes have been affixed at important centres in the towns which are cleared at fixed intervals, twice or thrice a day. All the villages of the Sangrur District are covered under daily delivery.

The Postal Index Number (PIN) Code was introduced in the country on 15 August 1972. It is a six digit code that identifies and locates every departmental delivery service. It provides with a built-in routing information for postal sorting and quick delivery of the post. The PIN Code of Sangrur is 148001.*

On 31 March 1978, there were one Head Post Office, 34 Sub-Post Offices and 205 Branch Post Offices in the district. A list of these is given in Appendix VII, on pages 214 to 218.

Telegraphs.—The district is served by a good number of combined post and telegraph offices. There are two (one Head and one Sub) TP/Morse offices, 6 Morse Sub-Offices and 13 Phono-cum-Sub-Offices and one extra Departmental Sub-Office in the district. There is prompt delivery of telegrams in the district. On 31 March 1978, telegraph facility was available in 22 Post Offices in the Sangrur District, as given in Appendix VIII, on page 219.

*The first digit represents the zone, the second the sub-zone and the routing, the third digit pin points the routing district and the last three digits indicate the specific post office included in that sorting district.

Telephones.—There are 17 telephone exchanges in the district functioning at Sangrur, Barnala, Bhawanigarh, Bhadaur, Dhuri, Dhanaula, Longowal, Lehragaga, Mahal Kalan, Sherpur, Sulargharat, Sunam, Sehna, Dirba, Malerkotla, Amargarh and Moonak. These are under the control of Sub Divisional Engineer, Telephones, Barnala, who functions under the administrative control of the Divisional Engineer, Telephones, Patiala Division, Patiala. The total number of connections and extensions provided by these exchanges, as on 31 March 1978, were 2,401 (main) and 90 (extensions). Besides, two public call offices, viz. Chhajli and Hadiaya, with parent exchanges at Sunam and Barnala respectively were opened in 1976.

Radios and Televisions.—These have become very popular in the district. As on 31 December 1978, as many as 54020 radio and 1,843 television licences were issued in the district. Besides, 528 radio-sets were installed in the district under the Community Listening Scheme upto November 1979.

(h) Organisations of Owners and Employees in the Field of Transport and Communications

The transport owners and workers/employees of transport companies/departments do not have any registered organisation in the district, except the Rickshaw Workers Union, to promote their service interests and well being. Particulars of the Union of Rickshaw Workers functioning in the district are as under:

Name of Union	Date of registration
Rickshaw Workers Union, Barnala	.. 3 February 1976

APPENDIX-I

(Vide page 192)

Number of vehicles having valid registration in District Sangrur (As on 31 March)

Serial No.	Year	Goods Vehicles		Passenger Vehicles										Others	Total
		Four wheelers & above Trucks & Lorries	Three wheelers (including Tempos)	Four Wheelers and above											
				Buses	Cars & Station Wagons		Taxis	Jeeps	Three wheelers	Two wheelers	Tractors	Trailers			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
1	1974-75	..	544	2	150	136	..	96	7	1,310	263	1,710	203	4,421	
2	1975-76	..	611	2	162	173	..	98	7	1,530	594	1,969	203	5,349	
3	1976-77	..	658	2	175	239	..	111	7	1,870	1,130	2,397	203	6,792	
4	1977-78	..	690	2	184	279	..	158	10	2,179	1,967	2,397	203	8,069	
5	1978-79	..	778	10	201	313	5	178	10	2,610	4,524	2,397	230	11,256	
6	1979-80	..	873	14	224	372	6	189	12	3,198	6,405	2,397	242	13,932	
7	1980-81	..	1,011	103	240	430	10	199	3	4,058	8,802	2,423	141	17,420	

(Source: State Transport Commissioner, Punjab)

(Vide Page 194)

APPENDIX II

Bus Routes Operated by the Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Sangrur Depot, as on 31 March 1978

Serial No.	Name of Route	Number of Daily Trips	Route length (km)	Total Daily Service (km)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Barnala-Patiala	..	96	576
2	Patiala-Patran	..	58	232
3	Dhuri-Chandigarh	..	142	284
4	Ludhiana-Jind	..	203	406
5	Sunam-Mansa	..	46	184
6	Sangrur-Ahmedgarh	..	51	306
7	Sangrur-Ludhiana via Malerkotla	..	80	800
8	Sangrur-Jind	..	121	484
9	Sangrur-Patran	..	42	504
10	Barnala-Moga	..	67	1,206
11	Barnala-Himmatpura	..	32	256
12	Barnala-Baloke-Rampura	..	49	392
13	Barnala-Raikot	..	38	456
14	Ludhiana-Hissar	..	235	1,410
15	Sangrur-Patiala	..	56	448
16	Sangrur-Mansa via Barnala	..	85	170
17	Barnala-Gehlan	..	27	108
18	Sangrur-Raikot via Barnala	..	78	312
19	Barnala-Sangrur	..	40	160
20	Sangrur-Ludhiana via Jodha, Narahgwal	..	93	1,116
21	Sangrur-Rampur Ganauta	..	106	424
22	Barnala-Baghpurana	..	62	124
23	Barnala-Kauria	..	56	224
24	Sangrur-Lehragaga	..	59	472
25	Sangrur-Sular	..	21	168
26	Samana-Patran	..	26	52
27	Sangrur-Mansa via Sunam	..	67	134

Serial No.	Name of Route	Number of Daily Trips	Route length (km)	Total Daily Service (km)
1	2	3	4	5
28	Mansa-Rampura	..	51	102
29	Sunam-Khanauri (via Mahlan)	..	56	448
30	Sangrur-Moonak	..	75	300
31	Sangrur-Dhuri	..	16	128
32	Patiala-Lehragaga	..	112	448
33	Malerkotla-Bassi (Via Jaurepul)	..	78	156
34	Malerkotla-Chandigarh	..	121	484
35	Sangrur-Mansa (via Lehragaga)	..	117	936
36	Dhuri-Nabha	..	53	212
37	Raikot-Khana-Rupnagar	..	129	258
38	Barnala -Ahmedgarh (via Raikot)	..	62	248
39	Sangrur-Dhadrian	..	40	160
40	Sangrur-Jaurepul (via Bagarian)	..	59	236
41	Jaurepul-Khanna	..	30	120
42	Barnala-Sirhind	..	125	500
43	Malerkotla-Bassi	..	90	360
44	Sangrur-Sunam (via Upli)	..	18	144
45	Sangrur-Budhlada (via Dhanaula)	..	73	146
46	Sangrur-Budhlada (via Sunam)	..	62	248
47	Sangrur-Samana (via Bhawanigarh)	..	44	176
48	Sangrur-Chandigarh (via Chuni)	..	138	552
49	Sunam-Samana	..	50	200
50	Sangrur-Chandigarh	..	126	504
51	Sangrur-Ludhiana (non-stop) Does not enter city	2	73	292
52	Sangrur-Raikot via Malerkotla	..	70	280
53	Barnala-Moonak-Handa Kudni	..	114	456
54	Barnala-Sunam	..	39	156
55	Barnala-Mansa	..	51	612
56	Barnala-Sirsa	..	120	2,400
57	Mansa-Sirsa	..	69	3,864
58	Barnala-Jakhal	..	112	224

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1	2	3	4	5
59	Sangrur-Delhi ..	1	257	514
60	Mansa-Kalian ..	1	64	128
61	Sangrur-Samrala ..	2	95	380
62	Sangrur-Malaudh ..	2	59	236
63	Sangrur-Dhuri-Sherpur ..	4	34	272
64	Sangrur-Dhuri-Amargarh ..	6	44	528
65	Barnala-Dhuri ..	8	34	544
66	Ahmedgarh-Chandigarh ..	2	106	424
67	Sunam-Khanauri (via Khokhar or Gobindgarh Khokhar) ..	2	91	364
68	Sunam-Khanauri up to Arno ..	2	104	416
69	Malerkotla-Bathan ..	4	17	136
70	Malerkotla-Barnala ..	8	50	800
71	Malerkotla-Dhuri ..	2	16	64
72	Sangrur-Bhawanigarh ..	2	19	76
73	Barnala-Chadanwal Raikot ..	4	45	360
74	Sangrur-Sunam (via Mahlan) ..	2	21	84
75	Dhuri-Patiala (via Saron) ..	2	67	268
76	Barnala-Dhaner ..	2	42	168
77	Barnala-Ahmedgarh (via Hamidi) ..	2	76	304
78	Barnala-Budhlada (via Bhikhi) ..	2	56	224
79	Barnala-Malerkotla (via Hamidi) ..	2	57	228
80	Patiala-Khilrian ..	2	112½	450
81	Dhuri-Samana ..	4	56	448
82	Sangrur-Barnala (via Kattu) ..	7	46	644
83	Malerkotla-Chandigarh (via Samrala) ..	1	115	230
84	Sangrur-Sultanpur ..	1	189	378
85	Malerkotla-Ludhiana ..	1	48	96
86	Malerkotla-Khanna ..	3	51	306
87	Sangrur-Budhlada (via Jekhepa)l ..	4	58	464
88	Sangrur-Dhuri (via Saron) ..	3	21	126
89	Barnala-Tapa ..	2	21	84
90	Barnala-Rureke ..	2	17	68

COMMUNICATIONS

1	2	3	4	5
91	Sangrur-Samana (via Dirba) ..	2	56	224
92	Sangrur -Samana (via Bhatiwai) ..	2	53	212
93	Sunam-Samana (via Dirba) ..	3	60	360
94	Sangrur-Gurdaspur ..	1	250	500
95	Sangrur-Nangal ..	1	196	392
96	Rampura-Chandigarh ..	1	219	438
97	Sangrur-Abohar-Ganganagar ..	1	240	480
98	Sangrur-Khanauri (via Jakhal) ..	3	109	654
99	Barnala-Moga (via Thikriwala) ..	1	67	134
100	Sunam-Bareta (via Dialpura) ..	2	50	200
101	Samana-Khilrian ..	2	86	344
102	Amritsar-Rohtak ..	1	409	818
103	Amritsar-Jind ..	1	351	702
104	Samana-Chika ..	4	23	184
105	Mansa-Sangha ..	3	58	348
106	Mansa-Jhanda ..	3	48	288
107	Ludhiana-Sherpur ..	1	68	136
108	Malerkotla (Kanganpur) ..	3	15	90
109	Barnala-Malerkotla (via Hathan) ..	2	41	164
110	Sunam-Amritsar (via Barnala, Moga) ..	1	218	436
111	Sunam-Chandigarh ..	1	136	272
112	Sunam-Bathinda (via Heron) ..	2	114	456
113	Dialgarh-Chandigarh (via Longowal) ..	1	163	326
114	Moonak-Chandigarh ..	1	180	360
115	Malerkotla-Wagha Border (via Amritsar) ..	1	259	518
116	Barnala-Chandigarh (via Sherpur) ..	2	173	692
117	Sangrur-Akbar pur(via Nagra) ..	2	25	100
118	Sangrur-Akbarpur (via Sargheri) ..	2	25	100
119	Sunam-Lehra (via Pishor Bhaika) ..	2	32	128
120	Sangrur-Lehra (via Ubhawal) ..	2	67	268
121	Lehra-Budhlada (via Gidrani) ..	2	30	120
122	Sangrur-Raikot (via Kutba-Shahbazpur) ..	2	85	340

(Source: Depot Manager, Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Sangrur)

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 194)

Bus Routes operated by Private Transport Companies in Sangrur District
as on 31 March 1978

Serial No.	Name of Transport Company	Name of Route	Number of daily trips	Route Length (km)	Total daily Service (km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	The Randhawa Transport Service (Regd.), Sangrur	Nabha-Malerkotla (via Sangrur)	1	73	146
		Sangrur-Khilrian (via Lehra)	1	76	152
		Sunam-Khilrian	1	72	144
		Sunam-Samana (via Prem Singh Wala)	1	60	120
		Samana-Bhawanigarh	1	23	46
		Sangrur-Bhawanigarh (via Mahlan, Nagra)	1	36	72
2	The Pal Bus Service (Regd.), Sangrur	Dhuri-Nabha	2	53	212
		Ludhiana-Sangrur	2	80	320
		Longowal-Chheetanwala	1	57	114
		Sangrur-Bareta	3	78	468
		Sangrur-Lehra (via Cheema)	3	55	330
		Sangrur-Barnala (via Pharwahi)	1	48	96
		Dhuri-Dhanaula	2	45	180
		Sangrur-Lehra (via Namol)	1	58	116
3	The Pal Transport Service (Regd.), Sangrur	Dhuri-Nabha	2	53	212
		Sangrur-Akbarpur (via Sohian)	2	19	76
		Sunam-Arno (via Dirba)	1	69	138
4	The Sardar Bus Service (Regd.), Sangrur	Sangrur-Samana (via Khanal Kamalpur)	2	54	216
		Sangrur-Samana (via Dirba, Shafipur)	4	52	416
		Sangrur-Bhawanigarh (via Mahlan Gharachon)	2	36	144

Sr. No.	Name of Transport Company	Name of Route	Number of Daily Trips	Route Length (km)	Total Daily Service (km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
5	The Tochi Transport Company (Regd.), Sangrur	Sangrur-Khilrian (via Lehra)	1	76	152
		Sunam-Samana (via Dirba)	1	60	120
		Sangrur-Samana via Sular Gharat)	2	54	216
6	The Rai Bus Service (Regd.), Sangrur	Nabha-Dhuri	4	53	424
		Sangrur-Akbarpur	2	21	84
7	The Sangrur Progressive Workers Co-operative Transport Society, Ltd., Sangrur	Sangrur-Fatehgarh (via Dhadrian)	3	67	402
		Sangrur-Longowal (via Duggan)	1	26	52
8	The Libra Bus Service Private Ltd., Malerkotla	Malerkotla-Bathinda (via Sunam)	2	158	632
		Ludhiana to Bathinda (via Sunam)	2	206	824
		Malerkotla-Bathinda (via Barnala)	2	140	560
		Ludhiana-Bathinda (via Barnala)	1	180	360
		Bathinda-Barnala	6	72	864
		Malerkotla-Bassi	1	84	168
		Ludhiana-Dirba	1	107	214
9	The Malwa Transport Company (P) Ltd., Barnala	Sangrur-Mansa	3	92	552
		Barnala-Bathinda	3	72	432
		Barnala-Mansa	1	51	102
		Barnala-Gehlan	4½	26	234
		Barnala-Dhuri	1	34	68
10	Bhadaur Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Bathinda (via Bhadaur, Baja Khana)	1	96	192
11	The Indra Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Bathinda	2	72	288
		Barnala-Sangrur (via Kattu)	2	40	160
12	Bhupindra Transport Service (Regd), Barnala	Barnala-Talwandi	1	84½	169

Serial No.	Name of the Transport Company	Name of Route	Number of Daily Trips	Route Length (km)	Total Daily Service (km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
13	Luxmi Bus Service (Regd.), Raikot H.O. Barnala	Barnala-Bhikhi	3	37	222
		Barnala-Budhlada	3	57	342
		Sangrur-Talwandi Sabo	1	126	252
14	The Dhaliwal Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Jagraon	3	64	384
15	The Sidhu Transport Service (Regd.), Barnala	Ludhiana-Bathinda	1	153	306
		Barnala-Ludhiana (via Pakhowal)	3	80	480
		Barnala-Bathinda	2	72	288
		Barnala-Malerkotla	1	50	100
		Barnala-Jagraon	3	60	360
16	The Deol Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Bathinda	2	72	288
17	The Walia Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Sangrur	3	41	246
		Barnala-Sangrur (via Kattu)	1	40	80
		Barnala-Sangrur (via Bathlan)	2	40	160
		Barnala-Sunam (via Longowal)	2	42	168
		Barnala-Kahorian	2	58	232
		Sangrur-Mansa-Talwandi	1	123	246
		Barnala-Malerkotla	1	50	100
		Barnala-Dhanaula	4	11	88
		Barnala-Bhikhi	1	37	74
		Barnala-Bhikhi-Budhlada	2	57	228
18	The Hind Motors (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Khanna	2	108	432
		Barnala-Bhadaur	1	28	56
		Bhadaur-Sangrur	1	68	136
		Barnala-Muktsar	2	84	336
		Barnala-Dhuri	1	34	68
19	The Punjab Motors (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Mansa-Talwandi	2	84½	33

Serial No.	Name of the Transport Company	Name of Route	Number of Daily Trips	Route Length (km)	Total Daily Service (km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
20	The Karamgarh Transport Company (Regd.), Bhadaur	Bhadaur-Sangrur	2	68	272
		Barnala-Bhadaur	2	28	112
		Barnala-Sangrur	1	41	82
		Barnala-Rampur (via Bhadaur)	1	58	116
21	The Kamal Bus Service (Regd.), Sunam	Sunam-Budhlada	9	39	702
		Sunam-Bareta	2	45	180
		Budhlada-Patiala	1	100	200
22	The Amandeep Bus Service (Regd.), Sunam	Sunam-Barnala-Fatehgarh	2	65	260
		Sunam-Barnala	2	42	168
		Moonak-Mansa	2	93	372
		Sunam-Satauj	2	22	88
23	The Dhuri Bus Service (Regd.), Dhuri	Malerkotla-Barnala (via Samire, Cheema Sherpur)	1	60	120
		Barnala-Dhuri (via Shekha)	1	34	68
		Dhuri-Raikot (via Karor, Chhapar)	2	72	288
		Dhuri-Raikot (via Kharoch, Chhapar)	6	63	756
		Dhuri-Kutwa, Raikot	2	72	288
24	The Prem Co-operative Transport Society, Bhadaur	Barnala-Rampura (via Salabatpura)	2	59	236
		Barnala-Bhadaur	2	28	112
		Barnala-Jaito-Muktsar	3	112	672
		Bhadaur-Rampura	3	40	240
		Bhadaur-Nihal Singhwala	2	19	76
		Barnala-Rampura (via New Road Sehna)	1	46	92
		Rampura-Bhodipura	1	40	80
25	The Sunam Bus Service (Regd.), Sunam	Sunam-Barnala-Dirba (via Longowal)	2	63	252
		Sunam-Barnala	2	42	168
26	The Akal Bus Service (Regd.), Ahmedgarh	Barnala-Ahmedgarh (via Malerkotla)	1	80	160

Sr. No.	Name of Transport Company	Name of Route	Number of Daily Trips	Route Length (km)	Total Daily Service (km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
27	The Ahmedgarh Transport Company (Regd.), Ahmedgarh	Barnala-Ahmedgarh (via Malerkotla)	2	80	320
28	The Barnala Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Sangrur-Barnala	1	41	82
		Barnala-Bathinda	3	72	432
		Barnala-Jagraon (via Hathur)	3	64	384
29	The Bhupindra Transport Company (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Mansa	1	51	102
30	The Sandhu Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Chak-Bhai-Ka-Raikot	2	46	69
31	The Satnam Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Sangrur-Barnala	2	41	164
32	The Ashoka Bus Service (Regd.), Bhadaur	Barnala-Bhadaur	1	28	56
		Barnala-Jawahar Singhwala (via Chark)	4	48	384
		Barnala-Moga (via Jawahar Singhwala Chark)	4	81	648
33	The Indian Bus Service (Regd.), Malerkotla	Barnala-Malerkotla (via Sangrur)	2	72	288
		Nabha-Malerkotla (via Chaudhri Majra)	1	51	102
		Bassi-Ahmedgarh (via Payal)	2½	78	390
		Sirhind-Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (via Morinda)	3	48	288
		Ahmedgarh-Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar	1	109	109
		Bassi-Malerkotla (via Sehora)	2½	81	405
		Bassi-Malerkotla-Ahmedgarh	2½	107	535
34	The Preet Bus Service (Regd.), Sunam	Ludhiana-Ahmedgarh-Bathinda (via Sunam)	2	206	824
		Malerkotla-Bathinda (via Sunam)	2	158	632
		Sunam-Bathinda	1	96	192
		Sangrur-Ludhiana (via Malerkotla)	1	80	160
		Sangrur-Khanauri (via Sunam, Moonak)	1	104	208

Serial No.	Name of Transport Company	Name of Route	Number of Daily Trips	Route Length (km)	Total Daily Service (km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
35	The Dhaliwal Roadways (Regd.), Bhawanigarh	Sangrur-Bhawanigarh (via Mahlan, Nagra, Charachon)	1	36	72
		Sangrur-Patiala	1	56	112
		Patiala-Sunam	1	66	132
		Patiala-Ghurama	1	39	78
36	The Rekhi Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Bathinda	2	72	288
37	The Prem Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Bathinda (via Bhadaur)	1	96	192
38	The Gobind Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Bhikhi-Budhlada	2	57	228
		Barnala-Bhikhi	1	37	74
		Barnala-Bhikhi (via Hadiaya)	1	36	72
39	The Manjit Bus Service (Regd.), Bhadaur	Bhadaur-Rampura (via Phul)	3	30	180
40	The Bhadaur Bus Service (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Bathinda (via Bhadaur)	1	96	192
		Barnala-Sangrur	3	41	246
41	The Preet Roadways (Regd.), Sunam	Patiala-Fatehgarh (via Sunam)	1	90	180
42	The Bharat Motors (Regd.), Barnala	Barnala-Faridkot	1	90	180
43	The Fatehgarh Roadways (Regd.), Malerkotla	Bassi-Malerkotla (via Saraud, Daud)	1	84	168
		Bassi-Malerkotla (via Jarg)	1	78	156
44	The Sangrur Bus Service Private Ltd., Sangrur	Nabha-Dhuri (via Bagrian)	1	53	106

(Source : Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Patiala)

APPENDIX IV

(Vide page 195)

Railway Passengers Traffic in Sangrur District, 1977-78

Serial No.	Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings		
		Outward (Nos.)	Inward (Nos.)	Passengers (Rs)	Parcels (Rs)	
Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal-Hissar Branch Line						
1	Ahmedgarh	..	3,587	52,267	52,597	6,799
2	Rohira Halt	..	4,265	3,717	2,413	..
3	Kup	..	7,706	7,744	4,761	25
4	Malerkotla	..	24,045	20,817	61,890	72,504
5	Himtana	..	11,162	6,920	6,340	25
6	Dhuri	..	39,46,217	7,09,234	16,44,028	65,903
7	Bahadur Singh Wala	..	28,672	26,627	25,282	160
8	Sangrur	..	34,773	30,841	97,029	4,300
9	Bharur	..	1,917	1,630	1,200	..
10	Sunam	..	6,90,712	5,47,430	9,02,921	80,907
11	Chhajli	..	8,810	5,755	4,231	66
12	Gobindgarh Khokhar	..	12,998	6,687	5,112	6
13	Lehragaga	..	45,938	41,267	45,662	2,082
14	Gurne	..	7,610	6,374	5,939	..
Bathinda-Ambala Cantt. Branch Line						
1	Tapa	..	15,045	7,382	21,119	892
2	Ghunas Halt	..	2,466	820	1,604	3
3	Hadiaya	..	6,017	3,293	5,785	190
4	Barnala	..	49,953	57,208	1,66,069	2,372
5	Sekha	..	5,354	517	4,492	11
6	Alal	..	7,309	1,118	7,248	64
7	Rajo Majra	..	3,006	1,420	2,786	2
8	Dhuri	..	39,46,217	7,09,234	16,44,028	65,903
9	Kaulseri	..	5,207	2,850	3,856	7

(Source : The Station Masters)

APPENDIX V

(Vide page 195)

Railway Goods Traffic in Sangrur District, 1977-78

Serial No.	Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings		
		Outward (Qts)	Inward (Qts)	Outward (Rs)	Inward (Rs)	
Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal-Hissar Line						
1	Ahmedgarh	..	64,929	25,187	5,30,132	4,37,643
2	Rohira Halt	..	..	..	..	..
3	Kup	..	..	..	..	..
4	Malerkotla	..	6,77,592	2,88,360	5,52,456	1,48,477
5	Himtana	..	..	..	..	..
6	Dhuri	..	8,74,698	3,42,889	79,39,726	9,68,322
7	Bahadur Singh Wala	..	..	..	..	..
8	Sangrur	..	1,17,326	1,79,391	5,44,579	9,31,431
9	Bharur	..	..	..	..	..
10	Sunam	..	8,12,111	2,49,754	69,52,402	23,01,190
11	Chhajli	..	1	185	..	..
12	Gobindgarh Khokhar	..	..	..	..	..
13	Lehragaga	..	12,000	4,000	65,590	84,591
14	Gurne	..	..	..	..	..
Bathinda-Ambala Cantt. Line						
1	Tapa	..	30,842	16,000	3,40,450	3,519
2	Ghunas Halt	..	..	..	..	..
3	Hadiaya	..	59	705	6,181	7,709
4	Barnala	..	92,163	68,828	11,27,777	36,39,710
5	Sekha	..	..	..	..	..
6	Alal	..	660	..	2,472	..
7	Rajo Majra	..	..	..	..	..
8	Dhuri	..	8,74,698	3,42,889	79,39,726	9,68,322
9	Kaulseri	..	..	..	..	..

(Source : The Station Masters)

(Vide page 197)

Dak Bungalows, Inspection Bungalows and Rest Houses in Sangrur District, as on 31 March 1978

Serial No.	Place	No. of Suites	Reserving Authority
Tahsil Sangrur			
1	Sainik Rest House, Sangrur ..	7	Secretary, Zila Sainik Board, Sangrur
2	P.W.D. (B & R), Rest House, Sangrur	4	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B&R), Sangrur
3	Zamindara Rest House, Sangrur ..	7	Secretary, Market Committee, Sangrur
4	Zamindara Rest House, Bhawani-garh	2	Secretary, Market Committee, Bhawani-garh
5	Canal Rest House, Nadampur ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B) Sangrur
6	Canal Rest House, Longowal ..	2	Ditto
7	Canal Rest House, Sheron ..	2	Ditto
Tahsil Barnala			
8	P.W.D. (B&R), Rest House, Barnala	4	Executive Engineer P.W.D. (B&R), Barnala
9	Canal Rest House, Sehna ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Bathinda
10	Canal Rest House, Kaire ..	2	Ditto
11	Canal Rest House, Patti Daraka ..	2	Ditto
12	Canal Rest House, Hadiaya ..	2	Ditto
13	Canal Rest House, Harigarh ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Sangrur
14	Canal Rest House, Pandheran ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Bathinda
15	Canal Rest House, Dadahur ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Bathinda
16	Canal Rest House, Gehal ..	2	Ditto
17	Canal Rest House, Bazidke ..	2	Ditto
18	Canal Rest House, Kurer ..	2	Ditto
19	Zamindara Rest House, Barnala ..	4	Secretary, Market Committee, Barnala
20	Canal Rest House, Badra ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Sangrur
21	Zamindara Rest House, Tapa ..	3	Secretary, Market Committee, Tapa

Serial No.	Place	No. of Suites	Reserving Authority
Tahsil Malerkotla			
22	P.W.D. Rest House, Malerkotla ..	4	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B&R) Malerkotla
23	Zamindara Rest House, Malerkotla	4	Secretary, Market Committee, Malerkotla
24	Zamindara Rest House, Dhuri ..	2	Secretary, Market Committee, Dhuri
25	Zamindara Rest House, Ahmedgarh	4	Secretary, Market Committee, Ahmedgarh
26	Canal Rest House, Rani Ke ..	3	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Bathinda
27	Canal Rest House, Babanpur ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Sangrur
28	Canal Rest House, Mahorana ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Patiala
29	Canal Rest House, Kalian Kothi ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Patiala
Tahsil Sunam			
30	P.W.D. Rest House, Lehragaga ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B&R), Sangrur
31	Zamindara Rest House, Lehragaga	3	Secretary, Market Committee, Lehragaga
32	Zamindara Rest House, Sunam ..	2	Secretary, Market Committee, Lehragaga
33	Canal Rest House, Nilowal ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Lehal, Patiala
34	Canal Rest House, Dialpura alias Sangatiwala	3	Ditto
35	Canal Rest House, Gujran ..	2	Ditto
36	Canal Rest House, Khanal Kalan ..	2	Ditto
37	Canal Rest House, Sangatpura ..	3	Ditto
38	Canal Rest House, Kotra Lehlan ..	3	Ditto
39	Canal Rest House, Phulad ..	2	Ditto
40	Canal Rest House, Lehal Kalan ..	2	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (I.B), Lehal, Patiala
41	Canal Rest House, Phulera ..	3	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Lehal, Patiala
42	Canal Rest House, Khanauri ..	2	Executive Engineer, Bhakra Main Line, Patiala
43	Canal Rest House, Rorewala ..	3	Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Lehal, Patiala

(Source : District, Statistical Officer, Sangrur)

APPENDIX VII

(Vide page 197)

Post Offices in Sangrur District, as on 31 March 1978

Head Post Office	Branch Post Office
1 Sangrur, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Bardu Khan
	2 Bahadarpur
	3 Balian
	4 Chatta Sekhwan
	5 Duggan
	6 Gagarpur
	7 Gurusar Mastuana
	8 Hermitage
	9 Kheri
	10 Mangwal
	11 Mehlan
	12 Ubhawal
	13 Upli
Sub-Post Offices	
1 Ahmedgarh Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Jandali Khurd
	2 Maholi Kalan
	3 Nathu Majra
	4 Rohira
2 Ahmedgarh Anaj Mandi, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Delivery from Ahmedgarh	
3 Akalgarh, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Balran
	2 Bangan
	3 Chural Kalan
	4 Dehla
	5 Dudian
	6 Dhindsa
	7 Lehal Kalan
	8 Rai Dhirana
	9 Rampura Gujran

Head Post Office	Branch Post Office
4 Amargarh, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Batha
	2 Chaunda
	3 Dhadogal
	4 Jati Majra
5 Barnala Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Bazidke Khurd
	2 Bhadal Wadh
	3 Chuhanke Kalan
	4 Karamgarh
	5 Raisar
	6 Sanghera
	7 Thikriwala
	8 Pharwahi
6 Barnala Kuchery, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office, Delivery from Barnala	
7 Bhadaur, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Jangiana
	2 Talwandi
8 Bhawanigarh, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Aloarkh
	2 Balad Kalan
	3 Bhatiwai Kalan
	4 Batriona
	5 Chano
	6 Gharachon
	7 Kakra
	8 Kapial
	9 Majhi
	10 Nadampur
	11 Nagra
	12 Sakrodi
9 Chhajli, Sub Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Pishor Bhaika
	2 Chhahar
	3 Gandhwan
	4 Gobindgarh Khokhar
	5 Kauhrian
	6 Lad banjara
	7 Mojowal
	8 Nangla
	9 Rogla
	10 Ugrahan

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Head Post Office	Branch Post Office
10 College Road Barnala, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Delivery from Barnala	
11 Dhanaula, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Bhaini Jassa 2 Bhathlan 3 Dangarh 4 Harigarh 5 Kaleke 6 Kattu 7 Kot Duna 8 Pandheran
12 Dhuri, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Badshahpur 2 Bamal 3 Bani Bhauri 4 Bararwal 5 Bhalwan 6 Bhasaur 7 Bhallarheri 8 Bhojowali 9 Changli 10 Ghanaur Khurd 11 Ghanaur Kalan 12 Harchand Pura 13 Jhalur 14 Kaheru 15 Kumbharwal 16 Mulowal 17 Rajo Majra 18 Rampur Chhavan 19 Sekha 20 Rangian
13 Dirba, Sub-Office, Public Calls Office	1 Gujran 2 Janal 3 Khadyal 4 Khanal Kalan 5 Khetla 6 Mauran 7 Sular Gharat
14 Hadiaya, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Dhaula 2 Dhurkot 3 Kahneke 4 Khudi Kalan 5 Pakho Kalan 6 Rureke Kalan
15 Hospital Road Sangrur, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Delivery from Sangrur H.O.	
16 Industrial Area Malerkotla, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Delivery from Malerkotla	
17 Ladda, Sub-Office	1 Benra 2 Hussainpura 3 Qila Hakimian 4 Kanjhala 5 Punawal 6 Saron

Head Post Office	Branch Post Office
18 Lal Bazar Malerkotla, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Delivery from Malerkotla	
19 Lehragaga, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Bhutal Kalan 2 Daska 3 Gidrani 4 4.Gobindpura Jawaharwala 5 Ghoranab 6 Haryau 7 Phulera 8 Sangatpura
20 Longowal, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Badbar 2 Balian 3 Bhaini Mahraj 4 Namol 5 Saron 6 Sahoke
21 Malerkotla, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Ban Bhaura 2 Bhogiwal 3 Bhurthala 4 Gowara 5 Haidar Nagar 6 Hathan 7 Himtana 8 Hussainpura 9 Khanpur 10 Kup Kalan 11 Lasoi 12 Manvi 13 Mubarakpur 14 Rurki Kalan 15 Saraud
22 Mahal Kalan, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Chananwal 2 Chhiniwal 3 Chhapa 4 Kalal Majra 5 Kurar 6 Mahal Khurd
23 New City Sunam, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Delivery from Sunam	
24 New Grain Market, Sangrur, Non-Delivery, Town Sub -Office, Delivery from Sangrur H.O.	
25 Pakki Khanori, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Andana 2 Bhulan 3 Mandvi
26 Sehna, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Cheema 2 Jodhpur 3 Nainewala 4 Pakboke 5 Sandhu Kalan

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Head Post Office	Branch Post Office
27 Sangrur, Sub-Office	1 Bhudan 2 Fatehgarh 3 Jhuheri 4 Khurd 5 Kangan pur 6 Mohamadpur 7 Manki
28 Sherpur, Sub-Office	1 Guram 2 Hamidi 3 Herike 4 Kheri Chablan 5 Nangal 6 Tiulewal 7 Tibba
29 Sunam, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Rakshiwala 2 Cheema 3 Dharamgarh 4 Jekhepal 5 Jharon 6 Khadial 7 Kilowal
30 Sunam City, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	
31 Sangrur Kuchery, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Delivery from Sangrur, H.O.	
32 Sangrur Road Dhuri, Non-Delivery, Town Sub-Office, Delivery from Dhuri	
33 Tapa, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office,	1 Dhilwan 2 Ghunas 3 Mauran 4 Tajoke 5 Ugoke
34 Talewal, Sub-Office	1 Bakhatgarh 2 Bhotna 3 Bihla 4 Chak Bhaike 5 Dewana 6 Gehal 7 Moom 8 Ramgarh
35 Bagrian, Combined Office	Moolabada
36 Nabha, Sub-Office, Combined Office, Public Call Office	1 Bhatian Khurd 2 Kandhargarh 3 Mimsa

(Source : Senior Superintendent, Post Offices, Patiala Division, Patiala)

Combined Post and Telegraph Office in the Sangrur District as on 31 March 1978

- 1 Ahmedgarh
- 2 Akalgarh
- 3 Amargarh
- 4 Barnala
- 5 Barnala Kuchery
- 6 Bhadaur
- 7 Bhawanigarh
- 8 Chhajli
- 9 Dhanaula
- 10 Dhuri
- 11 Hadiaya
- 12 Lehragaga
- 13 Longowal
- 14 Malerkotla
- 15 Mahal Kaler
- 16 Pakki Kharauri
- 17 Sangrur
- 18 Sehna
- 19 Suler Gharat
- 20 Sunam
- 21 Sunam City
- 22 Tapa

(Source : Senior Superintendent, Post Offices, Patiala Division, Patiala)

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The principal sectors of economy, viz., agriculture, industry, trade and transport provide means of livelihood to a large majority of the population. They do not, however, cover the whole field of economic activity. There is an appreciable percentage of the population which earns its livelihood by following small crafts and other occupations such as haircutting, tailoring, laundry, education, legal services, etc. A brief account of certain selected miscellaneous occupations, not mentioned elsewhere in this Gazetteer, is given in this chapter. The statistical data pertain to the Census of 1961 as the same are not available in the 1971 Census due to classificational changes brought by the Census Department. However, wherever possible, latest data have been included. The data pertaining to the sections 'Personal and Domestic Services' and 'Miscellaneous Services' have been collected through various municipal committees in the district.

(a) Public Administration

Central, State and Local Government Services.—Occupations connected with the public administration are vital to a smooth running of civic activities in the district. With the increase in population the Government—Central and State—have taken up various developmental projects/schemes, for the welfare of the people. More and more departments/offices are being established to look after these activities. As a result of this expansion, the number of persons entering Government service is also increasing. On 31 March 1978, there were 18,008 Punjab Government employees working in various offices of the State Government. Besides, a good number of employees were working in the Central Government, and in quasi-Government offices in the district.

More and more people are opting for Government service because it is relatively secure, besides making one entitled to benefits such as the family pension on death, pension on retirement, gratuity, general provident fund, medical reimbursement, casual and earned leave. Married female Government employees are entitled to full-pay maternity leave for up to three children. Government loans are also available to its employees for the purchase of vehicles and for the purchase/construction of houses. Free liveries are provided to Class IV employees. The Central Government employees are entitled to avail themselves of Leave Travel

Concession, alongwith members of the family, to visit any place in the country in a block of four years.

Public Employees Organisations.—The following public employees' organisations which exist in the district have been formed by the employees to look after their interests:

- 1 Sangrur Central Co-operative Bank Employees' Union, Sangrur
- 2 District Sangrur Municipal Employees' Union, Dhuri
- 3 Municipal Services Union, Railway Road, Ahmedgarh
- 4 District Trade Employees Union, Dhuri

(b) Learned Professions

The learned professions include teaching, medical, legal, engineering, etc. The information in respect of their role in the district is given below:

Teaching.—With the increase in the number of educational institutions in the district, job opportunities in the teaching profession have also increased. As a result, more and more persons are adopting teaching as a profession. As per Census of 1961, there were 3,672 persons working as teachers in the district. On 30 September 1977, 3,061 (2,143 males and 918 females) teachers were working in 858 schools of all categories. Besides, 214 persons were working as teachers in the 9 colleges in the district in 1977-78.

The college lecturers are paid the scales approved by the University Grants Commission (U.G.C.). Their present scale of pay as recommended by the U.G.C. is 700—40—1300/(Assessment) 1600. The school level teachers in the district are being paid as per the recommendations of the Second Pay Commission. The pay scales of various categories of school teachers as recommended by the Second Pay Commission are:

School Lecturer	.. Rs 700—1300
D.P.E.	.. Rs 700—1200
B.A.B.Ed.	.. Rs 620—1200
J.B.T.	.. Rs 480—880

Medical.—The medical profession has become more popular during the last fifty years or so. There has been considerable increase in the number of medical practitioners and consultants during this period as the people have become more conscious about their health. There are doctors, physicians and surgeons, dentists, nurses, etc. working in various hospitals and dispensaries in the district. Doctors are also running their private clinics and nursing homes.

There were, as on 1 January 1978, 307 doctors, 145 midwives, 91 nurses and 600 *dais*, working in the 97 allopathic medical institutions in the district. Besides, 32 Vaidis, 3 Hakims, 26 Up-Vaidis, and 32 Trained *dais* were also working in 32 Ayurvedic/Unani medical institutions.

Legal.—Persons opting for legal profession are mostly concentrated in urban areas of the district. The legal profession is manned by judges, barristers, advocates and *munshis*. It is a high-income occupation and attracts a number of persons who render legal assistance to the people. According to the 1961 Census, the number of legal practitioners and advisers in the district was 174. On 31 March 1978, there were 5 bar associations functioning at Sangrur, Barnala, Malerkotla, Sunam and Dhuri with a membership of 262 lawyers in the district.

Engineering.—People are also adopting engineering as a profession because it is highly technical in nature and is well paid. Details of the persons employed in engineering services in various Government Departments have been given in Chapter XIII 'Other Departments'. Besides, a good number of persons have adopted the profession of contractors and architects or consulting engineers. According to the 1961 Census, the number of overseers, architects, engineers and surveyors in the district was 198 which rose to 283 on 31 March 1978.

Artists, Writers, Musicians and related Workers.—According to the 1961 Census, the number of artists, writers, musicians and related workers in the district was 583.

(c) Personal and Domestic Services

These services include barbers, washermen, launderers, tailors, water-carriers, weavers, cobblers, carpenters and the like which employ a considerable number of persons. The services provided by persons of these categories are no doubt of an essential nature, but the number of

persons employed in these services has decreased over the years. This is attributable to two factors—people's preference for quality service, and low-paid persons' preference for other skilled or semi-skilled jobs which are more remunerative.

Barbers.—Earlier in rural areas the barber used to render services to the villagers on regular basis on a sort of contract for which he was paid in kind at the time of harvest; in some villages the practice does continue but with better terms in favour of the barber. In urban areas he used to visit houses of his clients daily and he was paid a fixed amount per month. But now this practice is fast disappearing. The barber also acts as a messenger on occasions of marriages and deaths. The wife of the barber called *nain* does some sort of periodical hair-cleaning and hairdressing of the women folk of the families to which the barber (*nai*) is attached.

In urban areas of the district, the hairdressing saloons/shops are becoming popular. Some of them are provided with modern equipment for haircutting and hairdressing, besides the radio-sets, magazines, fans, comfortable, chairs etc.

The number of barbers including hairdressers, beauticians and related workers in the district, according to the Census of 1961 was 1,370.

Washermen.—Washermen or *dhobis* form an important occupational class in the society. Their occupation, especially in the urban areas, has been adversely affected with the emergence of drycleaning shops. However, in the rural areas their job has not gone under any major change. He goes from house to house and collects, clothes for washing. After washing and pressing he returns the clothes to the concerned persons. In urban areas, however, the people have to go to the shop personally to deposit the clothes with the drycleaner and again to collect them. Their charges are generally higher than that of a washerman. The added advantage of the dry cleaning shops over the washerman is that the former can wash any kind of clothes—cotton, woollen, silken, etc. whereas the latter can wash only the cotton clothes.

As per the Census of 1961, there were 293 launderers, dry cleaners and pressers in the district.

Tailors.—The tailor is an indispensable unit of the society as it fulfils the primary need of the community to attire it according to its taste and fashion. While those in rural areas, prepare ordinary types of clothes worn by the villagers, the tailors in urban areas prepare clothes according to the taste and fashions prevalent in towns and cities. Well-to-do

persons, high income professionals and college students opt for quality stitching even if they have to pay more. If a tailor has been trained abroad or by a well-known expert, his charges for stitching will be higher as compared to those charged by other tailors. The stitching charges in urban areas are higher as compared to rural areas.

Most of the tailors have their own sewing machines and work independently. There are also some big tailoring concerns which get the work done on commission basis. In rural areas, the old practice of *darzi* (tailor) going to different houses for stitching the clothes on the occasion of marriage is being done away with.

The total number of tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers in the district, according to the 1961 Census, was 4,865.

Carpenters.—The carpenters make and repair wooden structures, doors, windows, chairs, and other building fixtures. The village carpenters make ploughs, carts, and other agricultural and domestic articles.

According to the 1961 Census, the number of carpenters, jointers, cabinet makers, coopers and related workers in the district was 4,696.

Cobblers.—The cobblers or *mochis* recondition old, wornout or defective footwears to make them serviceable. The experienced leather cutters, lasters and sewers make complete footwears like shoes, *chappals* and sandals. Some of them have small establishments, but their business in the district has been adversely affected in recent times with the availability of mechanized footwears manufactured in large factories.

According to the 1961 Census, the number of leather cutters, lasters and sewers, shoe-makers and shoe repairers in the district was 7,151 as per the Census of 1961.

Self-Employed Persons.—In this category of employment are included weavers, shoe-makers, potters, sweepers, handcart-pullers, porters at railway stations and bus stands, etc. They are spread over the district, but at Malerkotla proper and in the adjoining villages they are found in plenty.

Domestic Services.—The practice of employing domestic servants, both in urban and rural areas is still in vogue. However, since a few years, the number of domestic servants has been decreasing. The persons of mediocre means now find it difficult to afford domestic servants. Some of the house-holds, which used to keep domestic servants on

permanent basis, have started engaging part-time servants. These part-time servants work as utensils cleaners, washermen/washerwomen and *malis* (gardeners), etc. The wages of domestic servants in whole-time employment are Rs 30 to 50 per mensem in addition to free meals and clothing.

In urban areas, female domestic servants (*mais*) are engaged for full-time or part-time employment. Generally, women belonging to poor families adopt this profession to supplement their income. They are employed to do specified jobs such as washing of clothes or sweeping of houses or cleaning of utensils, etc. Such part-time female servants are paid Rs 20 to 30 per mensem in addition to sundry facilities provided by their employers.

According to the 1961 Census, the total number of house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers in the district was 1,432.

(d) Miscellaneous Services

Transport Services.—Transport plays a vital role in the economic and social life of the people. After independence of the country, transport services have enormously improved. Every village, in one way or the other, has been connected with the main roads or railway stations of the district. On 31 March 1978, there were 44 registered private transport companies operating in the district, besides the Pepsu Road Transport Corporation with depot at Sangrur. In addition to the bus service, the modes of transportation like taxis, rickshaws, scooter-rickshaws and tongas also render such services. The number of rickshaw-pullers in the district according to 1961 Census, was 160, which rose to 1,325 on 31 March 1978.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

(a) Livelihood Pattern, General Level of Prices and Wages and Standard of Living

Livelihood Pattern.—Sangrur is a predominantly agricultural district with 80 per cent of its population living in rural settlements. It is one of the backward districts of the State. Industrially too, it has been declared backward by the Government of India.

According to the 1971 Census, 31.32 per cent 98.80 per cent males and 1.20 per cent females) of the population of the district is engaged in various economic pursuits as against 28.87 per cent of the State. Compared to other districts in the State, Sangrur has the highest percentage of males participating in the work force. Out of the total work force of the district, 74.3 per cent are engaged in agriculture including livestock rearing, forestry etc., 7.7 per cent in industry, 6.5 per cent in trade, 1.6 per cent in transport, 1.6 per cent in construction and 8.3 per cent in other services.

On the basis of the economic activity pursued, the workers are further classified into 9 industrial categories as under :

Classification of Workers in Sangrur District according to the 1971-Census
Number of Persons according to the 1971 Census

Classification of workers according to professions	Rural		Urban		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1 Cultivators	1,71,413	250	11,329	57	1,82,742	309
2 Agricultural Labourers	67,228	181	6,109	130	73,337	311
3 Livestock-keeping, forestry fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities	9,308	35	835	9	10,143	44
4 Mining and Quarrying	44	1	—	—	44	1
5 Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs — (a) Household industry	13,253	358	1,958	93	15,211	451
(b) Manufacturing other than household industry	2,766	259	8,691	81	11,457	340
6 Construction	3,529	69	2,058	6	5,587	75
7 Trade and Commerce	7,997	22	15,335	88	23,332	110
8 Transport, Storage and Communications	1,686	2	3,871	60	5,557	62
9 Other services	14,496	751	12,917	1,864	27,413	2,615
Total Workers	2,91,720	1,930	63,103	2,388	3,54,823	4,318
10 Non-workers	2,07,110	4,12,994	61,157	1,06,248	2,68,267	5,19,242
Total Population	4,98,830	4,14,924	1,24,260	1,08,636	6,23,090	5,23,560
						11,46,650

(Census of 1971, Series 17 - Punjab, Parts X-A & B, Sangrur District Census Handbook, pp. 93-95)

The table indicates that out of the total population of 11,46,650 of the district, 3,59,141 were engaged in various types of economic activities, whereas the number of non-workers was 7,87,509. The ratio of workers to non-workers was 31.3 : 68.7 as against the corresponding ratio of 28.9 : 71.1 for the State. In other words, there were, for each worker, more than two persons dependent for their livelihood.

To accelerate the pace of development in rural areas, especially to create better living conditions, the Model Village Scheme was introduced in the State during 1969-70. The Scheme envisaged the all round development of a Model Village with regard to pavement of streets, construction of drains, metalling of approach roads, construction of *phirnis* (roads encircling the villages) and laying of kitchen garden.

In the Sangrur District, 73 villages were selected under the Model Village Scheme, and work in all these villages has been completed.

In order to make further improvement in the living standard of rural India, the Government of India have launched Integrated Rural Development Programme from 1978-79. At the instance of Government of India, the State Government have launched this Programme in the State. Under this programme, a cluster of 5 contiguous villages has been selected in each block in which agricultural production will be increased by 50 per cent and local resources would be fully developed to provide full and gainful employment to the people within a period of five years. In due course, more and more villages will be covered under this programme. These clusters will ultimately become focal growth-centres and the cluster-based process of development will extend to the entire rural areas in the State.

Briefly, the main objectives of this programme are to provide full employment and better standard of living by increasing farm production and by creating more opportunities of employment and higher level of income for all sections of rural community. Under this programme, extension staff has also been provided for educating the rural people about modern farm practices.

Among other things, the housing pattern also reflects the standard of living of the community. The provision of cheap and decent housing accommodation is the basic necessity of human life in civilized society. Most of dwellings in the urban areas of the district are pukka in which bathroom and latrine facilities are available. Houses in the modern colonies provide for all amenities of life. In the rural areas, the dwellings are mostly kutchha and in these, there is no provision of modern facilities.

According to the 1971 Census, the total number of households in the district was 1,88,299 (rural 1,46,087 and urban 42,212). The number of persons per household was 6.01. The break-up of the households, classified by number of members and by the number of rooms, is given in Appendix I, on page 240.

Prices and Wages.—The level of prices has bearing both on the real income and the standard of living of the people, because it is not the money income but the purchasing power thereof that matters.

Before the advent of railways and construction of roads, prices in India were governed by custom and status. There were big variations in prices from place to place and from season to season at the same place. But later on when the isolation of the Indian village was broken, India came in contact with the rest of the world through international trade and the world factors began to intervene in Indian prices.

The major portion of the present Sangrur District was a part of the erstwhile Jind State. The prices in this State were comparatively lower than those in the British Punjab. Average price of the chief staple food-grains for the 10 years ending 1903 in Sangrur District were as under :

Foodgrains	Prices
	(in sers per rupee)
Wheat	17
Gram	22
Barley	26
Maize	23
Dhan (Coarse-rice)	17
Pulses (Mung)	16
(Urd)	13

(Punjab States Gazetteers Vol. XVII A-Phulkian States, 1904 Patiala, Jind and Nabha, p. 284)

The rise in prices gathered momentum thereafter, especially during the First World War (1914-18). The failure of rains in 1918-19 and 1919-20 accentuated the situation and the prices reached their highest level in 1920. However, there was a downward trend during 1920-29

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on account of the policy of deflation followed by all the countries. This was followed by the Great Depression of 1929—33 when the price level fell further. India suffered more because it was an agricultural country and the prices of agricultural commodities fell more than those of the industrial goods. In 1931, the prices actually fell below the 1913 level, and these were lowest in 1934.

Further like other parts of the country, the Sangrur District was also affected adversely by the break out of the Second World War in 1939. Just after the declaration of war, prices of both primary and manufactured goods shot up.

With the partition of the country in 1947, the situation became still worse. The rise in the post-Independence period in India started in 1956 with the commencement of Second Five-Year Plan. The situation further deteriorated with the Chinese aggression in 1962 and the Indo-Pakistan conflicts of 1965 and 1971. Since the corresponding increase in production and real national income during the period was of a much lower order than the increase in money supply, there was inevitable rise in prices. The wholesale price index went up from 120.5 (base 1952-53=100) to 125 in 1961-62 and 165 in 1965-66, an increase of over 78 per cent in ten years. During the decade 1965—75, there has been a continuous and accelerating erosion of the purchasing power of money throughout the world. The value of the Indian rupee fell from 100 to 42 during the same period. In spite of the best efforts of the Government prices are still rising.

The table below gives comparison of consumer price index for the working class in the Sangrur District between the period from 1974 and 1978:

(Base 1960=100)

Year	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Index	200	210	212	214	221

(Source : District Statistical Officer, Sangrur)

The index number of the retail prices given above for the last five years indicates upward trend of the prices. The table below indicates the fluctuating trend in the wholesale prices of the main agricultural

commodities in the district between the years 1967-68 and 1977-78 :

	(Per quintal)				
	Wheat (Rs)	Gram (Rs)	Maize (Rs)	Jowar (Rs)	Barley (Rs)
1967-68	80.28	85.87	62.02	74.20	65.73
1977-78	115.94	85.57	99.80	106.00	90.25

(Source : District Statistical Abstract of Sangrur, 1973-74 and District Statistical Officer, Sangrur)

Wages.—Wages are the remuneration paid to a worker in lieu of the work done by him. The wage policy has been envisaged in the Constitution of India. In Article 38 of the Constitution, the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' for both men and women has been laid down as one of the Directive Principles. Article 43 provides that the State shall endeavour to secure through legislation or economic organization or in any other way, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life, and full employment of leisure, and social and cultural opportunities.

Of all the labour problems, that of wages is the most complex. During early days, the wages of the agricultural and industrial labour were determined by custom and tradition. Now these are determined by the industrial policy of the Government which is formulated in the light of natural resources, availability of labour force, productivity, industrial competition, labour efficiency, etc. The wage level is influenced mainly by price—variations on account of fiscal policies and other subsidiary factors like the rise in demand, shortage of seeds, insufficient production, etc. Labour welfare is a factor very much relevant to the wage policy. When compared with welfare measures that assure better living conditions, in respect of health, safety, housing, education, recreation, social security, etc. the guarantee of reasonable remuneration provides the firmest basis for harmonious industrial relations and, therefore, lead to economic development and prosperity of the country. The payment of satisfactory wage ensures co-operation of labour and enables him to give his best in the cause of national development.

The wages paid to agricultural and skilled labour are paid in cash. Besides, meals and tea are also served. The table below indicates the payment of wages in the district, during the period 1974 to 1978 to the agricultural and skilled labour:

Year	Agricultural Labour (Rs)	Skilled labour Black Smith/ Carpenter (Rs)
1974	8.27	14.46
1975	10.21	15.25
1976	9.50	15.50
1977	9.42	16.08
1978	9.60	20.83

(Source : District Statistical Officer, Sangrur)

The rates of pay fixed per day/per month for different types of labourers/workers engaged in Government employment in the Sangrur District, during 1977-78, are given in Appendix II on pages 241 to 243.

Standard of Living.—Standard of living refers to the amount of necessities, comforts and luxuries, which a person avails. However, these are relative terms and differ from place to place, from time to time and from person to person.

One popular method of knowing the standard of living is to find out the items of income and expenditure, that is, to adopt the method of formation and analysis of family budgets. Besides, income and expenditure of a family, the standard of living depends on two factors, viz. the size and composition of the family and tastes and preferences of the members. The other method to judge the standard of living of the people is to measure the economic prosperity of the district in monetary terms in relation to fluctuations in price level.

The Economic and Statistical Organisation, Punjab, conducted a survey regarding family budget of 32 cultivators in the State during the year 1977-78. The aim of the survey was to find out the returns accruing to the farmers for their work on the holdings. These families of three villages, viz., Mangewal (Tahsil Sangrur), Mardkhera (Tahsil Sunam) and Mehal Kalan (Tahsil Barnala) in the Sangrur District were selected for the survey.

Family Budget of Thirty-two Cultivators in the Punjab for the year 1977-78
(Publication No. 308, issued by the Economic Adviser to Government, Punjab, Chandigarh, in 1979)

The findings of the survey pertaining to income and expenditure are shown in the following table:

Name of family/village	Net income from all sources (Rs)	Net expenditure (Rs)	Surplus/ deficit (Rs)
Mangewal	15,533.24	8,805.58	6,727.66
Mardkhera	25,687.17	12,990.67	12,696.50
Mahal Kalan	11,413.18	9,116.83	2,296.35

The above figures show that these families in the Sangrur District have surplus budget. The survey also shows that on an average, a peasant proprietor's family in the Punjab spent 60 per cent of its income on food, 13 per cent on clothing, 12 per cent on housing, 7 per cent on fuel, 1 per cent on travelling, 2 per cent on education, 2 per cent on medicine, 1 per cent on social and 2 per cent on amusements and luxuries.

The goods consumed by these families were as under :

Name of the family/ village	Total expenditure (Rs)	Supplied by the farm (Rs)	Percentage	Purchased from outside (Rs)	Percentage
Mangewal	8,805.58	6,138.83	70	2,666.75	30
Mardkhera	10,990.67	7,953.17	72	3,037.50	28
Mahal Kalan	9,116.83	4,621.48	51	4,495.35	49

In 1977-78, the per capita income of the Sangrur District at the then current prices was Rs 2,042 as compared to Rs 1,962 for the Punjab State as a whole. It is an indicator of the standard of living of the people residing in the district.

(b) Employment Situation

Employment has been the major objective of planning. Full utilization of available man-power resources can be achieved after considerable period of development. However, expansion of employment opportunities, commensurate with the increase in the labour force over the plan period, is conceived as an important objective of planning.

The development situation in the Sangrur District is in accordance with the general pattern in the State. The number of unemployed persons registered with the Employment Exchange, Sangrur, has been on the increase.

The inhabitants of the district are primarily engaged in agricultural activities which, however, provide employment for about 6 months in a year. On 31 March 1978, there were 25,949 workers employed in the district as compared to 24,619 in the previous year. The employment increased by 5.4 per cent. With March 1974 as base=100, the index number was 115.8 as on 30 June 1977 which further rose to 120.8 on 31 March 1978. There were 3,868 women workers in the district on 31 March 1978 as against 3,738 in the previous year, showing an increase of 3.5 per cent.

The number of persons waiting for employment in the district as on 31 March 1977 was 17,330, which rose to 18,383 on 31 March 1978. Thus, there has been an increase of 6 per cent over the last year's level of unemployment. A total of 14,828 persons got themselves registered with the employment exchanges at Sangrur and Malerkotla during the year 1977-78. In the Sangrur District, unskilled labour, B.Ed. and physical training teachers, typists, etc. are in surplus. On the other hand, there is a shortage of dyeing and printing instructors, patwaris, skilled helpers, oilmill mechanics, blacksmithy instructors, revenue clerks, machine men (press), calico-printing, technicians/instructors.

Employment Exchanges.—There are three employment exchanges in the district, one each at Sangrur, Malerkotla and Barnala. The District Employment Exchange, Sangrur, was established on 31 September 1959. The Town Employment Exchange, Malerkotla, was opened in October 1972 whereas the Town Employment Exchange, Barnala has been established, w.e.f. 1 February 1979.

The main functions of an Employment Exchange are : to register applicants and to provide employment assistance, to impart vocational guidance to the youth and adults to choose a better career; to elicit employment market information to assess the employment trends, impact of Government Plans on the Employment situations; and to collect employment statistics for the Planning Commission of India.

The number of employees working in private and public sectors, as on 31 March 1978, was 25,949, whereas on 31 March 1977, their number was 24,619. Thus there has been an increase of 5.4 per cent over the last year's level of employment.

The work done by the District Employment Exchanges, Sangrur and Malerkotla, has been shown in appendices III and IV at the end of this Chapter on pages 244 and 245.

The number of unemployed persons aged 15 and above by sex and educational level, both in the urban and rural areas of the district, as per 1961 Census, is given below:

Unemployed in the Urban areas by sex and educational levels

	Total unemployed		
	Persons	Males	Females
Total	1,253	1,235	18
Illiterate	249	246	3
Literate (without education level)	204	204	—
Primary or Junior Basic	345	345	—
Matriculation or Higher Secondary	402	398	4
Technical Diploma not equal to Degree	8	4	4
Non-Technical Diploma not equal to Degree	11	9	2
University Degree or Post-Graduate Degree other than Technical Degree	30	26	4
Technical Degree or Diploma equal to Degree or Post-Graduate Degree	4	3	1
(i) Engineering	—	—	—
(ii) Medicine	—	—	—
(iii) Agriculture	—	—	—
(iv) Veterinary and Dairying	—	—	—
(v) Technology	—	—	—
(vi) Teaching	3	2	1
(vii) Others	1	1	—

Unemployment in the rural areas by sex and educational levels

Total	1,363	1,328	35
Illiterate	375	353	22
Literate (without education level)	165	164	1
Primary or Junior Basic	260	257	3
Matriculation and above	563	554	9

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 17, Sangrur District pp. 208-209)

Employment Market Information Scheme.—The aim of this scheme is to watch the trends of employment in the State so as to make available to the Government and to the Planning Commission information about the periodical situation of employment in various industries and occupations in each district and in the State as a whole. The information thus collected is also used for determining the location of industrial training institutes and the trades to be taught therein.

This scheme was introduced in the State in 1957-58, and is operated under the Director of Employment, Punjab, Chandigarh. Initially, it covered only the public sector, but since 1960-61, it has been extended to the private sector as well.

Under the scheme, the employment exchange is responsible for collecting regular information about the employment situation in private sector as well as in the public sector. This is done by what is known as "Establishment Reporting System". Under this scheme, all establishments in the public sector and selected establishments in the private sector engaged in non-agricultural activities are asked to give details regularly about the number of persons they are employing, the vacancies that have occurred and the type of persons they find to be in short supply. The information is collected from all establishments in the public sector and those employing 25 or more persons in the private sector under the provisions of the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, which makes it obligatory on them to submit it to the local employment exchange. Information from smaller establishments in the private sector is, however, collected on voluntary basis.

The information which is processed at the district level is finally tabulated at the State and national level to know precisely the employment potential at these levels. An Employment Market Unit in the Employment Exchange, Sangrur, has been functioning since 1953. The following table clearly shows the changes in the volume of employment both in the private and public sectors in the district, as on 31 March 1977 and on 31 March 1978.

Industrial Division	Number of establishments		Number of employees	
	31 March 1977	31 March 1978	31 March 1977	31 March 1978
1 Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fishing, mining and quarrying	5	5	458	461
2 Manufacturing	105	105	1,778	2,233

Industrial Division	Number of establishment		Number of employees	
	31 March 1977	31 March 1978	31 March 1977	31 March 1978
3 Water supply, construction of roads and houses and canal water resources.	46	47	2,649	2,858
4 Electricity	14	17	977	1,162
5 Trade and commerce	8	7	107	102
6 Transport, communication and storage	24	25	1,939	2,113
7 Banking & insurance	46	45	844	942
8 Public services	255	274	15,867	16,078
Total	503	525	24,619	25,949

Report of the District Employment Officer, Sangrur, for the year ending 31 March 1978

Vocational Guidance Scheme.—The vocational guidance and employment counselling programmes are designed to give intensive vocational guidance to those who seek such assistance. The term 'vocational guidance' more appropriately connotes assistance to the youth, whereas 'employment counselling' refers to the assistance given to adults.

The programme is jointly operated by the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, and Directorate of Employment in the State. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, through the Director of Employment Exchanges, is responsible for the general policies and procedure which are devised in collaboration with the State Government through the National Working Group of the Employment Service. The State Directorate of Employment administers the service through the employment exchanges and co-ordinates with the guidance service of the Education Department of the State Government.

The Officer-in-charge of the Employment Exchange, Sangrur, is responsible for the efficient working and general supervision of this scheme in the district. The functions of a Vocational Guidance Unit are : to provide vocational guidance and employment counselling to youth (boys and girls) and adults (men and women) in groups as well as individually; to assist in the placement of youth in institutions or training centres or in entry jobs ; follow up and review the progress of guided youth and adults ; to review the records of applicants on the live register and to give them such guidance as would lead to their early and suitable placement ; to assist other sections of the exchanges in improving the quality of registrations and submissions, and also to assist the exchanges in the collection and

compilation of upto-date information occupations, training facilities, educational courses, employment trends and employment outlook for youth and adults, available scholarships and sources of financial assistance. Its other functions include maintenance of regular information for the use of applicants and visitors seeking information ; maintenance of upto-date library on occupation literature ; and educate the public by undertaking publicity measures in vocational guidance principles with a view to encouraging community consciousness. The guidance procedure at an employment exchange, with a vocational guidance unit, consists of group guidance comprising invitational talks, group discussions and invitational talk-cum-group discussions according to the needs of the groups; individual guidance ; and giving information individually.

Started in July 1965 at Sangrur, the vocational guidance unit, is doing useful work in the district. It has been steadily disseminating occupational information and vocational guidance to the deserving cases especially to the young student community. Efforts have been made to carry the facilities to all corners of the district through career talks in educational institutions. Career conferences are organised to make people conscious of the olive need for the proper planning of careers.

The following table shows the work done by the Vocational Guidance Unit at Sangrur, during 1973-74 to 1977-78 :

Year	Number of Individuals Provided		
	Group Guidance talks	Individual guidance cases	Individual information
1973-74	..	73	950
1974-75	209	372	506
1975-76	227	390	601
1976-77	280	301	410
1977-78	191	194	223

(Source: District Employment Officer, Sangrur)

(c) Planning and Rural Development

After the Independence of country (1947), the Government of India undertook planned development on the country-wide scale with a view

to checking the economic deterioration effectively. The Planning Department of the Government of India was entrusted with the task of formulating Five-Year Plans. In view of the pressing food problems created by the partition of the country, due emphasis was laid on the improvement and development of all sectors of economy, especially agriculture, in the First Five-Year Plan (1951-56). It resulted in the increase of production of various agricultural commodities. With the introduction of modern agricultural implements and fertilizers, agriculture has been revolutionized in the district. In the later plans from the Second to the Fifth Five-Year Plan, stress was laid on the development of industries. The Sangrur District has also benefitted by these plans in respect of industrial advancement. Malerkotla and Barnala in the Sangrur District are gradually rising as industrial centres.

Rural Development.—For the development of rural areas, the Community Development Programme originated on the recommendations of the Planning Commission. However, with effect from 1979, the Community Development Programme has been given a more appropriate nomenclature 'Rural Development Programme' and as such the Community Development Department of the State has been renamed as Rural Development Department. Its main object is to secure the fullest development of material and human resources of the particular area. The programme stands for the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, minor irrigation, cottage industries, education, employment, co-operation, communications, housing and social welfare. The entire district has been brought under the Rural Development Programme. There are 10 Blocks, viz., Sangrur, Bhawanigarh, Barnala, Sehna, Mahal Kalan, Malerkotla, Ahmedgarh, Dhuri, Sunam, and Lehragaga in the district. The people in the district have extended full co-operation and have liberally made contributions towards the programme. The agriculturists have been greatly benefited by the programme as they have been considerably enlightened about the latest methods of improved cultivation and agricultural practices. Besides, it has imbibed the spirit of self-help and self-reliance amongst ruralities.

The Rural Development Programme has been effective in the development of various fields like agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, village and small-scale industries, health and rural sanitation, social education and communications. As on 31 March 1978, 718 inhabited villages in the district had been covered under the programme. As per 1981 Census, out of the total population of the district numbering 14,05,320, the programme served a population of 10, 83,727.

(Vide Page 229)

APPENDIX I

Sample Household Classification by the number of members and by the number of rooms occupied in Sangrur District, 1971

Total/Rural/Urban	Total number of census house-holds		Total number of members		Total number of rooms		Households with one room		Households with two rooms	
	Number of house-holds	Males	Females	Number of house-holds	Males	Females	Number of members	Males	Females	Number of members
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Total	187,620	631,250	529,180	404,455	77,200	204,040	167,285	60,810	206,480	173,025
Rural	147,265	507,875	421,715	314,480	57,905	165,735	136,180	47,510	165,290	136,745
Urban	40,355	123,375	107,465	89,975	15,295	38,305	31,105	13,300	41,190	36,280

Total/Rural/Urban	Households with three rooms		Households with four rooms		Households with five rooms and above		Households with unspecified number of rooms	
	Number of house-holds	Males	Females	Number of house-holds	Males	Females	Number of members	Males
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Total	29,040	11,565	94,920	13,550	56,435	48,665	11,005	52,695
Rural	23,295	91,795	76,555	10,475	44,885	38,175	8,075	40,165
Urban	5,745	19,770	18,365	3,075	11,550	10,490	2,930	12,530

(Census of India 1971, Series 17, Punjab, Part IV, Housing Report & Tables, pp 106-107)

APPENDIX II

(Vide page 232)

Wage rates of different types of labourers/workers (in Government employment) per day/month fixed in the Sangrur District during 1977-78

Serial No.	Category of labourers/workers	Rates of Pay	
		Per day (Rs)	Per month (Rs)
1	Kahar/Water Carrier	8.50	230.00
2	Dak Munshi	8.50	230.00
3	Mochi (Cobbler)	8.50	240.00
4	Dak Runner	8.50	240.00
5	Dhobi	8.50	240.00
6	Barber	8.50	230.00
7	Syee	8.50	240.00
8	Head Cook	8.50	240.00
9	Cook/Asstt. Cook	8.50	230.00
10	Boatman/Ferryman	8.50	230.00
11	Packer	8.50	230.00
12	Cartman	8.50	230.00
13	Sweeper	8.50	230.00
14	Chowkidar	8.50	230.00
15	Mali	8.50	230.00
16	Garden Cooli	8.50	230.00
17	Khalasi or Survey Khalasi	8.50	230.00
18	Cycle Sawar	8.50	230.00
19	Frash	8.50	230.00
20	Telephone Peon	8.50	230.00
21	Beldar adult	8.50	230.00
22	Tailor	10.00	310.00
23	Khansama	8.50	230.00
24	Bottle Cleaner	8.50	230.00
25	Liftman	8.50	230.00

Serial No.	Category of labourers/workers	Rates of Pay	
		Per day (Rs)	Per month (Rs)
26	Ex-Ray Cleaner	8.50	230.00
27	Misalchi	8.50	230.00
28	Dairy/Poultry Attendant	8.50	230.00
29	Pankha Cooli Adult	8.00	205.00
30	Bearer Attendant to Circuit House	8.00	190.00
31	Store Cooli/Gang Man	8.00	190.00
32	Flagman	8.00	190.00
33	Caneman	8.50	230.00
34	Information Centre Attendant	8.00	190.00
35	Balldar Boy/Girl	7.00	165.00
36	Pankha Cooli (Boy and Girl)	7.00	165.00
37	Delivery Man	7.00	165.00
38	White-washer	9.00	205.00
39	Painter (I Class)	15.00	400.00
40	Painter (II Class)	14.00	325.00
41	Skilled Labourer/Khalasi 'Agri' Labourer	10.00	
42	Agricultural Labour to disinfectants sprays	10.00	
43	Aya/Aaya	8.00	
44	Women Labourer	8.50	
45	Unskilled Labourer	8.50	
46	Mason/Carpenter/Blacksmith (1st Class)	15.00	400.00
47	—Do—, IIInd Class	14.00	350.00
48	Driver (Heavy Vehicles)	12.00	
49	—Do— (Light Vehicles)	10.00	
50	Conductor	10.00	
51	Turner/Cane Weaver/Fitter/Balldar	9.00	
52	Man with Mule	15.00	
53	Man with Camel	15.00	
54	Man with Bullocks	15.00	

Serial No.	Category of labourers/workers	Rates of Pay	
		Per day (Rs)	Per month (Rs)
55	Cartman with a pair of bullocks	28.00	
56	Ploughman with a pair of bullocks	22.00	
57	Labourer employed in supply polo installations	8.50	
58	Waterman with a pair of bullocks	22.00	
59	Casual skilled welder	10.00	
60	Semi-skilled Hammerman	10.00	
61	Plumber/Pipe Fitter	8.50	230.00
62	Sweeper-cum-Chowkidar/Cooli/Mate	8.50	
63	Head Cooli/Mate, Head Mali, Head Surveymen/ Head Balldar, Khalasi, Head Dafadar, Lineman	8.50	230.00
64	Electrician/Point Fitter—		
	(1st Class)	}	12.00 260.00
	(2nd Class)		
65	Halwai	15.00	300.00
66	Donkeyman with one Donkey	12.00	
67	Hand Carts per trip up to one mile for one qtl.	3.00	
68	Fisherman	8.50	
69	Artisan	10.00	330.00
70	Cycle Mechanic	10.00	300.00

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur)

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 235)

Work done by the District Employment Exchange, Sangrur, 1973-74 to 1977-78

Year		Number of registra- tions during the year	Number of vacancies notified	Number of applicants placed in employ- ment during the year	Number of applicants on live register at the end of the year	Monthly number of employees using the exchange	Vacancies carried over at the end of the year
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
1973-74	..	11,004	2,294	3,964	9,264	13,697	785
1974-75	..	8,168	1,700	2,097	9,954	11,535	340
1975-76	..	9,941	1,264	2,254	10,966	20,579	380
1976-77	..	7,879	1,308	2,284	11,599	22,415	273
1977-78	..	10,959	1,028	2,035	12,451	17,853	340

(Source : District Employment Officer, Sangrur)

APPENDIX IV

(Vide page 235)

Work done by the Town Employment Exchange, Malerkotla, District Sangrur, during 1973-74 to 1977-78

Year	Registration during the year	Vacancies notified	Applicants placed in employment during the year	Applicants on live register at the end of the year	No. of employees using the exchange	Vacancies carried over at the end of the year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1973-74	5,871	373	597	5,438	15	91
1974-75	3,339	320	611	4,552	14	114
1975-76	4,276	295	423	5,299	15	47
1976-77	3,100	195	377	5,731	7	21
1977-78	3,869	93	346	5,932	4	25

(Source : Assistant Employment Officer, Malerkotla)

CHAPTER X GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(a) Historical Background and Divisions of the District

The district as an administrative unit has occupied, since the Mauryan times, a unique position in a State. The term 'general administration' in so far as the district is concerned, refers to the management of public affairs within an area demarcated as a district. The districts were organised, before independence, for maintenance of peace, collection of land revenue, and administration of justice. After independence, district administration functions in a democratic set up with the objective of developing the hitherto backward areas to ensure fruits of development to all citizens in a fair and equitable manner. While the maintenance of peace, collection of land revenue, and administration of justice, continue to be the important functions of district administration, it has to work for the overall development of the district with special emphasis on expansion and development of education, public health, sanitation and communications.

Prior to independence of the country in 1947, various parts of the present Sangrur District, with the exception of some territory then being part of the Ludhiana District*, were administered by the erstwhile princely states of Jind, Patiala, Nabha and Malerkotla. The princely rulers (known as Rajas/Maharajahs in Patiala, Nabha, and Jind States, and Nawabs in Malerkotla State) of these states had full powers of independent jurisdiction in their respective States.

*Transferred to the Sangrur District from British Territory

Transferred from	Name of the Village	Name of the Tahsil now forming part of
Ludhiana District	Sandour	Malerkotla Tashil
	Manaki	Ditto
	Bahadurgarh	Ditto
	Jandali Kalan	Ditto
	Bagrian	Ditto
	Rurki Kalan	Ditto
	Gajjan Majra	Ditto

Continue on page 247 (Foot note)

These princely states were divided into various *nizamats* and each *nizamat* was further divided into a number of tahsils. Patiala State was divided into three *nizamats*, two of which are now included in the Sangrur District—Karamgarh or Bhawanigarh (Bhawanigarh and Sunam tahsils), and Anahadgarh or Barnala (Barnala Tahsil). Tahsil Dhuri of Amargarh *nizamat* was also included in this district. Jind State was divided into two *nizamats*—Jind and Sangrur. Sangrur *nizamat* now forms part of the present Sangrur District. (Jind *nizamat* is now in Jind District of Haryana State). Each *nizamat* was under the administrative control of *nazim* who had under him *naib nazims* and tahsildars. The system of administration in princely state is described in the *Punjab States Gazetteers, Vol. XVII-A, Phulkian States 1904 (Patiala, Jind and Nabha)*.

Transferred from	Name of the Village	Name of the Tahsil now forming part of
Ludhiana District	Jabbo Majra	Malerkotla Tashil
	Ladewala	Ditto
	Rurki Khurd	Ditto
	Dhero Majra	Ditto
	Khiali	Barnala Tahsil
	Sahaur	Ditto
	Chak Rohi	Ditto
	Channanwal	Ditto
	Raisar Punjab	Ditto
	Kaire	Ditto
	Cheema	Ditto
	Jodhpur	Ditto
	Pakhoke	Ditto
	Malian	Ditto
	Bakhatgarh	Ditto
	Bhotna	Ditto
	Choong	Ditto
	Badhata	Ditto
	Sehna	Ditto
Karnal District	Burj Fatehgarh	Ditto
	Patti Daraka	Ditto
	Khadyal	Sunam Tahsil

Under the old system of administration, the offices at the capital and immediately under the ruler's control were those of the *diwan*, *adalti mit munshi* or Foreign Secretary, *bakhshi* or Pay Master and *munsiff*. The tahsildars carried on the general administration of the tahsils or collectorates, and also exercised some judicial functions. There were no written regulations, though, in cases relating to religious matters, the State *pandit* or *dharm shastri* was consulted. In the reign of Raja Sarup Singh, a few *dastur-ul-amals* were compiled, and in 1930 Sambat (A.D. 1873), Raja Raghbir Singh had codes for every office (*sarishta*) and the *karkhana* or private office issued. There were no State treasuries, all disbursements being made by a banker, who charged half an anna per rupee as his remuneration, and the cash salaries were disbursed twice a year, the State officials receiving their daily allowances (*rasad*) in kind once a month. In 1933 Sambat (A.D. 1837), Raja Sarup Singh established a regular treasury and constituted the two *nizamats* of Sangrur and Jind. Under this system, appeals lay from the *nazim* to the *adalt* (Superior Court) in criminal, to the *munsiff* in civil and to the *diwan* in revenue cases, and Raja Raghbir Singh after his accession in Sambat 1919 (A.D. 1852) greatly extended and systematized the working of these institutions. In Sambat 1931 (A.D. 1874), he established the *ijlas-i-khas* or royal tribunal in which all important cases were heard and determined. Thus the *nazims* were empowered to pass sentences of one year's imprisonment and a fine of Rs 100, and the *adalti* sentences of twice that period and amount. In civil cases, Tahsildars were empowered to try suits in which the subject matter did not exceed Rs 10 in value, the *nazim's* jurisdiction being limited to Rs 100 and the *sadr munsiff's* to Rs 500. In revenue cases, the *nazims* disposed of cases within their competence on the reports of the Tahsildars, referring those not within their cognizance to the *diwan* who in turn referred important cases to the *ijlas-i-khas*. The cases in which either or both the parties was/were not the subject(s) of the Raja of Jind were heard by the Foreign Minister. After the death of Raja Raghbir Singh, a *munsiff* was appointed in each tahsil, but they were removed by Raja Ranbir Singh and *nazims* were invested with *munsiff's* powers. Various reforms were made by Raja Ranbir Singh. Before his accession, executive and judicial functions were not separated, and he constituted the head office or *sadr-ala* executive and *sadr-ala* high court; but these offices were soon amalgamated, and on 20 February 1903, fused into one, designated the *sadr-ala* simply. This office was composed of four officials (*Ala Ahlkars*), who acted collectively as well as individually. After the partition of the country, Jind State was merged with PEPSU on 20 August 1948 and the last Maharaja Rajbir Singh signed the papers for the merger on 5 May 1948. Consequently, the area of the present Sangrur District became part of PEPSU.

It then comprised Sangrur, Sunam, Narwana and Jind tahsils. Barnala was an independent district of PEPSU and comprised Barnala, Malerkotla, Dhuri and Phul tahsils. The district underwent a territorial change when Barnala District was merged in it in 1953. The Sangrur District then comprised 5 tahsils—Sangrur, Malerkotla, Barnala, Jind and Narwana.

The district once again saw a change when the Punjab State was re-organised on 1 November 1966. Narwana and Jind tahsils were transferred to the newly created State of Haryana and the district was left with 3 tahsils—Sangrur, Barnala, and Malerkotla. The fourth tahsil, viz. Sunam, formerly a sub-tahsil, was upgraded to a tahsil in 1970. The administrative set-up of the Sangrur District as on 31 March 1978 is described as under:

Administrative Divisions.—The Sangrur District, for administrative purposes, has been included in the Patiala Division, Patiala. For purposes of general and revenue administration, the district has been divided into four tahsils, viz., Malerkotla (including sub-tahsils Ahmedgarh and Dhuri), Barnala (including sub-tahsils Tapa and Bhadaur), Sangrur (including sub-tahsils Bhawanigarh and Longowal) and Sunam (including sub-tahsils Lehragaga and Moonak). All these tahsils are now subdivisions. Malerkotla was made a subdivision of the then Barnala District on 1 September 1948, Barnala on 1 September 1953, Sangrur on 15 June 1965 and Sunam on 1 April 1970.

The administrative machinery of the district consists of a hierarchy of officers and officials headed by the Deputy Commissioner also known as District Magistrate as head of criminal administration of the district and as District Collector, as head of the revenue administration in the district. The number of Sub Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars posted in the district as on 31 March 1978, is given in the following table :

Subdivision	Number of Posts		
	S.D.O. (C)	Tahsildar	Naib-Tahsildar
Malerkotla	1	1	4
Barnala	1	1	2
Sangrur	1	1	2
Sunam	1	1	2
District Sangrur	4	4	10

(b) District Authorities

The district is the basic unit of administration. The Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur, as head of the district administration, is a functionary of the State Government, under the administrative control of Divisional Commissioner, Patiala. He has wide powers and manifold responsibilities. In many ways he is chief custodian of law and authority, the pivot on which runs the local administration.

The main functions of the Deputy Commissioner may be broadly categorised as : co-ordination of development and public welfare activities as Deputy Commissioner, revenue officer/Court of the district as District Collector, and law and order functions as District Magistrate. Thus, he acts as Deputy Commissioner, District Collector and District Magistrate on different occasions. His role in each of these capacities is described, in brief, as under:

(i) As Deputy Commissioner.—He is the executive of the district with numerous responsibilities in the sphere of civil administration, development, panchayats, local bodies, etc. Due to immense importance of his office, the Deputy Commissioner is considered to be the measuring rod of efficiency in administration.

The Deputy Commissioner has an Office Superintendent under him, to supervise the work of the clerical staff. He guides functioning of different branches of his office. Each branch is headed by an Assistant and is functionally known after him. For example, the branch looked after by Establishment Assistant (EA) is known as the EA Branch, the one under Miscellaneous Assistant is known as the MA Branch, etc. etc. An Assistant has to perform two types of functions-supervisory and dispositive i.e. he has to supervise the work of the officials working under him, and also to dispose of many cases either at his level or by putting them up to his senior officers. An Assistant has one or more Clerks under him.

The number of branches in the office of the Deputy Commissioner differs from district to district depending upon the requirements in each case, but more important branches existing in almost all the districts are, Establishment Branch, *Nazarat* Branch, *Sadr* Kanungo Branch, Development Branch, Miscellaneous Branch, Licensing Branch, Complaints and Enquiries Branch, Local Funds Branch, District Revenue Accounts Branch, Flood Relief Branch, Revenue Records Branch, Records and Issue Branch, *Sadr* Copying Agency, Registration Branch, *Peshi* Branch, etc.

(ii) As District Collector.—The Deputy Commissioner is the highest officer of revenue administration in the district. In revenue matters, he is

responsible to the Government through the Divisional Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner, Revenue. He is responsible for the collection of land revenue, other kinds of Government taxes, fees and all dues recoverable as arrears of land revenue. He is responsible for ensuring the maintenance of accurate and upto-date records of rights as regards the land.

He is also the appointing authority for Patwaris and Kanungos and ministerial staff posted in the tahsil offices, and in the offices of Sub Divisional Officers (Civil) and Deputy Commissioner except in the case of Superintendent of Deputy Commissioner's Office and for most of the subordinate revenue staff in the district. As the District Collector, he is the highest revenue judicial authority in the district.

(iii) As District Magistrate.—The Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. He is the head of criminal administration and supervises all Executive Magistrates in the district and controls and directs the actions of the police. He has supervisory powers over the administration of jails and lock-ups in the district.

Besides his above mentioned duties as Deputy Commissioner, District Collector, and District Magistrate, he plays an important role as Deputy Custodian, under the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954. In this capacity his duties are : revision against the orders of Tahsildars and Officer-in-Charge, Rural, regarding allotment of land and houses in rural areas; revision against the orders of the District Rent Officer, regarding allotment of houses and shops in urban areas and disposal of cases received from the Assistant Custodian (Judicial) regarding evacuee property.

The position of Deputy Commissioner as head of the district administration has become one of expanding responsibilities. As he is the executive head of the civil administration, all departments in the district, which otherwise have their own officers, look to him for guidance and co-ordination. He plays an important role in the administration of municipal committees, market committees, panchayats, panchayat samitis, community development blocks and the zila parishad, which came into existence with the decentralisation of authority and expansion of the Panchayati Raj. He is also responsible for the execution of rural development schemes. Besides, he is responsible, as District Election Officer, for the peaceful and orderly conduct of all elections held in the district from time to time. For elections to Lok Sabha constituency/constituencies of his district, he functions as Returning Officer. He renders active help during decennial

census. He controls and regulates the distribution of scarce essential commodities, etc. He keeps liaison with military authorities in his jurisdiction and is the Competent Authority for requisition of land for military purposes. In any matter of public importance which does not fall specifically in the sphere of any government department, State or Central, he, as a general administrator, is required to take cognizance of the matter in public interest and take it to its logical conclusion with the help of some Government department or by processing the matter in his own office. In short, there is nothing of importance which takes place in the district with which he is not associated, directly or indirectly.

Subdivisional Officers (Civil)

The Subdivisional Officer (Civil) is a miniature Deputy Commissioner in his subdivision. In fact, under many revenue legislations, he is invariably vested with powers of Collector, to be exercised within his jurisdiction. He also hears appeals as Collector of the subdivision, against the orders of Assistant Collectors, Grade II (Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars) and Assistant Collectors, Grade I (Tahsildars in partition cases). He is either a junior member of the Indian Administrative Service or a senior member of the State Civil Service, who has earned extensive experience in subordinate positions. He exercises direct control over the Tahsildars and his staff in his subdivision. He is the normal channel of correspondence between the Deputy Commissioner and the Tahsildar in his subdivision.

The powers and responsibilities of the Sub Divisional Officer relating to revenue, magisterial, executive and development matters within his jurisdiction, are analogous to those of the Deputy Commissioner. His revenue duties include supervision and inspection of all matters from assessment to collection of land revenue; co-ordination of work of all officials in the subdivision, particularly in the departments of Revenue, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Public Health within the subdivision.

His magisterial duties are: liaison and co-ordination with police in the subdivision; watch over the relations between various communities and classes; special precautions and actions in emergency, especially connected with festivals; and recommendations to the District Magistrate, when he is himself not competent, for grant of arms licences. He has ample powers under the Criminal Procedure Code, Punjab Police Rules, and other laws to exercise effective supervision over the law and order situation in his area.

In his executive capacity, he can call for any of the records and registers which deal with crime, from a Police Station and can call the Station

House Officer of Police Station to come to him to explain the matters. He can bind down anti-social elements for peaceful conduct over a period. He commands closer contact with the public and more intimate association with the local bodies and market committees.

He also plays an important role in the rural development programmes. He needs co-operation and help from other Government officials in the subdivision for the smooth running of administration and successful implementation of development schemes. On important policy matters, however, he is required to route the matters through the Deputy Commissioner.

For the elections to the Vidhan Sabha, he is generally appointed as Returning Officer for the constituency/constituencies in his jurisdiction. For elections to the Lok Sabha constituencies, he is generally appointed as Assistant Returning Officer.

Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars

The officer incharge of a tahsil is called Tahsildar. However, there is no substantial difference in the revenue and magisterial duties of a Tahsildar and a Naib-Tahsildar. In revenue matters, both exercise the powers of Assistant Collector, Grade II, in their circles as Circle Revenue Officers. Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars are appointed as *ex officio* Executive Magistrates in the district of their posting provided they have passed the respective prescribed Departmental Examinations in Criminal Law Paper by the Lower Standard as well as in the Language Paper. However, a Tahsildar is vested with powers of Assistant Collector, Grade I, with regard to the partition cases, which power he exercises in whole of the tahsil; the Naib-Tahsildars are not vested with this power. Also, as senior Revenue Officer of the Tahsil and as overall incharge thereof, a Tahsildar has powers of co-ordination and distribution of work among Circle Revenue Officers, the Naib-Tahsildars and himself. He is a Class II gazetted officer of the State Government which a Naib-Tahsildar is not. In this regard, a Tahsildar is competent to make and issue certificates as a gazetted officer. All recommendations in lambardari cases, even in the revenue circles of Naib-Tahsildars, are routed through him to Sub Divisional Officer (Civil) and to the Deputy Commissioner.

For elections to the Vidhan Sabha, a Tahsildar is, invariably, appointed as Assistant Returning Officer for the constituency/constituencies falling in his tahsil.

The Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars are responsible for collection of land revenue and other dues payable to the Government. To remain in touch with the subordinate revenue staff, to observe the seasonal conditions and condition of crops, to listen to the difficulties of the cultivators and to distribute the *taccavi* loans, the Tahsildar and Naib-Tahsildars extensively tour the areas in their jurisdiction. They decide urgent matters on the spot, like correction of entries in the account books, providing relief to the people faced with natural calamities, etc. On their return from tour, they prepare reports and recommend to the Government remission or suspension of land revenue and bring the records uptodate. They also sit in the courts to settle disputes of tenancy, arrears of rent, ejectment of tenants, entries in account books, etc. besides doing other kind of work.

In the performance of their above functions, the Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars in Sangrur District are assisted by a *Sadr* Kanungo, who is incharge of revenue records at the district headquarters, 4 Office Kanungos (one at each tahsil headquarters), 4 Assistant Office Kanungos, 18 Field Kanungos (tahsilwise 3 in Sangrur, 6 in Malerkotla, 5 in Barnala and 4 in Sunam), 3 *Peshi* Kanungos and 316 Patwaris.

Kanungos.—The duties of a Kanungo are to superwise the work of the Patwaris. He is an important link between the Tahsildar/Naib-Tahsildar and the Patwari. Each Tahsildar is assisted by an Office Kanungo, besides a number of Field Kanungos. In Sangrur District, an Assistant Office Kanungo is also attached to each Tahsildar. The main duty of an Office Kanungo is to consolidate the information on different aspects of revenue administration. Similarly, in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, there is a *Sadr* Kanungo who inter-alia is incharge of 'Patwaris' and Kanungos' establishments and carries out inspections of Patwar Circles and Kanungos Circles.

Special Kanungo or Patwari *Moharrir* makes the information contained in revenue records, accessible to the litigating public and to the courts, by preparing extracts from the revenue records. Special Kanungo assists the courts of law in the examination of revenue records by giving evidence and by putting the records before the court and by drawing attention to those parts of the records which the court ought to examine.

Patwaris.—Whereas, the Deputy Commissioner is regarded as the pivot of the district administration, the Patwari is the representative of Government at the village level. Upto 1906, he was paid by the village itself, but now he is a salaried Government employee. He has usually one

or two villages in his charge. His local knowledge is so extensive that there is hardly any information about the village and its occupants of which he is not aware or of which he cannot make a guess. As such, he is viewed as the eyes and ears of the Collector.

The duties of the Patwari include conducting of surveys, field inspections, recording of crops, revision of maps or reports relating to mutations, partitions, revenue or rents, *taccavi*, etc. Under the orders of the Collector, he prepares the records of rights. He is also required to assist in providing relief to agriculturists in distress or in census operations. He reports the crime and prepares maps to illustrate police inquiries. His special duty is the preparation of *dhal bachh* (papers regarding distribution of revenue over holdings).

Lambardars.—Lambardar is the most important functionary in the village. His main function is to keep watch over the law and order situation in his area and report the matter to the nearest police station in case of breach of law. It is also his duty to collect the revenue dues for Government from various sources and to remit these into treasury. He is given 5 per cent of land revenue collection which is called *pachotra*. He is the custodian of all government properties in the village. He also reports to the Tahsildar about the deaths of assignees and pensioners and their absence for over a year. Above all, he is the representative of Government in the village. He is assisted by a village Chowkidar.

(c) Development Organization

For the execution of development schemes, the Sangrur District has been divided into 10 development blocks, namely, Bhawanigarh, Sangrur, Barnala, Sehna, Malerkotla, Mehal Kalan, Ahmedgarh, Dhuri, Sunam and Lehragaga. For each block, there is a Block Development and Panchayat Officer, who is under the control of Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti, the Sub Divisional Officer (Civil) of the subdivision, and the District Development and Panchayat Officer of the district, besides being under the overall control of the Deputy Commissioner.

The Block Development and Panchayat Officer is responsible for the successful implementation of development schemes in his block. He also guides and supervises the work of other departments in his block. He is assisted by a Social Education and Panchayat Officer, a Mukhya Sevika, an Overseer (popularly known as Sectional Officer), a number of Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas, besides other ministerial Class III and Class IV staff. Besides, he has also a number of Inspectors or Extension Officers

belonging to the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation, and Industries Departments, who assist and advise him in their respective spheres. This was done after the introduction of Panchayati Raj in the State to enable him to co-ordinate the activities of various departments engaged in developmental work.

(d) General Arrangement for Disposal of Business

In addition to the Sub Divisional Officers (Civil), Tahsildars, and Block Development and Panchayat Officers, the Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur, is assisted by a General Assistant, a District Officer for Removal of Grievances, a District Transport Officer, a District Development and Panchayat Officer, Oath Commissioners, and a District Attorney. Functions of each of these officers are discussed below in brief :

General Assistant.—He is an executive officer under the Deputy Commissioner and assists the latter in all his executive and administrative functions. As such, he is the principal administrative officer and attends to routine correspondence, attestation, complaints, etc. He does little touring as he has to keep a vigilant eye on the district office. Almost all important branches of the Deputy Commissioners' Office are under his supervision. He is competent to correspond with the Government and other departments in routine matters. He is a member of the Punjab Civil Services and an Executive Magistrate. However, since the separation of judiciary from the executive in 1951, he tries only security cases.

District Officer, Removal of Grievances.—He is an Executive Magistrate or an officer of equivalent status and belongs to State Civil Services. He redresses grievances of the public in the district and expedites action on the complaints received by him relating to all departments. He also acts as Co-ordinating Officer for the disposal of complaints from the public.

District Transport Officer.—He is a Senior Magistrate or an officer of equivalent status and belongs to the State Civil Services. His duties and functions are to realise the road tax in respect of all types of vehicles; to regulate the vehicles of all categories covered under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1939; to issue and renew the driving licences and conductor licences; to issue authorisation to drive public service vehicles; to issue special passes for stage carriages/taxi cars for marriage and tour parties; to inspect transport vehicles and grant certificate of fitness in respect of such vehicles for which technical assistance is provided by Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI); to enforce traffic rules etc; to conduct special traffic checking in Sangrur and Bathinda districts with MMPSI

Bathinda Group in the third week of every month. District Transport Officer is the Chairman of Condemnation Board, which condemns the vehicles of all Government departments. He issues full and half paid concession passes to blind and physically handicapped persons, on behalf of Deputy Commissioner.

District Development and Panchayat Officer.—He co-ordinates activities of all departments in the district which are engaged in developmental activities. The Development Branch of the Deputy Commissioners' Office, which deals with the development programmes and agricultural production, functions under his supervision. All the Block Development and Panchayat Officers in the district are under his control and he is required to see that the Rural Development Programme is implemented in right earnest.

Registration.—Under section 17 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908 (16 of 1908), Registration is compulsory for :

- (a) Instruments of gift of immovable property;
- (b) Other non-testamentary instruments which purport or operate to create, declare, assign, limit or extinguish whether in present or in future, any right, title or interest, whether vested or contingent, of the value of one hundred rupees and upwards, to or in immovable property;
- (c) Non-testamentary instruments which acknowledge the receipt of payment of any consideration on account of the creation declaration, assignment, limitation or extinction of any such right, title or interest;
- (d) Leases of immovable property from year to year, or for any term exceeding one year, or reserving a yearly rent ;
- (e) non-testamentary instruments transferring or assigning any decree or order of a court or any award when such decree or order or award purports or operates to create, declare assign, limit, or extinguish. Whether in present or in future any, right, title or interest, whether vested or contingent, of the value of one hundred rupees and upwards, to or in immovable property.

The Deputy Commissioner is the Registrar for the district under the Indian Registration Act, 1908 and in that capacity, he is responsible for registration work in the district. In the Sangrur District, the Registrar is assisted by 4 Tahsildars as Sub-Registrars, one each in four tahsils,

viz. Sangrur, Malerkotla, Barnala and Sunam. The Naib-Tahsildar in a tahsil is the *ex-officio* Joint Sub-Registrar and he undertakes the registration work only when the regular Sub-Registrar is on leave or away from the headquarters. The Sub-Registrar and the Joint Sub-Registrar do registration work in addition to their own duties for which they get monthly honorarium.

The Sub-Registrar registers the documents pertaining to the properties situated in his jurisdiction. The Registrar is, however, empowered to register any document from any tahsil of his district. He hears appeals and applications referred to him under sections 72 and 73 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908, against refusal to register documents by the Sub-Registrars under him.

A Head Registration Clerk assists the Registrar at the district headquarters and clerks/readers assist the Sub-Registrars/Joint Sub-Registrars in the tahsil in performing the registration work.

Oath Commissioner.—An Oath Commissioner is a practising lawyer who is authorised on application, by the High Court to make attestations of affidavits. There are 53 Oath Commissioners in the district : 10 at Sangrur, 3 at Dhuri, 13 at Malerkotla, 9 at Sunam and 18 at Barnala. They charge Rs 2 as attestation fee for an affidavit.

District Attorney.—Formerly designated as Public Prosecutor/Government Pleader, a District Attorney is appointed by the Home Secretary to Government, Punjab, on the recommendations of the Legal Remembrancer and Director Prosecution, Punjab. He represents the State in the cases pending in the court of the District and Sessions Judge. He is under the administrative control of the Director Prosecution, Litigation and Joint Secretary to Government Punjab. He is assisted by Assistant District Attorneys, besides ministerial staff.

(e) District Committees

In the Sangrur District, the following District Committees have been constituted for the speedy disposal of business. Their meetings are held under the chairmanship of Minister/Commissioner/Deputy Commissioner, at the district headquarters :

1 Site Selection Committee	—	Chairman Deputy Commissioner
2 House Allotment Committee	—	Do
District Industrial Advisory Committee	—	Do
District Peace Committee	—	

5 District Food Advisory Committee	Chairman Deputy Commissioner
6 Family Planning Committee	— Do
7 House Building Loan Committee	— Do
8 District Rural Development Agency	— Do
9 Agricultural Production Committee	— Do
10 Public Works Committee	— Do
11 District Planning Board	— Do
12 Telephone Co-ordination Committee (P & T Department)	— Do
13 Law Officers-cum-Public Prosecutor Committee	Do
14 District Investigation and Prosecution Committee for Criminal Cases	— Do
15 District Level Co-ordination Committee on Bio-gas	Do
16 District Level Reclamation Committee for <i>kallar</i> Land	— Do
17 25 Bedded Hospital Committee	— Do
18 District Level Co-ordination Committee for Land Use	Do
19 District Level Prisoners Permature Release Committee	— Do
20 District Law and Order Committee	— Do
21 District Level Committee for Industrial Relations	— Do
22 District Committee on Distribution of Essential Commodities and Procurement of foodgrains	— Do
23 District Olympic Association	— Do
24 Child Welfare Council	— Do
25 District Crime Prevention Society	— Do
26 District level committee to review the case of undertrials	— Convener (D.C.)
27 District Library Committee	— Patron (D.C.)
28 Public Grievances Committee, Sangrur	— Minister

(f) State and Central, Government Officers

The following State and Central Government Officers are posted in the Sangrur District:

State Government Officers

- 1 Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur
- 2 Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur
- 3 General Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur
- 4 District Officer, Removal of Grievances, Sangrur
- 5 District Development and Panchayat Officer, Sangrur
- 6 District Transport Officer, Sangrur
- 7 Sub Divisional Officer (Civil), Sangrur
- 8 Sub Divisional Officer (Civil), Malerkotla
- 9 Sub Divisional Officer (Civil), Barnala
- 10 Sub Divisional Officer (Civil), Sunam
- 11 Tahsildar, Sangrur
- 12 Tahsildar, Malerkotla
- 13 Tahsildar, Barnala
- 14 Tahsildar, Sunam
- 15 Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur
- 16 District and Sessions Judge, Sangrur
- 17 Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sangrur
- 18 Additional District and Sessions Judge, Barnala
- 19 Senior Sub-Judge, Sangrur
- 20 Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sangrur
- 21 Executive Magistrate, Sangrur
- 22 District Food and Supplies Controller, Sangrur
- 23 District Public Relations Officer, Sangrur
- 24 District Education Officer (Schools), Sangrur
- 25 District Education Officer (Primary), Sangrur

- 26 Civil Defence Officer, Sangrur
- 27 District Manager, PUNSUP, Sangrur
- 28 District Administrative Education Officer, Sangrur
- 29 District Animal Husbandry Officer, Sangrur
- 30 District Welfare Officer, Sangrur
- 31 District Employment Officer, Sangrur
- 32 District Attorney, Sangrur
- 33 District Sports Officer, Sangrur
- 34 District Language Officer, Sangrur
- 35 District Statistical Officer, Sangrur
- 36 Secretary, Zila Parishad, Sangrur
- 37 Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur
- 38 Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur
- 39 Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Malerkotla
- 40 Audit Officer, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur
- 41 Superintendent, District *Sudhar Ghar* (Jail), Sangrur
- 42 Civil Surgeon, Sangrur
- 43 Divisional Forest Officer, Sangrur
- 44 Secretary, Zila Sainik Board, Sangrur
- 45 Assistant Director, Fisheries (Research), Sangrur
- 46 Deputy Superintendent of Police, (C.I.D.), Sangrur
- 47 Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Sangrur
- 48 Excise and Taxation Officer, Sangrur (Ten)
- 49 Treasury Officer, Sangrur
- 50 Managing Director, Malwa Milk Producer Co-operative Ltd., Sangrur
- 51 Audit Officer, Malwa Milk Producer Co-operative Ltd., Sangrur.
- 52 Assistant Soil Conservation Officer, Sangrur
- 53 General Manager, District Industries Centre, Malerkotla.

- 54 Depot Manager, Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Sangrur
- 55 Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Division, Sangrur
- 56 Superintending Engineer, Punjab State Tubewell Corporation, Sangrur Construction Circle, Sangrur
- 57 Sub Divisional Engineer, Provincial Subdivision, PWD, B&R, Barnala
- 58 Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD, B&R, Barnala
- 59 Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD, B&R, Malerkotla
- 60 Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Sangrur
- 61 Executive Engineer, Tubewell Division, Malerkotla
- 62 Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Malerkotla
- 63 Divisional Engineer, Lining Division No. I, Punjab State Tubewell Corporation, Sangrur
- 64 Superintending Engineer, Public Health Division, Sangrur
- 65 Executive Engineer, Irrigation Branch, Sangrur
- 66 Deputy Collector, Irrigation Branch, Sangrur
- 67 Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, Sangrur
- 68 Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, Public Health, B & R, Sangrur
- 69 Chairman, Sangrur Improvement Trust, Sangrur
- 70 Chairman, Malerkotla Improvement Trust, Malerkotla
- 71 Chairman, Barnala Improvement Trust, Barnala
- 72 Commander, N.C.C., Sangrur
- 73 District Commander, Punjab Home Guards, Sangrur
- 74 District Probation Officer, Sangrur
- 75 Chief Agricultural Officer, Sangrur
- 76 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Sangrur
- 77 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Sunam

- 78 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Barnala
- 79 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Malerkotla
- 80 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Bhawanigarh
- 81 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Lehragaga
- 82 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Ahmedgarh
- 83 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Sehna
- 84 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Mahal Kalan
- 85 Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Dhuri

Central Government Officers

- 1 Income Tax Officer, Ward A, Sangrur
- 2 Income Tax Officer, Ward B, Sangrur
- 3 Superintendent of Post Offices, Barnala
- 4 District Savings Officer, Sangrur
- 5 District Manager, Food Corporation of India, Sangrur
- 6 Branch Manager, Life Insurance Corporation, Sangrur
- 7 Youth Co-ordinator, Centre Services, Government of India, Sangrur

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

(a) Land Revenue Administration

(i) History of Land Revenue Assessment Management

The history of land revenue of the Sangrur District is exceedingly complicated. Formerly scattered in the erstwhile princely states of Jind, Patiala, Nabha, and Malerkotla, and a part of the British territory, it has a land revenue history differing in one part from that in other parts. Each of these princely states had a different system of land revenue—also different from that in the British territory. However, the land revenue was imposed and collected as per the orders of the Mughal emperors who reigned India from time to time.

The history of Jind State begins from 1763 when Raja Gajpat Singh seized a large tract of country including Jind and Safidon districts (now in Haryana) on the dissolution of Mughal empire and obtained the title of Raja under an imperial *farman* in 1772. By this *farman* he assumed the style of an independent prince. Afterwards, he obtained the *pargana* of Sangrur alongwith Balanwali (now in Haryana). Before the settlements made by Raja Sarup Singh the assessment of land revenue was a fluctuating one. In some villages, a system of *batai* for one crop and of *kankut* for the other was in vogue, while in others cash rates were fixed on crops at the beginning of the *kharif* in consultation with the *zamindars*.

First (Summary) Settlement of Sangrur Tahsil, 1861-1865.—The first summary settlement of tahsil Sangrur was effected by Sardar Daya Singh, Nazim of the Jind State, during 1861-65. There were 83 villages in the Sangrur Tahsil with an area of 1,56,095 acres (cultivated 1,12,333 acres, uncultivated 43,762 acres) and a revenue (*jama*) of Rs 1,63,897.

Second (Regular) Settlement of Tahsil Sangrur.—The summary settlement was followed by a regular settlement made by Sardar Kahan Singh during 1866-1875. At this settlement, area of the tahsil increased from 1,56,095 acres to 1,61,337 acres. The number of villages increased from 83 villages to 92 villages and revenue (*jama*) amount was raised from Rs 1,63,897 to Rs 1,82,539 under the same terms and conditions of revenue realization system as per first summary settlement.

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Since from this settlement of Sangrur Tahsil, the *tappa* system was discontinued. Muamla (cash rent) was realized for the *kharif*, and *batai* of one-third for *barani* soils and one-fourth for *chahi* ones was taken for the *rabi*.

Third Settlement of Tahsil Sangrur.—The third settlement of tahsil Sangrur was effected by Lala Kanhiya Lal during 1877-1886. In this settlement also, there was enlargement in area and increase in revenue (*jama*). Due to enlargement, the total area of the tahsil was 1,61,767 acres (cultivated 1,22,728 acres, uncultivated 39,039 acres) and the revenue was raised to Rs 2,09,115. In this settlement, there was also a change in the realization of revenue system. The *batai* and *kankut* were converted into cash rents for both crops in the ilaqs of Sangrur and Kularan, and into cash rents for *kharif* and *batai* for *rabi* in Balanwali.

Fourth Settlement of Tahsil Sangrur 1899-1919.—This was done by Lala Ram Kishan Das during 1899-1919. In this settlement, cash rents were fixed in the whole Sangrur Tahsil for the welfare of the *zamindars*. In this last settlement the total area of tahsil measured was 1,61,154 acres (cultivated 1,30,568 acres, uncultivated 30,586 acres). It was 613 acres less than in the previous settlement and the revenue assessed was Rs 1,86,828 which was also less by Rs 22,287 and villages rose from 95 to 97. This reduction in revenue was owing to cash assessment instead of *batai*. The shrinkage of 613 acres of land was due to the expansion of the villages in the tahsil.

Settlement in former Nabha State areas

In the area falling in the then Nabha princely State, the ancient system of levying the revenue in kind remained in force up to 1860. However, since 1860 the system of cash assessment was introduced in the princely State except Lohat Badi (Malerkotla tahsil) in which it was introduced in 1932 Sambat (1875). After the summary assessment, a regular settlement was initiated in 1948 Sambat and completed in 1959 (A.D. 1902). This assessment was conducted on the lines of the British Revenue Law of 1884, the land was measured and the record of rights prepared as in a British district.

Land Revenue System in the former Patiala State areas

Some tahsils of princely State Patiala such as Sunam, Bhawani-garh, Barnala, Dhuri were annexed fully or partly to the Sangrur District after 1947. The revenue of this State from Akbar to the times of Ala Singh and his successors was being collected in kind known as *Kham tahsil* (collection in kind) upto 1862. This arrangement was occasionally replaced by cash assessments made for a period of one or two years, but

these rare and irregular assessments or contracts were not based on any fixed rule or established principles, for whenever there was a good crop and the *Diwan* expected to realize more by collection in kind than by adhering to a fixed cash assessment, he at once cancelled the agreement without the slightest scruple and did not wait for its term to expire. As a consequence of this short-sighted policy, the *zamindar* (tiller) never put his heart into his work and no waste lands were ever brought under cultivation.

The share of the produce taken by the State differed in different *parganas*; it was mostly one-third, but one-fourth or two-fifths was also taken, and there was a large number of extra dues called *abwab*. A cash rate per *bigha*, called *Zabti*, was charged on crops that could not be easily divided. The State's share of grain was realized either by actually dividing the produce (*batai* or *bhawali*) or by appraisement, *kankut*, *kan*, or *kachh*. *Batai* was, with rare exceptions, usually resorted to in the *rabi*, and appraisement was a rule in the *kharif*. The officials who made the *batai* were called *Batawas* and those who made the appraisements were known as *Kachhus*.

At each harvest, the Tahsildar divided the *parganas* into a number of suitable circles and the land was measured by horse pacing, and two *Kachhus* or measurers and two *Batawas* were appointed for each circle; two *Muharris* called *Likharis* were also sent with them. One out of each pair of *Kachhus*, *Batawas* and *Likharis* was the Tahsildar's nominee and the other called "*sarkari*" was appointed by the *Diwan*.

When the crop was ready for the sickle one or two *Muhassals* or watchmen were appointed in village to watch the crop and the grain before division. The *zamindar* himself was not allowed to touch his crop or take a single handful of grain for his cattle. The *Muhassal* used to get 1½ annas a day, of which an anna was paid by the village and half-an-anna by the State. This establishment was temporary. But *Kachhu* was all in all in making *Khasra* entries pakka in the name of *zamindar* which was known as *nawan pakana*. It could not be changed later on and to change it was considered a serious crime. In a similar way, the *Batawas* got the produce weighed by the village *bania* called the *dharwahi*, deducted 15 per cent as *kamin's* dues, divided the rest at the *pargana* rate of *batai*, and recorded in the same way (*nawan pakana*) the amount due from each man against his name in the *khasra*.

Owing to the negligence or dishonesty on the part of the *Batawas* the delay in effecting the *batai* often caused great damage to the grain when its price, full or half, as the case may be, was realized from the *zamindars*. This was the system of *kham* collection that prevailed upto 1862.

In 1861-62, the first contract settlement on a cash basis was effected in all districts of the Patiala State. As estimate was made of the average value of the actual realization in cash or in kind, during the previous twenty-one years, and the assessment arrived at was announced for one year.

A regular settlement of the whole Patiala State was commenced in 1901. The revenue assessment for the whole State was Rs 41,48,155. This assessment includes the assessed amount of Sunam, Bhawanigarh and Barnala tahsils and of Dhuri (then a tahsil) of the erstwhile princely Patiala State which were later on annexed to Sangrur District.

Land Revenue System in Malerkotla Princely State

The erstwhile princely State of Malerkotla, which became part of the Sangrur District, consisted of 119 villages. Out of these 119 villages, 100 were held on *pattidari* tenure, 3 on pure *zamindari*, and 16 on *bhaia-chara* tenure.

In the villages, *dakhilkars* (occupancy tenants) cultivated 91 per cent of land themselves; the remaining 9 per cent was held by tenants-at-will who used to pay rents in kind and cash at various rates. In Malerkotla, occupancy tenants paying in kind held 46 per cent and paying in cash 29 per cent. Tenants-at-will cultivated 11 per cent on *batai*; and 1 per cent on cash rents. The remaining 13 per cent was held by Jagirdars and Muafidars themselves.

Before the State was granted to the Afghans the revenue was taken in cash by appraisement, but Shaikh Sadr-ud-din the original Jagirdar, began to levy one-third of all corn and one-fourth of all straw including *chari*. This system was extended to the villages subsequently added to the State and remained in force up to 1864.

The first cash assessment was made in 1864-65 by Lala Kanhya Lal. The demands fixed were based on the average collections of grain and fodder for 5 or 6 years converted into cash at the then prevailing prices. The leases were given for five years i.e. up to 1870 and the demand being moderate was easily realized. The general rate in this assessment was 7 annas per *kachcha bigha*.

The second assessment was made by Nawab Sikandar Ali Khan himself in 1870. A survey and Record of Rights were also begun for the Nawab's villages, but he died before their completion. The leases were calculated in a very crude way.

The villagers were asked to state the area of cultivated land they possessed as also the details of its soils and cultivation. Rates were then fixed on the yield and thus the demand of each village was arrived

at. These leases ran on till 1879, and as the revenue was generally moderate it was easily realised. The unfinished Settlement Records were completed under Mr Heath, Superintendent, during the minority of Nawab Ibrahim Ali Khan.

The third assessment was made in 1879-80, through the Tahsildars. The amount of each lease was determined according to the offers made by contractors or bids by money lenders. As a rule, this assessment was naturally a full one and too heavy in some villages; the general rate on cultivation was 12 annas 7 pies per *kachcha bigha*. The system of levying revenue was not uniform; in some villages it continued to take *batai*, in others land was given on annual leases or for a term of years, either to the cultivators or to contractors.

First Regular Settlement 1887-1891.—The operations of the first regular settlement commenced in Malerkotla in September 1887 and extended in the whole State except in Inayat Ali Khan's villages, in June 1888. The whole State was divided into 37 patwar circle for inspection of crops, realization of revenue, preparation of the Record of Rights and determining the status of cultivators. Patwaris and *munsarims* were appointed for this purpose. In September 1888 the number of circles was increased from 37 to 50 when Khan Sahib Inayat Ali Khan made over all his papers and patwar staff to the Settlement Department. Later on, the *munsarims* were found incompetent and most worthless of them were replaced by patwaris.

In the settlement, the Settlement Officer assessed the total land revenue demand of the State, including the *jāgirs*, at Rs 3,69,000 in 1891, though he considered that Jagirdars' incomes had probably been overstated, and that in the absence of reliable data for the *batai*-paying villages no estimate, even approximately correct, of the actual demand could be made. That mismanagement had diminished the States' resources appeared from the fact in 100 villages the well-irrigated area had decreased from 68,431 to 54,621 *bighas* in 1891. Applying the rates of yield and prices sanctioned to the results of 3 years crop inspections a total demand of Rs 3,24,165 was arrived at.

Second Regular Settlement 1910-1913.—The assessment of regular settlement was announced in *kharif* 1891 for a term of 20 years. The period of settlement therefore expired in October 1911. In January 1910 it was decided to take the work of re-assessment. By *Ijlas-i-khas* order dated 25 July 1910, the whole of Malerkotla state was placed under re-assessment. The unit of measurement was *karam*, *kuchcha/Pakka bigha* and acre. The duration of the settlement was 20 years but the princely State of Malerkotla was abolished and made part of Patiala and East Punjab States Union.

and, later on, of Punjab. Under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, the settlement was statutorily limited to 40 years and by this standard also a settlement was due in some parts of the district.

The measurement in the settlement was made on the square system with a *karam* of 57.157 inches. Generally, under this settlement, the *batai* system was abolished and gave fixity of tenure to the people. It was mentioned that the assessment of an estate should not exceed half the net assets or renting value. Only in few villages collection in kind was maintained in the case of *jagirdars* whose income was less than Rs 200 per mensem. The revenue was only once in *kharif* 1899 that one-fifth of the whole revenue of the State was suspended. Right from the previous settlement (1891) no remissions had ever been given during the last twenty-two years.

The total revenue of the State under this settlement was increased. Under this settlement the revenue was assessed Rs 4,41,763 as against Rs 3,59,808 in the last settlement. The area of the State on remeasurement was 1,06,286 acres (510,172 *bighas*). The cultivated area of the State in this settlement, compared to that in the previous settlement, decreased by 26 per cent, from 4,47,338 *bighas* to 4,35,807 *bighas*, due largely to the construction of Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal railway line which passed through the Malerkotla territory.

(ii) Collection of Land Revenue

Prior to 1861, the collection of land revenue was made by lambardars (village headmen) under the *tappa* system in the area relating to the erstwhile Jind State. Since the regular settlement (1861) *pachotra* or 5 per cent of the land revenue collection was paid to the lambardar, in the area relating to the erstwhile Patiala State, land revenue was collected by the lambardars in the supervision of *kachhus*, *batawas* and *muharris* under the *Kham* system. Being a defective system, it was abolished by Maharaja Narinder Singh. Since the regular settlement commenced in 1901, lambardari cess of 5 per cent was levied and a small sum called *panchai* or *pachotra* began to be paid to lambardars out of the State revenues. In the area of erstwhile Malerkotla and Nabha States, now part of the Sangrur District, land revenue was collected by the lambardars. Prior to the second regular settlement of Malerkotla State (1910-1913) the distinguished lambardars got Rs 12 per annum as *safedposhi inams* and were designated as *safedposh*. Their designation was changed to *zaildar* later on. In Jind State, *zaildari* system was not in vogue, while it prevailed in the Patiala and Nabha States.

After independence in 1947, the posts of *zaildars* were abolished. After 1948, certain factors such as the introduction of panchayati raj and political awakening made the ruralities more conscious of their rights and less of their duties thereby increasing the number of those evading the payment of land revenue. This affected the position of the lambardar considerably. Therefore, in order to overcome these shortcomings superior posts of *zaildars* and *inamdars* were created, but were reabolished in 1964 leaving the Lambardar alone to collect revenue.

The lambardar collects the revenue from right holders and in this he gets assistance from the chowkidar, another village worker and the patwari, a government official. Now, 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.

(iii) Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses

Land Revenue.—The last regular settlements relating to Sangrur District (erstwhile princely States) took place in 1899-1919 (Jind), 1901-1908 (Patiala), 1910—1913 (Malerkotla) and 1892-1903 (Nabha), and land revenue fixed under these settlements, is being collected by adding other cesses etc. imposed by the State Government from time to time. It is realized in two instalments, i.e. for *kharif* crops in the month of January and for *rabi* crops in the month of June every year.

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 unculturable on account of *thur* and *sem*, is remitted.

The following statement gives the details of income from land revenue, and remission in the Sangrur District, during 1973-74 to 1977-78:—

Year ending <i>Rabi</i>	Recovery (Rs)	Remission (Rs)
1973-74	8,72,337	2,93,413
1974-75	8,61,005	2,90,616
1975-76	8,92,498	2,97,975
1976-77	8,77,874	2,91,220
1977-78	8,70,319	2,62,416

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur)

SPECIAL CESSES

Besides the land revenue, following cesses are levied on the land-owners in the district :—

Village Officers' Cess

Previously, the Village Officers' Cess was included in *patwar* cess in the area relating to Sangrur District of the erstwhile Patiala and Malerkotla states. But in Jind State, the land revenue was collected as a fixed share of the crop. Unlike in other States such as Patiala and Malerkotla, the *patwar* cess was not collected as a separate item with the land revenue. In the erstwhile Patiala State, since the regular settlement commenced in 1901, the cesses levied in the State included *patwar* cess i.e. 2½ per cent. Similarly, the *patwar* cess was included in land revenue in the erstwhile Malerkotla State since the last assessment commenced in 1887; the rate of *patwar* cess in the State was higher than that in the Patiala State. It was collected Rs 3-9-4 per cent excluding the lambardari cess which was charged as a separate item @ 5 per cent with the land revenue. After the formation of PEPSU and with the abolition of *zaildari* and *sufedposhi* agencies in 1948, only *pachotra* of the rate of 5 per cent of land revenue, is being charged as the Village Officers' Cess.

Local Rate

Local rate has grown from small beginnings. It was usual in early settlements to levy an extra cess or local rate cess on land revenue to maintain schools, hospitals, roads, etc. In the beginning of the 19th century, in erstwhile Jind State, it was derived from the levy of an extra cess of 5 per cent on the land revenue in small villages, and 2½ per cent in large ones. Menial tribes had to pay an *atraf* of Re 1 to Rs 2 on each hearth of house (*khudi*). Similarly, it was levied @ 4 per cent (1 per cent road cess, 1 per cent school cess, 1 per cent hospital cess and 1 per cent postal cess) in erstwhile Patiala State. In erstwhile Malerkotla State, it was realized on higher rates than those in Jind and Patiala states. It was derived at the rate of Rs 10 annas 6 and pies 8 per Rs 100 for the maintenance of schools, hospitals and roads on land revenue.

The local rate in princely states was raised from time to time. At the time of Independence, the local rate in these states was not at par and varied from *chak* to *chak* even in one State. In most of the *chaks* of Patiala State, it was levied at the rate of 11 per cent, such as in Bhawanigarh, Sunam, Barnala, Sherpur, etc. and at the rate of 13 per cent in *chak* Amargarh. Similarly, in Nabha State it was levied at 7 per cent in *chak* Dhanaula, 10 per cent in *chak* Nabha and 18 per cent in *chak*

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Lohat Badi. In Malerkotla State, it was levied at the rate of 16 per cent. In Jind State, in most of the *chaks* such as Mahlan, Biggarwal, Akalgarh, Chatha Nakta and Bharur the local rate was 11 per cent while in *chak* Sangrur, it was 9 per cent. The local rate in the *chaks* such as Kharial and Ludhiana which were partly merged in the district from the Punjab State was higher than that of the local rates of the erstwhile princely states. It was levied in these *chaks* at the rate of 50 per cent since kharif 1948.

Later on, when PEPSU was merged in the Punjab State, the local rate in the whole district was brought at par and was levied at the rate of 50 per cent.

Abiana

The *abiana* or water rate is charged on the area irrigated by canals. The income from this source in the Sangrur District, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given below :

Year	Income from abiana (Rs)
1973-74	.. 50,17,025
1974-75	.. 75,30,587
1975-76	.. 95,97,962
1976-77	.. 99,04,990
1977-78	.. 97,73,851

(Source : Deputy Commissioner Sangrur)

(b) Land Reforms

Prior to the introduction of land reforms, the tenants had no hereditary cultivating rights; they cultivated at the will of the owners, who could eject them whenever they chose, after a harvest, unless they were admitted to the *maurusi*. In some areas, the cultivators had hereditary cultivating rights, and were called *muzarian-i-maurusi*. They were not deemed to hold any proprietary rights, but paid a fixed rent in cash or grain as *malikana* to the owner. The owner had the further advantage that he used to obtain possession of the land of his hereditary cultivator in the event of his death without male issue or next-of-kin within three generations. Most of the tenants were suffering from the non-conferment of ownership rights. They did not take serious interest in cultivation; they were fed up with exploitation by the landowners.

Since time immemorial, attempts have been made to solve the problem of small cultivators who were constantly harassed by the big landlords and *Zamindars* and were deprived of their due share and ownership right in agricultural land.

The major step taken in the direction of land reforms was the abolition of intermediaries like *Zamindars*, *jagirs*, *inams*, etc. Consequently, tenants of former intermediaries have come into direct relationship with the State and have become owners of their holdings. To better the lot of tenants, the PEPSU Government controlling the entire area of the present Sangrur District, and the Punjab Government passed a number of laws which are given as under :

1. The East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949
2. The PEPSU Abolition of Ala Malikiyat Rights Act, 1954
3. The PEPSU Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1954
4. The PEPSU Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1955
5. The Punjab Bhudan Yagna Act, 1955
6. The Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957
7. The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961
8. The Punjab Land Reforms Act, 1972

Under the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949, which has been applicable to the area in this district, from 1956, the Collector can take into possession and lease out any land which can be cultivated, but has not been cultivated for the last six harvests. Under the PEPSU Abolition of Ala Malikiyat Rights Act, 1954, the superior landowners were abolished and the inferior landowners were upgraded and for this the superior landowners were given five times the amount of rent they got from the inferior landowners. Under the PEPSU Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1954, the occupancy tenants were made full-fledged landowners liable to Government for paying land revenue, while the landowners were compensated for this loss. This measure not only ended an anachronism by eliminating an outmoded class but also made the land secure for the landowner who was the actual tiller, and brought him in direct relationship with Government. Besides the classes of cultivators mentioned above, a large area was cultivated by the tenants-at-will who were at the mercy of landlord and

they had no security of tenancy. The amount of rent was not fixed and they had no remedy to seek in case of distress. To better their lot, was enacted the PEPSU Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1955, which not only gave security of tenancy to the tenants but also laid down the maximum amount of rent that could be charged from them and prescribed certain grounds on which alone could tenants be ejected and not otherwise. Besides, the maximum area that could be cultivated by a landlord himself was prescribed. Thus a large area was released for the tenants. However, it was, later on considered necessary that these provisions should be further modified and on the basis of national guidelines, the Punjab Land Reforms Act, 1972, was drafted and passed on 14 December 1972.

In order to carry out the objectives of the Act, the Punjab Land Reforms Rules, 1973, were framed under the Act. A Scheme, viz. the Punjab Utilization of Surplus Areas Scheme, 1973, was also introduced under the provisions of the Act for utilization of surplus areas.

In order to implement the land reforms programme in the State, an advisory committee at the State level and similar committees at the district levels were constituted. Surplus land is being distributed to landless agricultural workers, members of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, and tenants who own no land or have an area less than two hectares of the first quality land.

The distribution of land among various classes of cultivators/tenants in the district, upto 1977-78, is given below :

Security of Land Tenures:—The PEPSU Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1955 provides for the security of land tenure. According to the provisions of the Act, no tenant can be ejected from his cultivated holdings except in cases of default of payment of rent; or the tenant does not cultivate land, in the manner and to the extent customary in the locality in which the land is situated; or the tenant is using such land or part thereof in a manner which is likely to render the land unfit for the purpose for which it was leased to him; or the tenant on demand in writing by the land owner, has refused to execute a *kabuliyat* agreeing to pay a rent in respect of his tenancy.

The main objectives of the Act are : to provide a ceiling on individual land holdings, to give certain security of tenure to tenants, to provide for resettlement of tenants lawfully evicted, and, to give a right to certain tenants to purchase land of their tenancy.

By 31 March 1978, 3,962 cases of surplus area had been decided and about 4,279 standard acres and 1,308 standard hectares of land was declared surplus in the district. By the same date, 1,451 eligible tenants were rehabilitated on about 2,078 standard acres and 509 standard hectares of surplus area.

Utilization of Land :—The East Punjab utilization of lands Act, 1949, was made applicable to the Patiala and East Punjab States Union in 1956 when it was merged in the Punjab State. Prior to its enforcement there were some areas in the district which were not brought under cultivation. In pursuance of Government Policy to utilize every inch of available culturable land for growing more food and other essential crops, the above Act has been enforced, under which a notice is served on every landowner who allowed his land to remain uncultivated for six or more consecutive harvests and the land thus taken over is leased out to some other person for a term ranging from 7 to 20 years, priority being given to Harijans. Under this policy, 1,258 standard acres and 5,14.66 standard hectares of land have been taken over under the PEPSU Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1955 and the Punjab Land Reforms Act, 1972, respectively, in Malerkotla Tashil and 468 hectares of land has been taken over under these Acts in Barnala Tahsil. Of the above, no area has been leased out to any tenants in the district up to 31 March 1978.

Consolidation of Holdings.—Prior to the formation of PEPSU, the consolidation of holdings was started in the villages of the district, relating mainly to the erstwhile princely State of Nabha, by the Co-operative Department. At that time, it was taken up in old villages at the request of the people. The consent of each holder was necessary before any scheme of redistribution could be implemented in the village. The progress was consequently slow. The Government of Patiala and East Punjab States Union, therefore, passed the Patiala and East Punjab States Union Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act, 2007(BK). The Act provides for the consolidation of agricultural holdings and for preventing the fragmentation of agricultural holdings in the State of Patiala and East Punjab States Union.

The Act provides, with the object of consolidation of holdings in any estate or group of estates or any part thereof for the purpose of better cultivation of lands therein, the Government may of its own motion or on application made in this behalf, declare by notification and by publication in the prescribed manner in the estate or estates concerned its intention to make scheme for the consolidation of holdings in such estate or estates or part thereof as may be specified. On such publication in the estate concerned the Government may appoint a Consolidation Officer who shall

after obtaining in the prescribed manner the advice of the landowners of the estate or estates concerned, prepare a scheme for the consolidation of holdings in such estate or estates or part thereof as the case may be.

The Act further provides that the transfer or partition of any land contrary to the provisions of the Act shall be void. No land in any notified area shall be transferred or partitioned so as to create a fragment. No owner of fragment who intends to sell it can sell without the prior approval of the Collector concerned. The owner shall in the first instance offer the fragment for sale to the owners of contiguous survey numbers or recognised subdivisions of survey numbers, and in case of their refusal to purchase the owner may transfer it to the Government on payment. The Act provides compensation to any owner who is allotted a holding of less market value than that of his original holding.

After the merger of PEPSU in the Punjab, the consolidation of holdings of the district is undertaken under the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act, 1948.

By 31 March 1978, land measuring 5,07,328 hectares was consolidated in the district.

Bhoodan:—The Bhoodan movement was started by Acharya Vinoba Bhave with a view to setting the landless cultivators on land through voluntary donations. The Punjab Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955, was passed to promote the movement. The area of land given in Bhoodan in the Sangrur District upto March 1978 was 31 acres 2 kanals.

Rural Wages and Condition of Agricultural Labour:—The daily wages paid to agricultural and skilled workers (men) in one selected village, viz. Fatehgarh (1973-74 to 1977-78) in Malerkotla Tahsil of the District are given in the following statement:—

Daily wages paid to Agricultural and Skilled Labourers (Males) in a Selected Village, Fatehgarh (Tahsil Malerkotla) in Sangrur District 1973-74 to 1977-78

Year ending 30 June	REVENUE ADMINISTRATION									
	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)		
1973-74	8.40	8.42	8.44	11.00	6.50	8.27	14.96	14.96		
1974-75	9.25	9.25	9.30	..	6.25	10.21	15.25	15.25		
1975-76	9.50	9.50	9.50	13.00	5.08	9.50	15.50	15.50		
1976-77	9.36	9.33	9.39	9.50	4.50	9.42	16.08	16.08		
1977-78	9.50	9.50	9.50	99.50	6.50	9.50	20.83	20.83		
1978-79	10.25	10.87	9.93	14.25	7.67	10.18	22.18	22.18		

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab 1974 to 1979)

(c) Other Sources of Revenue, State and Central
(i) Other Sources of State Revenue

Besides Land revenue, the other sources of State revenue are ; Stamp Duty, Registration Fee, Excise Tax, Motor Spirit Tax, Urban Immovable Property Tax, Sales Tax, Passengers and Goods Tax, Entertainments Tax, Entertainments Duty, Central Sales Tax, Electricity Duty and Copying fee.

Stamp Duty.—Prior to Independence, the Indian Stamp Act (No. II) of 1899 was in force in the erstwhile princely state of Malerkotla. It was, however, not adopted by the other princely states of Jind and Patiala. In Jind, State Act, 1875, and in Patiala State, the Patiala Stamp Act, which was introduced in 1868, were in force. The Indian Stamp Act (No. II) of 1899, amended by the Punjab Act VIII of 1922 and the Indian Stamp (Punjab Second Amendment) Act (No. 34) of 1960 is applicable in the whole State.

In Nabha Princely State, impressed non-judicial sheets of foolscap size were issued by the State. The value of sheets being annas 1, 2, 4 and 8 and Rs 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500.

Stamp revenue (duty) is derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps or revenue stamps.

The judicial or court fee stamps are sold under the Court Fee Act, 1870. This Act requires the Collector (Deputy Commissioner) to ensure that the documents are properly stamped according to the schedule (the schedule forms part of the Act).

The total income realized in the district from the sale of non-judicial stamps and miscellaneous stamps, etc. during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is as under :

Year	Miscellaneous Stamps (Rs)	Non-Judicial Stamps (Rs)	Total (Rs)
1973-74	7,91,770	55,69,825	63,61,595
1974-75	8,30,374	83,79,324	92,09,698
1975-76	9,28,117	80,56,943	89,85,060
1976-77	8,75,897	93,01,449	1,01,77,346
1977-78	11,84,068	1,25,43,998	1,37,28,066

(Source : Treasury Officer, Sangrur)

Registration Fee.—The Indian Registration Act, 1908, requires compulsory registration of all documents pertaining to immovable property and provides optional registration in case of other documents. The chief items of receipts collected by the Registration Department are in respect of registration of documents, making or granting of copies, searching of registers power of attorney, etc.

The following statement shows the number of registered documents, value of property transferred and receipts in the district, from 1973-74 to 1977-78:

Year	No. of Registrations of Property				Aggregate value of property Transferred ('000, Rs)						
	No. of Registration Offices	Immovable Property			Movable Grand Total Property	Immov-able property	Movable & Total Property	Total Receipts ('000, Rs)			
		Compulsory	Op-tional	Total							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1973-74	..	8	17,925	9	17,934	681	18,615	1,15,223	239	1,15,462	1,288
1974-75	..	8	18,104	5	18,109	767	18,876	1,34,394	1	1,34,295	1,618
1975-76	..	10	19,965	6	19,971	1,015	20,986	1,91,966	59	1,92,025	2,153
1976-77	..	10	21,299	2	21,301	662	21,963	1,85,495	277	1,85,722	1,961
1977-78	..	10	22,041	7	22,048	—	22,048	2,17,545	—	2,17,545	2,228

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(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1979)

Excise Tax.—The State and Central Excise Acts enforced in the Punjab are : 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 and the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.

General Sales Tax.—It is levied under the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, which replaced the Punjab General Sales Tax Act of 1941.

Passengers and Goods Tax.—It is levied under the Punjab Passengers and Goods Tax Act, 1952, on all fares and freights in respect of passengers carried and goods transported in motor vehicles in the State. The rate of tax has been increased from time to time. According to Punjab Government notification No. C.S.R. 42/P.A. 16/52/S. 22/Amd (14)78, dated 6 April 1978, it was 35 per cent of the fare/freight. In the same year, the annual rate of tax per truck was Rs 1,050 in the plains and Rs 135 per annum in the hilly areas in the Punjab. The notification No. GSR 34/P.A. 16/52/Ss. 22 and 4/Amd. (16)/82, dated 21 June 1982 effective from 1 July 1982 raised the annual rate of tax per truck in the plains from Rs 1050 to 1,100.

Entertainments Tax.—It is levied under the Punjab Entertainment Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1954, for every show on the number of occupied seats of a cinema. According to Punjab Government Notification No. S.O./P.A. 8/54/S. 3/78 dated 3 May 1978 the tax shall not exceed Rs 150 per show in any case and shall be charged proportionately for a fraction of 100 seats.

Entertainments Duty.—It is levied under the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955, which repealed the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936. The rates of duty change from time to time. According to Punjab Government, Excise & Taxation Department Notification No. S.O. 23/P.A. 16/55/S. 3/78 dated 3 May 1978 the rate of entertainments duty including that on complimentary tickets, shall be 125 per centum of the payment for admission to any entertainment to which persons are ordinarily admitted on payment.

Central Sales Tax.—The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, came into force in January 1957, enabling the State Government to tax inter-state sales of goods. The States have been authorised to administer this tax on behalf of the Government of India, the entire collection being appropriated by the States.

Electricity Duty.—It is levied under the Punjab Electricity (Duty) Act, 1958, to meet the additional financial burden undertaken by the State

on account of introduction of free education and provincialization of 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.

Copying Fee.—It is charged under the Punjab Copying Fee Act, 1936, for copies of orders, etc. supplied to the public. The charges vary for supplying copies on ordinary and urgent basis.

The collections from the taxes, mentioned above, in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given in the following statement :

Collection from other Sources of State Revenue in Sangrur District, 1973-74 to 1977-78

Serial No.	Tax	1973-74 (Rs)	1974-75 (Rs)	1975-76 (Rs)	1976-77 (Rs)	1977-78 (Rs)
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION						
1	Excise Tax	..	2,97,17,533	3,55,35,820	4,06,00,820	5,36,97,501
2	Motor Spirit Tax	..	26,74,788	15,29,142	1,402	..
3	Urban Immovable Property Tax	..	32,903	5,429	331	..
4	Punjab General Sales Tax	..	2,15,16,173	2,42,31,357	2,25,95,688	3,04,57,604
5	Passengers and Goods Tax	..	74,26,699	98,61,277	1,08,25,988	1,38,15,363
6	Entertainment Tax	..	97,381	1,03,338	1,25,607	1,38,634
7	Entertainments Duty	..	12,15,997	28,56,551	18,27,059	23,16,130
8	Central Sales Tax	..	45,03,059	81,77,236	43,26,728	37,52,134
9	Electricity Duty	..	9,16,263	11,15,488	15,89,179	31,71,342
10	Copying Fee	..	37,019	42,639	49,909	45,425

(Source : Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Sangrur ; Executive Engineer, Punjab State Electricity Board, Sangrur Division, Sangrur ; Barnala Division, Barnala, Sunam Division, Sunam and Malerkotla Division, Malerkotla and Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur)

(ii) Central Sources of Revenue

Central Excise Duties.—The Assistant Collector, Central Excise Division, Patiala, is the overall incharge of the Sangrur Range with headquarters at Patiala. He is assisted by an Inspector Central Excise, Dhuri.

The main sources of Central Excise Duty in the Sangrur District are: iron and steel products, *khandburi*, sugar, internal combustion engines, electric motors, tobacco, chewing tobacco, power driven pumps, electric fans, electric wires and cables, sodium silicate, paper, asbestos, cement products, snuff, etc.

Income-tax.—It is levied under the Income Tax Act, 1961, which replaced the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, on 1 April 1962. The rate of income-tax varies from year to year in accordance with the Finance Act passed by the Parliament every year.

Wealth Tax:—It is levied under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957, which came into force from 1 April 1957. It is chargeable on the net wealth of an individual and Hindu Undivided Family.

Gift Tax.—The tax is levied under the Gift Tax Act, 1958, on all gifts made after the date of the enforcement of the Act (i.e. 1 April 1958), if the total value of the gift (movable or immovable) exceeds the limit specified by the Finance Act passed by the Parliament in a particular year.

Estate Duty.—The duty is levied under the Estate Duty Act, 1953. It is leviable on the estates of persons dying after this date. The Sangrur District falls under the jurisdiction of Assistant Controller of Estate Duty, Patiala, for the levy of this duty.

The collections from the Central sources of revenue in the district, from 1973-74 to 1977-78 are given below:

Year		Central Excise Duties (Rs)	Income- tax (Rs)	Wealth Tax (Rs)	Gift Tax (Rs)	Estate Duty (Rs)
1973-74	..	48,91,469	29,27,000	2,13,000	4,82,000	2,34,000
1974-75	..	49,16,900	94,16,000	2,57,000	4,54,000	1,31,000
1975-76	..	77,66,558	90,65,000	3,05,000	2,56,000	1,47,000
1976-77	..	68,38,018	93,24,000	4,25,000	2,45,000	1,25,000
1977-78	..	59,17,322	1,03,16,000	5,02,000	1,83,000	1,28,000

(Source : Income tax Officers, Sangrur, Barnala and Malerkotla ; Superintendent, Central Excise, Patiala and Inspector Central Excise, Dhuri ; and Assistant Controller of Estate Duty, Patiala)

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

(a) Incidence of Crime in the District

The people of the Sangrur District have almost the same characteristics as their counterparts in the adjoining districts of Patiala, Ludhiana, Faridkot and Bathinda. The crime statistics indicate that the total number of criminal cases registered in the district has increased from 3,541 in 1974 to 4,058 in 1978. In spite of the fact that the population of the district has increased considerably, the incidence of murder is on the decline. As compared to 66 murders in 1974, there were 50 such cases in 1978. During the year 1978, there was no case of dacoity, robbery, or traffic in women. There were 99 cases of burglary in 1978 as compared to 104 in 1974. In the district, there are few cases of rioting, cattle lifting and cheating. However, the incidence of crime has increased under the local and special laws. The total number of criminal cases under the local and special laws was 3,234 in 1978 as compared to 2,626 in 1974. A comparative study of incidence of crime reveals that on the whole people of the district are law-abiding.

Trend of the various crimes committed in the district during 1974 to 1978 may be indicated from the following table:

Year	Murder	Dacoity	Robbery	Burglary	Rioting	Theft	Cattle lifting	Traffic in women	Cheating	Offences under Local and Special Laws	Others	Total
1974 ..	66	—	3	104	3	164	3	—	15	2,626	557	3,541
1975 ..	58	—	1	84	4	147	—	—	22	3,049	511	3,879
1976 ..	39	1	2	62	—	100	4	—	16	3,409	363	3,996
1977 ..	48	—	3	106	9	131	1	—	25	3,334	466	4,123
1978 ..	50	—	—	99	—	120	6	—	24	3,234	526	4,059

(Source : Superintendent of Police, Sangrur)

The important categories of crimes are described as under :

Murder.—It is a crime of very grave nature. Many a time it is committed over minor and trifling issue. Too often, it is accidental and is committed in a sudden outburst of anger under an intense strain of certain powerful emotions. However, planned murders are also not uncommon. The important motives behind a murder are usually traditional. For instance, illicit sexual relations, domestic and blood feuds, land disputes, lure of property, canal water disputes, personal enmity, and party factions are the common causes of crime in the district. There was a considerable fluctuation in the incidence of this crime in the district during 1974-78, i. e. the minimum being 39 in 1976 and maximum being 66 in 1974.

Dacoity.—Dacoity also ranks among the heinous crimes. It has almost been eliminated in the district. There was only one case of dacoity in the district in 1976.

Robbery.—Robbery may be described as an aggravated form of theft or extortion. For the last five years, there have been 1-3 cases of robbery a year in the district. However, there was not a single case of this type in the district during 1978.

Burglary.—It is an act of breaking into a house to commit theft or felony. This crime is very common both in the urban and rural areas of the district. There was much fluctuation in the incidence of this crime in the district during 1974-78, the minimum being 62 in 1976 and the maximum being 106 in 1977.

Rioting.—Rioting takes place when an unlawful assembly of persons resort to violent means which lead to arson and looting. No case of rioting was reported to the police during 1976 and 1978 in the district.

Theft.—The incidence of theft, on the whole is on the decrease in the Sangrur District during the last five years, i.e. 1974-78. Most of the theft cases reported are from the urban areas. Its incidence is relatively less in rural areas as the villagers, being small in number in a abadi, know each other well and this acts as a deterrent to committing theft. There were 120 cases of theft in the district in 1978.

Cattle Lifting.—The incidence of this crime is not alarming in the district. Only 6 cases of cattle lifting were reported in the district in 1978.

Traffic in Women.—No case of trafficking in women was reported in the district during 1974-78.

Cheating.—Cheating means wilful misrepresentation of a definite fact with intention to defraud. The incidence of this crime in the district during 1974-78 has shown an upward trend. There were 24 cases of cheating in 1978 as compared to 15 in 1974.

Offences under Local and Special Laws.—The crimes, under this head include cases of public nuisance and those under the Indian Arms Act, 1878; the Punjab Excise Act, 1914; the opium Act, 1878; the Public Gambling Act, 1867; the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; the Indian Railways Act, 1890; and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. There has been wide fluctuation in the number of crimes under this head during 1974-78, the minimum being 2,626 in 1974 and the maximum being 3,409 in 1978.

Incidence of Motor Vehicle Accidents.—With the expansion of vehicular traffic, incidence of road accidents in the district has been on the increase. In 1977-78, 95 accidents took place in which 32 persons lost their lives as against 71 accidents in 1976-77 in which 26 persons lost their lives.

Road Traffic.—Road traffic is regulated not only under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, but also under certain provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1894, the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, and the Municipal Bye-laws; the Stage Carriage Act, 1861; the Police Act, 1888, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890; the Punjab Motor Vehicles Act, 1925; and the Hackney Carriage Act, 1879.

The prosecution launched in the district under the above laws, during 1974 to 1978, are given in the following statement :

Prosecution launched under various Acts and laws regulating road traffic in Sangrur District, 1974 to 1978

Name of the Act	LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE				
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Indian Motor Vehicles Act	..	2,089	2,406	646	142
Indian Penal Code	..	825	587	789	825
Municipal Act Municipal Bye-Laws	..	—	—	—	—
Stage Carriage Act	..	—	—	—	—
Police Act	..	143	140	106	128
Prevention of cruelty to Animals Act	..	—	—	—	—
Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Act	..	—	—	—	—
Hackney Carriage Act	..	—	—	—	—

(Source : Superintendent of Police, Sangrur)

(b) History and Organisation of Police

The present Sangrur District with the exception of some villages from Ludhiana District, was carved out from the territories of erstwhile states of Patiala, Nabha and Jind, collectively known as Phulkian States, and the Muslim State of Malerkotla. Therefore, before the formation of Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) in 1948, the police system of the district was identical to that prevailing in its component states. However, in 1948, when it was merged with PEPSU, it came under the Patiala system of Police administration.

The *thana* has always been the unit of police administration in the district. But formerly the *thanadars* possessed judicial powers also. They were mostly illiterate men, and each had an *amin* under him to carry out clerical work. There was also outposts attached to the *thanas*. The *thanadar* was assisted by a *jamadar*, 8 *Barqandaes*, *khoji* (Tracer) and 2 *muharrirs*. Raja Sarup Singh (A.D. 1837-1864) and Raja Raghbir Singh (A.D. 1864-1887) of Jind State showed much enthusiasm for the reformation of police system. In the reign of Raja Sarup Singh *kotwalis* were established at the tahsil headquarters. In the year A.D. 1877, Raja Raghbir Singh appointed an Inspector of Police in each of the tahsils and placed him under the control of *Sadr* Superintendent at the capital. The Deputy Inspectors or *thanadars* were only allowed to investigate cases in which property of less than Rs 200 in value was involved. However, cases of greater importance were investigated by the Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors jointly. In the year 1905, chowkidars were appointed by the State for every village. During PEPSU period, the Superintendent of Police assisted by 2 Assistant Superintendents of Police, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Foot Constables, helped the Deputy Commissioner in the maintenance of law and order in the district. However with the merger of PEPSU in the Punjab in 1956, the police system of Sangrur District became identical to that of the Punjab.

At the time of merger of the erstwhile Jind State with the PEPSU in 1948, Raja Ranbir Singh son of Late Raja Raghbir Singh who was governing the State, had a separate Police Department under him. In the year 1948, the erstwhile Jind State was merged with the PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union) with its headquarters at Patiala. Sangrur became a district headquarters in the PEPSU and the police in the district was supervised by the Superintendent of Police, who was under the direct control of Inspector-General of Police, PEPSU, with headquarters at

Patiala. In 1956, the PEPSU was merged with the Punjab State and Sangrur became a district headquarters in the Punjab. For Police administration, the district was put under the control of Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Patiala Range. At the district level, the head of the police force is the senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur, who works under the general guidance and supervision of the District Magistrate so far as the maintenance of law and order in the district is concerned. He is assisted by one Superintendent of Police, 5 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 5 Inspectors, 41 Sub-Inspectors, 75 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 188 Head Constables and 1,413 Constables. The strength of Police in the district as on 31 March 1978, is given in the following table :—

The number of Police Stations and Police posts in each tahsil/sub-division as on 31 March, 1978, was as under :

Tahsil/Subdivision	Number of villages	Police Stations	Police Posts
Sangrur	132	Sangrur Bhawanigarh Longowal	Cheema
Sunam	164	Sunam Lehragaga Moonak Dirba	Khanauri
Barnala	135	Barnala Mahal Kalan Dhanaula Sohna Bhadaur Tapa	Hadiaya
Malerkotla	293	Malerkotla Dhuri Amargarh Sherpur Ahmedgarh	Himttana Lohat Baddi Kup

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur)

Civil Police.—The Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur, is the head of civil police force in the district. There are 18 police stations and 6 police posts in the district. The Station House Officer is in-charge of each police station. He is normally assisted by one or more Assistant Sub-Inspectors, a Head Constable, a Moharrir and a number of Constables. The duty of Station House Officer is to maintain peace and to investigate offences committed in his cricle.

Vigilance Police.—The main function of the Vigilance Police is to make inquiries into the complaints of corruption and other irregularities committed by government employees. It takes speedy action where corruption and misconduct have come to notice. Besides, it assists the Administrative Departments to rid the administration of anti-social evils. As on 31 March 1978, only one Vigilance Bureau Unit was functioning in the district of Sangrur. This unit comprised one Deputy Superintendent of Police, one Inspector, one Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable and 6 Constables.

Railway Police.—Railway police is a part of the State organization, but it works under the Assistant Inspector-General, Government Railway Police, Punjab, with its headquarters at Patiala. It is not allotted to any district in particular. The circles of the Railway Police are formed according to the sections of the railway lines in which they control crime committed in railway trains and within the railway premises.

The main functions of the Railway Police are : to protect travellers from injury to person or loss to property ; to maintain law and order at railway stations and in trains ; to attend the arrival and departure of passengers and railway officers ; to bring to the notice of the proper authorities all offences under Railway Act and breaches of bye-laws, and all cases of fraud, oppression etc. on the part of railway officials ; to keep railway platforms clear of idlers and beggars and to keep a watch over suspicious persons, smugglers, and persons travelling with arms without licences ; to search all empty carriages for property left behind by passengers, to control the hackney carriages plying for hire at railway stations and enforce the regulation of railway passengers entering railway stations on occasions of fairs, festivals, etc. Besides, the railway police patrols all passenger trains and provides escorts to important night trains.

In the Sangrur District, there are two units of the Railway Police ; a Police Station at Sangrur and a Police outpost at Dhuri. The total strength of the Railway Police in the district includes 1 Sub-Inspector, 1 Assistant Sub-Inspector, 2 Head Constables, and 10 Constables.

Excise Police Staff.—It comprises 1 Sub-Inspector, 1 Assistant Sub-Inspector, 1 Head Constable and 16 Constables, who are on deputation from the Police Department. These officials are posted with the Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Sangrur.

Village Police.—The Chowkidar is at the lowest rung of the Police organization. He helps the village Sarpanch in the maintenance of law and order. The village watchman helps in the detection of crimes. It is his duty to report the occurrence of any crime in the village to concerned authorities.

Punjab Home Guards.—The Punjab Home Guards Act of 1948 empowers the State Government to raise on voluntary basis a disciplined and self-reliant force of citizens, known as Home Guards, with a view to supplementing the police force in the maintenance of law and order and other essential services during emergencies. Under the Act, the Home Guards was raised in the district to Company level in 1960 and then to the District level in January 1973.

There is a District Commander, Punjab Home Guards, at Sangrur, who is assisted by 3 Company Commanders, 8 Platoon Commanders, 8 Havaldar Instructors, 1 Armour Sergeant, 7 Corporal Instructors, besides other Class III and Class IV staff.

The Home Guards volunteers of both the wings assist the local police in the maintenance of law and order at the time of need. It also guards various strategic points such as railway lines, power stations, etc. in the district, as and when required.

(c) Jails and Lock-ups

With the passage of time, the institution of jails has undergone a lot of change. Previously, these were known as cells for giving deterring punishments to the criminals. No efforts were made to change the mental attitude of prisoners. However, after the independence of the country in 1947, revolutionary changes have taken place in the administration of prisons. Now more emphasis is given to change the mental attitude of prisoners. As the basic function of a prison has changed from punishment to reformation, it is now called a *sudhar ghar* or reformatory, which is indeed the appropriate nomenclature.

In the recent years, the State Government has taken effective steps to improve the conditions of prisoners in the *Sudhar Ghars*. Much care is taken in respect of diet, health, educational and emotional set up of the prisoners. The unique feature of the modern administration of *Sudhar Ghars* is that effective steps are taken to enable the prisoners to earn their livelihood and to adjust themselves with society, on release.

There is a District Jail (*Sudhar Ghar*) at the district headquarters at Sangrur. There are two sub-jails (*Up-Sudhar Ghar*), one each at Malerkotla and Barnala. Besides, there are lock-ups attached to each police station which is controlled by the Police Department.

District Jail or Zila Sudhar Ghar, Sangrur.—The foundation stone of the District Jail, Sangrur, was laid on 29 May 1954 by Sardar Raghbir Singh, the then Chief Minister of the erstwhile PEPSU State and it started functioning from 9 May 1957. This Jail (*Sudhar Ghar*) is situated on the Sangrur-Barnala Road. With the merger of PEPSU in the Punjab in 1956, it came under the administrative control of Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab. The District Jail, Sangrur, is under the charge of the Superintendent of Jail, who is assisted by one Deputy Superintendent, 4 Assistant Superintendents, 1 Medical Officer, 1 Accountant, 1 Teacher, 3 Head Warders, 39 Warders and other allied staff.

The total admissions during the year, average daily population, and maximum population on any one day in a year in the District Jail, Sangrur, during 1974 to 1978, are given in the following table :—

	Year				
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Total admissions during the year ..	1,758	1,890	1,514	1,654	2,763
Average daily population ..	360	335	333	253	281
Maximum population on any day of the year ..	583	479	358	296	548

(Source : Superintendent, District Jail, Sangrur)

The number of convicted prisoners released on different grounds such as parole/furlough, bail, transfer, remission, etc. during 1974—78 is given below :

Year	Number of prisoners released
1974	772
1975	735
1976	792
1977	622
1978	629

(Source : Superintendent, District Jail, Sangrur)

Sub-Jail or Up-Sudhar Ghar, Barnala.—Up-Sudhar Ghar Barnala came into existence on 1 April 1962. It is under the control of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, who is its part-time Superintendent and was, in that capacity, on 31 March 1978, assisted by the supervisory staff comprising 1 Assistant Superintendent, 1 Head Warder and 13 Warders.

The total admissions in *Up-Sudhar Ghar* during 1978 was 738. The average daily population was 33.82 and the maximum population on any day was 46 during 1978.

Sub-Jail or Up-Sudhar Ghar Malerkotla.—Up-Sudhar Ghar Malerkotla came into existence in 1962. It is under the control of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, who is its part-time Superintendent, was assisted, on 31 March 1978, by the supervisory staff comprising 1 Assistant Superintendent, 1 Head Warder and 11 Warders.

The total admission in *Up-Sudhar Ghar* during 1978 was 527. The average daily population was 40 and the maximum population on any day was 42 during 1978.

Educational, Recreational and Medical Facilities

All facilities are being provided to the prisoners for learning 3 R's and for improving educational qualifications up to university level, inside the District Jail, Sangrur. There is a paid J.B.T. teacher who looks after the Adult Literacy Scheme under the supervision of a Welfare Officer.

To break the boredom of prison life, certain recreational facilities are provided to the inmates of the jails. A radio-set with amplifier, a loud-speaker, and a record player for playing religious music have been provided to the prisoners. Cinema shows are frequently arranged in the prison through the District Public Relation Officer, Sangrur.

Medical facilities are available inside the jail premises. There is a 12-bedded hospital with a dispensary inside the jail which is being looked after by a whole-time Medical Officer assisted by 1 Pharmacist. The hospital is well stocked with medicines. In case of emergency, the indoor prisoner-patients are at once admitted to Civil Hospital Sangrur.

There is a canteen inside the jail which started functioning in the year 1963 in accordance with the Canteen Rules framed by the office of Inspector General of Prisons, Punjab. It is looked after by the Welfare Officer designated as Assistant Superintendent, Jail. The friends and relatives of the inmates deposit cash on behalf of the prisoners upto Rs 30 per month which are converted into coupons and handed over to the prisoners. A number of eatables, drinks, stationery articles, shoes,

chappals and a few items of general merchandise are available at the canteen.

Panchayat System

A panchayat of the prisoners is functioning in the District Jail, Sangrur. The members of the panchayat are elected by the prisoners, who in turn look after the welfare of the prisoners.

Jail Industries

A few industries are being run in the District Jail, Sangrur to enable the prisoners to learn these trades and to supplement their incomes. This training also proves useful after their release from the jail. The different jail industries run in the District Jail, Sangrur, are carpentry, hemp and *munj ban* tags and laces, bamboo *chicks*, steel pipe furniture, repair of furniture and niwar making and poultry.

The average number of prisoners employed in the jail industries, total production, and gross profit during 1974 to 1978 are given below :—

Year		Daily average of prisoners working in the factory	Production (Rs)	Gross Profit (Rs)
1974	..	89.22	1,21,250	12,125
1975	..	81.00	93,916	9,392
1976	..	83.10	46,094	4,609
1977	..	62.79	1,42,542	67,798
1978	..	53.45	1,24,064	46,607

(Source : Superintendent, District Jail, Sangrur)

Official and Non-official Visitors

Visits to a jail/sub-jail by the official and non-official visitors are regulated under the Punjab Jail Manual. Their functions have clearly been defined in the Manual. The visits of official and non-official visitors are helpful both to the prisoners and the jail authorities. The official

visitors personally take notice of the problems of the prisoners and also see whether provisions of the Prison Act, 1894 and all rules, regulations, orders and directions made or issued thereunder are fully observed by the prison management or not. The visits of the non-official visitors are also useful as they provide a community touch to the prisoners which gives them a realization that the society has not forgotten them.

District Probation Officer, Sangrur

The Probation of Offenders Act, 1951, came into force in the Sangrur District in 1966 when a District Probation Officer was posted there. He is under the control of the Chief Probation Officer, Chandigarh, who supervises and directs the work in the entire State under the overall administrative control and guidance of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, Chandigarh.

The Probation of Offenders' Act was a reformatory measure for the juvenile offenders (below the age of 21 years) and for first offenders, irrespective of their age to save them from the confines of the jail. The Act provides for the release of offenders on bail after entering into a bond with one surety for an amount considered sufficient and for a period up to three years, as desired by the court, keeping in view the degree of crime. The Act does cover those offenders who have committed an offence for which they can be sentenced to death or life imprisonment. Whenever, a juvenile or first offender is brought before the court with some charges for which the benefit of Probation of Offenders' Act, 1958, can be given to the offender and as soon as the *challan* is put up by the police in the court, the latter asks for pre-sentence report from the District Probation Officer. The District Probation Officer enquires about the offenders' character, antecedents, socio-economic and environmental background and other particulars which the court directs him to enquire. Keeping in view the intensity of the crime and the report submitted by the District Probation Officer, the offender is released on probation with or without supervision.

Those offenders who are released on conditional supervision are kept under the supervision of the District Probation Officer who acts as a friend, philosopher and guide to all the probationers. He looks into their personal problems and tries to solve them. He impresses upon them through personal advice, persuasion and warning, the necessity for keeping good conduct during probation. The Probation Officer also tries to improve the behaviour, attitude, habits, character and morale of the probationers so that they may not revert to crime. All this is done by arranging meeting with the probationers in their villages and in the office

of the Probation Officer. The Probation Officer makes enquiries about the character and behaviour of the probationer from respectable persons of the village like Sarpanch, member of panchayats and lambardars, etc.

The following table shows the number of prisoners released on probation on various grounds, during the years 1973-74 to 1977-78 :—

Year	Prisoners released on probation				
	Under supervision	Without supervision	Under section 3 of the Probation Act after admonition	Special investigation reports	
1973-74	..	108	249	12	27
1974-75	..	188	450	23	5
1975-76	..	206	417	25	5
1976-77	..	132	310	18	13
1977-78	..	109	326	—	11

(Source : District Probation Officer, Sangrur)

(d) Organization of Civil and Criminal Courts

As in other districts of the State, judiciary in the Sangrur District is headed by a District and Sessions Judge, with Additional District and Sessions Judge each at the district headquarters and at Barnala. On the criminal side, a Chief Judicial Magistrate and, on the civil side, a Senior Subordinate Judge, work under the superintendence of the District and Session Judge. At the District headquarters, the civil and criminal cases are disposed by 2 judicial officers who are allotted the work by the Chief Judicial Magistrate and the Senior Subordinate Judge. Similarly at the tahsil level, there are judicial officers who dispose of civil and criminal cases under the supervision and control of the District and Session Judge. The civil cases are directly instituted in the courts at the tahsil headquarters while in regard to criminal cases, various police stations are allotted to different judicial officers who deal with the cases of those police stations allotted to their jurisdiction.

Civil Justice

The administration of civil justice in the district is controlled by the District and Sessions Judge, Sangrur. He is assisted by two Additional District and Sessions Judges, at Sangrur and Barnala, Senior Subordinate Judges, Sangrur, and 9 Sub-Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrates (2 posted at Sangrur, 3 at Barnala, 2 at Malerkotla, 1 at Dhruvi, and 1 at Sunam).

The civil courts try all kinds of cases of civil nature up to the extent with which each sub-judge or Senior Subordinate Judge has been vested. The main functions of different civil courts in the district are described, in brief, as under :—

District Judge.—He is the senior most judge in the district and controls the administration of civil justice in the district. His jurisdiction as a Civil Court is very wide. As Civil Judge of the district, he has both types of jurisdiction, appellate and original. The matters decided by him in exercise of his original jurisdiction are appealable to the High Court. As Appellate Civil Court, he hears appeals against the judgements and decrees of subordinate judges upto Rs 20,000 (raised to Rs 5 lakhs w.e.f. 9 January 1980).

In the administration of civil justice, he is assisted by the other Civil Judges as mentioned above. On administrative side, he co-ordinates the work of judicial officers in the district and is the Competent Authority for appointments, postings, transfers etc. in respect of the ministerial staff working in all the courts in the district. For deciding civil cases, he and the Additional District Judge have concurrent jurisdiction. All cases, however, are instituted first in the Court of District Judge and then he decides as to whether a case or a category of cases is/are to be decided by him or by one of the Additional District Judges. As co-ordinating officer of the Civil Judiciary at district level, he is competent to transfer any case from one court to another in the district.

Additional District Judge, Sangrur.—Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sangrur, works as Additional District Judge on the civil side. Appeals against the judgement and decrees of Sub-Judges upto Rs 20,000 and cases under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, are heard by him.

Additional District Judge, Barnala.—As a Civil Court, he exercises similar powers as are exercised by the Additional District Judge, Sangrur.

Senior Subordinate Judge, Sangrur.—The Senior Subordinate Judge

hears cases of rents, succession certificates, insolvency, guardianship, and appellate work upto a certain limit, suits under the Torts and the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

Sub-Judge 1st Class.—All Subordinate Judges have been vested with the powers of unlimited jurisdiction of civil nature in their cases including rent cases, succession certificates and others.

The following statement shows the number of cases tried by civil courts in the district from 1974 to 1978 :

Year	Pending from the previous year	Instituted during the year	Total for disposal	Disposed of during the year	Balance at the close of the year
1974	2,951	4,593	7,544	4,651	2,893
1975	2,893	4,704	7,597	4,340	3,257
1976	3,257	4,626	7,883	3,973	3,910
1977	3,910	5,162	9,072	5,088	3,984
1978	3,984	5,480	9,464	5,268	4,196

(Source : Senior Sub-Judge, Sangrur)

Criminal Justice

The judicial officers have both civil and criminal jurisdiction. The same judicial officer functions as a Chief Court when adjudicating upon civil matters and as a Criminal Court while deciding criminal cases. The main functions of different Criminal Courts in the district are described in brief, as under :

Sessions Judge.—The District and Sessions Judge functions as Sessions Judge of the district in exercise of his criminal jurisdiction. He controls the administration of criminal justice in the district. As in civil cases, in criminal cases too, he has both types of jurisdiction, appellate and original. The matters decided by him in exercise of his original jurisdiction are appealable to the High Court. As the appellate Criminal Court, he hears appeals against the judgement and orders of Judicial

Magistrates. On administrative side, he has the same powers as he has in his capacity as District Judge.

The District and Sessions Judge, Sangrur, is assisted by 2 Additional Sessions Judges and the Chief Judicial Magistrate and 9 Judicial Magistrate-cum-Sub-Judges (2 posted at Sangrur, 3 at Barnala, 2 at Malerkotla, 1 at Dhuri and 1 at Sunam).

Additional Sessions Judge, Sangrur.—Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sangrur, works as Additional Sessions Judge on the criminal side. He determines appeals against the judgements and orders of Judicial Magistrates.

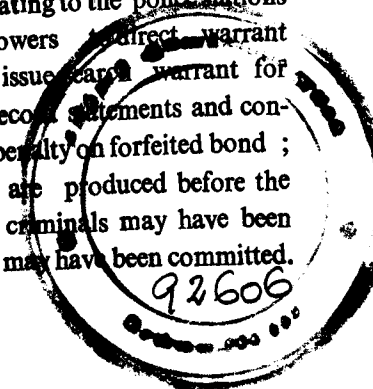
Additional Sessions Judge, Barnala.—As a Criminal Court, he exercises similar powers as are exercised by the Additional Sessions Judge, Sangrur.

Chief Judicial Magistrate.—On the criminal side, the powers exercised previously by District Magistrate have been vested in the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sangrur. With the separation of executive from the judiciary in the Sangrur District in 1951, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sangrur, functions under the supervision and control of the District and Sessions Judge, Sangrur.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate and Judicial Magistrates deal with all types of criminal cases except security cases. The Chief Judicial Magistrate is vested with the powers of a Judicial Magistrate I Class, i.e., the power to try juvenile offenders, to require delivery of letters, telegrams, etc. to issue search warrants for documents in custody of postal or telegraph authorities ; to release persons imprisoned for failing to give security under section 106 of Criminal Procedure, Code ; to order police investigation into cognizable cases ; to entertain cases on complaints ; to transfer cases to a subordinate magistrate ; and to report certain cases to High Court, etc.

Judicial Magistrates.—All Judicial Magistrates try cases under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Punjab Excise Act, 1914, the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and other special Acts relating to the police stations under their jurisdiction. They have the powers to direct warrant to land-holders under section 78 of I.P.C. ; to issue search warrant for discovery of persons wrongfully confined ; to receive statements and confessions during police investigation ; to recover penalty on forfeited bond ; etc. All criminals apprehended by the police are produced before the judicial Magistrate in whose jurisdiction the criminals may have been apprehended or in whose jurisdiction the crime may have been committed.

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After investigation, the police put up the *challans* in the courts of Judicial Magistrates who also act as *Ilaka* Magistrates and watch the investigation of criminal cases. The Judicial Magistrates have also been vested with the powers of Sub-Judges with varying jurisdiction.

Security Cases.—Cases of security for keeping peace and security for good behaviour under the Criminal Procedure Code, are tried by the Sub Divisional Magistrates of Sangrur, Barnala, Malerkotla and Sunam. They are also called upon to perform executive functions in addition to the trial of above types of cases.

The following statement shows the number of criminal cases tried by the criminal courts in the district during 1974 to 1978 :

Number of criminal cases tried by the Criminal Courts in Sangrur District, 1974 to 1978

Year	Cases brought forward from previous year	Cases reported during the year	Cases admitted	Cases tried	Cases convicted	Cases Untraced	Balance
1974	..	1,537	10,787	1,420	7,798	7,223	575
1975	..	3,106	6,824	1,011	5,724	4,415	309
1976	..	3,195	16,809	2,595	11,234	10,807	427
1977	..	6,265	12,323	11,225	14,743	14,420	323
1978	..	1,099	2,592	13,691	2,774	2,659	—
							917

(Source : Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sangrur)

Prosecution Agency.—The Prosecuting Agency was separated from the Police Department with effect from 1 of April 1974. The posts of prosecuting Deputy Superintendents of Police, Prosecuting Inspectors and Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors in the Police Department were abolished and Directorate of Prosecution was set up in the State under the administrative control of the Home Department.

In the District, the Prosecuting Agency is divided in two wings, namely, District Prosecuting Agency, and Legal Advisory Agency. The head of Prosecuting Agency in the district is the District Attorney who is assisted by Assistant District Attorneys Grade-I, and Assistant District Attorneys Grade-II, who have been appointed as Additional Public Prosecutors, and Assistant Public Prosecutors, respectively, under the Code of Criminal Procedure and are also appointed as Government Pleaders under its Code of Civil Procedure. Thus, the District Attorney, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorneys Grade-I and Assistant District Attorneys Grade-II, conducts criminal and civil cases of the State and its officers in the various courts in the district. The District Attorney works in the court of Sessions Judge, the Assistant District Attorney Grade-I works in the court of Additional Sessions Judge, whereas the Assistant District Attorney Grade-II works as Assistant Public Prosecutors in the courts of the Magistrates. They also advise the District Magistrate and other Heads of Offices in the District on matters involving legal points. The District Magistrate in the district supervises and controls the functioning of the prosecuting Agency.

The Police Department with the abolition of the posts of prosecuting Deputy Superintendents of Police, prosecuting Inspectors and prosecuting Sub-Inspectors was left with no Law Officers who could guide them in legal matters. One District Attorney is posted in the Police Department to render legal advice to the Senior Superintendent of Police and other Police Officers in the district. The District Attorney, incharge Legal Advisory Agency, is on the cadre strength of the Directorate of prosecution, but is posted in the Police Department under the direct control of the Senior Superintendent of Police. The District Attorney in the Legal Agency is liable to be shifted to the prosecuting Agency after two or three years and the vice versa.

The District Attorney, Sangrur, as incharge of the prosecution Agency, is assisted by 4 Assistant District Attorneys Grade 1 and 2 Assistant District Attorneys Grade II, besides allied Class III and Class IV staff at the district headquartrs. In addition to above, 1 Assistant District Attorney Grade 1 and 2 Assistant District Attorneys

Grade II at Barnala, and 1 Assistant District Attorney Grade II each at Sunam, Dhuri and Malerkotla are working in this Agency.

Gram Panchayat Courts

From time immemorial, the gram panchayat has been the basic institution of democracy in India. Under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, certain civil, criminal and revenue powers are vested in the panchayats. Under the Act, petty cases of various categories are disposed of by the Panchayats. Besides reducing the unnecessary burden on courts, it has also raised the status and prestige of the *gram* panchayat to grant bail to an individual against a surety not exceeding Rs 500.

On the criminal side, a *gram* panchayat tries offences specified in Schedule I-A and I-B of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. The panchayats are also competent to take cognizance suo moto of cases falling under sections 160, 228, 264, 277, 289, 290, 294 and 510 of the Indian Penal Code and under sections 3 and 4 of the Juvenile Smoking Act, 1918, or under any other Act for the time being in force.

On the civil and revenue side, the panchayats are competent to try suits for recovery of movable property or the value of such property suits for money or goods due on contracts or price thereof; suits for compensation for wrongfully taking or injuring movable property; and suits mentioned in clauses (j), (k), (l), and (n) of sub-section (3) of section 77 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887, (or any other Act for the time being in force). While trying such suits, the panchayat is deemed to be a civil or criminal or revenue courts as the case may be.

The following statement shows the judicial work done by the panchayats in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78 :

	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Revenue cases					
1 Cases pending at the beginning of the year	187	156	106	38	28
2 Cases instituted	625	392	107	71	101
3 Cases received by transfer	—	1	—	—	—
4 Cases transferred from Panchayats and returned for presentation to courts and Panchayats	—	1	—	—	—
5 Cases decided	656	442	175	81	103
6 (a) Cases dismissed	37	19	24	15	96
(b) Cases compounded	521	401	135	63	7
(c) Cases decreed	98	22	16	3	—
7 Cases pending at the end of the year	156	106	38	28	26
CRIMINAL CASES					
1 Cases pending at the beginning of the year	25	25	18	4	2
2 Cases instituted	109	36	22	21	27
3 Cases received by transfer	2	—	3	3	1

SANGRUR

4 Cases transferred from the Panchayats for presentation to courts and Panchayats	3	—	—	—	—
5 Cases decided	108	43	39	26	30
6 (a) Cases dismissed	15	17	3	9	4
(b) Cases compounded	72	20	34	14	26
(c) Cases convicted	21	6	2	3	—
7 Cases pending at the end of the year	25	18	4	2	—

(Source : Director, Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab, Chandigarh)

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

(e) Bar Associations

The main object of the Bar Associations is to promote the interest of their members and to maintain a high standard of professional conduct. These associations also give lot of help to courts in administering justice effectively. Bar associations also endeavour to encourage and promote the study of law and to inculcate the sense of respect for law and order among the general people.

There are 5 Bar Associations in the district, one each at Sangrur, Malerkotla, Barnala, Dhuri and Sunam. The District Bar Association, Sangrur, was formed in July 1933. It had 93 members as on 31 March, 1978. The Bar Association Malerkotla was formed on 15 August 1949 and it had 34 members as on 31 March, 1978. The Bar Association, Dhuri was formed in 1925 and it had 15 members as on 31 March 1978. The Bar Association Sunam, was formed about forty years ago and its membership as on 31 March 1978 was 42. The Bar Association, Barnala, has no authentic record as to indicate the exact date of its formation. However, it is said to have been formed in 1908-1909 and its strength on 31 March 1978 was 78.

CHAPTER XIII**OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

The departments, which have not been mentioned elsewhere in the gazetteer, have been dealt in this chapter in regard to the scope of their activities, jurisdiction and the strength of the staff (as on 31 March 1978) posted in the district. Their account will also explain the general administrative set-up in the Sangrur District.

(a) Public Works Department

The activities of the Public Works Department may be divided mainly into construction and maintenance of buildings and roads, public health, drainage, irrigation, etc. The jurisdiction of the circles/divisions of the department is not necessarily confined to one district; it may extend to more than one district. The circles/divisions, which have jurisdiction over the Sangrur District, are briefly mentioned below :

(i) Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, P.W.D., B & R, Sangrur

Opened on 1 April 1973, this office has three divisions under it : Provincial Division, P.W.D., B & R, Sangrur; Construction Division, P.W.D., B & R Barnala; and Construction Division, P.W.D., B & R, Malerkotla.

The Superintending Engineer is under the administrative control of the Chief Engineer, P.W.D., B & R, (South) Patiala. He is assisted by 1 Superintendent, 1 Circle Head Draftsman, 2 Assistant Draftsmen, 1 Head Assistant, 6 Assistants, besides other ministerial/technical Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of this circle are to exercise control over the construction and maintenance of Government buildings and roads in the area under its jurisdiction. The three divisional offices under this circle are briefly described as under :

Executive Engineer, Provincial, Division, P.W.D., B.&R, Sangrur.—This division was opened on 1 October 1953. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 1 Head Draftsman, 2 Assistant Draftsmen, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, 4 Assistants, besides other ministerial/technical Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

This division has 5 subdivisions under it: Construction Subdivision No. II, Sangrur; Construction Subdivision, Sunam; Construction Subdivision, Moonak; Provincial Subdivision No. II, Sangrur; and Quarry Subdivision, Sunam. Each of these subdivisions is under the charge of a Subdivisional Engineer who in 4 subdivisions is assisted by 4 Sectional Officers, except in the case of Subdivisional Engineer, Subdivision No. II, Sangrur, who is assisted by 5 Sectional Officers, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, Construction Division, P.W.D., B & R, Barnala.— This division was opened on 1 May 1973. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 1 Head Draftsman, 2 Assistant Draftsmen, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, 2 Assistants besides other ministerial/technical Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

This division has 3 subdivisions under it: Construction Subdivision No. II, Barnala; Construction Subdivision No. III, Barnala; and Construction Subdivision, Raikot, at Barnala. Each of these Subdivisions is under the charge of a Subdivisional Engineer who is assisted by 4 Sectional Officers, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

Executive Engineer Construction Division, P.W.D., B & R, Malerkotla.— This division was opened on 1 February 1974. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 1 Head Draftsman, 2 Assistant Draftsmen, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, 2 Assistants, besides other ministerial/technical Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

This division has 4 subdivisions under it: Construction Subdivision No. I, Malerkotla; Construction Subdivision No. II, Malerkotla, Construction Subdivision No. III, Malerkotla; and Construction Subdivision, Dhuri. Each of these subdivisions is under the charge of a Subdivisional Engineer, who is assisted by 4 Sectional Officers, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

(ii) Mechanical Subdivision, P.W.D., B & R, Sangrur

Opened on 1 January 1973, this subdivision functions under the control of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, P.W.D., B & R, Patiala. The Sub Divisional Engineer (M), Sangrur, is the incharge of this subdivision. He is assisted by 4 Sectional Officers (M), 1 Chargeman,

1 Sub Divisional Clerk, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of this subdivision are maintenance of machinery of the Construction Circle, P.W.D., B & R, Sangrur.

(iii) Executive Engineer, Public Health Division, Sangrur

Opened on 21 December 1976, this division is headed by an Executive Engineer who functions under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Bathinda. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 1 Head Draftsman, 2 Assistant Draftsmen, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Divisional Accountant, 3 Senior Accounts Clerks, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

This division has 4 subdivisions under it: Public Health Subdivision No. II, Sangrur; Public Health, Subdivision No. III, Sangrur, Public Health Subdivision, Lehragaga; and Public Health Subdivision, Moonak. Each of these subdivisions is under the charge of a Subdivisional Engineer. Each Subdivisional Engineer is assisted by 4 Sectional Officers, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of this division are to provide potable water to the people of rural area of the Sangrur District.

(iv) Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Drainage Construction Division, Sangrur

Opened on 15 December 1969, this division is headed by an Executive Engineer who functions under the control of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Drainage Circle, Patiala. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 1 Head Draftsman, 2 Draftsmen, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

This division has 4 subdivisions under it: Drainage Subdivision, Sangrur; Drainage Construction Subdivision No. II, Barnala; Drainage Construction Subdivision No. III, Sangrur; and Drainage Subdivision, Sunam. Each of these subdivisions is under the charge of a Subdivisional Engineer. The Subdivisional Engineers of Drainage Subdivision No. II, Barnala, and Drainage Subdivision No. III, Sangrur, are assisted by 5 Sectional Officers each, and Drainage Subdivisional Engineers, Sangrur and Sunam, are assisted by 4 and 3 Sectional Officers, respectively. Besides, other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff also assist the Subdivisional Engineers.

The main functions of this division are to look after drainage and flood control work in the Sangrur District.

(v) Executive Engineer, Tube-well Division, Malerkotla

Opened in 1952, this division is headed by an Executive Engineer who functions under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Tube-well Circle, Punjab, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali). The Executive Engineer is assisted by 1 Head Draftsman, 1 Draftsman, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

This division has 2 subdivisions under it : Tube-well Subdivision No. 1, Malerkotla, and Tube-well Sub division No. II, Malerkotla. Each of these subdivisions is under the charge of a Sub Divisional Engineer who is assisted by 4 Sectional Officers, 1 Foreman, 1 Electrician, 4 Mechanics, etc. Subdivision No. 1 has 1 Assistant Special Foreman and 113 Tube-well Operators, while Subdivision No. II has 124 Tube-well Operators.

The main functions of this division are running and maintaining of Government tube-wells in the Sangrur District.

(vi) Executive Engineer, Sangrur Division, Irrigation Branch, Sangrur

Established prior to Independence, this division is headed by an Executive Engineer, Irrigation Branch, Sangrur, who functions under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Patiala Circle, Irrigation Branch, Patiala. The Executive Engineer, is assisted by one Divisional Head Draftsman, 2 Draftsmen, 1 Deputy Collector, 1 Head Clerk, 1 Head Revenue Clerk, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

This division has 5 subdivisions under it : Harigarh Subdivision, Harigarh (Tahsil Sunam); Ladda Subdivision, Ladda (Tahsil Malerkotla); Maherna Subdivision, Maherna (Tahsil Malerkotla); Remodelling Subdivision, Sangrur; and Lining Subdivision No. 1, Sangrur. Each of these subdivisions is under the charge of a Sub Divisional Engineer who is assisted by 3 Sectional Officers, except in Remodelling Sub division, Sangrur and Lining Subdivision I, Sangrur. In these subdivisions the Sub Divisional Engineers are assisted by 5 and 4 Sectional Officers, respectively. Besides, other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff also assist the Sub Divisional Engineers.

The main functions of this division are to run and maintain existing irrigation channels, besides brick-lining and remodelling of channels.

(vii) Dialpura Subdivision, Irrigation Branch, Dialpura (Tahsil Sunam)

Established prior to 1947, this subdivision is headed by the Sub Divisional Engineer, Irrigation Branch, Dialpura who functions under the

control of the Executive Engineer, Lehal Division, Irrigation Branch, Patiala. The Sub Divisional Engineer is assisted by 2 Sectional Officers, 1 Subdivisional Clerk, 1 Revenue Clerk, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of this subdivision are fair and proportionate supply of water to the farmers and development of irrigation works.

(viii) Nabha Subdivision, Irrigation Branch, Nabha.*

Established prior to Independence, this subdivision is headed by the Sub Divisional Engineer, Irrigation Branch, Nabha, who functions under the control of the Executive Engineer, Lehal Division, Irrigation Branch, Patiala. He is assisted by 5 Sectional Officers, 1 Sub Divisional Clerk, 4 Revenue Clerks, 3 Ziladars, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of this subdivision are to construct water channels for providing irrigation facilities to the farmers.

(ix) Lining Subdivision No. 1, Irrigation Branch, Sangrur

Established on 2 May 1975, this sub division is headed by the Sub Divisional Engineer, Sangrur, who functions under the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Irrigation Branch, Patiala. The Sub Divisional Engineer is assisted by 6 Sectional Officers, 1 Sub Divisional Clerk, 3 Irrigation Booking Clerks, 1 Daffadar, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of this subdivision are lining of distributaries to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers.

(x) Lining Subdivision No. 2, Irrigation Branch, Sangrur

Established on 16 June 1976, this subdivision is headed by the Sub Divisional Engineer, Sangrur, who functions under the control of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Irrigation Branch, Patiala. The Sub Divisional Engineer, is assisted by 6 Sectional Officers, 1 Sub Divisional Clerk, 3 Irrigation Booking Clerks and 1 Daffadar, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of this subdivision are lining of distributaries to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers.

*This subdivision is also engaged in providing irrigation facilities to some areas of Sangrur District.

(b) Public Relations Department

At the district level, the department is represented by the District Public Relations Officer, Sangrur, whose office was established in 1956. He is assisted by Assistant Public Relations Officer, 4 Tahsil Publicity Organizers, 2 Field Publicity Assistants, 1 Accountant, 1 Drama Inspector, 3 Information Centre Assistants, 2 Radio Mechanics, 3 Cinema Operators, 1 Stage Master, 1 *Tabla* Master, 1 Harmonium Master, 5 Actors, besides other ministerial/technical Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The functions of the District Public Relations Officer are to serve as liaison between the State Government and the Public, and to disseminate and publicise governmental activities through media of staging dramas, screening of cinema shows, holding of conferences and *kavi darbars* (poetic symposia), setting up of exhibitions, display and distribution of literature, announcement of various orders of the government for the general public in urban as well as in rural areas, etc. Besides, he effects publicity through press and maintains close contacts between government and the people and keeps government informed of public reactions to its plans and policies and conveys the public grievances to the district and State authorities. He also receives tourists not only from within the country but also from abroad. Besides, under the Community Listening Scheme, radio and transistor sets are supplied by the State to the panchayats through the District Public Relations Officer on subsidised rates so as to enable the people in the villages, especially those in remote areas, to come to know about the day to day development and other progressive activities taking place in the country.

(c) Co-operative Department

The work of the Co-operative Department in the district is looked after by the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur, whose office was established on 1 April 1974. He is under the administrative control of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab, Chandigarh. He is assisted by two Assistant Registrars, Co-operative Societies, one each at Sangrur and Malerkotla. Besides, he is assisted by 1 Accountant, 10 Inspectors, 30 Sub Inspectors, and other ministerial and technical Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sangrur, was established in 1952-53. He is assisted by 1 Head Clerk, 1 Accountant, 1 Statistical Assistant, 18 Inspectors, 27 Sub Inspectors, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The Office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Malerkotla, was established on 5 August 1970. He is assisted by 1 Head Clerk, 1 Statistical Assistant, 25 Inspectors, 17 Sub-Inspectors besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of these offices are to ensure healthy growth and development of the Co-operative Movement; to register co-operative societies; to conduct inspection and supervision over the societies; to provide requisite credit to the societies for the purchase of fertilizers, farm machinery, implements, pesticides, seeds, installation of tube-wells, etc. to recover loans; and to distribute essential commodities in the rural areas.

(d) Food and Supplies Department

The department is represented at the district level by the District Food and Supplies Controller, who works under the administrative control of the Director, Food and Supplies, Punjab, Chandigarh.

The office of the District Food and Supplies Controller, Sangrur, was established in 1959. Since 1977-78 the number of posts has been increased under this cadre in the State; 2 District Food and Supplies Controllers are functioning in the Sangrur District. They are assisted by 4 District Food and Supplies Officers, 12 Assistant Food and Supplies Officers, 66 Inspectors, 95 Sub-Inspectors, 1 Senior Auditor, 30 Junior Auditors, 1 Head Clerk, 4 Accountants, 1 Statistical Assistant, 1 Head Analyst, 2 Junior Analysts, besides other allied Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of the department are procurement of foodgrains; distribution of sugar, rice, wheat-flour and vegetable *ghee*, etc. through fair price shops in the urban as well as rural areas; issue/renewal of licences for brick-kilns, fire-wood, coal depots, ricemills, pulses etc. allotment of coal/coke and cement, kerosence, *ghee*, rice, sugar, yarn, etc. The department also maintains its own godowns for storage of foodgrains.

(e) Finance Department

The department is represented at the district level by the Treasury Officer, Sangrur, who is incharge of the District Treasury, Sangrur. He is assisted by 6 Assistant Treasury Officers (one each incharge of the Sub-Treasuries of Ahmedgarh, Barnala, Malerkotla, Dhuri, Sunam and Moonak), 2 Assistant Superintendents Treasury, 1 District Treasurer,

6 Assistant Treasurers, 16 Assistants, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of the Treasury Officer and the Assistant Treasury Officers are to issue all kinds of stamps, to maintain the initial accounts of Government receipts and payments, passing the bills and pension vouchers, etc. They are also responsible to the Accountant General, Punjab, Chandigarh, for the regular submission of monthly accounts and allied returns, etc.

(f) Planning Department

The department is represented at the district level by the District Statistical Officer, Sangrur, whose office was established in 1957. The District Statistical Officer is assisted by 3 Technical Assistants, 1 Assistant, 11 Field Assistants, 1 Computer, besides other ministerial Class III and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

The main functions of the District Statistical Officer are to collect, analyse and compile the statistical data from various offices at the district level; to conduct *ad hoc* socio-economic surveys; to collect price data for supplying to the different Central and State Government agencies; and to collect weekly retail prices and to formulate district plans, etc.

(g) Language Department

The department is represented at the district level by District Language Officer, Sangrur, whose office was established in September 1964. The District Language Officer is assisted by an Instructor, a Clerk and a Peon.

The main functions of the District Language Officer, Sangrur, are; to popularize Punjabi in the offices at the district level; to impart training in Punjabi shorthand and typewriting, to organize literary meetings, *kavi darbars* (poetic symposia), seminars, dramas, debates and poetic compositions, to celebrate birth/death anniversaries of the reputed late poets/writers of the district at their native places; to undertake linguistic survey and to bring out glossaries; to award financial assistance to literary men and institutions/organisations; and to assist the Government Offices in translating pamphlets/books in Punjabi. Besides, he visits various government offices in the district and guides and helps the staff in their difficulties, in so far as they relate to the above mentioned functions.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

(a) Evolution of Local Self-Government in the District

Local Self-Government in the Sangrur District, as in other districts of Punjab, consists of municipal committees, notified and town area committees, zila parishads, panchayat samitis and panchayats. These institutions are managed by the local people to ensure harmonious relations between different people for smooth functioning of administration. While working within the guidelines provided by the State Government, these institutions are functionally autonomous in many respects.

Local Self-Government in Punjab is of two kinds, i.e. urban local self-government and rural local self-government. The important components of urban local self-government are municipal committees, and that of rural local self-government are Zila Parishads, Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats. The development of these institutions in urban areas is described in this section while that of rural areas is discussed under the head "Panchayati Raj" section (d) of this chapter.

Historical Retrospect.—The Sangrur District was carved out as a separate unit in 1948 out of the territories of the erstwhile princely states of Jind, Patiala, Nabha and Malerkotla, and some villages of the former British territory of Ludhiana District. Before the constitution of municipal committees in the district in the first half of the 20th century, the functions of local bodies were performed by the government departments of the erstwhile princely states. The first municipal committee in the area now comprising the Sangrur District was constituted at Malerkotla in 1905 under the orders of the erstwhile Nawab of Malerkotla. The next municipal committee was constituted at Sangrur in 1927 under a circular issued by Raja of the erstwhile Jind State. In 1935, the Raja enacted an Act known as the Jind Municipal Act, 1935. This was the first step towards introduction of local self-government in the Sangrur District. The Maharaja of Patiala also enacted the Patiala Small Town Act in 1935 Bikrami (A.D. 1938), for the constitution of municipal committees falling within his State.

Small town committees, under the Patiala Small Town Act, were constituted on 1 October 1945 at Barnala, Bhadaur, Bhawanigarh, Dhuri, Lehragaga, Longowal, Tapa and Sunam. All these small town

committees were converted into Class II and Class III municipal committees in September 1956.

On the merger of these princely states into Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) in 1948, the committees were declared independent and self-governing bodies. Provisions of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, amended upto 1949, and Patiala Small Town Act, 1946, were made applicable to the second and third class municipal committees of this district. The first municipal elections in the district were held in 1952 and the municipal committees became independent local bodies.

Before Independence, the municipal committees consisted of nominated members. The *Nazim* (D.C.) was invariably the president of the committee. The nominations were made by the Raja of that State. This system of nomination continued till the first elections to the municipal committees were held in 1952. With the merger of PEPSU in the Punjab on 1 November 1956, all enactments relating to the municipal administration in the Punjab State became applicable to the municipalities of this district also. Thereafter, elected bodies came into being under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, which was in force in the Punjab. Provision was made for the appointment of official advisers who were empowered to participate in the meetings of the municipal committees but were not entitled to vote. In this way, popular control over the local bodies was encouraged and powers were granted in regard to their functions and capacities. Zila parishads were also strengthened with delegation of large powers. Legislations were enacted to regulate the functions, powers, and responsibilities of the local bodies. New election rules were framed to provide for election on the basis of universal adult franchise. The system of communal electorate was done away with. In lieu thereof, provision was made for reservation of seats in the local bodies for members of the Scheduled Castes in proportion to their population within the area of municipal committees. Under the Punjab Municipal (Amended) Act 1956, reservation was made for the members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes in the services of municipal committees.

The term of office of a Municipal Commissioner in the State is five years.

(b) Organization and Structure

Functions and Duties of Municipal Committees

Statutorily, the Punjab municipal bodies have two types of functions—obligatory and optional. Obligatory functions are those which every

municipal committee has to perform, and if for their performance the committee does not make sufficient provision in its budget, the State Government compels it to do so ; and if the committee fails to perform these functions satisfactorily, the State Government may even supersede the committee and place the municipality under the charge of one of its own officers. Obligatory functions are largely of four types ; public safety and convenience, medical relief, public works and public health. These include such activities as regulating or preventing abetment of offensive or dangerous trades, removing of obstructions and projections in public streets, lighting and cleaning of public streets, extinguishing of fires, provision and regulation of slaughter houses, burial grounds, latrines, picnic spots, drains and sewers, registration of births and deaths, public vaccination, inoculation and primary education, etc.

The list of optional functions is comprehensive and includes construction and maintenance of public streets, establishing and maintaining public parks, gardens, libraries, museums, dharamshalas, rest-houses, lunatic asylums, furthering educational programmes other than primary education, planting and maintaining of roadside trees, arranging for the destruction of stray dogs, maintaining dairy farms and breeding studs, holding of exhibitions, etc.

There are 12 municipalities in the district at Ahmedgarh, Barnala, Bhadaur, Bawanigarh, Dhanaula, Dhuri, Lehragaga, Longowal, Malerkotla, Sangrur, Sunam and Tapa. Out of these, Malerkotla and Barnala municipalities are Class I, 6 including Sangrur are Class II and 4 are Class III. The income and expenditure of each municipality is given in Appendix, at the end of this chapter. The sources of income of different municipalities include house tax, octroi, toll, water rate, licence fee, slaughter house fee, building application fee, *dhobi ghat* fee, advertisement fee, *adda* fee, show tax, entertainment tax, liquor tax, etc.

A brief account of each municipality is given below :

Ahmedgarh Municipality

This municipality was constituted in 1924. At present, it is a Class II municipality. It had 13 members in June 1979.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 3.34 sq. km. and its population was 12,499 persons.

The civic amenities provided by the municipality include street-lights, drains, water supply, arrangement for the cleanliness of the town and disposal of the town refuse. The surface drainage system was

introduced in the town by the municipality in 1924 and whole of the town has been covered by it. The water supply scheme has also been started in the town. The municipality maintains a library-cum-reading room. It also maintains 25.33 km of roads.

Barnala Municipality

A small town committee was established at Barnala in 1945. It was later on converted into a Class II municipality in 1951. It has now been given the status of a Class I municipality since April 1979. In June 1979, it had 17 members.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 10.36 sq. km. and its population comprised 31,388 persons.

The civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, water supply, surface drains, arrangement for the cleanliness of the town and disposal of the town refuse. The water supply scheme was introduced in the town in 1952. At present 4 tube-wells are being maintained by the municipality for the supply of water. The surface drainage scheme was introduced in the town on the very inception of the municipality. However, the sewerage system was introduced in 1973-74 and it is still in progress. The municipality contributed, during 1977-78, Rs 46,702 to the *Balwadi*, school, reading room, medical institutions, *Gaushalas*, sports club, library and Dhanwantri Ashudhalaya. It also maintains 20 km of roads within the municipal limits.

Bhadaur Municipality

It was also constituted in the first instance as a small town committee in 1945 under the Patiala Small Town Act. In September 1956, it was raised to a Class III municipal committee by the then PEPSU Government. This status of the municipality has still not changed. In June 1979, it had 13 members.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 2.59 sq. km. and its population was 10,428 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, drains, water supply, arrangements for the cleanliness of the town. The drainage system was introduced by the municipality in 1957 and it has covered the whole of the town. The water supply scheme has also been introduced. The municipality maintains 5 km of roads within the municipal area.

Bhawanigarh Municipality

At Bhawanigarh, a small town committee was constituted in 1945 by the erstwhile Patiala State. It was later on raised to a Class III municipality in September 1956. In June 1979 it had 11 members.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 2.59 sq. km. and its population was 6,260 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, water supply, arrangements for the cleanliness of the town and disposal of the town refuse. The water supply scheme was introduced by the municipality in 1976. Pucca drains were constructed in 1959 and scheme for sewerage is under the consideration of the government. The municipality maintains a reading room. It maintains 1 km of road in the municipal area.

Dhanaula Municipality

The town of Dhanaula was founded in 1775 Bikrami (A.D. 1718) by Gurditta, the eldest son of Taloka and remained capital of Nabha Princely State until 1755, when Nabha Town was founded and the capital of the State was shifted to the new town.

The municipality was constituted in 1949. It is a Class II municipality. It had 13 members in June 1979.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 5.83 sq. km. and its population was 11,877 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, drains and arrangements for the cleanliness of the town. The drainage system was introduced in the town in 1950. It maintains a library cum-reading room. It also maintains 5 km of roads.

Dhuri Municipality

Constituted as a small town committee in 1945 by the erstwhile Patiala State, Dhuri is a class II municipality since 1954. In June 1979, it had 15 members.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 2.59 sq. km. and the population was 17,501 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, open surface drains, arrangement for the cleanliness of the town and disposal of the town refuse. The open drainage system was

introduced in the town in 1953 and the water supply scheme was introduced in 1975. At present the municipality maintains 1 tube-well for the supply of water to the town. It maintains a library-cum-reading room. It also contributes Rs 193 to the Mental Hospital, Amritsar, besides, maintaining a Social Education Centre on which the municipality spends Rs 150 annually. It also maintains 5.77 km of roads within the municipal area.

Lehragaga Municipality

At Lehragaga, a small town committee was constituted by the erstwhile Patiala State in 1945. It was raised to a Class II Municipality in September 1956. In June 1979, it had 11 members.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 1.97 sq. km. and its population was 8,989 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, drains, arrangements for the cleanliness of the town and disposal of the towns refuse. The drainage system was introduced in the town in 1952 and the whole of the town has been covered under the scheme. The municipality maintains a library-cum-reading room. It makes annual contribution of Rs 95 to the Mental Hospital, Amritsar. It also maintains 6.6 km of roads.

Longowal Municipality

Constituted in October 1945 as a small town committee, it was raised to a Class III municipality in September 1956, which it still continues to be. It had 13 members in June 1979.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 7.77 sq. km. and its population was 10,512 persons.

The civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, drains, arrangements for the cleanliness of the town and disposal of town refuse. The drainage system was introduced in the town in 1952-53 and in the whole of the town pucca drains have been constructed. It maintains library-cum-reading room. No road is being maintained by this municipality in the town.

Malerkotla Municipality

The municipality was constituted in 1905. However, prior to independence it was a state-run department, but later on, it became an independent body. It is now class I municipality. It had 19 members in June 1979.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 4.22 sq. km. and its population was 48,536 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, water supply, drains, and arrangements for the cleanliness of the town and disposal of the town refuse. The drainage system was introduced by the municipality in 1962-63 and it is yet to cover the whole of the town. The water supply scheme was started in 1974. At present the municipality maintains 2 tube-wells for the supply of water. The municipality is maintaining a library and a reading room. It has provided site for an Ayurvedic dispensary. It also maintains 59.63 km of roads.

Sangrur Municipality

The Sangrur Municipality was constituted in 1927, vide circular No. 997 dated 29 January 1926, issued by the Raja of Jind State. It is Class II municipality. In June 1979, it had 17 members.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limits was 10.36 sq. km. and its population was 31,318 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, water supply, drains and arrangements for the cleanliness of the town including the disposal of the town refuse. The water supply system was introduced in the town by the municipality in August 1965. At present the municipality maintains 4 tube-wells for the supply of water. It also maintains a reading room in the town. It contributes Rs 340 per annum to the Mental Hospital, Amritsar. It also maintains 23.88 km of roads within the municipal area.

Sunam Municipality

At Sunam, a small town committee was constituted in 1945 by the erstwhile Patiala State. It is a Class II municipality since 7 June 1951. It had 15 members in June 1979.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the municipal limit was 3.89 sq. km. and its population was 26,966 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, water supply, drains, arrangements for the cleanliness of the town and disposal of the town refuse. The water supply scheme was introduced in the town in 1976. Drains have also been constructed by the municipality in the town. The municipality maintains Shaheed Udham Singh Library and a reading room. It also maintains 4 km of roads.

Tapa Municipality

Constituted as small town committee in 1945, Tapa was declared Class III Municipality in 1956. In June 1979, it had 11 members.

According to the 1971 Census, the area of the town within the Municipal limits was 0.36 sq. km. and its population was 7,748 persons.

The various civic amenities provided by the municipality include street lights, drains, arrangements for cleanliness of the town and disposal of the town refuse. No road is being maintained by the municipality.

(C) Town and Country Planning and Housing

For purposes of town and country planning, the Sangrur District, falls under the jurisdiction of Divisional Town Planner, Bathinda Division, Bathinda. Besides looking after the interests of Sangrur District, this office also caters to the needs of the Bathinda District. This office was established at Bathinda on 4 January 1972.

The main functions of this office are to render technical assistance to the various municipal committees and improvement trusts of Sangrur District in preparing their town and country planning schemes. Besides, it surveys the area of scheme, preparation of the scheme and to render help to the staff of the municipal committees and improvement trusts in demarcation. It also prepares schemes for the urban estates of the Punjab Housing Development Board in the district. It includes preparation of lay-out plans of the survey schemes, zoning plan, building and control sheets, frame control etc. In the selection of sites, this office also renders help to the government and semi-government projects. Under the integrated Rural Development Programme, this office assists the Government in selecting the focal villages and prepare their lay-out plans.

Improvement Trusts

An improvement trust is an *ad-hoc* body constituted for the development of a city. It generally acquires land for development schemes and allots/auctions plots to the general public including weaker sections of the society. The main functions of an improvement trust include clearance of slums, provision of water supply, sewerage and street light, widening of existing roads and roundabouts, beautification of the city and provision of open space for parks, schools and construction of markets and residential colonies and orderly expansion of the town.

The members of an improvement trust are appointed by the State Government from amongst the public men besides a few *ex-officio* members. The term of office of a member of an improvement trust is 3 years.

The sources of income of an improvement trust are municipal contribution, Government grants, Trust property, Nazool property, fees, investments, etc.

The following three improvement trusts are functioning in Sangrur District:—

Barnala Improvement Trust, Barnala.—The Barnala Improvement Trust, Barnala, was constituted on 1 March 1972, *vide* Punjab Government Gazette Notification No. 81 (43)-3-CI-72/21883, dated 27 November 1972 under the Punjab Town Improvement Act 1922. The trust had 7 members as on 31 March 1978.

The Improvement Trust has taken up some development schemes for the Barnala town. These are: development scheme of Shopping centre near the Food and Supplies Office; development schemes of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Mini Shopping Centre on Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road; development scheme known as Shaheed Jeeta Singh shopping Centre on Bajakhana Road; development scheme of residential colony for economically weaker sections and other categories of low/middle income group; and development scheme of residential colony known as Model Town on Hadiaya-Dhanaula Road.

The income and expenditure of Improvement Trust, Barnala, as on 31 March 1978, were Rs 4,84,000 and 7,09,000 respectively.

Sangrur Improvement Trust, Sangrur.—The Sangrur Improvement Trust, Sangrur, was formed—*vide* Punjab Government Gazette Notification No. 1940-60-I-74/8414, dated 28 March 1974. However, it started functioning w.e.f. 24 July 1974. The trust had 6 members as on 31 March 1978.

The Improvement Trust, Sangrur, has taken up a few schemes for development of the town which are either waiting sanction of the State Government or the Town and Country Planning Department, Punjab. These include the construction of residential colonies near the Patiala Gate, and commercial sites in Sadr Bazar and opposite P.W.D. Rest House. A Scheme has also been prepared to construct houses for weaker sections of the society near Nabha Gate, besides shop-cum-flat -cum public parks are also to be constructed opposite Bus Stand.

The income and expenditure of the Improvement Trust, Sangrur, as on 31 March 1978, were Rs 3,37,000 and Rs 3,54,000 respectively.

Malerkotla Improvement Trust, Malerkotla.—The Malerkotla Improvement Trust, Malerkotla, started functioning from 26 June 1978 when

its Chairman was appointed by the Government *vide* its Notification No. 845-USL-G-I-78/19043, dated 26 June 1978. The provisions of the Punjab Town Improvement Act, 1922 were extended to the Malerkotla town—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 6867-4CI-75/1960, dated 20 June 1975. As on 31 March 1978 there were seven members including a Chairman of this Improvement Trust.

The Improvement Trust, Malerkotla, is engaged in the preparation of a few developmental schemes for the development of Malerkotla town.

(d) Panchayati Raj

Panchayati Raj is a three-tier system of administration for the development of rural areas, with the Gram Panchayat at the village level, the Panchayat Samiti at the block level and Zila Parishad at the district level. It has been introduced to provide a bold and imaginative leadership for all-round development of the village community. As the economic uplift of the community cannot be entrusted to any other organization than the one represented by the village people themselves, the role of the Panchayati Raj institution in the rebuilding of rural India becomes inevitably important. The Panchayati Raj Movement was launched in the State on 2 October 1961.

Three tiers of the Panchayati Raj the Gram Panchayat, the Panchayat Samiti, and the Zila Parishad are described below :

Gram Panchayats.—Forming a part of Indian customs and traditions, the institution of gram panchayats in the villages is as old as Indian History. Panchayat system is well entrenched in the very mind and thinking of Indian villagers. "God lives in five" is still a well admitted doctrine of the village community especially in the Punjab. In the olden days panchayats had been wielding a great influence upon the village life-economic, social and political. These were full-fledged miniature autonomous republics. The details of the working of the panchayats in the villages of this district are not clearly known for want of records, but the panchayats in the villages of this district did exercise sufficient revenue, judicial, municipal and administrative functions.

The coming of the Muslims tended to upset this age-old system of panchayats as they believed in the unitary form of government. 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 in which rural administration was running. Akbar, the Great Mughal Emperor, introduced changes in the old Indian *malguzari* system which sufficiently

weakened this fibre of panchayati system. But the British rule in India gave a death blow to the panchayats by introducing a number of middle-men like Rajas, *jagirdars*, *malik-i-alaha* and *malik-i-adna* the position was worse in the provincial states. The present Sangrur District comprised 4 sets of villages, (villages belonging to the erstwhile princely states of Jind, Patiala, Nabha & Malerkotla), previously each being under the rule of a Raja. In spite of various onslaughts by the administration of these intermediary rulers, the conventional panchayats continued to function and took decisions based mostly on morality.

The first step for the restitution of the panchayat system in Sangrur District was taken in 1910 when panchayats were organised under the guidance of Mr Young, the then Settlement Commissioner of the Patiala State. Some influential persons who had ingratiated themselves with the authorities could find place on these panchayats through nominations. These panchayats were given powers to entertain certain civil cases only. Nothing was being done towards the development of the villages. Hence the work of development of village was got done by the State officials through the agency of village headman. Later, in the year 1943, another legislation was brought on statute *vide* which these panchayats were required to perform in their areas certain municipal functions also. In 1948, panchayat elections were held in the Nabha State. These panchayats had to perform municipal, judicial, and revenue functions. On the formation of PEPSU in 1948, PEPSU Panchayat Raj Act was passed in 1951. The existing panchayats kept functioning under the parent Acts and the new Act of 1951. Under the PEPSU Panchayat Raj Act, Niyaya panchayats were constituted separately for the group of 5 or 6 villages.

On the merger of PEPSU in the Punjab on 1 November 1956, the provisions of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, became applicable to the Panchayats of this district. The PEPSU Panchayat Raj Act, 1951 was repealed by the Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, which was amended in 1960. Under the Act, a gram sabha may be constituted for any village or group of contiguous villages with a population of not less than 500¹ and a gram panchayat is elected for the gram sabha area and not for each village. The Government, of course, has the power to relax it. Every male or female who is entered as a voter on the electoral roll of the State Vidhan Sabha is a member of the gram sabha. These members of the gram sabha elect the members of the panchayats from amongst themselves. If no woman is elected as a panch, the woman candidate securing the highest number of votes amongst the women candidates in that election, is co-opted by the panchayat as a panch, and where no such women candidates are available a woman is co-opted as a panch by the

¹ The Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, has been amended to allow the constitution of a panchayat for a village having population of 100.

competent authority. Similarly, it has been provided that every panchayat shall have one or two members of the Scheduled Castes, depending upon the ratio of their population in the village.

The number of panches and the mode of election of Sarpanch of a panchayat has been changing from time to time. In 1960, a gram sabha could elect 5 to 9 panches including the sarpanch and lady panch. In 1971, the number of panches was raised from 5 to 11, but the mode of election of sarpanch was made indirect, i.e. the panches of a panchayat were to elect the sarpanch from amongst themselves. In 1972, election of the sarpanch was again made direct i.e. the members of gram sabha were to elect the sarpanch in addition to electing the panches, the number of panches remaining the same. The election of sarpanch was again made indirect in 1978 with no change as to the number of panches. From 1982, the election of sarpanch has again been made direct without altering the total number of panches. This number could go up to thirteen in a panchayat which failed to elect two women panches. They would be co-opted in that case.

Previously under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, the Panches elected the Sarpanch from among themselves. Later on from June 1972, this mode of indirect election was changed into a direct one. Accordingly, the panches as well as the Sarpanches were elected directly by the people. This system of direct election continued till the middle of June 1978 when by an Ordinance of the Punjab Government, the mode of election was made indirect and on 27 September 1982 again made direct. The panchayat may remove a Sarpanch by a motion of no confidence passed, by at least two-thirds of the panches. No such motion can be sponsored without the previous permission of the Director, Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab, Chandigarh. Members of a panchayat may be removed by the Government on specified grounds. Removal entails disqualification for re-election for a period up to five years.

Under the Act, gram panchayat is to meet at least once a month at a place within the gram panchayat area. Majority of the panches for the time being holding office form quorum. All decisions of a panchayat are taken by majority and, when the voting in equality, the Sarpanch has an additional or casting vote.

At the district headquarters, District Development and Panchayat Officer co-ordinates and supervises the working of the panchayats in the district.

In 1978, there were 681 panchayats in the Sangrur District with a total membership of 5,321.

Functions

Under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, the panchayats have been vested with judicial and executive powers besides being an important agency for rural development. On the criminal side, they have been given powers to try certain minor offences like petty thefts, hurt, affray and commission of public nuisance. They are under the control of the District Magistrate, who can hear appeals against their orders, and transfer cases from one panchayat to another. On the civil and revenue side, the panchayats have been given powers to try civil and revenue judicial cases within certain pecuniary limits, and in respect of these cases they are under the control of the District Judge and the Collector, respectively.

Besides the judicial work, the panchayats look to the requirements of their respective areas in regard to agriculture, education, animal husbandry, public health and sanitation including water supply, works of public utility, games and sports, industries, medical health and relief to the poor. They are expected to arrange 50 per cent of the cost of local development works sponsored by the Development Department, either in cash, kind or labour, and with the help of the concerned departments, they have been responsible for starting a number of single-teacher primary schools, construction of new school buildings, and repairing and remodeling of old ones, provision of drinking water arrangements in the schools, raising of aided libraries, provision of community listening sets, construction and repairing of panchayat *ghars*, building of dispensaries, planting of trees, arranging playgrounds and children parks, construction of village approach roads, repairing and levelling of public paths, construction of drains and culverts, pavement of streets, construction, repair and remodeling of wells for drinking water, and remodeling and repairing of ponds.

Sources of Revenue

The main sources of income of the panchayats are : grant-in-aid from Government, a percentage of land revenue collection, donation, taxes, duties, cesses and fees, income from village common lands, and sale proceeds of dust, dirt and dung, etc. The fines and penalties which the panchayats impose are also transferred to their funds.

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The income of the panchayats in the Sangrur District, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given below :

Source of income	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
1. Grants from Government	6,21,239	5,39,458	6,64,643	8,92,645	6,96,370
2. Voluntary Contributions	68,697	76,219	89,121	2,03,865	88,418
3. House Tax	35,735	7,72,041	19,08,949	5,25,083	5,03,859
Total	7,25,671	13,87,718	26,62,713	16,21,593	12,88,647

(Source: Director, Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab)

Achievements

During 1977-78, the panchayats in the district constructed 30 new school buildings and repaired and extended 60 existing ones, provided 30 playgrounds and 15 children parks, established 30 libraries, constructed 35 panchayat ghars, provided street lights in 45 villages, constructed 200 culverts, made 30 km drains pucca, paved 25 km of streets, installed 85 hand-pumps, and disinfected 85 drinking water wells, etc.

With regard to the judicial work, during 1977-78, the panchayats in the district decided 5 revenue cases,

Panchayat Samitis.—Constituted under the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961, the panchayat samitis form the second tier of the Panchayati Raj. This tier of local self government acts as a bridge between the zila parishads and village panchayats.

There are ten panchayat samitis in the district, i.e. one in each block. According to the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961, each panchayat samiti has 16 members elected by the panches and sar-panches from amongst themselves, two members elected by the co-operative societies ; and one member elected by the market committees. Besides, every MLA whose constituency falls, in part or in full, in the block works on the panchayat samiti as an associate member². Two women interested in social work and four persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, if not elected otherwise, are co-opted as members. The Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) and the Block Development and Panchayat Officer of the block, work as *ex-officio* members without the right to vote. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are elected from amongst the elected members and their term of office is five years.

² Prior to the abolition of the Punjab Vidhan Parishad in 1969, the membership of a panchayat Samiti also included such members of the Punjab Vidhan Parishad as the Government might by order specify.

The Panchayat Samitis provide and make arrangements for the requirements of the area under their jurisdiction in respect of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, health and rural sanitation, communications, social education, co-operation and such other miscellaneous work as development of cottage and small-scale industries and other local development activities. The panchayat samiti is also the agent of the Government for the formulation and execution of rural development programmes.

The main sources of income of a panchayat samiti are : local rate, fees derived from schools and markets ; fee from fairs and shows ; rents and profits accruing from properties vested in it ; and such money and grants as Government may place at its disposal. Under section 65 of the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961 (Punjab Act No. 3 of 1961) subject to the general direction and control of the Government, a Panchayat Samiti may with the previous permission of the Zila Parishad concerned, impose any tax which the Legislature of the State has power to impose under the Constitution of India except the property subject to local rate. Besides, under section 66 of the Act, the Government may empower any Panchayat Samiti to impose any tax without such permission.

Zila Parishad.—Prior to the formation of zila parishads in the State, the functions of zila parishads were performed by district boards. The district boards used to attend to the development of villages in the same manner as the municipal committees looked after the development works in urban areas.

Since Sangrur District was a Princely State prior to the partition, the functions of the district boards were performed by the respective departments of the State. The Zila Parishad, Sangrur, was constituted on 1 April 1962, under the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961.

A Zila Parishad comprises Chairman of every panchayat samiti, two members elected by each panchayat samiti, all MPs and MLAs, representing the district or any part thereof, and the Deputy Commissioner. Two women and five members belonging to the Scheduled Castes, if not elected otherwise, are co-opted as members. The MPs, MLAs and the Deputy Commissioner do not have the right to vote. A zila parishad has a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, elected by the primary members Chairmen of the panchayat Samitis and co-opted members, from amongst themselves, for five years. The Secretary of the Zila Parishad is appointed by the Government.

The Zila Parishad, Sangrur, was superseded by the State Government in 1969 and the Deputy Commissioner was appointed as Administrator to perform its functions till its reconstitution.

A zila parishad consolidates and co-ordinates the plans prepared by the panchayat samitis, examines and approves the budgets of the panchayat samitis and advises the Government in regard to panchayats and panchayat samitis and keeps a watch over agricultural production programmes and construction works.

All the roads previously maintained by the zila parishads have been transferred to the Public Works Department and hence no road is being maintained by the Zila Parishad, Sangrur.

The Zila Parishad, Sangrur, does not impose any taxes. The main sources of income are State Government funds allotted to it and the local rate. The income and expenditure of the Zila Parishad, Sangrur, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given hereunder :

Year	Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1973-74	3,73,038	4,61,712
1974-75	3,51,667	6,03,532
1975-76	14,27,514	10,97,179
1976-77	19,60,427	13,43,944
1977-78	31,64,092	13,22,315

(Source : Secretary, Zila Parishad, Sangrur)

APPENDIX

(Vide page 319)

Income and Expenditure of Municipalities in Sangrur District, 1973-74 to 1977-78

Name of Municipality	Year				
	1973-74 (Rs)	1974-75 (Rs)	1975-76 (Rs)	1976-77 (Rs)	1977-78 (Rs)
Tahsil Sangrur					
1. Sangrur .. Income	17,09,351	21,19,000	20,16,000	19,63,000	21,08,000
Expenditure	17,19,280	21,29,000	20,11,000	19,25,000	19,59,000
2. Bhawani-garh Income	2,14,998	2,10,000	1,95,000	2,91,000	4,34,000
Expenditure	2,28,424	1,64,000	1,84,000	3,17,000	3,91,000
3. Longowal Income	75,284	1,30,000	1,43,000	1,11,000	2,24,000
Expenditure	1,75,989	89,000	1,34,000	1,66,000	1,20,000
Tahsil Barnala					
1. Barnala .. Income	22,11,783	21,36,000	28,50,000	32,24,000	33,17,000
Expenditure	16,23,170	20,53,000	31,72,000	34,29,000	34,19,000
2. Tapa .. Income	3,47,321	3,90,000	5,80,000	6,34,000	8,56,000
Expenditure	3,43,715	3,57,000	5,76,000	6,31,000	7,18,000
3. Dhanaula .. Income	3,49,281	4,05,000	2,03,000	2,19,000	1,53,000
Expenditure	71,894	5,16,000	1,23,000	2,79,000	1,65,000
4. Bhadaur .. Income	2,10,710	2,11,000	1,75,000	1,63,000	4,33,000
Expenditure	1,35,022	1,40,000	3,31,000	2,13,000	4,62,000
Tahsil Malerkotla					
1. Malerkotla Income	27,37,316	19,39,000	23,35,000	31,61,000	26,33,000
Expenditure	16,80,636	22,28,000	18,91,000	22,52,000	29,73,000
2. Ahmed-garh Income	6,14,689	9,06,000	10,76,000	12,30,000	12,51,000
Expenditure	6,40,553	7,62,000	9,39,000	12,72,000	12,07,000
3. Dhuri .. Income	5,79,914	9,01,000	10,22,000	16,78,000	12,01,000
Expenditure	6,05,582	9,01,000	10,21,000	14,00,000	14,17,000

Tahsil Sunam

1. Sunam	Income	7,96,079	10,06,000	12,32,000	11,06,000	14,16,000
	Expenditure	9,21,026	9,89,000	13,50,000	12,36,000	14,26,000
2. Lehragaga	Income	3,84,122	5,62,000	5,54,000	4,09,000	7,22,000
	Expenditure	3,77,767	4,17,000	7,51,000	4,03,000	3,50,000

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974-78)

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(a) Historical Background

The Sangrur District now comprises the territories of erstwhile Princely States of Patiala, Jind, Nabha and Malerkotla ; besides some villages from the former British territory. In these Princely States, prior to 1860, indigenous system of education was in vogue. Under the indigenous system, *pathshalas*, *chathshalas*, *dharamshalas* and *maktabs* were being run in these Princely States. In the *pathshalas*, religious education relating to Hindu religion was imparted to the boys of Brahman community. In the *chathshalas* or Mahajani reading schools, *lande* and accounts were taught to the boys of the trading community. *Gurmukhi* or Punjabi was taught by the *Bhai* or priest of a gurdwara to the children of the Sikh community in *Gurmukhi* schools which were generally located in *dharmshalas*/*Gurudwara*. The *maktab* was the vernacular, Persian or Arabic school for the Muslim boys. These were of two kinds—the one where only the Quran was taught, the other where Arabic was taught. Female education was looked upon with disfavour. Girls used to learn embroidery, sewing, trouser strings etc. at home from other women. Women were taught only *Gurmukhi*, Nagri, Sanskrit or Arabic according to their religion. Only religious books were taught to the girls.

In 1860, Maharaja Narinder Singh of Patiala State opened 'first State School at Patiala. Maharaja Mohinder Singh in 1870, created a regular organised Education Department under a Director. The teachers in the indigenous schools were taken in the service of the State. New schools were opened at Barnala, Hadiaya, Moonak and Sunam. Similarly, until 1889 indigenous system of education continued in the Jind State. Among others a school was being maintained by the State at Sangrur where Persian, Sanskrit and *Gurmukhi* were taught. In 1889, the Jind State adopted the Punjab Education system and remodelled the schools then existing. A Supervising and Inspecting Officer called the *Munsarim* of schools was appointed by the State. In 1891, primary schools were opened among others at Sangrur, Dialpura (tahsil Malerkotla) and Badru Khan (tahsil Sangrur). In 1894, the Primary School, Sangrur, was raised to a high school and a boarding house was added to it. On 10 November 1899, foundation stone of Diamond Jubilee College, close to Sangrur, was laid. In Nabha State, the modern education

system was introduced by Raja Bharpur Singh in 1863 by opening a school in Nabha Tahsil with one teacher for English and another for Persian and Arabic. Schools were opened in 1873, among others, at Dhanaula (now in Tahsil Barnala). The education system virtually on these very lines were going on in the Princely State of Malerkotla also. On the eve of the formation of PEPSU in 1948, this system of education continued. In 1956, the PEPSU was merged in the Punjab and the educational pattern of Punjab became applicable to the Sangrur District.

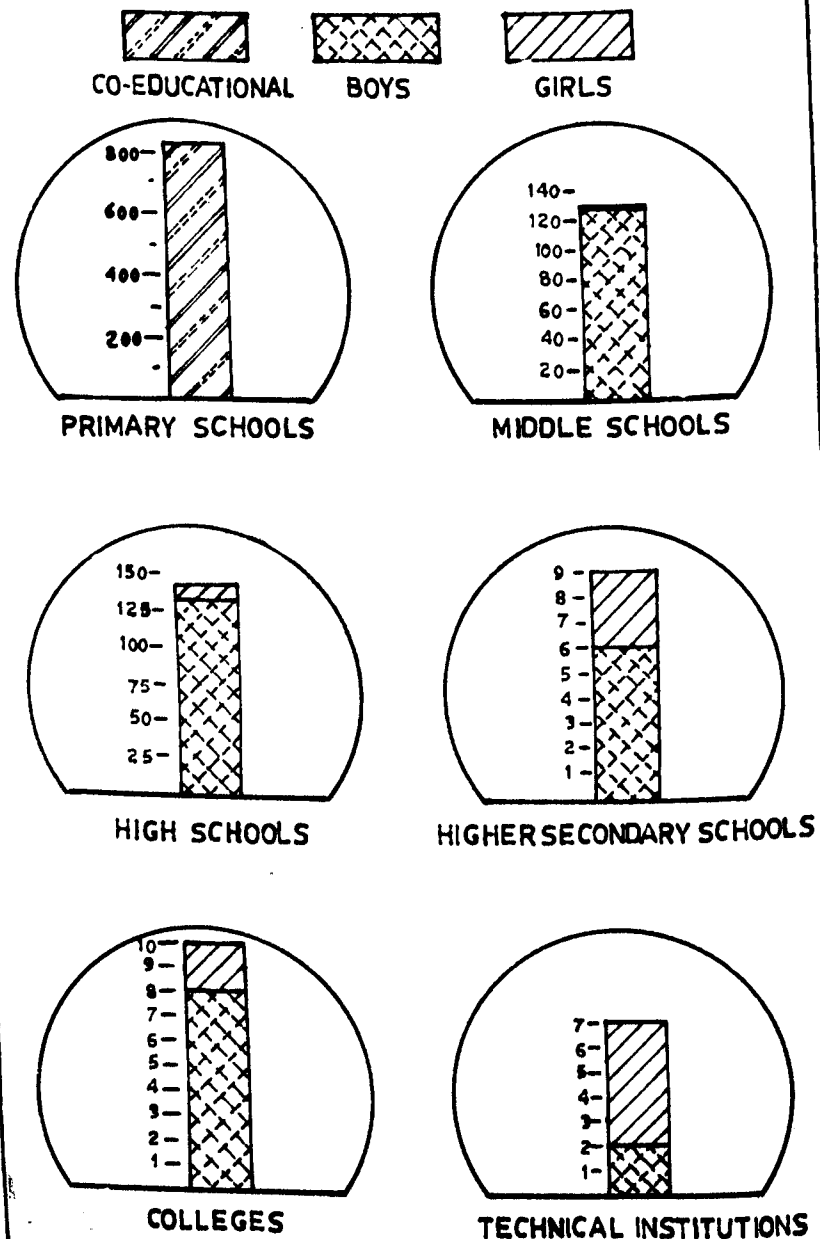
After the partition of the country in 1947, the national Government gave priority to the expansion of education with an avowed policy of arranging free and compulsory education. The number of educational institutions increased rapidly and the Punjab Government took a bold step of provincialising the schools maintained by the local bodies on 1 October 1957. This step was a landmark in the post-independence history of education. Education has been made free in government schools up to the middle standard. To provide facilities for higher education, even the small towns and comparatively bigger villages such as, Mastuana, Sanghera, Sandaur, etc. have been given the privilege to have degree colleges. The Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1960, was promulgated from 1 April 1961 in the entire district and as a result of its implementation, a large number of schools have been opened with a view to providing a primary school within a radius of about one kilometre and a half. The number of educational institutions in the Sangrur District as on 31 March 1978 included 10 colleges, 9 higher secondary schools, 141 high schools, 133 middle schools, and senior basic schools and 824 pre-primary/primary/junior basic schools.

(b) Literacy and Educational Standards

The Sangrur District is not only economically backward, educationally too, it is one of the most backward districts of the State. The literacy rate of the district, as per 1971 Census was 24·23 per cent (30·29 for males and 17·01 for females) as compared to 33·67 (40·38 for males and 25·90 for females) of the Punjab State. The district was at the bottom in literacy among the 19 districts of the Punjab in 1961 when its literacy rate was 18·6 per cent. However, the literacy rate has shown an increase of 5·63 per cent during 1961—71 decade¹. This improvement has been achieved by opening more educational institutions especially in the rural areas and within short distances. Efforts have also been made for universalisation of primary education by maximum enrolment of students in

¹ Census of India 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 17, Sangrur District, p. 29 and District Education Officer, Sangrur

NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SANGRUR DISTRICT AS ON 31.3.1978



SOURCE: District Education Officer, Sangrur

schools. *Balwadis* are also being established in maximum villages under the 'Bal Vikas Programme'. As a result of the State initiative, the number of educational institutions is rapidly increasing in the district.

The following table shows the progress of school education in the district since 1951-52 :

Type of Institution	Number of Institutions							
	1951-52		1960-61		1970-71		1977-78	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Primary/Pre-primary/Junior Basic Schools	236	21	667	68	459	—	813	11
Middle Schools	71	7	57	6	84	1	132	1
High Schools	22	2	65	14	90	13	127	14
Higher Secondary Schools	—	—	4	—	6	3	6	3

Educational Societies

Though education, like other subjects, is planned by the State, yet various educational societies and philanthropic endowments are also rendering valuable service in the field of education in the Sangrur District. The important among such societies are briefly described below :

Educational Societies Rendering Service in the Field of Education

The Arya Samaj Sangrur.—Arya Samaj, Sangrur, is reported to have been founded in or about A.D. 1926. The foundation of the Arya Samaj temple was laid in 1928 by Swami Swatantranand a veteran leader and saint of the Arya Samaj. Previously, its activities were confined to congregations, performance of religious rites, conversations on vedic dharam and uplift of Scheduled Castes and depressed classes. But right from 1952, it took up the cause of female education and set up a primary girls school at Sangrur for the propagation of Hindi. It is now a High School under the name of 'Lajpat Rai Arya Kanya Vidyalaya'. Besides, it has started another institution under the name of 'Dayanand Mahila Mahavidyalaya' Sangrur.

Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Sangrur.—It was founded in 1922 by Sarvshri Prem Singh and Kashmira Singh. The foundation stone of Singh Sabha, Sangrur, was laid down by Sant Baba Attar Singh. The Sabha played a vital role in religious, revolutionary and educational fields. But

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it started taking keen interest in the field of education since 17 June 1954 when Maharani Satinder Kaur, wife of Maharaja Rajvir Singh of Jind donated Rs 1,000 for opening a girls school at Sangrur. The Singh Sabha, Sangrur, opened a primary school for girls at Dhuri Gate, Sangrur, in the premises of the Singh Sabha. The primary school has now been upgraded to high school and is housed in the premises of Shri Mokand Singh Dharmshala, which was donated by the wife of Shri Mokand Singh for the school. There are now about 500 students in the school.

The school also imparts education in divinity to the students.

Women's Education

During the reign of princes, female education was virtually non-existent. It was not favoured by the parents to send their female wards to the schools. The girls used to learn cooking, sewing and embroidery from the other women. They also used to learn reading and writing from the indigenous institutions according to their religion. But after independence in 1947, the outlook of the parents has changed in favour of female education. The Compulsory Elementary Education Act, 1960, has also contributed towards the increase in female education as it has made obligatory on the parents to send their wards of the age-group of 6 and above to schools.

According to the 1971 Census, the literacy rate among females, as a percentage of the total population in the district, was 17.01 as against 25.90 for the State. As on 31 March 1978, there were as many as 23,906 girls (I to XI classes) studying in the district. College education among women also got impetus and as a result thereof, there were 2 colleges exclusively for girls in the district in 1977-78. Besides, there are 5 Industrial Training Schools in which instruction in various trades is given to the girl students.

Education of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes

According to the 1971 Census, Scheduled Castes formed 23.66 per cent* of district's total population. The Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes students, whose parent's annual income does not exceed Rs 6,000, are allowed free education up to the M.A. level. Free books, stipends, and scholarships exemption from tuition fees and reimbursement of examination fee are given to the students belonging to these castes in all institutions including colleges under the various schemes sponsored by the State and Union Governments. Seats for them are reserved in various professional and technical institutions. To prepare them for IAS, IPS and other allied examinations, Zonal Coaching Centre is functioning

*As per 1981 Census, Scheduled Castes formed 25.48 per cent of the district's total population.

in the Punjabi University, Patiala, where free board and lodging are provided.

The financial assistance given to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given below :

Year	Stipends (Rs)	Number of students benefited
1973-74	2,40,288	3,074
1974-75	2,49,992	4,208
1975-76	3,50,037	4,365
1976-77	27,37,315	21,865
1977-78	15,31,861	20,243

(Source : District Education Officer, Sangrur)

The number of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes students in different Schools in the District, as on 31 March 1978 was as under :

Type of Institution	Number of					
	Scheduled Castes Students			Backward Castes Students		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Schools ..	13,875	13,167	27,042	6,482	4,981	11,463
Middle Schools ..	6,810	4,107	10,917	4,474	2,679	7,153
High Schools ..	11,844	6,200	18,044	10,364	5,793	16,157
Higher Secondary Schools ..	600	432	1,032	756	802	1,558
Grand Total ..	30,129	23,906	75,651	22,076	13,255	36,331

(Source : District Education Officer, Sangrur)

Role of Local Bodies in the field of Education

Since October 1957, all schools maintained hitherto by the local bodies have been provincialized in the State. There was no educational institution controlled by any municipal committee/District Board in the Sangrur District before provincialization.

Medium of Instruction

With a view to solving the language problem in the State, the Government worked out the Three-Language Formula to satisfy all sections of

the people, which replaced the Sachar Formula of 1949. Under the Three-Language Formula, Punjabi has been made the first language and the medium of instruction in Government schools at all levels, while Hindi has been made compulsory from the sixth class. The privately managed schools have been given the option to retain Punjabi or Hindi as medium of instruction. The schools which adopt Hindi as the medium of instruction are required to teach Punjabi as a compulsory language. This solution evolved by the Government has gone a long way in solving the language problems in the State. It has ensured compulsory instruction in Punjabi in all the schools and has enabled the Hindi medium schools to continue teaching through that medium and, as such, the entire school going population in the State has become conversant with both the languages. The status of English language has also been recognized, as it is an international language.

Educational Set-up

With the re-organisation of educational set-up on 8 May 1963, the District Education Officer is now the overall incharge of educational activities up to the high and higher secondary school levels in the district. He functions under the Director of Public Instruction (Schools), Punjab, through the Circle Education Officer, Nabha (District Patiala). The District Education Officer, Sangrur, is assisted by 2 Deputy District Education Officers, 1 Science Supervisor, 1 Assistant Education Officer, 1 Block Education Officer (Compulsory Primary Education), 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Superintendent, 3 Head Clerks, 9 Assistants, besides other Class III and Class IV staff.

The primary schools function under the control of a Block Education Officer, while the middle, high and higher secondary schools in the district are under the control of District Education Officer, Sangrur, through the Deputy District Education Officer, Sangrur.

(c) General Education

Pre-Primary Schools

Pre-primary or nursery education is highly desirable for the physical emotional and intellectual development of children in the age group of 3—6 years. The objective of providing facilities for elementary education in all villages with a population of 500 has been achieved, and now efforts are being made to provide these facilities in the villages having smaller population. A number of nursery and model schools (Government and private) are functioning in the District. Lady Circle Supervisors and Block Development authorities also run nursery schools or *balwadis* with the cooperation of village Mahila Mandals and Panchayats.

Primary and Basic Schools

Free primary education was introduced in the State during the Third Five-Year Plan (1961—66) in the age group of 6—7 years in 1961-62, and was extended to the age group of 7-8 in 1962-63, 8-9 in 1963-64, 9-10 in 1964-65 and 10-11 in 1965-66. As a step towards free and compulsory universalization of primary education, all revenue villages in the district have been provided with primary schools by 1976-77. Special incentives such as supply of free text books and mid-day meals are given to the children belonging to weaker sections of the society.

The total number of Primary/Basic Primary Schools, both Government and private, in the district, as on 30 September 1978, was 825 with 1,70,000 (95,000 boys, 75,000 girls) students. The number of teachers, as on 30 September 1978, in the schools was 3,442 (1,916 males, 1,526 females).

The details of educational institutions and students at primary stage in the district are given in Appendix I on page 356.

Secondary Schools

There is an all round expansion in the field of education in the district. The increase in the number of children/scholars in primary schools due to the introduction of compulsory education has encouraged the enrolment drive in the secondary schools. To attract more children to secondary schools in the age group of 14—17 years, middle and high schools have been provided within short distances and 28 primary schools were upgraded from primary to middle and 14 from middle to high during 1977-78. Besides, some new subjects such as music and dancing have been introduced in some of the Government Girls High Schools. The teaching of domestic science and agriculture has also been started in various Government high schools in rural areas.

At the secondary stage, there were 9 higher secondary schools, 150 high schools and 134 middle schools in the district, as on 31 March 1979. The total number of scholars studying in the middle and high/higher secondary schools was 43,000 (28,000 boys and 15,000 girls) and 16,000 (11,000 boys and 5,000 girls) respectively. The total number of teachers in the middle, high/higher secondary schools, both Government and private, in the district as on 30 September 1978 was 2,109 (1,452 males and 657 females) and 1,269 (957 males and 312 females), respectively.

According to the 1971 Census, there were 78 villages having middle schools and 46 with high/higher secondary schools in the district. Sex-wise details of educational institutions and scholars at the secondary stage

in the district, as on 30 September 1978, are given in the Appendix II on page 357.

Higher Education

Prior to the 1951 Census, there was only one degree college viz. the Ranbir College, Sangrur, functioning in the district. By 1951, two more colleges, one for girls at Sangrur and the other for boys at Malerkotla had been opened. However, the number swelled to 10 by 30 September 1978.

In these colleges, instructions up to degree level are imparted. A few of them also run pre-engineering, Pre-Medical, B. Sc., Home Science, and M.A. classes. All these institutions are affiliated to the Punjabi University, Patiala. The colleges functioning in the district as on 30 September 1978, are briefly described as under :

Government College, Malerkotla.—It was originally founded as an Intermediate College by Nawab Ahmed Ali Khan of the erstwhile Malerkotla State in 1926. It was the first College in the district. In 1945, it was raised to the Degree College (Arts). During 1962, the science subject was also introduced.

Besides preparing the students up to the degree level (Arts and Science), the college also runs Post-Graduate Classes in Economics and Political Science. Training in National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme is also provided. The college has a library and a dispensary. Facilities for games and physical education are available in the college. A number of cultural and literary associations/societies are functioning in the college.

Scholarships/stipends are also awarded to the students belonging to various categories, viz. Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes and other deserving students. The college brings out its magazine 'Clarion' annually.

The number of students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 1,599.

Government Ranbir College, Sangrur.—This college was started in 1939 by Raja Ranbir Singh of the erstwhile Jind State as an Intermediate College, and was raised to the Degree level in 1943. The Ranbir College for Women was also merged with this college in 1963. At present, it is a co-educational college.

Besides the degree classes in Arts and Science, the college also started M.A. Classes in Political Science in 1970. The students are also given training in National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme in the college. It takes keen interest in providing games and sports facilities to the students. A number of cultural and literary societies are

functioning in the college. A rich library, having about 45,000 books, a reading room and a dispensary are being maintained by it. The college brings out its magazine 'Ranbir' annually.

Scholarships/stipends are awarded to the students belonging to various categories viz., Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes and to poor and deserving students.

The number of students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78 was 1,261.

Sanatan Dharm College, Barnala.—It was started by the Sanatan Dharm Sabha, Barnala, in May 1956. The college, besides imparting instruction up to Three-Year Degree Course (Arts and Science), also provides training under the National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme. It is compulsory for Pre-University and Three-Year Degree Course Part I students to take one of these subjects. The college encourages the students to take healthy interest in games and sports. A few culture and literary societies and associations are functioning in the college. It has laboratories, a library with a book bank and a reference section and an auditorium. It also publishes its magazine 'Stream' annually.

The students of this college are eligible for the award of all types of University, Government and other scholarships.

The number of the students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 1,112.

Akal Degree College, Mastuana (Sangrur).—It was originally founded by Sant Baba Attar Singh in 1920, but it was closed down by the British Government because the students of this college actively participated in freedom movement. It re-emerged as an Agriculture College and became a Degree College in 1963. Besides imparting instruction up to the Three-Year Degree Course (Arts and Science) it also provides training under the National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme.

The college maintains a library and a reading room. A number of cultural and literary societies/clubs are functioning in the college. It brings out its annual magazine named 'Saint Soldier'.

The students of this college are eligible for the award of all types of university, government and other scholarships.

The number of students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 122.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Mahila College, Barnala.—It was started in June 1968, in the memory of late Prime Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur

Shastri, by the local Arya Samaj. The college, besides preparing students up to the Three-year Degree Course (Arts Group), also provides training under the National Cadet Corps, and National Service Scheme. The college encourages sports among the students for which there is good arrangement.

The college has a library and a book bank to assist the Scheduled Castes and other deserving students. Besides, a number of cultural and literary societies are functioning in the college. It brings out its magazine 'Manogya' annually.

The students of this college are eligible for the award of all types of university, government and other scholarships.

The number of students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 347.

Shaheed Udham Singh Government College, Sunam.—The college was started in July 1969 to commemorate the cherished memory of Shaheed Udham Singh. Originally named Shaheed Udham Singh Memorial Degree College. It was taken over by the State Government in September 1974 and renamed accordingly. The college besides preparing students up to the Three-Year Degree Course (Arts Group), also provides training under the National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme. It has a library, a book bank and a dispensary, a number of cultural and literary societies and audiovisual clubs functioning in the college to promote healthy growth of personality among the students. It brings out its magazine called 'Udham Jayoti' annually.

The number of students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 445.

Guru Gobind Singh College, Sanghera (Barnala).—The public of Sanghera, its surrounding villages, and also of Barnala had been feeling the need of a rural Degree College since long at or near Barnala. In pursuance of these feelings and in order to meet this long standing demand, Gram Panchayat of Sanghera took up the initiative and donated some land for constructing a college. Accordingly a charitable trust, known as 'Guru Gobind Singh College Trust Sanghera' was formed and registered in 1969. The donated land of the Gram Panchayat of Sanghera was transferred to this trust and Guru Gobind Singh College was established in July 1972 on the Barnala-Ludhiana Road at a distance of 2 km from Barnala.

Besides imparting instruction up to the Degree level, the college also provides training in the National Cadet Corps and National Service

Scheme. Arrangements exist for all major and minor games for boys and girls in the college. In order to develop the talents of the students a number of cultural and literary societies have been formed in the college. It brings out its magazine, 'Patrika', once a year.

The students of this college are eligible for the award of all types of university, government and other scholarships.

The number of students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 101.

Akal Degree College for Women, Sangrur.—To perpetuate the sacred memory of Sant Baba Attar Singh, Akal Degree College for Women Sangrur, was established on 1 July 1970. The college besides running the Degree classes in Arts subjects, providing training under the National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and Military Science. Games are compulsory in the college. A number of cultural and literary societies are functioning in the college. The college has a library and a reading room, a dispensary, and a hostel for girls. It publishes its magazine named 'Timeless' once a year.

The students of this college are eligible for the award of all types of university, government or other scholarships and stipends.

The number of the students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 264.

Sant Baba Attar Singh Khalsa College, Sanda (Sangrur).—This college was also established in July 1972, in memory of Late Sant Baba Attar Singh who was a great educationist, saint and benefactor of the Malwa region. Initially, it imparted instruction up to Three-Year Degree Course Part I level but later on it was raised to Degree level.

Besides preparing students up to the Three-Year Degree Course (Arts Group), the college also provides the National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme facilities. It also provides facilities for sports and games. A number of cultural and literary societies are functioning in the college to develop the latent talents of the students. It also publishes a magazine named 'Attar Kiran' annually.

The number of students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 150.

Guru Tegh Bahadur College, Bhawanigarh.—The Malwa region, in general, remained backward in the field of education and to develop the area in this regards, Guru Tegh Bahadur College was opened at Bhawanigarh in 1976-77. It is affiliated to Punjabi University, Patiala. It prepares

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students for Three-Year Degree Course in Arts. The college also arranges educational tours of important historical places.

Scholarship/stipends are awarded by the college to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes whose parents are not gazetted officers. Brilliant students of Backward Classes whose parents' annual income is upto Rs 3,600 and wards of military personnels are also eligible for scholarships. Players of national level etc. whose parents annual income is upto Rs 3,600 are also awarded this benefit. Besides, National Scholarship is available to the students who have obtained more than 60 per cent marks in Matriculation and the monthly income of their parents is not more than Rs 500.

The number of students on the rolls of the college, during 1977-78, was 69.

(d) Professional and Technical Education

Teachers' Training

There was no such institution functioning in the district during 1977-78.

Medical Education

There was no institution for imparting medical education in the district during 1977-78.

Technical Education

Technical education plays an important role in the industrial development of the country. To ensure steady flow of technical personnel, a number of technical colleges, Industrial Training Centres and Industrial Training Institutes are being run in the State. On 31 March 1978, 5 Industrial Training Centres for girls at Ahmedgarh, Barnala, Dhuri, Sunam and Sangrur were functioning in the district. Besides, one Rural Artisan Centre for boys, at Barnala, and two Industrial Training Institutes, one each at Sunam and Sangrur, have also been opened.

In Industrial Training Institutes/Centres, the students are prepared for diploma/certificate courses in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and various trades/crafts such as welding, carpentry, fitting, turnery, blacksmithy, stenography, radio and television mechanic, refrigeration mechanic electrician, wireman, draftsmanship, etc. The girl students are taught crafts like tailoring, cutting, hand-embroidery, machine-embroidery, needlework etc.

Detailed particulars of these Industrial Training Institutes/Centres in the Sangrur District have been given in Chapter V on "Industries".

(e) Physical Education

The main objective of imparting physical education is to make child physically fit, mentally alert and morally sound. In order to improve physical efficiency of the youth, the Punjab State has introduced Physical Education Scheme in all its districts. It has been made a compulsory subject in all the middle and high/higher secondary schools of the State since 1974. Under this system, one Physical Training Instructor is attached to each of the middle and high/higher secondary schools for organizing it. In the colleges, physical education is directed and guided by the Physical Directors. Special emphasis is given to promote physical education and inculcate the spirit of sportsmanship by cultivating interest of the young students in games. Younger children are taught action songs, motion stories, etc. Government funds are allocated to the schools for purchase of equipment for the games. Where it is justified, schools receive grants to buy land for playground. The development of sports in the State is the responsibility of the Department of Sports, the Punjab State Sports Council and the Punjab Panchayati Raj Khed Parishad.*

At the District level, the District Education Officer is assisted by an Assistant District Education Officer for the promotion of physical education. He and Circle Incharge of National Fitness Corps supervise and guide physical education in the schools. On 31 March 1978, there were 27 Physical Education Directors, 205 Physical Education Instructors and 29 NFC (PTI) in the district.

Besides the above, the following schemes, under separate departments, also promote the cause of physical education :—

- (i) Promotion of Sports and Games by the State Sports Department.
- (ii) National Fitness Corps, sponsored by the Government of India.
- (iii) National Cadet Corps.
- (iv) Bharat Scouts and Guides.

(i) **Promotion of Sports and Games.**—Keeping in view the importance of sports, the Punjab Government created in 1961 an independent department for sports, called the Sports Department, Punjab, and appointed players of national and international fame as Sports Officers. At the District level the department is represented by the District Sports Officer, Sangrur. He is assisted by 7 Junior Sports Officers and two Sports Coaches, and other miscellaneous Class III and Class IV staff. Besides,

*To co-ordinate the activities of these organisations an apex body, viz. Punjab State Sports Development Board has been set up since June 1982.

there are two sub-centres in the district one at Sunam which is headed by a Sports Officer and another at Malerkotla which is manned by 2 Sports Officers and a Junior Sports Officer.

The main functions of this department i.e., the Sports Department, Punjab, are to provide training facilities in sports to the students and sportsmen of colleges, schools, private institutions etc. according to their requisitions. In general the training is given twice a day in the District Stadium and in schools and colleges. The Department is making strenuous efforts to promote sports talent in all parts of the State. It conducts off-season conditioning camps, and teams are put on special training before they participate in national, inter-State, and inter-University competitions. The Department also awards scholarships to the distinguished players, besides giving grants for the development of play-grounds.

At Sangrur, 1 Foot-ball, 2 Hockey, 1 Volley-ball, 1 Basket-ball, 1 Judo, 1 Hand-ball, 1 Gymnastic, 1 Athletic and 1 Swimming, Coaching Centres were functioning in 1977-78. Two sub-coaching centres at Malerkotla and Sunam are also functioning; these two centres provide coaching in foot-ball, athletic and wrestling and athletic and boxing, respectively.

Sports Associations/Organizations

Following sports associations/organizations were functioning in the district during 1977-78:—

(i) District Olympic Association, Sangrur

This association was established in the district in 1948. It consists of officials of the District representing important District Associations and local bodies of the District. The Deputy Commissioner acts as its President, Senior Superintendent of Police and the Principal, Akal Degree College, Mastuana, as Vice-Presidents, District Sports Officer as Honorary Secretary, General Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner as Honorary Treasurer, District Hockey Coach and Sh S.S. Mansahia, Court Road, Sangrur, as Joint Secretaries. All the S.D.Os. (C) in the district are its members. The Association has as its members two persons from each of the important District Associations such as those for Hockey, Football, Amateur Athletic, Table Tennis, Cricket, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Wrestling, Weight lifting, Gymnastic, Cycling, Basketball, Swimming and Badminton. Besides, one representative from each of the recognized college of the district, 2 nominees of the District Education Officer, 1 representative from the Panchayat and Development Department, 1 each from Zila Parishad, District Police and Electricity Board; and 1 from each Block Sports Association and Municipal committee, where an organized sports organization exists and a representative of any other affiliated sports body.

The main objectives of the Association are to promote all kinds of sports activities in the district with a view to stimulating interests of people in sports and games.

The association gives grants to various sports associations for promoting sports, holding district championships and sending contingents to participate in the State meets. Some international and many national and State level sports meets have been held at Sangrur from time to time. An Indo-French Hockey Match (on 24-12-1964), 7th Punjab Table Tennis Championship (from 23-11-1965 to 28-11-1965), 8th Punjab Table Tennis Championship (from 1-12-1966 to 4-12-1966), Punjab Athletic Championship (from 5-1-1967 to 7-1-1967), National Athletic Meet (on 27-2-1967 & 28.2.1967), an Indo-British Hockey Test Match (on 27-11-1971), an Exhibition Kabaddi Match (on 20-2-1973), All-India Girls Hockey Championship (from 26-5-1973 to 2-6-1973), Punjab State Football and Boxing Championships (from 16-11-1973 to 19-11-1973), Punjab State Athletic Meet (from 15-1-74 to 17-1-1974), an Exhibition Hockey (Women) Match (on 4-4-1974), Punjab State Table Tennis Championship (from 8-11-1974 to 11-11-1974), Punjab Badminton Championship (from 12-9-1978 to 17-9-1978), Punjab State Sports Festival (1-2-1979 to 4-2-1979) and National Boxing Championship (from 28-10-1979 to 2-11-1979) have been arranged in the Sangrur District.

Following sports associations also function in the district :

- (a) District Kabaddi Association
- (b) District Football Association
- (c) District Kho-Kho Association
- (d) District Badminton Association
- (e) District Wrestling Association
- (f) District Cricket Association
- (g) District Table Tennis Association
- (h) District Athletic Association
- (i) District Swimming Association
- (j) District Hand ball Association
- (k) District Boxing Association
- (l) District Hockey (Men) Association
- (m) District Hockey (Women) Association

(n) District Volleyball Association

(o) District Gymnastic Association

(p) District Basketball Association

(ii) **National Fitness Corps.**—It was put into operation in the beginning of 1963, as recommended by the Kunzru Committee, by merging the National Discipline Scheme, Auxiliary Cadet Corps and Physical Education. Earlier, National Fitness Corps was known as National Discipline Scheme which was started in 1954.

The activities of National Fitness Corps include drill marching, physical exercises, *leziam*, games and relays, track and field events, gymnastic and malkhumb, national integration songs, National Anthem and National Flag, tippri, yoga and cultural activities. These activities inculcate discipline, obedience, patriotism, firmness, steadiness, national integration and self-confidence among the students.

The total strength of the students under this department in the high and higher secondary schools of the Sangrur District, as on 31 March 1978 was 7,456 boys and 3,607 girls.

(iii) **National Cadet Corps.**—It was started in the country in 1948. The aims of the National Cadet Corps are to develop character and comradeship, the ideal of service, and capacity for leadership in young men and women; and to provide service training to young men and women so as to stimulate interest in them for the defence of the country and to build up a reserve of manpower to enable the armed forces to expand rapidly in a national emergency. With its motto, 'Unity and Discipline', National Cadet Corps has been serving a very useful purpose especially in the border areas. Its training syllabus includes military training on various subjects like drill with and without arms, weapon training, field craft, map reading, hygiene and sanitation, organization, civil defence, first aid, home nursing, signal training and social service, besides, the training in National Cadet Corps helps in securing jobs in the Army, Police and BSF (Border Security Force).

(iv) **Bharat Scouts and Guides.**—The Bharat Scouts and Guides was regular movement even before the independence, in the erstwhile princely state of Jind under the name of 'Jind Scouts Association' with headquarters at Sangrur. Even after the formation of PEPSU this Association continued till 1956. After 1 November 1956 when PEPSU was merged in the Punjab its scope was widened and the name was changed to 'Bharat Scouts and Guides'. Till today, it is functioning under the same nomenclature.

The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Punjab, has its State Headquarters at Chandigarh. There is a district association in every district. But in the Sangrur District, it is functioning under the District Commissioner and District Education Officer, Sangrur. The total strength of Scouts in the Sangrur District as on 31 March 1978 was 2,711.

This Organization trains boys and girls in the principles and practice of the scouting movement. Training camps are held for teachers and students. The training imparted inculcates in the trainees the qualities of self-help, discipline, and the spirit for good service to all at all times. The boys and girls trained in this movement turn out to be good and useful citizens with broader outlook. They are also taught first-aid. They render service at festivals, exhibitions, etc, in maintaining order and also render aid to the helpless, the sick and the wounded.

(f) Cultivation of Fine Arts

There is no such institution in the district for imparting training in Fine Arts, such as music, painting and dancing etc. However, there is a provision for teaching these subjects in some schools and colleges of the district as part of the curriculum.

(g) Oriental Schools and Colleges

There is no such school or college functioning in the district.

(h) Education for the Handicapped

There was no such institution in the district in 1977-78.

(i) Adult Literacy, Social Education and Measures for the Diffusion of Culture among the Masses

Adult Literacy.—Farmers Functional Literacy Centres have been functioning under the Punjab Education Department since 1971. These centres are located in six blocks—Sunam, Cheema (now Bhawanigarh) Ahmedgarh, Malerkotla-I, Malerkotla-II and Mehal Kalan—in the district. Upto 1977-78, this scheme covered sixty centres with a minimum enrolment of 30 adults at each centre covering the age group of 15-45 years. This project made 1,808 adults functionally literate every year.

Part-time teachers are deputed for this purpose and each teacher is paid Rs 40 per month. The Block Education Officer is incharge of these centres in his block who is paid Rs 50 per month as remuneration for visits, direction and supervision. The scheme attracted the villagers as primers, slates, stationery etc. are provided free by the Department.

(j) Cultural and Literary Societies and Periodicals

All colleges/schools have different types of societies and sabhas which aim at spreading cultural activities among the students. The schools and colleges also draw up interesting cultural programmes and participate in the national functions. Besides the above, a number of cultural and literary societies are functioning in the district which are mentioned below :

Literary Societies

Sahit Sabha Sangrur.—It is one of the Sahit Sabhas established after independence in the district. It arranges symposia from time to time. In 1952, a remarkable symposia in memory of Bhai Vir Singh was held in Banasar Bagh Sangrur. Some other such functions were also held in 1965 and 1977. The main aims and objects of the Sabha are : to create a liaison among the literary persons to bring them together, to prepare them to develop good relations among themselves, to guide and encourage budding writers to rise above the consideration of race, religion and language and there by to inculcate the spirit of unity among the people. Besides, some books of its writers have also been published by it.

Anjuman Taraqqi-E-Urdu, Punjabi, Malerkotla.—Anjuman Taraqqi-E-Urdu, Punjab, is the State-level branch of the All-India Anjuman Taraqqi-E-Urdu. The branches of state-level Anjuman are functioning in the district at Malerkotla and Barnala. The State branch came into being in September 1966 on the reorganization of the State of Punjab. The State unit has its 34 branches in almost all major towns of the Punjab. The aims and objects of the Anjuman are related mainly with the promotion and propagation of Urdu. To achieve these objects, the Anjuman holds seminars, conferences and symposia. The Anjuman presents to the State Government difficulties experienced by Urdu students/scholars and writers and suggests remedies thereto. The Anjuman functions through its local branches which carry on similar activities in their own areas. Some of the branches take publication work also.

The local branch of Anjuman Taraqqi-E-Urdu, Punjab, at Malerkotla was formed in 1960 when the State-level branch was working for the composite State of Punjab (Haryana included at that time). The office-bearers of Anjuman Taraqqi-E-Urdu, Malerkotla are a President, 2 Vice-Presidents, 1 General Secretary and 1 Cashier.

The local branch of the Anjuman organises some all India mushairas from time to time and holds meetings to promote Urdu.

Bhartiya Sahit Parishad, Sangrur.—It is affiliated to the national organization, Bhartiya Sahit Parishad. It has its branches in most of the States. Likewise, Bhartiya Sahit Parishad, Punjab, inaugurated its unit at Sangrur in 1969. It used to hold its literary meetings atleast once a month. Its main aims and objects were to patronise writers in Indian language i.e. Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu, to inspire and encourage budding writers in these languages by discussing their literary works and polish-ing them ; to bring literary persons together and prepare good relationship among the local youngmen to get into the habit of reading books of good tastes to inspire writings of nationalism and character by rooting out cheap tastes and obscenity in literature of all kinds ; and to catch the young children at the school stage and instil in them the self-confidence to express themselves at this stage and thus become good orators and refined debaters.

This society, now, is inactive because some of its active members have formed separate literary societies.

Punjabi Sahit Sabha, Sunam.—It was established in 1969. Its objectives are to develop punjabi literature and culture among the people, to inspire story writing, to guide and encourage the budding writers. Besides, it holds meetings and symposia from time to time.

Literary Study Circle, Barnala.—This literary study circle was organized in November 1974 with the objective to guide and encourage the budding writers and to create self-confidence among them so that they may express better and improve the quality of their writing with the help constructive criticism from this organization. A *kahani sammelan* was held in 1975 which was attended by a number of story writers. Another multi-facet sammelan was arranged in 1974 to freely criticise and appreciate the writing of well known writers of the region. This organization published a book 'The Clarion Call' and arranged three book exhibitions to create literary interest among the public for the development of Punjabi language.

Iqbal Memorial Trust, Punjab, Malerkotla.—This trust with its head office at Malerkotla was established in January 1978. The objects of the trust are ; to plan, organize, promote, execute and supervise cultural and literary projects and programmes and to set up and manage 'Iqbal Memorial Urdu Library' ; to organize and conduct exhibitions and encourage research on Dr Iqbal, his life and thought ; to organize debates, seminars, symposia, theatre and cultural shows for the propagation and advancement of Urdu language and literature and to compile, edit, print and publish books, papers and periodicals for this purpose ; to collect

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books, manuscripts, photostats, microfilms and handwritten copies of the writings of, and on, Dr Iqbal and other great poets and writers ; to collect books and other reading material in language other than Urdu but beneficial to the study of Urdu language and literature in general and Dr Iqbal in particular ; to run institutes and reading-rooms ; to construct, acquire or hire and maintain buildings such as rooms, halls, auditoriums etc. for the library, research institutes, schools , and reading-rooms.

Cultural Societies

Ram Lila Committee, Barnala.—It was established in 1940. This society renders social service to the society. The main aim of the society is to help the poor, especially in the performance of their social liabilities such as the marriages of their daughters. Right from 1976, it helped several deserving families by providing financial assistance at the occasion of marriages of their daughters.

Gaushala Dramatic Club, Barnala.—This cultural organisation has been functioning since 1967-68. It plays a significant role in the field of local social service activities in the town. It makes arrangement of Ram Lila Festival every year. Besides, it arranged a free eye camp in 1978.

Periodicals

For particulars regarding the periodicals etc. published in the district, Chapter XVIII 'Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisation' may be referred to.

(k) Libraries, Museums, etc.

With the spread of education, libraries are becoming popular in the district. The libraries which are maintained by the municipal committees have been mentioned in Chapter XIV 'The Local Self-Government'. The schools and colleges in the district have also their libraries for the use of students and teaching staff. Generally, most of the panchayats in the district maintain small libraries/reading-rooms for promoting education and general knowledge among the people in rural areas. All these libraries are doing useful service to the people. These libraries subscribe to a number of books, daily newspapers, weeklies, fortnightly and monthly magazines.

District Library, Sangrur.—District Library, Sangrur , is the only public library in the district. It was established in 1912 with the great enthusiasm of the then Maharaja Ranbir Singh as the Jind State Public Library. Its initial stock of books which numbered about 10,000 was provided by libraries of different departments. The number of books at

that time was 5,685 covering all types of books of English , Urdu, Persian, Hindi, Gurmukhi and Sanskrit. Some rare and valuable books available in the library are; Ajanta Cave Paintings, Prince of Wales, Great Wars (First and Second), Imperial Coronation Darbar, Historical Record of Imperial visit of India, Princes and Chiefs of India, Encyclopedia Britanica—new and old one, Albums of Jind State—golden and silver. A few important books composed/written in Sanskrit, Persian and Gurmukhi are also available in the library.

In September 1948 when the Jind State was merged into PEPSU, the library was renamed 'Patiala Union Public Library, Sangrur', and put under the charge of the Divisional Inspectors of Schools, Bathinda Division, Sangrur. In 1956, when PEPSU was merged in the Punjab State, the name of the library was changed to the 'Punjab Government Library, Sangrur'. In December 1962, it was brought under the control of the Director Public Instructions, Punjab, Chandigarh, under the supervision of the Central State Library, Patiala, with a new name, 'the District Library, Sangrur'. During 1977-78, it had 27,260 books and 1,488 members. It subscribed to 6 daily newspapers and 44 journals. Since December 1962, it provides free service to the people and play an important role in the spread of education .

Museum.—District Museum Sangrur, was established in 1972. It is functioning under the supervision and control of Director, Museum and Archaeology, Patiala, and Director, Cultural Affairs, Archaeology and Museum, Punjab, Chandigarh, at State level.

It is situated in the premises of 'Dewan Khana, Sangrur'. It has two galleries i.e. art gallery and arms gallery. The art gallery contains a collection of sculptures of unique articles, paintings and photographs of archaeological monuments. The arms gallery has a collection of old arms such as cannon guns, weapons, dresses etc. used/worn in the past. Besides, the arms kept and used by the kings for their safety have also been displayed in it.

APPENDIX I

Educational institutions and students at primary stage in Sangrur District, as on 31 March 1978

(Vide page 341)

Schools	Number of Institutions		Number of Scholars			
	Government		Private		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Primary Schools ..	813	11	—	—	824	—
Basic Primary Schools ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	813	11	—	—	824	—
					44,629	35,356
						79,985

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(Source : District Education Officer, Sangrur)

Note : Almost all the boys primary schools are co-educational.

APPENDIX II

Educational institutions and scholars at secondary stage in Sangrur District, as on 31 March 1978

(Vide page 342)

Schools	Number of Institutions				Number of Scholars			
	Government		Private		Total		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Higher Secondary Schools ..	3	3	3	—	6	3	9	4,968
High Schools ..	113	9	14	5	127	14	141	60,869
Middle Schools ..	130	—	3	1	133	1	134	27,228
Total	246	12	20	6	266	18	284	92,746
							61,633	1,54,379

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(Source : District Education Officer, Sangrur)

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Public Health and Medical Facilities in Early Times

The growth of medical and public health services and facilities is a recent phenomenon. Earlier, many people ascribed the incidence of diseases to evil influences rather than considering them as physical disorders. Hence, the emphasis was laid on propitiating the evil spirits than providing medical assistance in whatever way it was available.

In ancient times, yoga was also practised by the people to develop a sound mind in a sound body. Besides, daily bath, washing of hands before and after meals, mouth wash, etc. were a routine to avoid infections.

The indigenous system of medicine known as Ayurveda, has been prevalent in India from early times. It was fairly advanced in diagnostics. The factors responsible for the popularity of this system were availability, cheapness and efficiency of indigenous drugs and also the underdeveloped social and economic conditions then prevailing.

Muslim rulers introduced the Unani system of medicine. The Unani system became more popular in urban areas due to patronage of Muslim rulers; but in the rural areas Ayurvedic system continued to be practised.

To sum up, the field of medicine in early times was shared by the Vaid of Ayurveda, and Hakims of the Unani system and a good number of quacks and faith-healers on whom a section of the society pinned its faith.

With the spread of education and scientific treatment of human ills, coming within the reach of the people, the methods of faith-cure and quackery are now resorted to by fewer people. Homoeopathy is also becoming popular in urban areas. The Ayurvedic and Unani systems are still favoured by the people because of the simple and familiar medicines prescribed. The Punjab Government has also decided to popularise the indigenous systems of medicine and a separate Directorate has been established for the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine. There were 28 Ayurvedic and 3 Unani dispensaries in the district as on 1 April 1978. An Ayurvedic dispensary is under the charge of a Vaid, and a Unani under a Hakim. The Vaid and Hakims are under the administrative control of Director of Ayurveda, Punjab.

The allopathic system of medicine was adopted by the rulers of erst-while Jind, Malerkotla, Nabha and Patiala States first for their own princely households and, later, organised as a system of medical relief for their subjects. A regular Medical Department was organised by Maharaja Mohinder Singh of Patiala State in 1873 which was placed under Surgeon Major C.M. Calthrop. Similarly, allopathic system of medicine was also in vogue in Jind State in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Raja Raghbir Singh considerably improved the Medical Department in Jind State. In 1887, an officer of the Indian Medical Service was appointed Medical Adviser to the Raja during his minority and Medical Department was placed under his charge. In 1904, there were two hospitals and 4 dispensaries at Sangrur. The Victoria Golden Jubilee Hospital at Sangrur was the chief charitable hospital in the Jind State. It had 24 beds for treatment of indoor patients. The medicines were dispensed free of cost to all patients. The Medical Officer visited the hospital almost every day to see important cases and perform operations. The Military Hospital at Sangrur, which was under the charge of two Hospital Assistants, had accommodation for 40 indoor patients. A female Hospital at Sangrur was also opened. There was a charitable dispensary in Sangrur town under the charge of a Hospital Assistant. A jail dispensary, a dispensary solely for his Highness and his staff, and a Fort Dispensary for the ladies of the palace and their staff under the charge of a Lady Assistant Surgeon, were also functioning in the town. Besides, there were outlying dispensaries at Barnala and Sunam under the charge of Assistant Surgeons, and dispensaries under the charge of Hospital Assistants at Dhuri, Bhawanigarh, Moonak and Ladda.

In Nabha Princely State, allopathic system of medicine was adopted in 1890, when dispensaries were opened at each *nizamat* of the princely State. In 1880, unani dispensaries were established at the capital and the headquarters of each *nizamat* each having a hakim, an *attar* or compounder and a *jarrah* or blood-letter. Medicines were given free. In 1904, there were 8 outlying dispensaries at various places in the princely state including Dhanaula (now in Barnala Tahsil) and Lohat Badi (now in Malerkotla Tahsil).

In 1904, in Malerkotla Princely State, the Medical Department was under the control of Home Minister. A Civil Hospital was functioning at Malerkotla under the charge of Civil Assistant Surgeon who was also the State Medical Officer. A hospital was also functioning at Panjgarain (now in Ludhiana District). Besides, a military hospital was also functioning in the State. A private dispensary (*Dar-ul-shafa*) for the Nawab

and his family in the charge of a Hakim was also functioning at Malerkotla. Several *vaid*s, *jarrahs* and *hakims* were also doing private practice in the towns and villages of the Malerkotla Princely State.

After the independence of country in 1947 and on the formation of PEPSU in 1948, a few new dispensaries were also opened. The main feature of the Second Five-Year Plan was conversion of rural dispensaries into, or setting up of, Primary Health Centres and opening of Family Planning Centres. Maternity and Child Welfare Centres were also set up. As on 4 October 1961 these were functioning at Amargarh, Mehal Kalan, Sherpur, Tapa, Bhawanigarh, Longowal, Kauhrian, Dhanaula, Moonak, Sunam, Dhuri, Bhadaur and Ahmedgarh. As on 1 April 1978, there were 9 Hospitals, 1 T.B. Hospital, 87 Dispensaries, 28 Ayurvedic and 3 Unani Institutions, 6 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and 12 Family Planning Clinics in the district.

According to the 1971 Census, Sangrur town had maximum medical facilities in the district. There were 7.32 beds per 1000 population in the town. As on 1 April 1978, it had two hospitals with 112 beds, one T.B. Hospital with 100 beds, and one T.B. Clinic with 18 beds, 4 allopathic dispensaries and 1 Ayurvedic dispensary. Malerkotla and Barnala towns had one hospital each with 50 beds. Dhuri had two hospitals, one for females with 10 beds, and the other with 6 beds. Sunam had a hospital with 10 beds.

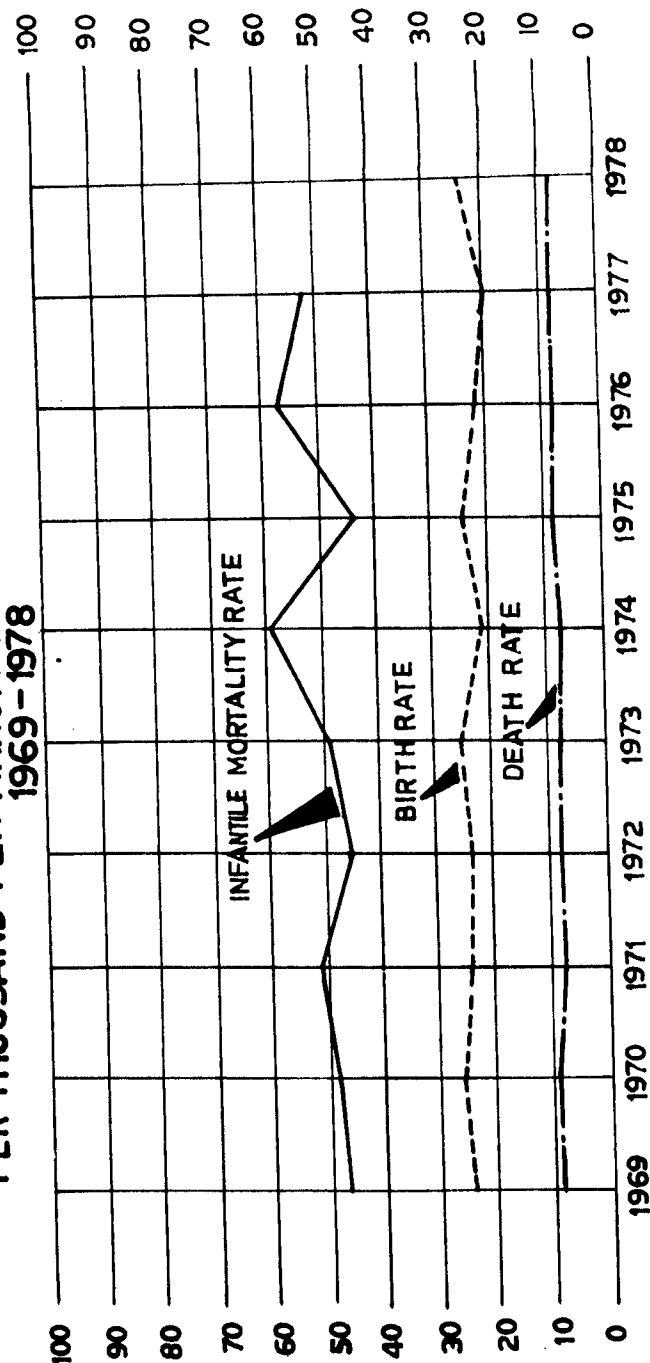
(b) Vital Statistics

The registration of vital statistics is compulsory in the State. In rural areas, the chowkidars maintain the Birth and Death Registers, and in urban areas such records are maintained by the municipalities. These records are helpful in determining the growth rate of population and finding out the percentage of death due to certain diseases.

The birth rate, death rate and infantile mortality rate per thousand per annum in the district in the last ten years, from 1969 to 1978, are given below :

Year	Birth rate per thousand population	Death rate per thousand population	Infantile mortality rate under one year of age against per thousand live births
1969	24.12	8.16	46.47
1970	25.27	8.59	48.28

**BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE & INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE
PER THOUSAND PER ANNUM IN THE SANGRUR DISTRICT
1969-1978**



SOURCE:- Statistical Abstracts of PUNJAB, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1978

Year	Birth rate per thousand population	Death rate per thousand population	Infantile mortality rate under one year of age against per thousand live births
1971	24.33	6.97	51.03
1972	23.72	7.51	45.83
1973	25.09	7.45	49.14
1974	21.41	8.09	59.59
1975	24.06	6.92	43.54
1976	21.98	7.71	57.31
1977	19.70	6.86	50.02
1978	20.91	7.37	38.61

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1972, 1975, 1977 and Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969, Report 1978, Publication No. 19, issued by Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab) 1978.

Main Causes of Mortality.—The important causes of mortality in the district are fevers, dysentery, diarrhoea, respiratory diseases, etc. The table at Appendix I on page 371 gives the statistics regarding some of the important causes of mortality.

(c) Diseases Common to the District

While there are many diseases which occur in the district, yet there are some diseases which occur more frequently and affect more persons as compared to diseases which occur less frequently and affect fewer people. The diseases of the former category are called the common diseases and are described below in brief :

(i) **Fevers.**—A large number of deaths are caused due to fevers. These include an ordinary fever, typhoid, influenza and other miscellaneous and seasonal fevers such as malaria. These fevers are caused either due to unhygienic conditions or infection or malnutrition, or imbalanced diet. The constant attacks of fever make a man less resistant to various diseases.

(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 chemicals, gases released by the burning charcoal, coke, etc. Smoky and dingy rooms without

smoke outlets, windows, and ventilators, cause breathing troubles and respiratory diseases. Allergic diseases, for example, bronchitis and asthma, etc. are also caused by environmental pollution. Since the district is not adequately industrialised, the incidence of respiratory diseases is quite low.

(iii) **Malaria.**—It is caused by blood parasite called 'Plasmodium' which is present in malaria patient blood. Malaria had been undoubtedly the most important public health problem in the Punjab. It is essentially a rural problem and general poverty and backwardness of rural area are a hurdle which the people of affected areas cannot be expected to surmount as they have no means to do so. It was a dreadful disease for years together and took a heavy toll of lives in the district. Malaria epidemics occur from year to year after excessive monsoon rainfall. Quinine, the only remedy for malaria was distributed in rural areas through various agencies. It no doubt lowered the incidence but could not eradicate the disease. It was only after the independence that steps were taken to control and, ultimately, eradicate malaria. The steps taken to eradicate this disease are detailed below :

(a) **National Malaria Control Programme.**—To bring down the incidence of Malaria from the State, National Malaria Control Programme (N.M.C.P.) was started in 1953. A sub-unit at Sangrur was raised under the N.M.C.P., Patiala, which continued till the end of 1957. Under this Programme, two rounds of 50 per cent suspension of D.D.T. at the rate of 100 mg. per sq. feet were given as intra domiciliary application of residual insecticides to interrupt transmission.

(b) **National Malaria Eradication Programme (N.M.E.P.).**—The achievements of the N.M.C.P. and encouraged by the reduction in the incidence of the disease and also on the advice of WHO (World Health Organization), the N.M.E.P. was started in 1958. The objective of the programme was to eliminate the disease altogether by a thorough and effective attack on the mosquito and human reservoir by application of insecticides and administration of anti-malaria drugs. Accordingly, a hyper-endemic unit under the N.M.E.P., which was based on the endemicity of malaria in the area covering part of Sangrur District, Bathinda, Patiala and Hisar, started functioning at Sangrur in 1959 as per international standards. However, from 1962, it started functioning only for the Sangrur District. Two rounds of insecticides were given during 1958 to 1960. In 1962, 727 villages were sprayed with D.D.T. covering 2,35,064 houses.

(c) **The Maintenance Phase.**—The National Malaria Eradication Programme unit entered the consolidation phase in 1962 for detection of

cases through all channels in an intensified manner. All medical institutions dealing with the curative side were co-ordinated with the programme. In 1964, it entered into the Maintenance Phase under which surveillance operations were started and the task of vigilance operation was handed over to the general health services. But after 1964, the programme was again reverted to Attack Phase, as 82 positive cases were detected in 1965 in Barnala Tahsil. During 1969 to 1972, two rounds of D.D.T. sprays were given, every year, in affected and belt areas. From 1972 to 1976, total cover of insecticidal spray was given partially with B.H.C. and D.D.T. Two rounds of B.H.C. spray in 1977 and three in 1978 were given in the Sangrur District. During 1978, 4,19,261 blood slides were collected and 86,026 cases were found positive. In 1978, 29 Passive Agencies were working in the district to collect blood films and give single-dose presumptive treatment to all fever cases. Besides, 133 P.T.V. and 470 D.D.C. were also working in the district with voluntary organisations.

The Malaria Unit at Sangrur, is manned by 1 Malaria Officer, 1 Assistant Malaria Officer, 1 District Entomologist, 10 Senior Medical Inspectors, 46 Sanitary/Surveillance Inspectors, 10 Sanitary Supervisors, besides other Class III technical/ministerial and Class IV miscellaneous staff.

(iv) **Communicable Diseases.**—These are plague, cholera, smallpox, etc. Details of each of these with specific reference to the Sangrur District are given below :

Plague

Plague was, at one time, one of the most dreaded of all the pestilences. Ever since its spread in the Punjab in 1897, it continued to take heavy toll of lives in the adjoining princely states in the second decade of the twentieth century ; it took a heavy toll of lives in the then areas of Patiala and Jind States. However, no case of plague has been reported in the district during the last forty years. Anti-plague measures, however, are adopted every year. The D.D.T. and B.H.C. spray disinfect the houses and kill the germs. Sanitary Inspectors and *Swasth Sahayaks* are deputed to destroy rats by cynogassing the rat holes, baiting with zinc phosphide and by laying rat traps. As a result of these measures, Sangrur District is immune from this dreadful infectious disease.

Cholera

Its occurrence in the epidemic form is associated with mass gatherings. This disease is imported from *melas* such as held on *kumbh* at Haridwar, eclipse at Kurukshetra or other big fairs. It is caused by infected food,

water and drinks. Symptoms of cholera are profuse and painless diarrhoea and vomitings.

No case of cholera has been reported in the district since 1952. However, the remedial measures such as chlorination of wells many a time in a year are still resorted to by the authorities. Besides, inoculation against cholera, distribution of sulfagaunadin tablets, other preventive measures, and vigilance of public health staff to check the outbreak of diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, etc. are regularly undertaken by the authorities.

Smallpox

It is a serious disease and leaves far-reaching effects on the affected persons. In the past, people were opposed to every treatment which was administered to them, as they considered this disease as the visitation of goddess Sitla.

The virulence of the disease has been successively reduced by vaccination. The rate of decline was further accelerated when National Smallpox Eradication Programme (N.S.E.P.) was launched in the country in 1962-63. In the Sangrur District, it was launched in May 1962. The programme of primary vaccination and re-vaccination in the rural areas is regularly carried on by trained vaccinators. As a result of the intensive vaccination drive, the disease is now well within control. Unsophisticated people are yet to be convinced of the World Health Organisation's claim that smallpox has been completely eradicated. The Punjab Health Directorate claims that the State is free from smallpox and the only case reported in the Sangrur District was in August 1974 in Sunam. The government have fixed a prize of Rs 1,000 for anyone who could report even a single case of smallpox to the authorities.

The incidence of smallpox and the details of the preventive measures taken in the district, during 1969 to 1978, are given in Appendix II at page 372.

Tuberculosis

India has accepted "District Tuberculosis Control Programme", especially for the rural areas. This programme envisages integration of specialized T.B. services at the district headquarters with the general medical services at the periphery in the rural areas.

Pulmonary form of tuberculosis is fairly common in the district. There is a T.B. Hospital at Hermitage near Sangrur which provides treatment to both indoor and outdoor patients. It has 60 beds for males and 40 for females. Besides, there is an 18-bedded T.B. Clinic attached to Civil Hospital, Sangrur.

The total number of outdoor and indoor patients treated in the clinic during 1978 was 9,365 and 1,689 respectively.

(d) Medical and Public Health Services

Civil Surgeon, Sangrur, is the head of medical department at the district level. He exercises supervisory and administrative control on all government medical institutions within the district. Previously, medical services were divided into two wings—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 incharge of the health wing and was responsible for 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 Director, Health Services, Punjab Chandigarh.

In April 1964, the two wings, health and medical, were merged and put under the Chief Medical Officer. In June 1974, the post of Chief Medical Officer was redesignated as Civil Surgeon.

The Civil Surgeon, Sangrur, is assisted by 17 Medical Officers Class I, 102 Medical Officers Class II, 153 Auxiliary Nurses, 94 Trained Dais, 35 Lady Health Visitors, 29 Laboratory Technicians, 158 Dispensers, besides 194 ministerial staff and other allied and miscellaneous Class IV staff. In addition, he is assisted by 32 Vaidis, 3 Hakims and 26 Up-Vaidis in respect of the Ayurvedic and Unani institutions.*

On the health side, the Civil Surgeon is assisted by the staff of the Malaria Unit. Besides, the Zila Parishad and municipalities assist the Civil Surgeon in the field of public health. In order to check adulteration of foodstuffs, the Civil Surgeon has delegated powers to the Medical Officers of hospitals/dispensaries, who may take samples of foodstuffs.

Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Dispensaries, etc.

The State Government, during 1977-78, incurred an expenditure of Rs 92,58,250 on hospitals, health centres, dispensaries and other health services in the district. These medical institutions include allopathic as

*From 1 May 1980, Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries have been placed under the District Ayurvedic and Unani Officer at the district level under the administrative control of Director of Ayurveda, Punjab, Chandigarh.

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well as Ayurvedic and Unani. All these institutions are under the administrative control of Civil Surgeon, Sangrur, who in turn is under the administrative control of Director, Health Services, Punjab, Chandigarh.*

Allopathic Medical Institutions.—In the Sangrur District, as on 1 April 1978, there were 97 medical institutions. The tahsil-wise and area-wise break up is given below :

Tahsil	Rural	Urban	Total
Sangrur	18	6	24
Barnala	16	4	20
Malerkotla	26	7	33
Sunam	18	2	20
Total	78	19	97

The management-wise break up of the above allopathic medical institutions is—90 State Public and 7 State Special. The list of hospitals, primary health centres, and dispensaries in the district is given in Appendix III on pages 373 to 376.

The particulars regarding the family planning units/clinics and maternity and child health centres in the district are given in Appendices IV and V on pages 377 and 378 respectively.

Ayurvedic and Unani Medical Institutions.—There were, as on 1 April 1978, 28 Ayurvedic and 3 Unani medical institutions in the district. Most of these are located in the rural areas. The tahsil-wise break up of these institutions is given below :

Tahsil	Number of Ayurvedic/ Unani institutions
Sangrur	5
Barnala	9
Malerkotla	8
Sunam	9
District Sangrur	31

All these institutions are under the management of the State Government. The list of these institutions is given in Appendix VI on page 379.

*From 1 May 1980, Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries have been placed under the District Ayurvedic and Unani Officer at the district level under the administrative control of Director of Ayurveda, Punjab, Chandigarh.

Government Hospitals and Nursing Homes

Civil Hospital, Sangrur.—Civil Hospital, Sangrur, is said to have been opened in May 1937. It has 70 beds for males, 34 for females and 24 for children.

In 1977-78 the hospital was manned by 1 Senior Medical Officer, 11 Medical Officers, 23 Nurses, 8 Nursing Sisters, 1 Radiographer, 8 Pharmacists, 2 Laboratory Technicians, besides other allied and miscellaneous Class III and Class IV staff.

The hospital provides medical, surgical, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics eye, ear, nose and throat, radiology, dental and blood transfusion facilities. There is also a blood bank in the hospital. The hospital gave treatment to 69,916 outdoor and 5,412 indoor patients during 1978.

Civil Hospital, Malerkotla.—This hospital was opened in May 1962. It has 50 beds (25 for males and 25 for females). In 1977-78 the hospital was manned by 1 Senior Medical Officer, 3 Medical Officers, 8 Nurses, 4 Pharmacists, 1 Radiographer, besides other allied and miscellaneous Class III and Class IV staff.

The medical facilities available in the hospital include medical, radiology, E.C.G., anti T.B. and anti rabies etc.

The hospital gave treatment to 5,499 indoor and 38,287 outdoor patients during 1978.

Civil Hospital, Sunam.—This hospital has been functioning in the district since pre-partition days. Even in 1904, it was an out-lying dispensary under the Patiala Princely State. It is now a 16 bedded hospital.

The hospital is manned by 1 Senior Medical Officer and 2 Medical Officers, 5 Pharmacists, 1 Nurse *dai*, 1 *dai*, 1 Laboratory Assistant and 1 Radiographer.

The medical facilities provided by the hospital are : radiology, E.C.G., etc. The hospital gave treatment to 1,918 indoor and 39,564 outdoor patients during 1978.

Civil Hospital, Barnala.—It was opened in 1972 as a 50-bedded (35 males and 15 females) hospital. It was manned, in 1977-78, by 4 Doctors and 7 Nurses besides other allied and miscellaneous Class III and Class IV staff.

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The medical facilities provided by the hospital are : radiology, surgery, medicinal, dental, eye, X-ray, family welfare and gynaecology. The hospital gave treatment to 2,978 indoor and 29,852 outdoor patients during 1977-78.

Civil Hospital, Dhuri.—It is said to have been opened before independence. It had 7 male, 10 female and 6 tubectomy beds in 1977-78. The hospital was manned in 1977-78 by 2 Doctors and 2 Nurse *Dais* besides other allied and miscellaneous Class III and Class IV staff.

The medical facilities provided by the hospital are gynae, eye, nose and throat, X-ray, E.C.G. and family planning. The hospital gave treatment to 2,867 indoor and 19,997 outdoor patients during 1978.

Rural Hospital, Longowal.—It was opened in 1922 as a touring dispensary and was upgraded as Primary Health Centre in 1960 and made Rural Hospital in 1978. It had 30 beds in 1977-78. The hospital was manned by 3 Doctors, 4 Staff Nurses, 4 Pharmacists, 1 Nursing Sister, 3 Trained *Dais*, 1 Radiographer, 9 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, etc.

The medical facilities provided by the hospital are general medical pathology, radiology, family planning, medical termination of pregnancy, etc. The hospital gave treatment to 871 indoor and 18,696 outdoor patients during 1978.

Jail Hospital, Sangrur.—It was opened in 1958. It had 12 beds in 1977-78. The hospital was manned by 1 Doctor and 1 Pharmacist.

Outdoor and indoor facilities are available here. The hospital gave treatment to 27 indoor and 28,856 outdoor patients during 1978.

Civil Hospital, Kup Kalan.—It was opened in November 1974. It had 10 beds in 1977-78. The hospital was manned by 1 Doctor, 1 Auxiliary Nurse and 1 Lady Health Visitor, besides other allied and miscellaneous Class III and Class IV staff.

The medical facilities provided by the hospital are medical, orthopaedics and general surgery. The hospital gave treatment to 1,220 indoor and 17,445 outdoor patients during 1977-78.

T.B. Hospital, Hermitage.—It was opened in 1950. It had 60 male and 40 female beds in 1977-78. The hospital was manned, in 1977-78, by 2 Doctors, 3 Nurses, 1 Matron, 1 Radiographer, 1 Laboratory Attendant and 3 Pharmacists.

The medical facilities provided by the hospital are Laboratory, X-ray, E.C.G., etc. The hospital gave treatment to 1,689 indoor and 9,365 outdoor patients during 1978.

Prevention of Adulteration of Foodstuffs.—The Punjab Government passed the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in 1954 for checking the adulteration of foodstuffs. This Act replaced the Punjab Pure Food Act, 1929. The concerns dealing in sale, stock and preparation of edible articles are subject to inspection by the Food Inspectors, Medical Officers and Civil Surgeon. In order to ensure preparation and sale of genuine and pure foodstuffs, edibles and drinks, special powers have been entrusted to the inspecting staff to seize samples of these items. These samples are sent to the Food and Health Laboratory at Chandigarh for chemical examination and analysis. Those found guilty of adulteration are prosecuted.

During 1978, 100 prosecutions were launched in the district under the Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Four hundred and three samples were seized and 106 seized samples were found adulterated for which 26 persons were convicted by the courts.

(e) Sanitation

Sanitation and conservancy arrangements in urban and rural areas received sufficient attention of the authorities immediately after independence. Government of India launched the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in 1954. It envisages to prevent spread of water-borne communicable diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, and typhoid ; to check contamination of food, water and milk due to insanitary disposal of human excreta ; to provide tapped water supply and replacement of dry latrines with flush latrines ; and to free the sweepers engaged in sub-human system of collecting, handling and transporting human excreta from this unhygienic and humiliating practice.

(i) Public Health and Sanitation in Urban Areas.—In urban areas, the municipalities have been entrusted with the work of providing various civil and other amenities. In Sangrur District, all the municipalities have made arrangements for cleanliness of the towns by employing a number of scavengers. Sewerage system is also being introduced in Barnala town by the Barnala Municipal Committee. Rest of the towns have open drains. Except Dhanaula, Longowal and Tapa towns, water supply system has since been introduced in all other municipal towns of the district.

(ii) Rural Sanitation and Water Supply.—In rural areas, the block development staff and primary health centre units are responsible for sanitation of the village. Efforts are being made to provide tapped drinking water in the villages besides installing hand pumps and remodelling of old wells.

The installation of tube-wells in the countryside has reduced the use of open wells for drinking water. *Gram* panchayats also look after the sanitation of villages. For providing better and hygienic living conditions in the villages, the Model Village Scheme has been started. Under this scheme, a few villages are selected as Model Villages where the streets are paved, drains are constructed and arrangements are made for the sullage water. The work of pavement of streets and construction of drains, pucca roads etc. is being done in most of the villages of the district. During 1977-78, the *gram* panchayats installed 85 hand-pumps, disinfected 85 wells, paved 25 km of streets and constructed 30 km of drains in the district.

APPENDIX I

(Vide page 361)

Deaths registered by causes in Sangrur District, 1974 to 1978

Causes of death	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
1. Cholera	—	—	—	—	—
2. Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
3. Plague	—	—	—	—	—
4. Fevers	4,648	4,696	5,073	5,272	5,161
5. Dysentery & Diarrhoea	79	55	48	66	54
6. Respiratory disease	727	511	647	609	537
7. Injuries	106	—	3	—	..
8. Other causes	4,328	3,372	4,040	3,710	4,027
Total	9,888	8,634	9,811	9,657	9,779

(Source : Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

APPENDIX II

(Vide page 364)

Incidence of Smallpox and Preventive Measures taken in Sangrur District,
1969 to 1978

Year	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Primary vaccination (Number)	Re-vaccination (Number)
1969	30	—	46,739	94,565
1970	5	1	44,227	1,25,530
1971	10	1	55,666	2,42,147
1972	10	—	58,926	2,87,226
1973	—	—	54,970	2,43,133
1974	1	—	56,285	2,39,988
1975	—	—	52,734	1,69,138
1976	—	—	47,278	1,47,838
1977	—	—	43,896	1,40,093
1978	—	—	40,545	1,18,678

(Source : Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 366)

List of Hospitals/Primary Health Centres and Dispensaries in Sangrur District
as on 1 April 1978

Serial No.	Name of Institution and Location	Number of Beds		Rural/ Urban	Type of Management	Tahsil
		Male	Female			
HOSPITALS						
1	Civil Hospital, Sangrur	70	30	Urban	State Public	Sangrur
2	Civil Hospital, Malerkotla	30	20	Do	Do	Malerkotla
3	Civil Hospital, Dhuri	3	3	Do	Do	Do
4	Female Hospital, Dhuri	—	10	Do	Do	Do
5	Civil Hospital, Barnala	30	20	Do	Do	Barnala
6	Civil Hospital, Sunam	8	2	Do	Do	Sunam
7	Civil Hospital, Kup Kalan	10	—	Rural	Do	Malerkotla
8	Rural Hospital, Longowal	11	11	Do	Do	Sangrur
9	Jail Hospital, Sangrur	12	—	Urban	State Special	Do
10	T.B. Hospital, Hermitage, Sangrur	60	40	Rural	State Public	Do
PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES						
11	Primary Health Centre, Bhawanigarh	3	4	Urban	Do	Do
12	Primary Health Centre, Longowal	4	4	Do	Do	Do
13	Primary Health Centre, Tapa	4	4	Do	Do	Barnala
14	Primary Health Centre, Dhanaula	4	4	Do	Do	Do
15	Primary Health Centre, Mahal Kalan	4	4	Rural	Do	Do
16	Primary Health Centre, Kahorian	4	4	Do	Do	Sunam
17	Primary Health Centre, Moonak	4	4	Do	Do	Do
18	Primary Health Centre, Sherpur	4	4	Do	Do	Malerkotla
19	Primary Health Centre, Amargarh	6	2	Do	Do	Do
20	Primary Health Centre, Kothala	—	—	Do	Do	Do
21	Primary Health Centre, Fatehgarh	—	—	Do	Do	Do

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Serial No.	Name of Institution and Location	Number of Beds		Rural Urban	Type of Management	Tahsil
		Male	Female			
DISPENSARIES/CENTRES/CLINICS						
22	T.B. Clinic, Sangrur	10	8	Urban	State Public	Sangrur
23	Civil Dispensary, Ahmedgarh	4	2	Do	Do	Malerkotla
24	Civil Dispensary, Bhadaur	2	2	Do	Do	Barnala
25	Civil Dispensary, Lehragaga	1	1	Do	Do	Sunam
26	Rural Dispensary, Andana	—	—	Rural	Do	Do
27	Rural Dispensary, Khanauri	—	—	Do	Do	Do
28	Rural Dispensary, Bhutal Kalan	—	—	Do	Do	Do
29	Rural Dispensary, Harian	2	2	Do	Do	Do
30	Rural Dispensary, Chhajli	—	—	Do	Do	Do
31	Rural Dispensary, Shadihari	—	—	Do	Do	Do
32	Rural Dispensary, Dirba	—	—	Do	Do	Do
33	Rural Dispensary, Sehna	—	—	Do	Do	Barnala
34	Rural Dispensary, Thulewal	—	—	Do	Do	Malerkotla
35	Rural Dispensary, Pakkhole	—	—	Do	Do	Barnala
36	Rural Dispensary, Chandanwal	—	—	Do	Do	Do
37	Rural Dispensary, Jalal-diwal	—	—	Do	Do	Do
38	Rural Dispensary, Dhaula	—	—	Do	Do	Do
39	Rural Dispensary, Sekha	—	—	Do	Do	Do
40	Civil Dispensary, Hadiaya	—	—	Do	Do	Do
41	Civil Dispensary, Lohat Badi	—	—	Do	Do	Malerkotla
42	Rural Dispensary, Bhullarheri	—	—	Do	Do	Do
43	Rural Dispensary, Harike	—	—	Do	Do	Do
44	Rural Dispensary, Mulowal	—	—	Do	Do	Do
45	Rural Dispensary, Bhalwan	—	—	Do	Do	Do
46	Rural Dispensary, Kanjhala	2	2	Do	Do	Do
47	Rural Dispensary, Lasoi	—	—	Do	Do	Do
48	Rural Dispensary, Hathana	—	—	Do	Do	Do
49	Rural Dispensary, Mastuana	2	2	Do	Do	Sangrur
50	Rural Dispensary, Sheron	—	—	Do	Do	Do

Serial No.	Name of Institution and Location	Number of Beds		Rural/Urban	Type of Management	Tahsil
		Male	Female			
51	Rural Dispensary, Sahuke	2	2	Rural	State Public	Sangrur
52	Rural Dispensary, Jekhepalbas	—	—	Do	Do	Sunam
53	Rural Dispensary, Bhulan	2	2	Do	Do	Do
54	Rural Dispensary, Thikriwala	2	2	Do	Do	Barnala
55	Rural Dispensary, Ghanauri Kalan	2	2	Do	Do	Malerkotla
56	Rural Dispensary, Gowara	2	2	Do	Do	Do
57	Rural Dispensary, Bagrian	2	2	Do	Do	Do
58	Slum Area Dispensary, Malerkotla	2	2	Urban	Do	Do
59	Rural Dispensary, Dhilwan	2	2	Rural	Do	Barnala
60	Rural Dispensary, Badbar	2	2	Do	Do	Sangrur
61	Rural Dispensary, Mauran	2	2	Do	Do	Sunam
62	Rural Dispensary, Daulatpur	2	2	Do	Do	Malerkotla
63	Rural Dispensary, Bhasaur	2	2	Do	Do	Do
64	Rural Dispensary, Nainewala	2	2	Do	Do	Barnala
65	Rural Dispensary, Duggan	2	2	Do	Do	Sangrur
66	Rural Dispensary, Gaggarpur	2	2	Do	Do	Do
67	Rural Dispensary, Gujran	2	2	Do	Do	Sunam
68	Rural Dispensary, Narike	—	—	Do	Do	Malerkotla
69	Rural Dispensary, Ghara-chon	—	—	Do	Do	Sangrur
70	Rural Dispensary, Dason-dha Singhwala	2	2	Do	Do	Barnala
71	Rural Dispensary, Kattu Larnala	2	2	Do	Do	Do
72	Rural Dispensary, Badru Khan	2	2	Do	Do	Sangrur
73	Rural Dispensary, Chiman	2	2	Do	Do	Do
74	Rural Dispensary, Bhindran	2	2	Do	Do	Do
75	Rural Dispensary, Kalajhar	2	2	Do	Do	Do
76	Rural Dispensary, Mimsa	2	2	Do	Do	Malerkotla
77	Rural Dispensary, Majha Majhi	2	2	Do	Do	Sangrur
78	Rural Dispensary, Namol	2	2	Do	Do	Do

Serial No.	Name of Institution and Location	Number of Beds		Rural/Urban	Type of Management	Tahsil
		Male	Female			
79	Rural Dispensary, Hamidi	2	2	Rural	State Public	Malerkotla
80	Rural Dispensary, Chatha Sekhwan	2	2	Do	Do	Sangrur
81	Rural Dispensary, Aspal Kalan	2	2	Do	Do	Barnala
82	Rural Dispensary, Dudian	2	2	Do	Do	Sunam
83	Rural Dispensary, Bilha	2	2	Do	Do	Barnala
84	Rural Dispensary, Lohgarh	2	2	Do	Do	Do
85	Rural Dispensary, Bangan	2	2	Do	Do	Sunam
86	Rural Dispensary, Gulahari	2	2	Do	Do	Do
87	Rural Dispensary, Lahail Khurd	2	2	Do	Do	Do
88	Rural Dispensary, Mandvi	2	2	Do	Do	Do
89	Rural Dispensary, Banbhaura	2	2	Do	Do	Malerkotla
90	Rural Dispensary, Saraod	2	2	Do	Do	Malerkotla
91	Rural Dispensary, Lahail Kalan	2	2	Do	Do	Sunam
92	Canal Dispensary, Dialpura	—	—	Do	State Special	Do
93	Canal Dispensary, Harigarh	—	—	Do	Do	Barnala
94	Canal Dispensary, Ladda	—	—	Do	Do	Malerkotla
95	Railway Dispensary, Dhuri	1	—	Urban	Do	Do
96	E.S.I. Dispensary, Malerkotla	—	—	Do	Do	Do
97	Police Line Dispensary, Sangrur	—	—	Do	Do	Sangrur

(Directory of Medical Institutions in Punjab State, 1978, issued by the Director, Health and Family Welfare Punjab, Chandigarh)

APPENDIX IV

(Vide page 366)

Family Planning Clinics in Sangrur District as on 1 March 1978

Serial No.	Name of Institution and Location	Rural/Urban	Type of Management	Tahsil
1	Urban Family Planning Clinic, Malerkotla	Urban	Government	Malerkotla
2	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Bhawanigarh	Rural	Do	Sangrur
3	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Longowal	Do	Do	Do
4	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Tapa	Do	Do	Barnala
5	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Dhanaula	Do	Do	Do
6	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Mahal Kalan	Do	Do	Do
7	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Kahorian	Do	Do	Sunam
8	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Moonak	Do	Do	Do
9	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Sherpur	Do	Do	Malerkotla
10	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Amargarh	Do	Do	Do
11	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Kothala	Do	Do	Do
12	Rural Family Planning Clinic, Fatehgarh	Do	Do	Do

(Directory of Medical Institutions in Punjab State, 1978, issued by the Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh, p. 42)

APPENDIX V

(Vide page 366)

Maternity and Child Health Centres in Sangrur District as on 1 March 1978

Serial No.	Name of Institution and Location	Rural/Urban	Type of Management	Tahsil
1	Ahmedgarh	.. Urban	Government	Malerkotla
2	Bhadaur	.. Do	Do	Barnala
3	Dhuri	.. Do	Do	Malerkotla
4	Malerkotla	.. Do	Do	Do
5	Sunam	.. Do	Do	Sunam
6	Dirba	.. Rural	Do	Do

(Directory of Medical Institutions in Punjab State, 1978, issued by the Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh, p. 63)

APPENDIX VI

(Vide page 366)

List of Ayurvedic/Unani Institutions in Sangrur District as on 1 March 1978

Serial No.	Name/Place of location	Ayurvedic/Unani	Number of beds	Rural/Urban	Type of Management	Tahsil
1	Sangrur	.. Ayurvedic	..	Urban	Government	Sangrur
2	Longowal	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
3	Maidebas	.. Do	..	Rural	Do	Sunam
4	Cheema	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Sangrur
5	Gharachon	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
6	Chaunda	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Malerkotla
7	Dhadogal	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
8	Bishangarh	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
9	Thuliwal	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
10	Kanganpur	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
11	Sherpur	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
12	Mahlan	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Sunam
13	Chhahar	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
14	Khanal Kalan	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
15	Toor-Baniara	.. Do	..	Rural	Do	Do
16	Dudian	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
17	Alisher	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
18	Pashaur Bhaiki	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
19	Bakhora Khurd	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
20	Karamgarh	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Barnala
21	Dhaner	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
22	Kurar	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
23	Bilha	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
24	Ugoke	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
25	Jangiana	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
26	Bhatlan	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
27	Pakho Kalan	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Do
28	Kheri Kalan	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Malerkotla
29	Jodhpur	.. Unani	..	Do	Do	Barnala
30	Ladbanjara	.. Do	..	Do	Do	Sunam
31	Malerkotla	.. Do	..	Urban	Do	Malerkotla

(Directory of Medical Institutions in Punjab State, 1978, issued by the Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh pp. 54-55)

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

It is obligatory on the part of a progressive and welfare State to improve the lot of the down-trodden and the helpless. For this purpose, the State Government is wedded to a policy of implementing various social welfare measures; education, medical and public health services, etc., being relatively more important aspects. Among the less important measures covering only a section of the population, mention may be made of labour welfare, prohibition, upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, etc.

(a) Labour Welfare

Labour welfare is concerned mainly with the improvement of health, general well-being, safety and productive efficiency of the worker. It also includes the facilities and amenities as may be provided in, or in the vicinity of, undertakings to enable the labour force to work in healthy and congenial atmosphere, instrumental in increasing the efficiency. Besides, it includes provision of canteens and cafeteria, recreational facilities, and provision of restrooms. It also entails arrangements for transport to and from work and the provision of residential accommodation, creches, nurseries, *balwadies*, primary and high schools, etc., for the children of the workers.

The State Government set up the Punjab Industrial Safety Council in May 1969, on the pattern of the National Safety Council. It is a voluntary organisation with no political affiliation. Factory owners and associations of workers, Government departments, and all others interested in the safety measures in industry can become members of this council which shall advise, organize, encourage and promote methods and procedures for assuring safety and health of the industrial workers.

Labour Legislation.—With a view to ameliorating the miserable condition of the working class and to safeguard their interests, a number of social and legislative measures have been undertaken. Such measures are important not only from the humanitarian point of view, but also otherwise, since these contribute to enhance productivity. Various Acts which have been adopted and brought into force are mainly connected with the working conditions of labour, their safety, minimum wages and other emoluments, benefits, and facilities, and provisions for settlement of disputes between the employers and the employees and the like. After achieving independence in 1947, not only new laws for labour welfare were enacted but amendments were also made in the already existing laws to make them more beneficial to the worker.

The various Central and State labour laws in force in the district are: the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; the Trade Union Act, 1926; the Payment of Wages Act, 1936; the Employment of Children Act, 1938; the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946; the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; the Factories Act, 1948; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955; the Punjab Industrial Housing Act, 1956; the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958; the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; the Punjab Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1965; the Punjab Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays, Casual and Sick Leave) Act, 1965; the Contractors Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; and the Fair Wage Clause and East Punjab Public Works Department Contractors Labour Regulations.

The abovementioned labour enactments contain various welfare measures for the labour and *inter alia*, provide for regulation of conditions and hours of work, rest intervals, leave with wages, national and festival holidays, casual and sick leave, overtime payment, safety from accidents, health and sanitation, prohibition of employment of children below certain age and of women at night, regular payment of wages, payment of minimum wages, payment of minimum bonus, payment of gratuity, formation of trade unions for the purpose of collective bargaining certification of standing orders by employers for clearly defining the service conditions of workers, redressal of grievances and settlement of industrial disputes, etc.

Prior to the Independence, there was no separate organization in the State to look after the interests of industrial labour and other workers and to deal with their day-to-day problems. It was only in 1949 that a separate Labour Department was set up under the charge of a Labour Commissioner. The primary functions of the State Labour Department are to maintain peaceful industrial relations in the State, and also to further the labour welfare measures, both statutory and non-statutory. Subject to certain limitations, it ensures that the working conditions for labour conform to a certain minimum of safety and comfort; that the wages are adequate and regularly paid; and that injuries sustained during the performance of duties are properly treated and suitably compensated. The department also seeks to provide for medical care and model living for as many labourers and their dependents as possible. The prevention of industrial disputes and their settlement, as and when these arise, is one of the major functions of the department.

As there is no Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer in the Sangrur District, the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer, Patiala, exercises jurisdiction

over the Sangrur District. There is one Inspector of Factories (Gazetted), posted at Barnala having jurisdiction over the entire district of Sangrur and also some area of the adjoining districts. There is also one Labour Inspector Grade I (Non-gazetted) posted at Sangrur. He is in charge of whole of the Sangrur District. Besides, there are 2 Labour Inspectors Grade II posted at Sangrur and Barnala to enforce provisions of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958.

The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer, Patiala, also deals with the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Section 12(i) of the Act casts a duty upon Conciliation Officers to take steps immediately when there is an apprehension of an industrial dispute. It requires the Conciliation Officers to move even *suo-moto* to get the employer and the representative of workmen together. They are empowered to inspect any document which they think necessary. They have to see that a fair settlement is arrived at between the parties amicably. In case they fail to settle the dispute, the matter is referred, through Government in the Labour Department to the Labour Court, Patiala, or the Industrial Tribunal, Punjab, Chandigarh, as the case may be.

The salient features of the Central and State Labour Laws in force in the district are given below:

Central Legislation.—The Factories Act, 1948, provides for health measures, safety from accidents, canteens, shelters, restrooms, working hours, intervals for rest, leave with wages, etc. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, provides for dealing with industrial disputes through conciliation machinery, works committees, adjudication and arbitration. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, regulates the payment of wages to the workers employed in establishments covered under the Act. The inspectorate staff is required to deal with complaints regarding non or less or delayed payments of wages. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, provides for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workmen of compensation for injury by accident. The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, provides for registration of trade unions and certain rights and privileges to the registered trade unions. It gives immunity from civil and criminal liability to trade union executive and members for bonafied trade union activities. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, requires the employers, employing 100 or more persons, to define with sufficient precision the conditions of employment and to make the said conditions known to the workmen employed by them. The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, marks another milestone in the field of labour legislation as it seeks to regulate and ameliorate the conditions of workers in the transport undertakings employing five or more workers.

The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, contains the provisions regarding the payment of bonus to the employees by the employer from his share of profits. The employment of children Act, 1938, prohibits the employment of young children below the age of 15 years in certain risky and unhealthy occupations. The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, contemplates the provision of medical benefits and payment of sickness benefit to insured workers in case of sickness, indisposition, disability, etc. The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, seeks to make a provision for the future of industrial workers after he retires or for his dependents in case of his death before retirement. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, provides for payment of maternity benefit to women workers for a period of 12 weeks. The payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, provides for a scheme for the payment of gratuity to employees engaged in factories, mines, ports, oilfields, plantations, railway companies, shops or other establishments and in the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. For the administration of this Act, the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers are the controlling authority.

State Legislation.—The Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958, regulates the working conditions, hours of work, rest intervals and weekly rest as also holidays, leave, and overtime of workers employed in the shops and commercial establishments. The Act also provides for opening and closing hours of establishments and entitles the employees in the event of a violation of any of these provisions, to go to courts to get their grievances redressed. The Punjab Labour Welfare Funds Act, 1965, provides for the setting up of a Labour Welfare Board and appointment of a Welfare Commissioner. The unclaimed wages of the employees and accumulation of fines have to be credited to the Labour Welfare Fund, out of which the Board is to finance its various welfare activities. A Labour Welfare Board is already functioning in the State. The Labour Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh, is the Welfare Commissioner under the Act. The Punjab Industrial Establishment (National and Festival Holidays, Casual and Sick Leave) Act, 1965, provides for the grant of 7 days national and festival holidays, casual leave on full wages and 14 days sick leave on half wages to all employees covered under the Act.

In order to secure proper benefits under the various labour laws an adequate enforcement machinery works under the Labour Commissioner Punjab, Chandigarh. He is assisted, at the district level, by Labour-cum-Conciliation Officers, Factory Inspectors, Labour Inspectors and other miscellaneous staff.

Industrial Relations.—Industrial relations between employees and employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The object of this Act is to ensure harmonious industrial relations between the workers and employers. The industrial relations machinery set up under the Act is of two types: one, for the prevention of disputes by providing works committees within the industrial units; and the other, for the industrial relations machinery outside the industry comprising conciliation officers, boards of conciliation, courts of enquiry, labour courts, industrial tribunals and national tribunal.

On the whole, the relations between employers and employees in the district have been peaceful.

Following table gives particulars regarding the industrial disputes in the Sangrur District under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, from 1974 to 1978:

Year	Number of disputes raised	Number of strikes and lock-outs	Number of workers involved in strikes	Number of mandays lost
1974	42	1	21	693
1975	65	—	—	—
1976	88	—	—	—
1977	87	—	—	—
1978	92	—	—	—

(Source: Labour Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh)

The Factories Act, 1948.—All factories are required to be registered under the Factories Act, 1948. It codified for the first time the old international principle that none should employ any worker on any manufacturing process without ensuring his health, safety and welfare. The

Act provides for health measures, safety from accidents, shelters, rest rooms, working hours, intervals for rest, leave with wages, etc. With a view to ensuring the enforcement of these provisions, the inspectorate staff is required to carry out a minimum number of inspections every month in the specified proforma. In case of minor violations, inspectorate staff issues warnings and notices to the managements, whereas, in cases of serious or repeated violations, necessary prosecutions are launched against the defaulters in the courts of law. To improve efficiency and quality of inspection work, at least two test checks over the inspections conducted by the Labour Inspectors are carried out every month.

In 1978, the number of working factories registered under the Act in the district was 218 and the number of workers employed in these factories during the year was 3,674.

Employees' Provident Fund Scheme.—Compulsory provident fund has been introduced in certain specified industrial establishments under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Funds Act, 1952. Every employee of an establishment to which the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme is applicable, is eligible for membership of the fund after completion of 6 months continuous service or 120 days of actual work, whichever is earlier. Contribution at the rate of 6½ per cent is deducted from the basic pay, dearness allowance (inclusive of cash value of food concessions, if any admissible) and retaining allowance of employees who get pay up to Rs 1,600 per month or less. An amount equal to the workers contribution is contributed by the employer every month. The entire amount is deposited in the State Bank of India in the employees' provident fund accounts. Under the scheme, provision has been made for the grant of advances on certain conditions to the members for financing life insurance policies, construction of houses and to defray medical expenses, from their share of contributions to the fund.

The number of factories/establishments covered under the Act in the Sangrur District, as on 31 March 1978, was 74 and the total number of subscribers to the scheme was 3,678.

For the execution of this scheme, the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner Chandigarh, is incharge of the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. He is assisted by a number of Inspectors in the field who execute government policies.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme.—The Employees' State Insurance Scheme is an integrated measure of social insurance embodied in the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. This scheme provides protection to employees working in the factories using power and employing 10 or more persons and establishments/shops not using power but employing 20 or more persons, excluding mines and railway running sheds. The scheme was introduced in the state in 1953.

Medical care is the hallmark of this scheme and is administered, at present, through dispensaries and panel clinics for out—patients and at the hospitals for treatment of indoor patients. It is designed to provide security for the industrial workers under sickness, maternity, and employment injury, etc.

Under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, a number of benefits are available to the workers. Sickness benefit is available to the workers in the form of cash payment for 91 days in two consecutive contribution periods, if the sickness is certified by a Medical Officer to compensate the loss suffered on account of abstention from work. In addition to Sickness Benefit the Extended Sickness Benefit is available to an insured person in case of long term diseases at the rate of 25 per cent more than the Sickness Benefit for 124 days or 309 days in accordance with the disease. Insured persons under going sterilization under the Family Welfare Programme are entitled to Sickness Cash Benefit up to 7 days for vasectomy and 14 days for tubectomy. However, this period may be extended to 14 days and 21 days, respectively in consequence of post-operative complications. Maternity benefit is available to the female workers in cash for confinement, premature birth of child or miscarriage. The additional maternity benefit for 30 days is admissible on account of sickness and of confinement or pregnancy. The Temporary Disablement Benefit is given to insured persons who sustain employment injury, at the rate of 25 per cent more than the standard Sickness Benefit. Permanent Disablement Benefit is given periodically in cash to the insured persons suffering from loss of earning capacity as a result of employment injury. In the event of the death of an insured person as a result of employment injury, the dependents are entitled to periodical payments in the shape of pension at the prescribed rates. Funeral Benefit at the rate of Rs 100 is paid as a lump sum grant to defray funeral expenses of the diseased. This amount is payable to the eldest family member or who actually incurs the expenditure on funeral ceremony of the insured person. Under Employees' State Insurance Scheme, the insured persons are provided artificial limbs in case of loss of limbs due to employment injury or when amputation is due to employment injury. Hearing aids, spectacles and dentures are also provided to the insured persons where loss of hearing, impairment of eyesight or loss of teeth are due to employment injury.

This 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 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 ESIC. The expenditure on other cash benefits is to be met entirely out of the Employees' State Insurance Fund. The Scheme is financed mainly by the contributions from employers and employees with the State Government sharing a part of the cost of medical care.

The Employees' State Insurance Scheme was implemented at Malerkotla in the Sangrur District on 16 June 1968. By 31 March 1978, it covered 600 employees working in 25 factories/establishments. An ESI dispensary is functioning at Malerkotla.

(b) Prohibition

Like other districts of the Punjab State, the Sangrur District too is wet. On 31 March 1978, there were 247 country liquor vends and 37 foreign liquor vends in the district.

The consumption of exciseable articles in the district during 1973-74 to 1977-78 is given in the following table:

Year	Country Spirit (Proof Litres)	Foreign Spirit (Proof Litres)	Wine and Beer (Bulk Litres)	Opium (Kgs)	Bhang (Kgs)
1973-74	9,99,000	83,638	95,427	—	—
1974-75	10,09,000	1,14,104	91,059	1.250	—
1975-76	10,19,870	1,13,142	1,32,409	2.500	—
1976-77	10,79,870	1,58,671	2,67,146	2.000	—
1977-78	11,78,983	1,92,224	2,51,108	2.000	—

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1978)

The Sangrur District falls under the jurisdiction of Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Patiala. The Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Sangrur, administers the Excise and Opium Act in the district. He is assisted by 2 District Excise Inspectors, 16 Excise Inspectors, besides other miscellaneous class III and class IV staff.

Cases detected under the Punjab Excise Act and Punjab Opium Act in the District, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given in the following table:

Year	Excise Act	Opium Act	Total
1973-74	733	887	1,620
1974-75	833	978	1,811
1975-76	1,115	1,012	2,127
1976-77	1,300	1,159	2,459
1977-78	1,265	1,167	2,432

(Source: Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Sangrur)

(c) Advancement of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes

The programme for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes was started in Sangrur District in 1949 when the Department of Welfare of Scheduled Castes was established in the erstwhile PEPSU. However, their interests are now being watched by the Department of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Punjab, Chandigarh.

The main object of this Department is to co-ordinate and devise schemes and programmes to improve socio-economic status of the members of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and to improve their educational standard with a view to improving their overall condition.

Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes.—According to the 1971 Census, the number of Scheduled Castes persons was 2,71,322 (1,47,635 males, 1,23,687 females) forming 23.66 per cent of the total population of the district. Out of these, 2,34,203 (1,27,700 males, 1,06,503 females) lived in rural areas and 37,119 (19,935 males, 17,184 females) in urban areas.

The list of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes inhabiting the district, and their main professions are given in the Appendix at the end of this chapter at pages 404 to 405.

Measures adopted for the betterment of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes

With a view to improving the general standard of living of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Government have launched various schemes for improving their social, economic and educational status. The Directorate of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Punjab, Chandigarh, is responsible for implementing various schemes of the State Government as well as the schemes sponsored by the Government of India for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the State.

Under Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution of India, provision has been made for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes in the Parliament and the State Legislatures on the basis of their population. The provision for reservation of seats was made for a period of 10 years, from the date India became a Republic (26 January 1950). This has further been extended up to 1990, each time for a period of 10 years. A number of seats has been reserved for these communities in the panchayats, panchayat samitis and zila parishads. In order to provide employment to educated boys and girls of these castes, 25 per cent vacancies have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 5 per cent for the Backward Classes in all government departments and establishments at the time of direct recruitment. The members of Scheduled Castes also enjoy certain relaxations with regard to age, qualifications, experience, etc. There is also a provision for reservation in promotion—20 per cent in Class III and IV, and 14 per cent in Class I & II for Scheduled Castes.

The District Welfare Officer, Sangrur, is responsible for the implementation of welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes at the district level. He is assisted by 4 Tahsil Welfare Officers posted one each at the tahsil headquarters, 1 Lady Supervisor, 9 Lady Social Workers, 1 Accountant, besides other miscellaneous staff.

The details of various schemes which are being implemented for ameliorating the lot of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are given below:

1. Welfare Schemes

The State Department for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes is implementing following schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the district:

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Subsidy for the Construction of New Houses for Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis

This scheme was started in 1957 in the district. Under this scheme, subsidies are given for the construction of new houses to those members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis (former nomadic tribes, now included in Scheduled Castes) who are unable to build better houses due to their poverty. The houses subsidized under the scheme are constructed in the form of colonies. A sum of Rs 900 each was granted as housing subsidy till 1974-75. However, due to rise in prices from the year 1975-76, the amount of subsidy has been increased to Rs 2,000. Unskilled labour and site are provided by the beneficiaries themselves. A beneficiary is required to build a house, consisting of one room, one verandah, a kitchen and a courtyard with a total area of 5 to 6 marlas.

The amount of subsidy granted and the number of beneficiaries under the scheme in the district, during the years 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below:

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	5,400	6
1974-75	—	—
1975-76	1,72,000	86
1976-77	1,94,000	97
1977-78	2,68,000	134

(Source: District Welfare Officer, Sangrur)

Subsidy for the Purchase of Agricultural Land.—This scheme was introduced in the district in 1959-60. At the initial stage, under the scheme, a subsidy of Rs 2,000 for the purchase of 5 acres of agricultural land costing not less than Rs 4,500 for the construction of house/well per family was granted to the deserving landless persons belonging to Scheduled Castes. But, due to price-hike in agricultural land, since 1971-72, the amount of subsidy has been increased to Rs 5,000 for the purchase of 3 acres of land costing not less than Rs 7,500 and Rs 1,000 for the construction of house/

well in that land. The rest of the amount is to be arranged by the beneficiary himself. Besides, an amount of Rs 180 is also given to each of the beneficiaries as subsidy for meeting charges of stamp duty for registration.

The amount of subsidies granted and the number of beneficiaries, i.e. persons settled on land under the scheme, in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below:

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	25,000	5
1974-75	35,000	7
1975-76	55,000	11
1976-77	75,000	15
1977-78	25,000	5

(Source: District Welfare Officer, Sangrur)

Drinking Water Facilities.—This Scheme was introduced in the district in 1952-53. It aims at providing pure drinking water to the members of Scheduled Castes inhabiting the area where there is scarcity of drinking water. Under this scheme, subsidy of Rs 4,000 for the construction of diggies and sinking of new wells, Rs 1,000 for repair of the old ones, and Rs 900 for installation of hand-pumps is given.

The amount of subsidy granted and the number of wells sunk/repared and hand-pumps installed in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below :

Year	Amount disbursed as subsidy (Rs)	Number of wells sunk/repared and hand-pumps in- stalled
1973-74	51,400	156
1974-75	51,600	158
1975-76	53,450	149
1976-77	46,600	116
1977-78	51,800	113

(Source: District Welfare Officer, Sangrur)

Construction of Dharmshalas/Chaupals.—This scheme was introduced by the State Government in 1969-70. Under this scheme, dharmshalas are constructed in *bastis* of Scheduled Castes to enable them to derive community benefits from these places and arrange social functions, etc. A grant to the extent of Rs 7,000 for the construction of a new dharmshala/*chaupal* and Rs 2,000 for the repair of an old/*kacha* dharmshala was granted as subsidy where these were needed by members of the Scheduled Castes. However, the amount of grant for the construction of dharmshalas/*chaupals* has been increased from Rs 7,000 to Rs 10,000 from the year 1978-79, and for the repair of an old one or for completing an incomplete one, the amount of grant has been increased to Rs 3,000 from Rs 1,000.

The amount disbursed under this scheme and the number of dharmshalas constructed in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below:

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of dharmshalas constructed
1973-74	9,37,750	226
1974-75	7,82,500	134
1975-76	8,95,000	122
1976-77	8,16,500	102
1977-78	1,09,000	17

(Source: District Welfare Officer, Sangrur)

Environmental Improvement of Harijan Bastis.—For improving the living conditions in Scheduled Castes *bastis*, the State Government introduced this scheme in 1972-73. Under this scheme, grants are given to Harijans for the pavement of streets and construction of surface drains, bath-rooms, children parks, removal of *roories* and for improving the stagnant and dirty ponds located within the vicinity of the *bastis*.

The amount disbursed under this scheme in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, is given below:

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of <i>bastis</i>
1973-74	1,66,290	4
1974-75	7,32,254	13
1975-76	5,27,425	7
1976-77	2,05,185	4
1977-78	1,28,865	1

(Source: District Welfare Officer, Sangrur)

Grant for the Purchase of Books and Stationery to Scheduled Caste Students of 6th to 8th Class.—This scheme was introduced in 1976-77. The students belonging to Scheduled Castes are generally financially weak and cannot afford to purchase books and stationery to pursue their studies. Under this scheme, books and stationery are supplied to such students of 6th, 7th and 8th classes, free of cost, to continue their studies. The department gets books directly from the Punjab School Education Board and distributes them through the District Welfare Officer.

Under this scheme, books amounting to Rs 45,181 and Rs 58,880 were supplied to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes during 1976-77 and 1977-78, respectively in the Sangrur District.

Pre-Matric Coaching Scheme*.—This centrally sponsored scheme was started in the State in 1976-77. Under this scheme, special coaching is given to the Scheduled Castes students of 9th, 10th and 11th classes of High and Higher Secondary Schools in the elective compulsory subjects, namely, English, Mathematics and Science for six months in a year, from September to February after or before the school hours. This scheme envisages the removal of deficiency of Scheduled Castes students in these subjects to enable them to pass their Matric/Higher Secondary examination with credit so that they may get admission in Medical, Law, and Engineering institutions.

*The scheme has been discontinued from the year 1981-82.

In the Sangrur District, during 1976-77, an amount of Rs 31,765 was spent for coaching sixty students. However, during the year 1977-78 Rs 1,15,540 were spent for coaching 108 students.

Legal Assistance.—This scheme was initiated in 1958-59. The aim of this scheme is to safeguard the interests of the members of Scheduled Castes in criminal, civil, and revenue cases against the landlords and other exploiting classes or persons. Legal aid is given in the form of lawyer's fee, assessed on the rate fixed by the Deputy Commissioner and Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil).

Opening of Creches for the children of Working Mothers (Sweepers and Scavengers).—Introduced in 1976-77, the scheme aims at providing day-care to those children of Scheduled Castes who are in the age group of 0-6 years and whose mothers go out for work. These creches are run under the supervision of trained Lady Supervisors assisted by two helpers. On 31 March 1978, six such centres were functioning in the State of which one functions in the district at Malerkotla. This centre can accommodate upto 40 children. Free supplementary diet at the rate of Rs 1.25 per child per day is provided in the centre.

Community Centres.—The main object of setting up community centres is to improve the economic and social conditions of weaker sections. Training in stitching and embroidery is imparted in these centres. Apart from holding adult education classes, pre-school training to children of age group 0-6 years is also arranged at these centres. These centres have been set up for persons from all communities including Scheduled Castes.

On 31 March 1978, 9 Community Centres were functioning in the district at Bhindran, Bhawanigarh, Longowal, Mandvi, Munshiwal, Ranwan, Sanghera, Tibar Basti (Sangrur), Ahan Khera.

Subsidy for the purchase of Law, Medical and Engineering Books.—This scheme was started in 1974-75. Under this scheme, grants are given to various institutions for purchase of books pertaining to Law, Medical and Engineering. Books are kept in libraries for use and reference by the students belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Girls' Hostels.—This centrally sponsored scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to the girls belonging to Scheduled Castes in the recognised educational and other registered social institutions in the State and to grant subsidy for increasing the seats for Scheduled Castes girl students in the existing hostels.

Coaching Centre for Competitive Examinations.—This is a centrally sponsored scheme under which the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given pre-examination coaching for appearing in the IAS, IFS, IPS and other allied services examination, now called the Civil Services Examination, conducted by the UPSC for this purpose. The Coaching Centre has been functioning in the Punjabi University, Patiala, since 1970-71. Before that the Coaching Centre functioned in the Punjab University, Chandigarh, since its inception on 24 April 1967.

Special Employment Cell.—With a view to providing due representation in services to members of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and to ensure employment to the educated and suitable unemployed persons of these castes and classes, the Punjab Government set up a Special Employment Cell in the Directorate of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in 1970. No vacancy or post which is reserved for members of the Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes can be filled or unreserved without obtaining a non-availability certificate from this Cell. These classes also enjoy age relaxation concessions in regard to recruitment to services.

Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme.—It is a centrally sponsored scheme and is operated by the State Education Department. Under this scheme, scholarships are given to Scheduled Caste students at the college stage. They are also given in the Government technical and professional institutions. These students are also allowed the refund of examination fee, if any, only once for each examination.

Award of Scholarships and Reimbursement of Fees.—The students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes whose parents' income is Rs 6,000 per annum or below are awarded stipends and are reimbursed tuition fees under the State Harijan Welfare Scheme. Scholarships and reimbursement of tuition fee is allowed to all students of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes for the 9th, 10th and 11th classes at the rate of Rs 10 per month for first and second divisioners and Rs 6 per month to others. The Vimukt Jatis' students are paid stipend right from the first primary class.

Stenography Training to the Members of Scheduled Castes.—The scheme was introduced in the State in March 1980. It aims at providing adequate representation to members of Scheduled Castes in the cadre of Stenographers and Steno-typists in the Punjab Civil Secretariat and other offices of the State Government. The persons who are otherwise qualified in the trade are given special training so that they come up to the required standard. The scheme is implemented through the Language

Department. A stipend of Rs 100 is given during training to such Scheduled Caste persons who are unemployed. The instructors etc. deputed by the Language Department are also paid suitable honorarium.

Interest-free Loans to Scheduled Caste Persons Going Abroad for Employment Purposes to Cover Journey and other Incidental Expenses.—This scheme was started on 1 April 1979. It aims at providing interest-free loans to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes who are willing to go abroad for employment purposes, but have no resources to meet passage and other incidental expenses. If they are provided financial help by way of advancing them interest-free loans, they can go abroad and can thus supplement their income. The loan will be granted to the persons who fulfil the conditions/rules prescribed in this behalf.

The Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development and Finance Corporation, Chandigarh

The Punjab Government set up the Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development and Finance Corporation for taking up the task of economic uplift of Scheduled Castes in the State. It started functioning with effect from 18 January 1971. The Corporation has taken a lead in promoting socio-economic uplift of the members of Scheduled Castes by providing them easy credit facilities for trades/occupations such as agricultural development, marketing, processing, supply and storage, small-scale industries, construction, transport and several other trades. The loans are given free of interest up to Rs 3,000. This limit is raised up to Rs 5,000 if the loanee is an educated unemployed. The rate of interest charged varies with the amount of loan advanced. It is 3 per cent for loans from Rs 3,000 to Rs 10,000, 4 per cent from Rs 10,001 to Rs 20,000, 5 per cent from Rs 20,001 to Rs 30,000 and 7 per cent above Rs 30,000.

These loans are recoverable in a period ranging from 2½ year to 10 years in quarterly/half-yearly/yearly instalments, depending upon the trade/profession for which the loan has been taken.

Grant of Loans under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme.—Under this scheme, loans are granted for construction of houses to low income group people having annual income not exceeding Rs 7,200 if such houses are required for their bonafide residential use. The scheme provides that the accommodation in each such house must be atleast 220 sq. feet and shall normally not exceed 1,200 sq. feet and costly structures shall be avoided. The maximum amount of loan admissible is Rs 12,500 per house. The loan is recoverable in 25 years in 50 half-yearly equated

instalments ; 25 percent of loans under this scheme are reserved for the members of Scheduled Castes and 5 percent for the members of the Backward Classes.

Grant of Loans under the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme.—Under this Scheme, loans are granted for construction of houses to middle income group people having annual income not exceeding Rs 18,000 if such houses are required for their bonafide residential use. Under this scheme, the minimum floor area of such a house is 400 sq. feet but there is no limit on the maximum floor area ; the total cost of a house should not however, exceed Rs 35,000 in any case. The maximum amount of loan admissible under this scheme is Rs 25,000. The loan is recoverable in 25 years in 50 half-yearly equated instalments. As in the case of Low Income Group Housing Scheme, 25 percent of the loans under this scheme are also reserved for the members of Scheduled Castes and 5 per cent for the members of Backward Classes.

Free House Sites to the Landless Workers in Rural Areas.—Under this scheme to provide free house sites to landless agricultural workers in rural areas, plots measuring 100 sq. yards are allotted to families in the State, including those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. There is no specific reservation for allotment of plots to the members of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes under this scheme. However, about 71 per cent of the total plots have been allotted to the members of Scheduled Castes.

The members of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are given loan by various commercial banks @ Rs 2,100 per house for the construction of houses on the aforesaid plots in terms of the instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India. These loans bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum recoverable in 10 years.

Construction of Houses by the Punjab Housing Development Board for Scheduled Castes.—The Punjab Housing Development Board has been provided with funds for construction of houses for Scheduled Castes on the free sites in rural areas. The construction of each house will cost Rs 4,000 out of which 75 per cent will be subsidy and 25 per cent will be loan bearing interest @ 4 per cent per annum and recoverable from the beneficiary in monthly instalments of Rs 10 over a period of 10 years.

II. Industrial Training Scheme

The Technical Education and Industrial Training Department, Punjab, has sponsored various schemes for imparting training to members of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in various engineering and non-engineering trades, apart from the general reservation for them in all other

technical and industrial institutions. The main object of the scheme is to increase earning capacity of the underprivileged classes of society to raise their standard of living. Under this scheme, stipends at the rate of Rs 45 per month are awarded to all trainees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, and Rs 35 per month to the students belonging to Backward Classes. However, no such industrial training centre was functioning in the Sangrur District on 31 March 1978.

Representative Institutions

There was no representative institution of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the district as on 31 March 1978.

(d) Other Social Welfare Activities

For the welfare of economically and socially weaker sections of the society, a number of social welfare schemes are being run by the Social Welfare Department, Punjab, Chandigarh. With the passage of time, budgetary allocation and number of beneficiaries have risen under these schemes. Some of the important schemes together with the amount disbursed and the number of beneficiaries are briefly mentioned here as under :

Old Age Pension Scheme*.—This is the most important scheme of the Social Welfare Department. It was started in the January 1964. Under this scheme, aged, infirm and destitute persons, above 65 years in cases of men, and above 60 years in the cases of women, with no means of livelihood and no earning sons are provided monetary assistance of Rs 50 per month which is remitted quarterly, through money order. Persons suffering from permanent disability are allowed the relaxation of 10 years in the lower age-limit.

The amount disbursed under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	8,82,025	1,335
1974-75	12,22,312	2,385
1975-76	12,75,129	2,633
1976-77	14,69,064	3,374
1977-78	17,91,700	4,370

(Source : Director, Social Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

*From November 1980, the disbursement under the scheme is made by the District Social Welfare Officer, Sangrur.

Financial Assistance to Widows and Destitute Women*.—This scheme was introduced in the State in 1968 with a view to providing financial assistance to the needy and destitute women below the age of 60 years. The assistance under the scheme is given to those women who are left without any means of subsistence after the demise of their husband or whose husbands are physically or mentally incapable of earning a livelihood. Keeping in view the increased cost of living, the rate of assistance was raised from Rs 25 per month to Rs 50 per month, w.e.f. 1 March 1973.

The amount disbursed under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78 are given below :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	24,000	72
1974-75	64,388	263
1975-76	1,67,642	347
1976-77	2,28,934	468
1977-78	3,45,046	736

(Source : Director, Social Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Financial Assistance to the Dependent Children*.—This scheme came into force in March 1968. It aims at providing relief to orphan and destitute children under the age of 16 years, who have either lost their parents or whose parents are unable to maintain them due to some incurable disease or permanent physical disability.

In the case of more than one deserving child in a family, preference, in the grant of financial assistance, is given to school-going children. The rate of financial assistance has been increased from Rs 20 per month to 50 per month per child w.e.f. 1 March, 1974.

*From November 1980, the disbursement under the scheme is made by the District Social Welfare Officer, Sangrur.

The amount disbursed under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	1,800	8
1974-75	5,250	12
1975-76	36,350	97
1976-77	75,500	173
1977-78	98,000	223

(Source : Director, Social Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Special Nutrition Scheme.—The State Government is implementing a centrally sponsored 'Special Nutrition Scheme' under which protein diet is provided to children in the age group of 0—6 years and to expectant and nursing mothers, living in urban slum areas of the State. The diet is supplied for 300 days in a year.

The amount disbursed under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	18,220	1,000
1974-75	20,000	1,000
1975-76	30,000	1,000
1976-77	36,925	1,314
1977-78	29,635	1,080

(Source : Director, Social Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Supply of Prosthetic Aids to the Handicapped.—This scheme was taken up by the State Government in the year 1968-69. It aims at providing artificial limbs to the orthopaedically handicapped persons, to enable them to lead as normal a life as possible. The Government pays the cost of limbs according to the income of the applicant.

The amount disbursed under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	3,260	10
1974-75	2,092	5
1975-76	8,040	22
1976-77	4,340	8
1977-78	718	3

(Source : Director, Social Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Financial Assistance to Victims of Chronic Diseases.—This scheme was introduced in 1974-75. It aims at providing financial assistance upto Rs 100 per month per head to patients of chronic diseases who have been discharged from hospitals, to enable them to continue treatment and special diet at home. A person who is suffering from chronic disease like T.B., leprosy etc. or is mentally ill and is not in a position to bear the cost of medicines drugs is also eligible for the grant of financial assistance on the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon of the district, provided the annual income of the family does not exceed Rs 3,000 per annum from all sources.

The amount disbursed under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries in the district, from its inception to 1977-78, is given below :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1974-75	82	1
1975-76	1,762	3
1976-77	799	2
1977-78	359	1

(Source : Director, Social Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

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Scholarships to the Physically Handicapped Students.—Under this scheme, started in 1970-71, scholarships are provided for undergoing various educational courses and vocational training to physically handicapped persons in the age group of 6—30 years who are orthopaedically handicapped, or are deaf and dumb or blind, and the income of whose parents/guardians is less than Rs 500 per month. Each of such persons is given scholarship ranging from Rs 15 to Rs 100 per month according to the standard of education/training.

The amount disbursed under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries in the district, during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are given below :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	540	3
1974-75	1,260	5
1975-76	2,100	7
1976-77	1,080	6
1977-78	..	..

(Source : Director, Social Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh)

(e) **Public Trusts, Charitable Endowments and Muslim Wakfs.**—In every society, there are certain voluntary organisations which endeavour for advancement of the society in various spheres, such as social, religious, educational, etc. Public and charitable endowments fall among these categories of organisations. Many educational institutions, hospitals, *dharamshalas* and other social welfare organisations are either run or materially aided by these endowments. There are certain philanthrophists who make liberal contribution to the funds of these organisations.

In Sangrur district, there is only one public trust whose brief description is given below :

Biru Mal Gori Shanker Charitable Trust, Ahmedgarh, was founded in 1970 by Sarvshri Bhanumal, Jatinder Nath, Piara Lal, Prem Parkash and Prem Kumar, in memory of their father. The aim of this trust is to run a *dharamshala*. Its affairs are managed by the above trustees.

Muslim Wakfs.—Besides, there are 1,275 Muslim wakfs at different places in the District with properties attached to some of them. These properties were maintained by the Rehabilitation 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 wakfs is regulated by the Central Wakf Act, 1954.

The annual income from the wakf properties in the district is Rs 46,615 which is spent for the upkeep of these institutions as well as for various charitable purposes and promotion of education.

The Islamia High School at Malerkotla is run by the Punjab Wakf Board. There are 65 teachers and 2,800 students in this institution.

The staff of the Punjab Wakf Board, employed for district Sangrur, during 1977-78, consisted of 1 Aukaf Officer and 2 Rent Collectors posted at Sangrur.

APPENDIX

Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Vimukt Jatis inhabiting the Sangrur District

(Vide page 389)

Scheduled Castes

Serial No.	Name of Caste	Main professions
1	Ramdasi	Shoe-making, service, agriculture, shop-keeping and labour etc.
2	Mazhabi	Agriculture, agricultural labour, animal husbandry, service and labour etc.
3	Balmiki	Scavenging, piggery, service and labour etc.
4	Dhanak	Labour
5	Rehgar-Raigar	Shoe-making and leather tanning
6	Khatik	Tanning and selling of leather, shop-keeping.
7	Bazigar	Sheep and goat grazing, labour and animal husbandry, etc.
Backward Classes		
1	Chhimba	Tailoring and shop-keeping
2	Lohar	Blacksmithy
3	Khaty	House building and wood-works
4	Marasi	Labour
5	Bhat	Tailoring and labour
6	Bharbhunja	Grain-parching and hawking
7	Jhior	Water-carrying, agriculture and running of hotels etc.
8	Darzi (Tailor)	Tailoring
9	Teli	Extraction (oil <i>ghani</i>) and labour

Serial No.	Name of Caste	Main Professions
10	Baragi	Agriculture and performing of certain religious rituals
11	Nai	Hair cutting, shaving, labour and agriculture
12	Bharai	Milk-selling and labour
13	Mochi	Making of shoes, embroidery of shoes
14	Christian	Labour and service
15	Dhobi	Washing and ironing of clothes
16	Kumhar	Pottery and labour
Vimukt Jatis		
1	Sansi	Labour
2	Deha	Labour and shoe-polishing
3	Bangala	To entertain people by snake-charms
4	Borea	Agriculture, labour and gardening
5	Sapele	Snake-charming and begging
6	Kuch Bandh	Shoe-polishing and cleaning of ears
7	Chhajghare	Making of winnowing baskets and leather work

(Source : District Welfare Officer, Sangrur)

CHAPTER XVI
PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE
ORGANISATIONS

(a) Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislatures

Historical Background

Till July 1948, the present area of the Sangrur District formed chiefly part of the princely states of Jind, Malerkotla, Nabha and Patiala. The rulers of these states had always tried to keep their subjects insulated against the infiltration of any political ideas through various agencies. No attempt was ever made to provide educational facilities to the people least they should get enlightened and rise in revolt against their autocracy. Even the few citizens of these states who occasionally purchased a daily newspaper to keep themselves informed of the happenings outside the states were specially watched by the intelligence employees of the rulers and they were considered to be suspects and dangerous persons. Not to speak of any political organization when the setting up of a social and religious organization in the areas of these states was banned. The princely rulers of these states did not give any opportunity to their subjects to manage their civic affairs, although, in the adjoining areas which were at that time under the rule of the British, the facility of the local-self government had been extended to the people.

Before 1938, the people of this district, it could be said, had been completely insulated against the spread of any political philosophy. In 1938, the holding of the All-India States People's Conference at Ludhiana, under the chairmanship of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, brought a change in the political climate in these princely states and the people of the area now forming Sangrur District felt encouraged to assert their political rights. An Organization under the name of Praja Mandal, joined mostly by the tenants of big landlords and some intellectuals from amongst the practising lawyers and doctors in the princely states, was formed and its members met at irregular intervals and too often, underground. The political philosophy of these people was very simple and clear. They wanted to be released from bondage of autocracy so that they could make progress in agricultural and industrial fields.

Since the accession of these States into the Indian Union after Independence, and the formation of Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) in 1948 and later on its merger into Punjab on 1 November 1956, great changes have taken place, and people are now enjoying the same political, social and economic rights as had been enjoyed by the people in the adjoining areas of the Indian Union. The facility of the self-government has been extended to the people and they have now been brought under a responsible government headed by their elected representatives both in the State and at the Centre.

General Elections held under the Constitution of India.—Under the Government of India Act, 1919, the universal adult franchise had limited role to play. It was based on a high property qualification. Persons having either an annual income of not less than Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 or paying land revenue of Rs 750 to Rs 5,000 were entitled to vote for the Council of States. The franchise was also bestowed for special personal qualifications such as past or present membership of a university senate or legislature. The franchise of Legislative Assembly was also based on property qualification and varied from province to province. The payment of municipal taxes amounting to not less than Rs 15 to Rs 20 per annum or occupation or ownership of a house, which could yield an annual rent of Rs 180 or assessment to income tax on an annual income of not less than Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 or assessment to land revenue for Rs 50 to Rs 150 per annum varying from province to province could entitle a person to be a voter for the Assembly. The Government of India Act, 1919 did sow the seeds of communal representation in the country by earmarking constituencies for the Muslims and Sikhs etc. Under the Act of 1935, the right to vote was extended considerably. The women and the depressed classes were also made eligible to become voters. In this way, about 15 per cent of the total population of the provinces was enfranchised. It is, however, said that the 1935 Act not only retained the separate electorates for the Muslims, but also extended them to the Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.

The new Constitution of India which came into force on 26 January 1950 has made a clean sweep of the postulate of communal electorates and has substituted in its place common electorate for all adult citizens of India. Article 326 of the Constitution provides that elections to the House of People (Lok Sabha) and to the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) of every State shall be on the basis of universal adult franchise. Every Indian citizen, who is not less than 21 years of age, is entitled to vote, if he is not otherwise disqualified. Till 1980, seven general elections have been held in the country. The phenomenal success of these elections, characterized by smooth progress of voting, is a proof of the spirit of the masses to adjust themselves to a democratic way of life.

India, under the Constitution, is a Union of States and territories. The Constitution lays down that the members of the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) of each State shall be chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the State. The Constitution does not specify the actual number of seats in a particular State Assembly. It is fixed by the Parliament under the Representation of People's Act, 1951.

The Punjab State had a bicameral legislature comprising Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) and Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad), but the latter was abolished in 1969 for effecting economy in State expenditure. Thus, from 1969 the Punjab Legislature is unicameral. Previously it consisted of 104 members, but its strength has been raised to 117¹, from 1975. No person is eligible to be chosen to fill a seat in the Vidhan Sabha, unless he is a citizen of India and not less than 25 years of age and possesses such other qualifications as prescribed in the Representation of People's Act, 1951, and also does not suffer from any of the stipulated disqualifications.

First General Elections, 1951-52.—As in the rest of India, the district of Sangrur of the erstwhile PEPSU went to polls for the first time in 1951-52 when the first general elections were held. Franchise was open to every adult not suffering from any disqualification.

Parliamentary Constituency

There were two Parliamentary Constituencies in the Sangur District, namely, Sangrur and Mohindergarh². These constituencies consisted of the area relating mostly to the then Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Barnala and Mohindergarh (now in Haryana) districts. The Sangrur Constituency included Sangrur District (excluding Jind Tahsil and Kalayat Quanungo Circle in Narwana Tahsil now in Haryana), Nabha Tahsil of Patiala District, Amloh Sub-Tahsil and Payal and Jarg Quanungo Circles in the Sirhind Tahsil of the then Fatehgarh Sahib District, and Dhanaula and Tapa Quanungo Circles in Barnala Tahsil of the then Barnala District. The Mohindergarh Constituency comprised areas of Mohindergarh District (now in Haryana), and Jind Tahsil and Kalayat Quanungo Circle in Narwana Tahsil (now in Haryana) of Sangrur District. From the Sangrur Constituency, an Independent candidate was elected, and from the Mohindergarh Constituency, a Congress candidate. The total number of valid votes polled by each contesting party in the district was as under :

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Independents	2,37,206	60.47
Congress	1,14,041	29.07
Red Communist	41,030	10.46
Total	3,92,277	100

(Source : Election Commission of India, New Delhi)

¹ Vide Notification No. 282/PB/75, dated 24 May 1975
² Mohindergarh, earlier in the Patiala Princely State, is now in Haryana State.

PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union) Vidhan Sabha Constituencies

For the Vidhan Sabha, there were 9 constituencies consisting of 11 seats (two being double-member constituencies) in the district, viz. Sangrur, Bhawanigarh, Sunam, Lehra (double-member), Narwana-Kalayath (double-member), Uchana, Jind, Safidon and Julana (now in Haryana). From these constituencies 6 Congress, 3 Akali, 1 Lal Communist and 1 Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party candidates were elected. The total number of valid votes polled by each contesting party is given below :

Name of the Party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	85,844	32.99
Akali	44,294	17.03
Independents	75,445	28.99
Scheduled Castes Federation	1,790	0.68
Lal Communists	14,967	5.76
Communists	4,699	1.80
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	5,460	2.09
Krishikar	15,103	5.80
Jan Sangh	12,156	4.68
Socialist	442	0.18
Total	2,60,200	100.00

(Source : Election Commission of India, New Delhi)

By-Election to the Mohindergarh (now in Haryana) Lok-Sabha Constituency, 1955-56.—In 1955-56, by-election to the Mohindergarh Lok Sabha Constituency was held. The total number of electors in the constituency was 3,33,436. The Congress candidate won the seat. The total

number of valid votes polled in favour of each of the contesting parties in the constituency was as follows :

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	77,672	60.9
Independent	49,890	39.1
Total :	1,27,562	100.00

(Source : Election Commission of India, New Delhi)

Mid-term Election to the PEPSU Legislative Assembly, 1954.—The first general elections to the PEPSU Legislative Assembly were held in 1951-52. Normally, the Assembly should have had a term of five years in accordance with the provisions of Article 172(1) of the Constitution. However, on 4 March 1953, the President of India issued a proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution by which the Legislative Assembly of the PEPSU was dissolved, and the President assumed to himself all functions of the Government and powers vested in or exercisable by the Rajpramukh of the State. Para (c) (iv) of the proclamation announced that general elections for constituting a new Legislative Assembly for the State would be held as soon as possible after the Delimitation Commission had finally delimited the constituencies for elections to the Legislative Assembly of the State. The Delimitation Commission's order containing the delimitation of constituencies in the PEPSU was published on 15 September 1953, and the general elections to the Vidhan Sabha of the erstwhile PEPSU were held in February 1954.

PEPSU Legislative Assembly Constituencies

There were 9 constituencies to elect 11 members from the district (two being double-member constituencies); the constituencies were Bhawanigarh, Sangrur, Sunam, Lehra (double-member), Narwana (double-member), Kalayat, Jind, Safidon, and Julana (now in Haryana). From these constituencies, 6 Congress, 2 Akali (Master Tara Singh Group) and

3 Independents candidates were declared elected. The total number of votes polled by each of the contesting parties is given below:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	1,15,264	39.26
Akali (Master Tara Singh Group)	52,272	17.80
Akali (Raman Group)	7,658	2.69
Communist	23,797	8.10
Independents	93,748	31.87
Jan Sangh	454	0.14
Praja Socialist	420	0.14
Total	2,93,613	100.00

(Source : Election Commission of India, New Delhi)

Second General Elections, 1957.—By virtue of the States Re-organization Act, 1956, the erstwhile States of Punjab and PEPSU were merged into one and the new State of Punjab (after merger) came into existence on 1 November 1956. This resulted in the amalgamation of the Vidhan Sabhas of Punjab and PEPSU States and the strength of the Vidhan Sabha of the new State was fixed at 154 as against 126 for the erstwhile Punjab and 60 for the erstwhile PEPSU. This necessitated fresh delimitation of constituencies which was effected under the "Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956", in December, 1956. The sitting members of the respective Vidhan Sabhas became members of the New Vidhan Sabha of the new State till the delimitation of constituencies was completed. The task of conducting the general elections in 1957, therefore, was of greater magnitude and complexity than that in the 1951-52 elections. The delimitation of constituencies was effected only a few weeks before the elections, and left much less time for the extensive arrangements that had to be made. Besides, the total period for the poll in the State was reduced appreciably (i.e.

24 February to 14 March 1957). 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 counting after the polling in the entire State had been completed. Thus, with the reduction of total period for polling in each constituency, it became inevitable to deploy a much larger number of polling staff as well as police in the second general elections.

In accordance with the report of the Delimitation Commission, five Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies comprising 7 seats (two seats reserved for the members of Scheduled Castes) were allocated to the district.

Lok Sabha Constituency

There was no Lok Sabha Constituency in the district. Its area was attached to Kaithal, Rohtak and other neighbouring constituencies.

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies³

For the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, there were 5 constituencies comprising 7 seats in the district—Malerkotla, Dhuri (double-member), Barnala, Sangrur and Sunam (double-member). From these constituencies 5 Congress, 1 Communist and 1 Independent candidates were elected. The total number of valid votes polled by different parties is given below:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	1,57,257	42.68
Independents	1,09,538	29.73
Communists	99,007	26.87
Jan Sangh	2,646	0.72
Total	3,68,448	100.00

³Report on General Elections in Punjab, 1957 (Chandigarh), 1959, pp. 125-126

Third General Elections, 1962.—A major improvement in the matter of elections in the State this time was in regard to the period of polling. While it took nearly 19 days to complete the poll during the second general elections, the poll this time was held and completed on a single day, i.e. on 24 February 1962, throughout the State except in Kulu and Seraj constituencies where on account of the areas being inaccessible due to snowfall, the poll was deferred and held later on towards the end of April. Punjab was, thus, the only State which had the distinction of having a single-day poll both for the Parliament and Assembly elections. The balloting system of voting adopted during the last general elections was retained only in the remote and inaccessible Kulu and Seraj constituencies; in all other constituencies of the State the marking system of voting was adopted.

In 1961, the Parliament decided to abolish the double-member constituencies for the Legislative Assemblies as well as for the House of the People and as such passed the Two-member Constituencies (Abolition) Act (1 of 1961) for this purpose. Under the Act, the Election Commission was empowered to divide even double-member constituencies into single-member constituencies, delimit the extent, decide in which of them the seat shall be reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. As a result of this, one Parliamentary Constituency and 7 Assembly Constituencies were formed in the district.

Out of the total population of 11,83,694 (1961 Census) of the district, the number of electors was 7,12,892.

Lok Sabha Constituency⁴

Sangrur was the only Lok Sabha Constituency in the district in the third general elections from where Congress candidate was declared elected. The remaining area relating to Narwana, Jind, Safidon, etc. of the district was clubbed with the Kaithal and Rohtak Parliamentary constituencies. The number of valid votes polled by each contesting party is given below:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	1,33,018	39.40
Independents	1,54,325	45.70
Jan Sangh	50,332	14.90
Total	3,37,675	100.00

⁴Report on the General Elections in Punjab, 1962 (Chandigarh 1963), pp. 88 to 89

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies⁵

There were 7 constituencies (including 2 reserved for Scheduled Castes) for the Punjab Vidhan Sabha in the district, namely, Malerkotla, Mohal Kalan, Barnala, Dhuri (Scheduled Caste), Sangrur, Sunam, and Lehra (Scheduled Caste). From these constituencies, 3 Congress, 3 Communists and 1 Akali, candidates were declared elected. The total number of valid votes polled by each of the contesting party is given below:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	1,58,168	48.00
Communists	66,275	20.00
In dependents	12,513	3.80
A kali	70,143	21.30
Republican	17,690	5.40
Others	4,976	1.50
Total	3,29,765	100.00

The Fourth General Elections, 1967.—The general elections held in 1967 were the fourth in the country and the first in the new State of Punjab which came into being after the reorganization on 1 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 one Parliamentary Constituency and 9 Vidhan Sabha Constituencies.

As at the time of the third general elections, the poll throughout the State was held on a single day, on 19 February 1967. The counting was started on 21 February and completed on 24 February.

Out of the total population of 11,83,694 (1961 Census) of the district, the number of electors was 5,36,553.

⁵ Report on the General Elections in Punjab, 1962 (Chandigarh 1963) p. 87 to 108

Lok Sabha Constituency

There was one Lok Sabha Constituency, viz. Sangrur in the district from which the Akali Dal (Sant Group) candidate was elected. The area of Raikot and Nihal Singh Wala Assembly segments of this constituency was otherwise in Ludhiana and Faridkot districts, respectively. The remaining area of the district, i.e. Dhuri, Sunam, Lehra etc. was attached to Rupnagar and Patiala Parliamentary constituencies. The number of valid votes polled by each contesting party is given below:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Akali Dal (Sant Group)	1,74,371	54.60
Congress	76,159	24.00
Jan Sangh	30,932	9.40
Independents	24,870	8.00
Akali Dal (Master Group)	12,459	4.00
Total	3,18,791	100.00

(Source: Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies⁶

For the Vidhan Sabha, there were 9 constituencies in the district namely Dhuri, Malerkotla, Sherpur, (Scheduled Caste), Barnala, Bhadaur (Scheduled Caste), Dhanaula, Sangrur, Sunam and Lehra. From these constituencies, 3 Congress, 4 Akali Dal, 1 Communist and 1 Communist (Marxist) candidates were elected. The number of valid votes polled by each contesting party is given below:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	1,27,656	35.68
Akali Dal	97,328	27.20
Akali Dal (M)	6,920	1.93

⁶ Report on the Mid-Term General Elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1969 (Chandigarh, 1971), pp. 45, 46

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Jan Sangh	17,023	4.76
Communists	21,134	5.91
Communists (M)	38,178	10.67
Swatantra	3,466	0.97
Others	46,088	12.88
Total	3,57,793	100.00

Mid-term Poll, 1969.—The first meeting of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, constituted on the basis of the fourth general elections, was held on 20 March 1967. In the normal course, its tenure would have lasted for five years, i. e. upto 19 March 1972 as provided in Article 172 of the Constitution of India. The party position, after the said elections, was such that no single political party had absolute majority in the Vidhan Sabha of 104 members. Some of the political parties, namely, Akali Dal (Sant Group), the Jan Sangh, the Republican Party and the Communists joined together to form the United Front, which staked its claim to form the Government. The United Front Government assumed office on 8 March 1967. After some time, a game of defections started and the Government became unstable. Some members of the ruling United Front left the Front, formed a new group, and also a new Government on 25 November 1967 with the support of the Congress Legislative Party and some independents. The relationship between the Ministry and the Congress Legislative Party, its main supporter did not, however, remain smooth for long and ultimately the Congress Party withdrew its support from the new Ministry which had, then, to resign. As a result, a situation was created in which no single party or workable alliance of parties could provide a stable government. In the circumstances, on the recommendation of the Governor, Punjab, the President's Rule was proclaimed in the State from 23 August 1968. Thus, the Punjab Vidhan Sabha constituted in 1967 stood dissolved, necessitating a mid-term general elections to constitute a new Vidhan Sabha.

The mid-term poll throughout the State was held on a single day on 9 February 1969. Out of the total population of 11,83,694 (1961 Census) of the district, the number of electors was 5,61,389.

There were 9 Vidhan Sabha constituencies in the district, namely, Dhuri, Malerkotla, Sherpur (Scheduled Caste), Barnala, Bhadaur (Scheduled Caste), Dhanaula, Sangrur, Sunam and Lehra. From these constituencies, 3 Congress, 5 Akali Dal and 1 Communist (Marxist) candidates were elected. The total number of valid votes polled by each contesting party is given below:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	1,65,493	42.63
Akali Dal	1,58,826	40.91
Communists	7,170	1.85
Communists (Marxists)	39,163	10.09
Others	17,562	4.52
Total	3,88,214	100.00

Bye-Election to the Lehra Vidhan Sabha Constituency, 1970.—This bye-election was necessitated after the Punjab and Haryana High Court declared void the election of the sitting Akali candidate. The bye-election was held on 22 February 1970. The Shiromani Akali Dal won the seat. The total number of electors in the constituency was 65,168. The total number of valid votes polled by each contesting party in the constituency was as under:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Shiromani Akali Dal	28,755	82.01
Independents	6,307	17.99
Total	35,062	100.00

(Source: Chief Electoral Officer Punjab, Chandigarh)

Fifth General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 1971.—The fifth general elections to the Lok Sabha were held in March 1971. There was only one Lok Sabha Constituency, Sangrur, in the district from where the candidate belonging to Communist Party of India was declared elected. The total number of electors in the district was 5,09,910. The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each contesting party in the district was as follows:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Communist Party of India	1,15,708	37.97
Akali Dal	1,15,498	37.95
Independents	35,923	11.80
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	37,344	12.28
Total	3,04,473	100.00

(Source: Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Fifth General Elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1972.—The general elections were necessitated due to the premature dissolution of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha constituted in March 1969. It was the second time after the reorganization of the Punjab in 1966 that the President's Rule was imposed on the State. In the wake of the President's Rule, emergency was declared due to Indo-Pakistan conflict in 1971. The preparation for the conduct of fresh general elections had, therefore, to be made under the shadow of emergency. The poll throughout the State was held on a single day on 11 March 1972 and counting was completed on 13 March. The election was held under the marking system of voting. A new design of ballot paper, with a counterfoil, was also used in this election.

There were 9 Punjab Vidhan Sabha constituencies in the district—Dhuri, Malerkotla, Sherpur (Scheduled Castes), Barnala, Bhadaur (Scheduled Castes), Dhanaula, Sangrur, Sunam and Lehra. Out of the total population of 11,46,650 (1971 Census) of the district, the total number of electors in district was 6,01,876. From these constituencies 3 Congress,

¹Report on the General Elections in Punjab, 1972 (Chandigarh) 1976, pp. 53

3 Akali Dal, 1 Communist, 1 Communist (Marxist) and 1 Independent candidates were elected. The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each contesting party is given below:

Name of the Party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress	1,56,928	35.86
Akali	1,54,572	35.30
Communist	23,165	5.29
Communist (Marxist)	40,286	9.20
Akali (G)	1,474	0.35
Congress (O)	669	0.15
Independents	60,760	13.85
Total	4,37,854	100.00

Sixth General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 1977.—The sixth general elections to the Lok Sabha were held in March 1977. For the first time, since independence, the Congress was voted out of power at the national level and a new party, the Janata Party, formed the first non-Congress Government at New Delhi. The Janata Party was formed out of combination of four former opposition parties—the Organisation Congress, the Bharatiya Lok Dal, the Jan Sangh, and the Socialist Party. The Janata Party was voted into office by an overwhelming majority of electorate in the northern states.

There was only one Lok Sabha constituency in the district, viz., Sangrur. The total number of electors in the district was 6,22,238. The Shiromani Akali Dal candidate won the seat. The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each contesting party in the district was as under:

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Shiromani Akali Dal	2,91,371	64.55
Independents	1,60,020	35.45
Total	4,51,391	100.00

(Source: Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Sixth General Elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1977. —The Lok Sabha elections of 1977 were not accompanied by elections to the State Assemblies, whose terms of office in most cases were due to expire in 1978. The Janata Government decided to call early elections in a number of States on the plea that a climate of uncertainty had come to prevail in the states in the wake of the virtual rejection in the Lok Sabha elections of the Congress candidates in several states. Consequently, the Vidhan Sabha elections in some states, including Punjab, had to take place. In Punjab, these elections were held on 12 June 1977 and completed on the same day. In the elections to the Vidhan Sabha, the Akali Dal and the Janata Party obtained majority of votes defeating the Congress. Consequently, on 20 June 1977, the Akali-Janata combine formed a coalition Government in the Punjab.

There were 10 Vidhan Sabha constituencies in the district, viz., Sangrur Dhuri, Malerkotla, Sherpur (Scheduled Castes), Barnala, Bhadaur (Scheduled Castes), Dhanaula, Dirba, Sunam and Lehra. The total number of electors in the district was 7,15,901. From these constituencies, 6 Shiromani Akali Dal, 2 Communist Party of India (Marxist), 1 Janata and 1 Independent, candidates were elected. The total number of valid votes polled by each contesting party is given below :

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Shiromani Akali Dal	1,68,653	35.12
Congress	1,57,944	32.83
Janata	34,781	7.34
Independents	44,660	9.39
Communist Party of India	21,081	4.14
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	53,125	11.18
Total	4,80,244	100.00

(Source : Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh.)

Seventh (Mid-term) Lok Sabha Elections, 1980.—The Janata Government formed in 1977 did not remain stable. As the party had been formed with the merger of four major political parties, its members reverted to their previous loyalties. This led to differences within the Janata Party resulting in defection by many M. Ps. who formed a new group which ultimately led to the fall of Janata Government in New Delhi. The group of M.Ps. who had defected from the Janata Party was able to form, with the support of Congress (I), a new government. However, the relationship between the new government and the Congress (I) did not remain smooth for long, with the result that the Congress (I) withdrew its support and the Government fell without facing the Parliament even once. The Lok Sabha was dissolved by the President under sub-clause (b) of clause (2) of Article 85 of the Constitution on 22 August 1979, but the Government was allowed to continue as Caretaker Government till the elections were held for constituting the new Parliament.

The Seventh (mid-term) General Elections were held in the country on 3 January 1980. Sangrur was the only Lok Sabha constituency in the district in these elections. The constituency had 7,25,026 voters in all, out of whom 4,91,564 cast their votes. The Congress (I) candidate was declared elected from the constituency. The total number of valid votes polled by each contesting party was as under :

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress (I)	2,34,264	48.72
Shiromani Akali Dal	2,26,649	47.15
Republican Party of India	2,264	0.17
Janata Party	1,932	0.41
Independents	15,662	3.25
Total	4,80,771	100

(Source : Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

(b) Political Parties and Organisations

Political parties play an important role in the working of modern democratic governments. They render a very useful service to the cause of governments, formulate, mould and organize public opinion, clarify various issues facing the people, offer clear-cut solutions to social and economic and political problems. They fight elections and establish a link between the government and the people. They also clothe the dry bones of the mechanism of the government with flesh and impart energy and driving force to it.

In India, political parties have been in existence for quite sometime, even though they were not well organised. The adoption of parliamentary form of government after Independence was, however, a step to promote the organization of party system on sound footing. There existed no political party before 1947 in the princely states of which the present district of Sangrur has been a part.

A brief description of political parties, which have their branches in the Sangrur District, is given below :

All India Parties

Indian National Congress.—The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885, though it came into existence in the Sangrur District only after the independence. The Praja Mandals, the political counterparts of the Indian National Congress, in the erstwhile princely states and which had policies and performance similar to it, merged with it and started functioning as its units in these areas.

Since attainment of Independence up to March 1977, when the sixth general elections were held, the Congress party remained in power at the Centre and in most of the States. In the Punjab, the party ruled upto 1966-67, and, again from April 1972 to March 1977 and thereafter it assumed power in June 1980.

Communist Party of India.—The Communist Party of India is an old party which in alliance with the Praja Mandals of the erstwhile princely states waged a relentless struggle against the princely order in the district. It enjoys influence among the labourers and small peasants. It once captured the Lok Sabha seat in 1971. But in Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections, since 1957, it captured only one seat upto 1972 in all the general elections, except in 1962 when it won three seats, in the district. In 1980 too, one of its candidates was elected from the district.

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Seventh (Mid-Term) Elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1980.—

The term of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha constituted on 12 June 1977 was due to expire in 1982. However, after the Lok Sabha elections held in January 1980 which resulted in the change of Government at the Central level, it was felt that a climate of uncertainty had come to prevail in the States which were not ruled by the Congress (I). The Congress (I) Government at the Centre decided to go for fresh elections in such States, including Punjab. Accordingly, the Punjab Vidhan Sabha was dissolved by the President under Article 356 of the Constitution on 17 February 1980. The elections to the Vidhan Sabha were held on 31 May 1980 and completed on the same day. The Congress (I) won majority of seats defeating the Akali Dal and other contesting parties and formed its Government in the State.

For these elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, there were 10 Assembly constituencies in the district—Dhuri, Malerkotla, Sherpur (SC), Barnala, Bhadaur (SC), Dhanaula, Sangrur, Dirba, Sunam and Lehra. The total number of electors in the district was 8,18,399, out of which 5,61,867 voted. From these constituencies, 6 Shiromani Akali Dal, 1 Communist Party of India (Marxist), 2 Congress (I) and 1 Communist Party of India candidates were elected. The number of valid votes polled by each contesting party is given below :

Name of the party	Valid votes polled	
	Number	Percentage
Congress (I)	2,31,424	41.86
Shiromani Akali Dal	1,94,105	35.12
Independents	31,292	5.66
Communist Party of India	25,413	4.59
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	54,758	9.92
Congress (U)	7,899	1.43
Bhartiya Janata Party	992	0.18
Janata Party (JP)	908	0.16
Janata Party (SC)	5,954	1.09
Total	5,52,745	100.00

(Source : Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Communist Party of India (Marxist).—The party emanated from the Communist Party of India. Till 1980, it has never won the Lok Sabha seat in the district, but it captured one Vidhan Sabha seat in the fourth and fifth general elections, two in the sixth general elections held in 1977, and one in the seventh general elections held in 1980.

Republican Party of India.—Founded by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, this party is a reorganized form of the Scheduled Castes Federation to form an opposition to the Congress and the caste Hindus. It aims at safeguarding the interests of Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes. The party has been participating in the elections since 1962, but it has not been able to capture any seat so far (upto the 7th general elections of 1980) in the district for the Lok Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha.

Swatantra Party.—Founded in 1959 to fight against the tendencies towards abolition of private property and towards collectivism, it is a rightist party in the sense that it is directly opposed to socialism in the economic sense and seeks to maintain the status-quo. The party also believes in fostering spiritual values and preserving the heritage of Indian culture. The party in the district has been taking part in elections since the third general elections in 1962. It won two Assembly seats in 1962 from the area of Jind Subdivision (now in Haryana State). However, thereafter it could never win any seat in the district—neither for the Parliament nor Vidhan Sabha till the seventh general elections, in 1980.

Janata Party.—The party came into being on 1 May 1977 on the merger of major opposition parties, the Organisation Congress, the Jan Sangh, the Bharatiya Lok Dal, and the Socialist. During the sixth general elections in March 1977, the party proclaimed the election to be a 'choice between freedom and slavery, between democracy and dictatorship'.

Though the party won the sixth general elections to the Lok Sabha and gained absolute majority, yet it could not capture any seat in the district. For the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, the party captured only one seat (Sangrur constituency) in the district in the sixth general elections in 1977.

State Parties

From among these, mention may be made only of the following :—

Shiromani Akali Dal.—It was founded towards the end of 1920 as the representative body of the Sikhs. During the Gurdwara Reforms Movement 1920—25, it played a significant role in bringing about major reforms in the management of Sikh shrines and bringing them under the control of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. It actively participated in the national freedom struggle in collaboration with the

Indian National Congress and emerged as a vanguard of the non-cooperation movement in the Punjab during 1931-32. It emerged as a full-fledged political party in the State during 1936—37 elections, held under the Government of India Act, 1935. The party continues to function as a religious and social organization.

The Lok Sabha constituency falling entirely in the district came into being in 1962 by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961. The Akali Dal captured the seat in the fourth and sixth general elections in 1967 and 1977. For the Vidhan Sabha, the party won 3 out of 11 seats in the District in the first general elections in 1952. In the mid-term elections in 1954, it won 2 out of 11 Vidhan Sabha seats. In the third general elections held in 1962, it won 1 seat out of 7, and in 1969, in the mid-term elections, it captured 5 Vidhan Sabha seats out of 9 in the district. Likewise in the fourth and fifth general elections to the Vidhan Sabha, in 1967 and 1972, it won 4 and 3 seats, respectively, out of 9 seats. In the sixth and seventh general elections held in 1977 and 1980, it captured 6 seats out of 10 in each election.

The position of different parties in the Lok Sabha and in the Pepsu/Punjab Vidhan Sabha in the district, on the basis of General elections held from time to time is detailed in the following statement :—

Party Position in the Lok Sabha and PEPSU and Punjab Vidhan Sabha Elections in Sangrur District

Name of the party	Lok Sabha							PEPSU Vidhan Sabha	
	No. of seats won							First General Elections 1951-52	Mid-term General Elections 1954
	First General Elections 1951-52	Bye-Election 1955-56	Third General Elections 1962	Fourth General Elections 1967	Fifth General Elections 1971	Sixth General Elections 1977	Seventh General Elections 1980	First General Elections 1951-52	Mid-term General Elections 1954
All India Parties									
Indian National Congress	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	6	6
Communist Party of India	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praja Socialist Party	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Republican Party	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Janata Party	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Parties									
Akali Dal	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2
K. M. P. P.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Lal Communist	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Independents including recognised parties	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total No. of seats in the district	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11

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Name of the party	Punjab Vidhan Sabha									
	Number of seats won									
	Second General Elections 1957	Third General Elections 1962	Fourth General Elections 1967	Mid-Term Elections 1969	Bye-Elections 1970	Fifth General Elections 1972	Sixth General Elections 1977	Seventh General Elections 1980		
All India Parties										
Indian National Congress	5	3	3	3	—	3	—	2		
Communist Party of India	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	1		
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	1		
Praja Socialist Party	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Republican Party	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Janata Party	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
State Parties										
Akali Dal	—	1	4	5	1	3	6	6		
K. M. P. P.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Lal Communist	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Independents including recognised parties	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—		
Total No. of seats in the district	7	7	9	9	1	9	10	10		

(Source : Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh and his publications entitled *Reports on General Elections, Punjab, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1969, 1972 and Election Commission of India, New Delhi*)

(c) Newspapers and Periodicals

Periodicals deal with news items and current affairs besides reflecting popular opinion to a large extent. Some of these also contain information on science, history, morality, nature study, etc. Periodicals published in the district in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, etc. have not made much progress. There is, at present, no daily newspaper published from this district. The other periodicals such as weekly, monthly, etc. have also relatively less circulation in the district compared to that in other districts.

The particulars in respect of the periodicals published in the Sangrur District are as follows :—

Periodicals published in Sangrur District as on 31 March 1978

Serial No.	Name of periodical	Place of publication	Year when started	Language	Circulation
WEEKLIES					
1	Civic News	Sangrur	1974	Punjabi	..
2	Navjiwan	Sangrur	1973	Punjabi English	1500-+ 300 free
3	Lady Raj	Malerkotla	—	Punjabi Urdu	—
4	Sadai Ahla Punjab	Do	—	Urdu	—
5	Hindi Rah	Barnala	—	Hindi	—
MONTHLIES					
6	Preet Pattari	Barnala	1971	Punjabi	N. S.
7	Sapanna	Barnala	1970	Punjabi	N. S.
8	Indian Doctor	Barnala	1955	Punjabi English Hindi	1991

NON-INCLUDED CATEGORY PAPERS

QUARTERLIES

9	Muhandra	Barnala	1968	Multilingual	—
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Serial No.	Name of periodicals	Place of publication	Year when started	Language	Circulation
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HALF-YEARLIES

10	Stream	Barnala	1960	English Hindi and Punjabi	520
11	Ranbir	Sangrur	1945	English Hindi Punjabi and Sanskrit	2,000

ANNUALS

12	Manogya	Barnala	1973	Hindi, Punjabi and English	
13	Udham Jyoti	Sunam	1971	Punjabi, Hindi, and English	500

(Source : Press in India, 1976, 20th Annual Report of the Registrar of Newspapers for India Under the Press and Registration of Books Act, Part II (New Delhi, 1976) pp. 389—417; and District Public Relations Officer, Sangrur)

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
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NEWSPAPERS

1	The Tribune	Chandigarh	English	Daily
2	Indian Express	„	English	„

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/periodical	Place of publication	Language	Periodicity
3	The Hindustan Times	New Delhi	English	Daily
4	The Times of India	"	"	"
5	The Statesman	"	"	"
6	The National Herald	"	"	"
7	Ajit	Jalandhar	Punjabi	"
8	Akali Patrika	"	"	"
9	Nawan Zamana	"	"	"
10	Hindi Milap	"	Hindi	"
11	Punjab Kesri	"	"	"
12	Vir Pratap	"	"	"
13	Dainik Tribune	Chandigarh	"	"
14	Hind Samachar	Jalandhar	Urdu	"
15	Nav Bharat Times	Delhi	Hindi	"
16	Milap	Jalandhar	Urdu	"
17	Ranjit	Patiala	Punjabi	"
18	Pratap	Jalandhar	Urdu	"
19	Lok Lehr	"	Punjabi	"
20	Jagbani	"	"	"
21	Chardikala	Patiala	"	"
22	Punjab Tribune	Chandigarh	"	"

PERIODICALS

1	Illustrated Weekly of India	Bombay	English	Weekly
2	Filmfare	Bombay	English	Fortnightly
3	Femina	"	"	"
4	Dharmyug	"	Hindi	Weekly

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/periodical	Place of publication	Language	Periodicity
5	Sarita	New Delhi	Hindi	Fortnightly
6	Sushma	New Delhi	Hindi	"
7	Preet Lari	Prit Nagar (District Amritsar)	Punjabi	Monthly
8	Tasvir	Jalandhar	"	"
9	Shama	New Delhi	Urdu	"
10	Blitz	Bombay	English	Weekly
11	Mirror	"	"	Monthly
12	Link	New Delhi	"	Weekly
13	Lot Pot	"	Hindi	"
14	Mayapuri	"	"	"
15	Chandamama	Madras	Hindi Punjabi etc.	Monthly
16	The Competition Master	Chandigarh	English	Monthly
17	Nandan	New Delhi	Hindi	"
18	Employment News	New Delhi	English	Weekly
19	Sunday	Calcutta	"	"
20	Sports Week	Bombay	English	"
21	Bhawani Journal	"	"	Fortnightly
22	Caravan	Delhi	"	"
23	India To-day	"	"	"
24	Art of Living	Amritsar	English	Monthly
25	Reader's Digest	Bombay	English	"
26	Competition Success Review	Delhi	"	"
27	Current Topics	Ambala Cantt.	"	"
28	Science To-day	Bombay	"	"
29	Science Reporter	Delhi	English	Monthly

Serial No.	Name of newspaper/ periodical	Place of Publication	Language	Periodicity
30	Surya	New Delhi	English	Monthly
31	Vivekanand Kendra Patrika	Madras	"	Bi-annually
32	<i>Punjabi Dunian</i>	Patiala	Punjabi	Monthly
33	<i>Aarsi</i>	Delhi	Punjabi	Monthly
34	<i>Bal Sandesh</i>	Prit Nagar (District Amritsar)	"	"
35	<i>Alkis</i>	Delhi	"	"
36	<i>Sachitre-Quami Eketa</i>	"	"	"
37	<i>Jan Sahit</i>	Patiala	Punjabi	"
38	<i>Jagriti</i>	Chandigarh	"	"
39	<i>Neelmani</i>	Delhi	"	"
40	<i>Sahit Samachar</i>	Ludhiana	"	"
41	<i>Changi Kheti</i>	Ludhiana (P.A.U.)	"	"
42	<i>Inderjall Komics</i>	Bombay	Hindi	Weekly
43	<i>Sarika</i>	"	"	Fortnightly
44	<i>Champit</i>	New Delhi	"	"
45	<i>Manorma</i>	"	Hindi	"
46	<i>Prag</i>	Delhi	"	Monthly
47	<i>Kahani</i>	Alahabad	"	Monthly
48	<i>Kalyan</i>	Gorkhpur (U.P.)	"	"
49	<i>Savasth Aur Jiwan</i>	Poona	"	"
50	<i>Vishiv Joti</i>	Hoshiarpur	"	"
51	<i>Navneet</i>	Bombay	"	"
52	<i>Beesvin Sadi</i>	New Delhi	Urdu	Monthly
53	<i>Sikh Review</i>	Calcutta	English	"

(d) Voluntary Social Service Organizations

The voluntary social service organizations are helpful where the State is unable to meet demands of the individual. There are a number of voluntary social service organizations in the district serving social needs of the people in a variety of ways. These organizations play an important role in the educational, social and cultural development of the community. They also provide welfare activities for children, women, the aged, the infirm, the handicapped, and other deserving sections of the society. A brief account of the important organizations functioning in the district is given below :

General Welfare Institutions

Bharat Sevak Samaj, Sangrur.—This association is affiliated to the Punjab State Bharat Sevak Samaj, Chandigarh, and subscribes to the ideals, functions and activities of the parent body. The Sangrur District Branch was opened at Sangrur in 1957-58. The Samaj organizes social service camps in rural areas and renders help in rural development programmes, family planning programmes and setting up of *balwadis* for children and craft centres for women.

Bharatiya Mahavir Dal.—It was formed at Barnala in 1948 to render various types of social service to the society. Its volunteers render assistance in making arrangements for water at the fairs and festivals held at different places in the district. The volunteers of the organization also help the authorities to maintain discipline and to guide the people at congregations. Besides, it renders help to the people in free eye camps.

Shri Sanatan Dharam Mahabir Dal, Sangrur.—With its headquarters at Chandigarh, this organization is registered with Shri Sanatan Dharam Mahabir Dal, Punjab. Established in Shri Sanatan Dharam Mahabir Dal, Sangrur, has been rendering voluntary services in religious, social, and cultural fields. It has about 250 volunteers and branches at Sangrur, Dhuri, Bhawanigarh, Sunam, Barnala, Tapa, Bhadaur, Malerkotla, Ahmedgarh, etc. The volunteers of Dal assist the authorities in the maintenance of law and order at different fairs and festivals; they also render help during natural calamities and war.

Other Organizations

Adh Shakti Dal, Barnala.—This organization has been functioning in the district since 1976. It sends volunteers for making arrangements for drinking water at the religious fairs which are held at different places in the district. Besides, it also arranged a free eye camp in 1978.

Physical Development Centre, Barnala.—Established in 1976, it arranges physical exercises for children to make their body healthy and mind sound. It also arranged a free eye camp in 1978.

Shri Sohan Lal Seva Samiti, Barnala.—It has been functioning in the district since 1942. It sends volunteers for making arrangements for drinking water at religious fairs besides rendering help in providing other services. It arranges a free eye camp every year.

Organizations of National or International Repute

There are a number of organizations of national or international repute, which are established elsewhere but have their branches in the district. Some of such organizations are described below:

The Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch, Sangrur.—The Sangrur District branch of the Indian Red Cross Society was constituted on 2 January 1957 under the Indian Red Cross Society Act XV of 1920. The Branch is now headed by the Deputy Commissioner as its President and its day-to-day work is carried on with the sanction and approval of the Executive Committee, which has official and non-officials as its members. The Civil Surgeon, Sangrur, is its Honorary Vice-President. The General Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner is its Honorary Secretary.

Among the important activities of the Branch are institutional services; aid to the poor, needy and widows; provision of artificial limbs, tricycles and prosthesis to the handicapped persons. Besides assistance to students, help is rendered to the affected people, when the district is visited by floods or other natural calamities. Its Hospital Welfare Section provides amenities and medicines to indoor patients besides giving equipment as gift for hospitals for the benefit of patients. It also trains persons in first-aid and home-nursing and forms Ambulance and Nursing Divisions to render collective service at public gatherings, functions, etc.

The main sources of income of the society are: collection from Lucky Bag Draws, District Relief Fund, membership subscriptions, contributions, donations, etc. Some of the services rendered by the District Red Cross Society are detailed below:

It runs 7 trained dai centres on which it spends about Rs 28,000 annually for their maintenance. A building for dispensary at village Gidderiani has been constructed by the Society at a cost of Rs 50,000. With the assistance of Government of India and State Government, it is setting up 25-bedded hospitals at villages Thikriwala, Chhappa, Dhilwan and Mandvi, besides two other 25 bedded hospitals at Kothala and

Cheema. It also proposed to build hospitals for working women at Sangrur and Malerkotla. At the Training Centre for Destitute Women at Malerkotla, the branch gave training to 50 needy women in two training courses, each of 6 months duration. They were taught sewing, knitting cutting, etc. for their rehabilitation. Financial assistance of Rs 50 and a sewing machine was given to each of the trainees. It also helps the authorities in blood donation motivational programmes. During 1979, it helped in collecting 65,400 c.c. of blood.

The Sangrur Branch gave financial assistance for organising 4 free eye camps with the co-ordination of Charanji Lal Memorial Welfare Society. At these camps, 500 operations were performed and medical care was given to 1,300 patients. A medical check-up camp was held at village Gidderiani. Medicines were given free of cost to deserving patients. At Sangrur, an immunisation camp was held chiefly for the benefit of children in 1979.

In 1978, the Branch contributed Rs 10,000 for cyclone-affected people of Andhra Pradesh, Rs 2,500 for relief work in Punjab, besides a large number of linen and clothes. During the last 2 years (1978 and 1979) it spent Rs 1,50,000 in helping other organisations doing welfare work and for welfare of needy persons, students, leprosy patients, handicapped persons, widows etc. Ceiling fans were given by the Branch as gift to schools.

The Branch trained more than 11,500 persons in first-aid and home-nursing during 1978 and 1979. It maintains 5 active Ambulance Divisions, which render aid to fairs and public gatherings. Thirty-eight first aid posts are maintained mostly in rural areas of the district and one ambulance car for transporting patients operates from Sangrur. In 1978, it secured 2nd position both in first-aid and home-nursing training in the State.

Rotary Clubs at Malerkotla and Barnala.—With its headquarters in the U.S.A., the Rotary Club is an international organization, whose motto is 'Service above Self'. It is a type of brotherhood to serve the humanity snation, country and above all, the world.

There are Rotary Clubs at Malerkotla and Barnala, the activities of each of which are described below:

The Rotary Club, Malerkotla was established in 1970. It renders useful service to the town in the form of eye camps. It arranged two eye operation camps upto 31 March 1978 and an amount of Rs 8,000 was spent on these camps. Every year, it donates a sum of Rs 12,000 to the Home for Blind and Disabled, Malerkotla.

The Rotary Club, Barnala and Behno Club, Barnala, were established in 1975. These clubs arrange free camps of immunization of children against polio.

Lions Club, Sangrur.—It was established on 2 April 1977 with 39 members. It has now 41 members. It is an international organisation whose aim is the uplift and welfare of the needy and the down-trodden. It has, for this purpose, undertaken certain projects for the benefit of the less fortunate, the lowly, and the lost. It makes arrangements, for a free cold-water *rehri* at the Sangrur Bus Stand, which benefits more than 5 lakh people in summer; ice for this purpose is supplied free of cost by some members of the club throughout the summer season.

Besides, it organizes blood donation camps to donate blood to the District Red Cross Blood Bank Society and visits the local lepers colony to distribute medicines, surgical cotton and bandages. It sometimes contributes some funds for the cyclone-affected people.

The Lions Club is inspired by the Integrated Rural Development Programme. It has proposed to move to the rural sector as well. The nearest focal point, at village Bhindra, has been adopted for extending its activities in all the villages of this focal point. Such activities include sight and conservation programme, child health care, distribution of books and stationery to the poor students of all schools in all the villages. One poorest child in every school in every village has been adopted as a ward either by the club or by its members, and he is provided with schools fees, books and stationery, clothes etc.

Lions Club, Malerkotla.—Established on 3 April 1978, it renders useful service to the needy and deserving persons. It arranges eye operation camps. The organization helps the cyclon-affected people and donates some funds to the needy primary schools.

Lions Club, Barnala.—Established in 1975, it arranges free eye camps and helps in immunising children against polio.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

(a) Introductory

The district in general is rural region in the southern part of the State. Situated west of Patiala, it is virtually isolated from urban centre of the State. The most populous from the district is Malerkotla which too has population less than 1 lakh (65,759 persons).

The district can hardly boast of any place of tourist interest, although there are a few places of some historical or religious importance. The people by and large are Godfearing and have maintained *gurdwaras* and *mandirs* of historical importance. Given in the following pages are the places/villages, which according to local sources are known to have some historical, religious or even superstitious importance. Apart from these places, there are a few others which are developing as agricultural, marketing, industrial or trading nucleus of the district.

Ahmedgarh.—Falling in the Malerkotla Tahsil, Ahmedgarh is a sub-tahsil. It was founded by Nawab Ahmed Ali Khan of Malerkotla in 1905. It lies about 18 km north of Malerkotla on the Sangrur-Ludhiana road. It is 50 km from Sangrur, the district headquarters, 26 km from Ludhiana and 98 km from Chandigarh. It is a railway station on the Ludhiana-Jakhal railway line.

Ahmedgarh is an important agricultural market. The main crops brought to this market are paddy & wheat. Being close to two industrial towns of Malerkotla and Ludhiana, a number of small-scale industries are being set up in and around this town too. *khurpas*, *kahis* and *daties* and a few modern agricultural implements manufactured here are well known in the area.

There are a M.G.M.N. Higher Secondary School for boys, two high schools for girls, a civil dispensary, a Zimindara Rest House and a post and telegraph office at Ahmedgarh.

A class III municipal committee has been functioning in the town since 1924. Its population as per 1981 Census was 16,673 persons, as against 12,499 in 1971.

Akoi.—Situated in the Sangrur Tahsil on the Malerkotla-Sangrur road, village Akoi lies about 5 km north of Sangrur, the district headquarters.

In the village, there is a *gurudwara* said to be associated with the visits of Guru Nanak Dev, Guru Hargobind and Guru Tegh Bahadur, the first, sixth and ninth Sikh Gurus respectively. It is said that Guru Nanak Dev visited this place after visiting Nankiana. The sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind also stayed here about seven months. He blessed the place that milk will be available here in abundance, and his words are proving true. Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru is also said to have visited this place on way to Delhi.

Maharaja Hira Singh of erstwhile princely state of Nabha, constructed the building of the *gurudwara*. This old building is being demolished and the new one is coming up. Three hundred & twenty-five *bighas* of land in Khilrian, Badrukhan and Akoi villages belongs to the *gurudwara*.

The village has a primary school, a primary health centre and a veterinary dispensary. A Government poultry farm is also functioning in the village.

The inhabitants of the village are mostly Khangoora Jats.

Badrukhan—Badrukhan is about 5 km from Sangrur, the district headquarters, on Sangrur-Barnala road. There are two versions about the nomenclature of the village. One is that it was named after Badru, a pandit of this village, by Raja Gajpat Singh. Another version, which is more believable is that when Raja Gajpat Singh took control of these villages, (Vada Agwarh, Vichla Agwarh, Dalamwal, Dhaliwas and Thagan wali Patti) at that time very big trees *Rukh* (ਰੁੱਖ) were standing here on the basis of which it came to be called Badrukhan *Bade* (ਬੜੇ) *rukhan* (ਰੁੱਖ).

The present village Badrukhan consists of five small villages, which, during the times of Raja Gajpat Singh, were amalgamated and came to be known as Badrukhan. Prior to it, these villages were in Badbar *thana* and were being ruled by Nawab of Malerkotla. The residents of these villages were feeling insecure on account of the dacoities committed by Muslims. The leaders of these five villages, under the leadership of Pandit Badru, approached Gajpat Singh, the Maharaja of Jind, for their security and gave him 1700 *bighas* of land. Maharaja Gajpat Singh amalgamated these villages and named it Badrukhan. In 1763, when Gajpat Singh captured the town of Jind, Badrukhan was made the capital of Jind State. He also built the fort here.

Badrukhan is believed to be the birth place of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Rāj Kaur, daughter of Gajpat Singh gave birth of Maharaja Ranjit Singh on 13 November 1780 here. Maharaja Hira Singh of Nabha was also born here. Lieutenant General (Retd.) Harbaksh Singh (Vir Chakra)

Major General Gurbaksh Singh (DSO & OBE) and Major Rajnit Singh also belong to this place.

In the village, there exists a *smadh* of Baba Guddar Shah who is said to have taken out the body of Ra Kaur, daughter of Maharaja Gajpat Singh buried in the large earthen vessel. Maharaja Gajpat Singh distributed large sweet thick cake of bread. Every year on the anniversary of Baba Guddar Shah, large sweet thick bread is baked and distributed as *prasad*.

The village has a Government high school, a 4-bedded subsidiary health centre and a post office. Its population, in the 1971 Census was 4,476 persons.

Bagrian.—Situated on the Malerkotla-Nabha road, Bagrian lies about 18 km south-east of Malerkotla. Though now in Malerkotla Tahsil, it was not a part of the Malerkotla Princely State but was being ruled by the British. Bagrian was given to *Bhais* of the village by Bhikhan Khan, the Rais of Malerkotla State, but it was captured by Britishers as the Sikhs of Bagrian were not in favour of the British.

There is a fort at Bagrian which was built by S. Arjan Singh in the beginning of the 20th century. The *Bhais* still run *langar* (free kitchen) here daily. This tradition of *langar* was started from the time of Sri Hargobind the sixth Guru. For the preparation of *langar* wet fuel is used. It is said that the sixth Guru blessed that even wet fuel would work.

In the fort, a *gurudwara* has been built whose design and size is that of Golden Temple.

At Bagrian, an industrial unit, namely 'Bagrian Shoes' for the manufacture of shoes is being set up, in the large-scale sector.

A government high school, a post office, a 4-bedded subsidiary health centre and a veterinary hospital are functioning here. Its population, in the 1971 Census, was 2,976 persons.

Barnala.—It is the headquarters of the subdivision and tahsil of the same name. A railway station on the Ambala-Bathinda railway line, Barnala is situated 37 km west of Sangrur on the Sangrur-Bathinda road. It is also connected by road with Ludhiana (76 km), Chandigarh (158 km) Moga (67 km) and Faridkot (90 km).

Baba Ala Singh, the founder of Patiala State, occupied it in 1722 when it was a small village and made it the capital of his rising principality till 1763, when the capital was shifted to Patiala. Ala Singh constructed

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a masonry wall around the town and built a fort, now known as Qila Mubarik, in the town. The fort now houses the courts of Additional District and Sessions Judge, etc. The town has well known agricultural market for the sale of wheat, paddy, cotton and maize. It is also known for the manufacture of modern agricultural implements. It is the birth place of S. Jita Singh, a contemporary of S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala. He laid down his life for the success of the Praja Mandal Movement and the uplift of depressed classes.

There are two government high schools, one each for boys and girls, 3 private high schools (two for boys and one for girls), 2 colleges, one each for boys and girls, civil hospital with 50 beds facilities and a P.W.D. Rest House, financing the facilities for suites.

A class I municipal committee has been functioning here since April 1979. Its population in the 1981 Census, was 45,203 persons as against 31,847 in 1971.

Bhadaur.—It was founded in 1718 by S. Duna Singh, brother of Maharaja Ala Singh of Patiala and since then it has remained the residence of the chiefs of Bhadaur.

It is situated at a distance of 27 km from Barnala on the Barnala-Jaito road. It is 64 km north-west of Sangrur, the district headquarters.

A fair known as *Mata Rani Ka Mela* is held here in the months of March-April which is dedicated to Shitla Mata, the goddess of small-pox. It is said that one Kirpa, a Balmiki by caste, got a temple built and the idol of Shitla installed therein. On this day people worship the deity and offer animals like sheep, pigs, and goats. A large number of people, both Hindus and Sikhs, attend this fair.

A *gurudwara* has been built in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh who is said to have visited this place. A fair is held here on Baisakhi day. It is also associated with the memory of Baba Charan Dass whose *smadh* exists here. A big tank has been constructed here; both Hindus and Sikhs take a dip in the tank.

There are two government high schools, one each for boys and girls and a 4 bedded civil dispensary at Bhadaur.

A class III municipal committee has been functioning here since 1956. Its population, in the 1981 Census, consisted of 13,331 persons as against 10,428 in 1971.

Bhawanigarh.—Situated at a distance of 19 km east of Sangrur, the district headquarters, on the Patiala-Sangrur road, Bhawanigarh is a sub-tahsil of the Sangrur Tahsil. It is also connected by road with Chandigarh (102 km), Patiala (37 km), Nabha (16 km) and Sunam (28 km).

Bhawanigarh was originally known as Dhodan, the name having been lent to it by Jats of Dhodan, a sub-clan of Bajha clan or *got*. Prior to independence, it was tahsil headquarters of Karamgarh Nizamat of Patiala Princely State.

As tradition has it, a sheep at the shrine of goddess Bhawani defended itself against two wolves, during the days of Baba Ala Singh who was prevailed upon by a *sadhu* to build on the spot a fort and name it Bhawanigarh. The fort was constructed in 1754.

There are a government higher secondary school for girls, a government high school for boys. A degree college and 4-bedded primary health centre at Bhawanigarh.

A class III Municipal Committee is functioning in the town since 1945. Its population, in the 1981 Census, was 12,976 as against 11,209 in 1971.

Bihla.—Situated at a distance of 13 km to the north-east of Barnala, Bihla falls in the Barnala Tahsil.

Every year, a fair is held here for three days from 27 to 29 November. The fair is associated with Baba Buddha, a Sikh saint who performed the 'Gurgaddi' ceremony to the first six Sikh Gurus. The inhabitants of the village claim themselves to be the descendants of Baba Buddha.

The village has a government high school, a subsidiary health centre and a post office. Its population, as per 1971 Census, was 3,377 persons.

Chak Bhai Ka.—It is in the Barnala Tahsil and is 18 km from Raikot (Ludhiana District) by pucca road.

Chak Bhai Ka is associated with Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru, who is said to have visited this place. A *gurudwara* has been built here where a fair is held on the Baisakhi day. A pair of shoes belonging to the Guru has been preserved in the *gurudwara* where the people assemble to have its *darshans*. People also take a holy dip in the tank on this day.

A primary school and a post office are functioning in the village. As per 1971 Census its population was 998 persons.

Cheema.—Situated at distance of 7 km west of Sunam; Cheema falls in Sangrur Tahsil and is 20 km south-west of Sangrur. It is the birth place of Sant Baba Attar Singh, who is revered equally by all sections of people in the area. Janam Asthan Gurudwara at Cheema has been constructed in his memory by his follower, Baba Teja Singh. This *gurudwara* has been constructed on the pattern of *gurudwara* Attal of Amritsar. It is a nine-storey building constructed after demolishing the old ancestral house of Sant Baba Attar Singh. A tank has also been constructed where people take bath. A fair is held at this place in the month of *chet* on the *amavas* (new moon) day, which is attended by a large number of his followers from far and near. Another *gurudwara* Nanaksar also exists here, which is said to have been constructed by Baba Attar Singh. Cheema has a government high school and a 25 bedded rural hospital. Its populations as per 1971 Census was 4,848 persons.

Dhadogal.—This village lies in the Malerkotla Tahsil and is 11 km from Dhuri on the Dhuri-Nabha road.

A fair is held at this place to commemorate the martyrdom of Bhagat Singh of this village. He was a co-worker of Sardar Sewa Singh of Thikriwala. He agitated for the freedom of the people and worked against the Britishers and then against the ruler of erstwhile Patiala State. He was jailed by the then Maharaja of Patiala and sent to Narnaul where he died. His dead body was brought to this village for funeral rites. This fair is held from the 24th of *sawan* (July-August) for three days and a large number of people attend this fair. Besides, a fair known as Gugga Naumi is also held on *Bhadon Badi 9* (August-September) for one day at this place and about 20,000 people attend it.

The village has a government middle school and 4-bedded subsidiary health centre. Its population, in the 1971 Census was 2,031 persons.

Dhanaula.—Situated 18 km west of Sangrur, the district headquarters, Dhanaula lies on the Sangrur-Barnala road. It falls in the Barnala Tahsil and is about 8 km from Barnala.

Dhanaula was founded by Gurditta, eldest son of Taloka, in 1775 Bikrami (A.D. 1718). It remained the capital of erstwhile Princely State of Nabha upto 1755 when Raja Hamir Singh founded Nabha town and made it the capital of the State. He also built a fort here which now houses the police station of Dhanaula.

A temple of Hanuman exists here. It is said that a man was digging a ditch and found an idol of Hanuman. A temple was constructed at that place, the idol was placed there, and the people began to worship

it. A fair known as Hanuman *Mela* is held in the temple on every Tuesday.

Durga Mela, dedicated to goddess Durga, is also held in March-April and September-October for one day each. Some people perform the first hair-cutting of their children here.

In the memory of a *pir* whose tomb exists here, a fair is held in the *Pir Khan da dera* on the first Thursday of *Bhadon* (August-September), *Magher* (November-December) and *Phagan* (February-March) for one day.

There are two government high schools, one each for boys and girls and 130 bedded rural hospital, and a police station at Dhanaula.

A cattle fair is also held here. Its population, as per the 1981 Census, was 13,885 persons as against 11,877 in 1971.

Dhilwan (Nabha).—Situated at a distance of 25 km from Barnala, Dhilwan falls in Barnala Tahsil and is 4 km north of Tapa on the Tapa-Moga road. It is called Dhilwan (Nabha) because earlier it formed part of the Nabha Princely State.

It is associated with the visit of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru. Gurudwara Damdama Sahib has been built here in the memory of the Guru, who is said to have stayed here for 9 days. A fair is held here for two days on the Baisakhi day. On this occasion, people take bath in the tank built near the *gurudwara*. Religious discourses, poetical conferences and games are held at the fair.

Its population in the 1971 Census was 2,501 persons. A government high school, a post office, 25 bedded rural hospital and a veterinary hospital are functioning in the village.

Dhuri.—Situated at a distance of 14 km from Sangrur, the district headquarters, it is a railway junction on the Ludhiana-Jakhal and Bathinda-Ambala railway lines. It is also well connected by road with Ludhiana (61 km), Chandigarh (126 km), and Malerkotla (18 km). Dhuri is a sub-tahsil of the Malerkotla Tahsil.

Dhuri is fast developing town. A sugar mill in the co-operative sector is functioning here. A number of small-scale industrial units engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements have been established here. It is also famous for the manufacture of steel furniture.

There are a private higher secondary school for boys, two government high schools, one each for boys and girls, two private high schools

for boys, one civil hospital with 31 beds facility, one Northern Railway Health Unit with 5 beds facility, one Vardhman Mahavir Jain Charitable Eye Hospital, with 18 beds, one Zimindara Rest House and a Warehousing Godown at Dhuri.

Constituted as small town committee in 1945, it is now a class II municipal committee since 1954. Its population as per the 1981 Census was 27,094 as against 19,300 in 1971.

Gharachon.—Situated in Sangrur Tahsil on the Sangrur-Patiala road, it is 11 km east of Sangrur and 10 km south-west of Bhawanigarh.

A fair known as *mela kuti* is held on *Phagan Sudi 3* (February-March) for three days. The legend goes that about 5,000 years ago there lived one Baba Faqiria. Once he was sitting on a wall and Emperor Shah Jahan riding on a horse happened to pass that way. Baba Faqiria by his spiritual powers made the wall to walk along with the Emperor's horse. Astonished at this miracle, the Emperor touched feet of the Baba and gave him 12 *bighas* of land in village Gharachon. The Baba constructed his *kuti* (hut) there where a *mela* is held every year.

A government high school for boys, 4 bedded subsidiary health centre and a post office are functioning in the village. Its population as per the 1971 Census was 3,584 persons.

Hadiaya.—Situated in the Barnala Tahsil, it lies at a distance of about 5 km south of Barnala, the tahsil headquarters.

It was a tahsil in the erstwhile Nizamat of Anahadgarh (Barnala). Hadiaya was founded by Baba Subha, the brother of Baba Ala Singh of Patiala some 275 years ago. Hadiaya means the market of *hundis*. This tiny village was once of great commercial importance which it gradually lost to the up coming town of Barnala. This place has become of some interest since 1965 when a double-storey house sank into the ground all at once and several other buildings thereafter have met the same fate.

There is a *gurudwara* associated with Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, who is said to have visited this place in 1722 *Bikrami* (1665AD), and sat under a tree. At that time a fatal disease had broken in the village. A patient came to the Guru and told about his disease. The Guru told him to take bath in the *chhappar* (pond) in which hides were washed. The patient was hesitant to take bath. The Guru himself took bath in it and brought out some mud and blessed that it is a tank of Guru, whosoever will take bath with devotion will be cured. All the inhabitants took bath in it and were cured. People assemble here on the *amavas* day of every month for a holy dip in the tank.

Fairs are also held on *amavas* and *purnmashi* every month for one day each in the memory of a saint, Sant Kaleranwale, in whose honour a *gurudwara* has also been constructed here.

A fair known as Durga Ka Mela is also held for one day in the temple dedicated to goddess Durga in the months of March-April and September-October. The people perform *mundan* ceremony of their children in this temple.

There are a government high school for boys, 4 bedded subsidiary health centre and a canal rest house at Hadiaya.

Its population in the 1971 Census, was 7,363 persons.

Jandali.—Situated on the bank of Bathinda Branch of Sirhind Canal, Jandali Kalan lies 5 km south-east of Ahmedgarh. It falls in Malerkotla Tahsil.

There exists a *gurudwara* called Damdama Sahib said to be associated with the visit of the Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru who took rest here after hunting. He is said to have continuously visited this place for six months, for taking rest and that is why this place is known as Damdama Sahib. It is said that while fighting with the army of Ahmed Shah Abdali, a group of Sikhs led by Sardar Nahar Singh was killed at this place.

It is only after 1947 that a small building of the *gurudwara* was built. Now a more spacious building of the *gurudwara* is coming up. Its foundation stone was laid down by Sant Ishar Singh Rarewale on 9 March 1966. A large number of people especially from Doaba area visit this place. A fair on the *Dashmi* of each month is held at this place and is attended by a large number of persons. An annual fair on the *Dashmi* of *Magh* (December-January) is also held here.

The population of this village as per 1971 Census was 1,078 persons.

Kup.—This village falls in Malerkotla Tahsil and is 8 km south-east of Ahmedgarh and 12 km north of Malerkotla, the tahsil headquarters on the Ludhiana-Jakhal railway line. A *gurudwara* exists here in the memory of 30,000 Sikhs who were killed while fighting with the army of Ahmed Shah Abdali on 28 *Maghar* 1818 *Bikrami* (A.D. 1761). The Sikhs fought under the command of S. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, S. Jassa Singh Ramgaria,

S. Charat Singh Shukarchakia, S. Sham Singh, Baba Dip Singh Shahid, S. Baghel Singh Kroria etc. Ahmed Shah Abdali who was fed up with the Sikhs instructed his appointed Commissioners of Jalandhar, Sirhind, and Malerkotla to stop the Sikhs from advancing toward the Satluj. Thus stopped, the Sikhs were then attacked by Ahmed Shah Abdali with two lakh persons. When the Sikhs reached near Raipur (Ludhiana), the *subedars* of Sirhind, Jalandhar, and Nawab of Malerkotla etc. stopped the Sikhs from advancing further. As a result a large number of Sikhs were killed.

There are a private high school and a 10 bedded rural hospital at Kup.

A large fair is held here in the month of October. Its population in the 1971 Census was 1,826 persons.

Kutba Bahammia.—It is in the Barnala Tahsil and lies about 6 km west of Malerkotla and 6 km south of Dhanaula.

At this place, a *gurudwara* has been built to commemorate the memory of 30,000 sikhs who were killed while fighting with the forces of Ahmed Shah Abdali. A big fair is held here in the month of February each year.

A middle school, a subsidiary health centre, and a veterinary hospital is functioning here. Its population as per the 1971 Census was 1,103 persons.

Ladda.—Situated in Malerkotla Tahsil, it is about 6 km south of Dhuri and 6 km north of Sangrur on the Sangrur-Malerkotla road.

A fair of Gugga Naumi is held at this place on Bhadon Badi 9 (August-September) for one day. The legend goes that somebody brought two bricks from the *Gugga marhi* of Bagar. He placed these bricks in his fields and the next morning when he came to lift these bricks he could not do it despite attempts. People regarded it as miracle and a fair began to be held at this place. The *marhi* was later on re-built by the Nawab of Malerkotla.

The village has a high school, a canal dispensary (4 bedded), a veterinary dispensary and a post office.

Its population as per 1971 Census was 2,523 persons.

Lehragaga.—Situated on the Ludhiana—Jakhal railway line, Lehragaga is a sub-tahsil of Sunam Tahsil. By road it is 26 km south of Sunam, 46 km from Sangrur, 90 km from Patiala and 155 km from Chandigarh. It is also linked by pucca road with Patran (14 km) and Jakhal (14 km).

Lehragaga consists of two villages, Lehra and Gaga. A *gurudwara* exists at Gaga which is associated with the visit of Guru Tegh Bahadur the ninth Sikh Guru, on his way to Delhi.

In Lehragaga, monkeys are found in abundance but they are not killed by the people. It is also called 'Lehra Bandran da'. The main crops in the area are wheat, cotton, groundnut and *bajra*. Paddy is also grown but in less quantity.

Lehragaga is a block headquarter. A class II municipal committee has been functioning here since 19 September 1956. There are two high schools here, one each for boys and girls. A dispensary and a veterinary dispensary are also functioning here. A P.W.D. rest house and a Zimindara Rest House has also been constructed here.

Its population as per the 1981 Census was 12,238 persons.

Longowal.—Known earlier as Lalgah, lies 18 km south-west of Sangrur on the Sangrur-Barnala road. It falls in the Sangrur Tahsil. This town was founded by Baba Ala Singh, the founder of the Patiala State.

Bhai Mani Singh, who sacrificed his life by getting the joints of his body cut by the Muslim rulers, hailed from this place. A *gurudwara* has been built here where a fair is held on Maghar 27 (November-December) for three days to commemorate the martyrdom of Bhai Mani Singh.

Sardar Bhagwan Singh who was one of the founders of Praja Mandal, was the resident of Longowal. He sacrificed his life for liberation of the oppressed people of the princely state. Longowal is also the birthplace of Giani Gian Singh, a noted Sikh historian.

There are two government high schools one each for boys and girls, a 30 bedded rural hospital, a primary health centre, a post and telegraph office and a canal rest house at Longowal.

At Longowal, a class II municipal committee is functioning since September 1956. Its population as per the 1981 Census was 12,976 persons.

Mastuana.—Situated at a distance of 6 km west of Sangrur on the Sangrur-Barnala road, Mastuana was built by Sant Attar Singh, a pious man of Cheema. It is named after Mastu, a Jat, who donated his forest land to the saint. Sant Baba Attar Singh constructed a gurudwara, Gursagar, and a tank here. He also started a high school here. Now a degree college has also been functioning here since 1920. A *jor mela* is held here for three days on 29, 30 and 31 January every year. Sant Baba Attar Singh was cremated here and a big congregation is held on 3 July every year.

There are a degree college, a private higher secondary school for boys and a 4 bedded subsidiary health centre at Mastuana.

Malerkotla.—Headquarters of the tahsil/subdivision of the same name, Malerkotla is situated on the Ludhiana—Sangrur road at a distance of 32 km north of Sangrur, the district headquarters. It is also connected by road with Ludhiana (43 km) Chandigarh (123 km) Nabha (51 km) Patiala, etc. It is a railway station on the Ludhiana—Jakhal railway line.

The town of Malerkotla was divided into two parts—Maler and Kotla. The Maler has probably been named after Malher Singh who is said to have been ruling here. He is said to have constructed a *kachha* fort here which was called Malhergarh. It is also said that Malher (now Maler) was founded by Sadr-u-Din in 1466 who was a Sarwani Afghan of Daraband. He was a very pious man and a disciple of Pir Rukhan Alam of Multan (Pakistan). He left the *pir* and settled at Bhumsi in the remains of the Malhergarh. Behlol Lodhi stayed here on way to Delhi and met Sadr-ud-Din and was so impressed with him that when he became the king of Delhi, he married his daughter Taj with Sadr-ud-Din alongwith 68 villages in dowry. Around the hut of Sadr-u-Din emerged *basti*. It was named Malher after the fort Malhergarh, which later on came to be known as Maler.

The Kotla portion of Malerkotla was established by Bayazid Khan in 1656 in the south of Maler. It was a walled town with a number of gates. These gates were closed at night. The distance between Maler and Kotla has been linked by constructing Moti Bazar in 1901-02 by Nawab Ahmed Ali Khan. It was earlier named Kotla Maler and later on named Maler-Kotla.

Malerkotla town was capital of the erstwhile princely State of Malerkotla, prior to the formation of PEPSU on 1 September 1948 when it was made a tahsil of the Barnala District of PEPSU. Again in 1956, when PEPSU was merged with Punjab it was made a tahsil of Sangrur District and since then it has continued to be so.

There are a government college, two government high schools one each for boys and girls, 5 private high schools, 4 for boys and one for girls, a 50 bedded civil hospital, a 4 bedded urban slum area dispensary, one E.S.I. dispensary, one 5 bedded Dr. Daya Krishan Jain Janta Hospital, one P.W.D. and one Zamindara Rest House at Malerkotla.

A municipal committee has been functioning here since 1905. It is now a class I municipality. Its population as per the 1981 Census was 65,759 persons.

Malerkotla is the only industrial town of worth the name in the district. A large number of small-scale industrial units are functioning in the town. It is now well known for the manufacture of a few cycle parts, agricultural implements. Similarly in the field of agriculture, especially growing of vegetables, Malerkotla is a famous place. The cauliflower of this area is marketed throughout Punjab. *Methi* of the area is also of high quality and is famous for its taste and odour.

A fair is held on January 17 and 18 for two days every year to commemorate the martyrdom of 66 Namdharis during the anti-cow slaughter movement. Under the orders of the British authority, 49 Namdharis were blown away with canons and one cut down by sword on 17 January 1872 without trial. Another sixteen were blown away by canons after summary trial on 18 January 1872.

A fair known as Mela Hazrat Sheikh Sadr-u-Din is also held in May-June and September-October for one day each in the memory of Sheikh Sadr-u-Din who founded the Malerkotla State during the time of Behlol Lodhi. People belonging to all communities attend this fair. Visitors from other districts also come to attend this fair. Offerings of he-goats are also made.

The other places worth seeing in Malerkotla town are :

Sheesh Mahal

It was the residence of the Nawab of Malerkotla. In this palace, glass has been used extensively hence known as Sheesh Mahal.

Jama Masjid

This Masjid is an old building of the town built during the times of princely state. It is still very well maintained.

Moonak.—Situated on the bank of Ghaggar River at a distance of 45 km south of Sunam. Moonak lies on the Jakhhal-Patiala road. It is 5 km from Jakhhal (Haryana) by road. It is a sub-tahsil of the Sunam Tahsil. Prior to the formation of PEPSU, it was in the erstwhile princely state of Patiala. It was also called Akalgarh. In 1916, it was the headquarters of the court of appeal and continued to be so till 1946. Maharaja Karam Singh of Patiala was married at Moonak.

There is an old fort 'Qila Mubarik' said to have been built in the Muslim period. In the fort, there was a well whose water was not good for health. Hardened prisoners of Patiala State were sent to this place where they died after a few days. Peacocks are found here in abundance, and they move about quite freely. They are neither caught nor killed by the people.

There is a *gurudwara* associated with the visit of Guru Teg Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru. A tank has also been built where people take bath.

Two high schools (one for boys and one for girls), a 30-bedded rural hospital, a veterinary dispensary, a sub-treasury, a post and telegraph office and a telephone exchange are functioning here.

Wheat, gram, oil seeds, cotton and paddy are the crops grown in the area.

Its population as per the Census of 1971 was 6,562 persons.

Mulowal—Situated at a distance of 13 km west of Dhuri, Mulowal lies on the Dhuri-Barnala road. It falls in the Barnala Tahsil, some 15 km east of Barnala. This place is associated with the visits of Guru Teg Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, and Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru. Guru Teg Bahadur is said to have stayed here for four days and laid the foundation of *Gurudwara Manji Sahib* by laying four bricks and blessed that whosoever will look after this place will be bestowed with all happiness. A small pond existed on the way to village Sekha

where Guru Teg Bahadur used to bath. He blessed that whosoever will have a dip in this pond on the *amavas* day, all his sufferings will vanish. A brick laid by the Guru has been recovered from the pond on which the following words have been engraved:—

ੴ ਤਾਲ ਦੁਖ ਭੰਜਨ ਇਕ ਸਦੀ ਮੈਂ ਪਰਗਟ ਹੋ ।

21 ਪੋਹ 1720 (17 January 1663)

A *hukmnama* said to have been of Guru Gobind Singh dated 15 *Poh* 1761 *Sambat* (December-January 1704) is also preserved here. It was found when the building of the old *gurudwara* was being demolished and new one was being constructed. It is written in the *hukmnama*, that Guru Gobind Singh will appear at this place every year here on 15 *Poh* (December-January).

A big fair is held on 15 *Poh* every year. People assemble here on *amavas* day every month.

Ranike.—Situated at a distance of 8 km west of Dhuri, Ranike lies on the Dhuri-Barnala road. There exists an ancient Shiv Mandir in the village. It is said that Shivaling appeared at this place. On the Shivratri day, a large fair is held at this place. A large number of people from Haryana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh also come here for worship and offer water to Shivaling. About 50,000 people gather here on this day. It is said that childless women, if they stay for a pre-shivratri night at this place and worship Shiva, are blessed with a child.

Sangrur.—Headquarters of the district and tahsil of the same name. Sangrur is situated on the Ludhiana-Jakhhal railway line. By road, it is connected with Patiala (56 km) Ludhiana (52 km), Chandigarh (121 km), and Bathinda (112 km). It remained capital of the erstwhile princely state of Jind till 1948, when the princely state was abolished.

The town of Sangrur is said to have been founded by one Sanghu, a jat, about 400 years ago and named after him. Formerly, a small village of mud houses, it was chosen as his capital in 1827 by Raja Sangat Singh, as it was close to Patiala and Nabha, the headquarters of the other two Phulkian States. After the fall of Sirhind in A.D. 1763 when Zain Khan, the Governor of Sirhind, a protege of Ahmed Shah Abdali, was defeated by the Sikhs, and the province of Sirhind was partitioned among the Phulkian Sardars, the town of Sangrur became a part of Nabha State. However, on the occasion of marriage of Sardar Mahan Singh Shukarchakya, the father of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, with Raj Kaur, the daughter of Raja Gajpat Singh of Jind, a quarrel arose between the two Phulkian states of Jind and Nabha when some members of the marriage party passing through Nabha territory were insulted by some high officials of

Nabha. Subsequently, the town of Sangrur was snatched by Raja Gajpat Singh of Jind from Raja Hamir Singh of Nabha.

The town was later on developed into a beautiful city. Raja Raghbir Singh constructed a bazar on the lines of Jaipur town (Rajasthan) with pucca shops, gardens, tanks, temples and other public and religious buildings; a metalled road was also constructed around the city. He also constructed *gurudwaras* and *mandirs* on all the gates.

The city has four gates-the Sunami, Patiala, Dhuri, and Nabha gates, each named after the neighbouring town located in that direction. The city is surrounded by beautiful gardens and shops. The most attractive place in the city is the Banasar Garden with marble *baradari* in the centre of the swimming tanks.

The *baradari* has a beautiful bridge and marble gate. The rulers of Jind State used to spend their summers here. It presents a splendid view during moonlit nights due to reflections in water surrounding it. These days Banasar Garden is open to public and in the evenings many people have a stroll there just for relaxation. There is also a mini zoo in the Banasar Garden. Adjacent to Banasar, there is another important building known as Diwankhana. Here, Raja of Jind used to hold Darbar during the princely times. At present there is a beautiful museum wherein weapons and other important articles belonging to princely times have been displayed. The splendour of Diwankhana and Baradari convinces one of the high attainments in the field of art and architecture during princely times.

There are two degree colleges, two government higher secondary schools one each for boys and girls, two private high schools one each for boys and girls, one civil hospital with 100 beds, one urban slum area dispensary, one T.B. clinic with 18 beds, one school health clinic, one district jail hospital with 12 beds, one police line hospital with 16 beds, one *sainik* rest house, one P.W.D. rest-house and one Zimindara rest house at Sangrur.

About 5 km from Nabha Gate, Sangrur, is situated Gurudwara Nankiana Sahib. It is said that Shri Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh Guru and Shri Hargobind, the 6th Sikh Guru, visited this place. It is said that Shri Guru Nanak Dev wrote *Aarti* at this place. Further it is believed that Shri Guru Hargobind tied his horse with the *karir* tree/plant. The *karir* tree/plant, now known as Karir Sahib is still there on the top of the *gurudwara*. A large number of people visit this place.

Sunam.—Sunam is a tahsil and sub division of the Sangrur District. Situated on the Ludhiana-Hisar railway line, it is connected by road with Patiala (64 km), Sangrur (19 km), Bathinda (114 km), Ludhiana (90 km), and Chandigarh (129 km).

The history of Sunam goes back to the Vedic period, when its name was Surajpur. The Saraswati River is believed to have flowed by it.¹ The modern town was built within the walls of an old fort into which its inhabitants were driven to take refuge. It is divided into two parts, one in the citadel of the fort and the other on the lowland around it. Though now of little importance, Sunam has played a significant part in the history of the Punjab after the Muhammdan invasion; Al-Baruni mentions it as a famous place of that period. 'Sunam' in Sanskrit means auspicious name, but some say that it was named after Sona, a Gujar, who guided Muhammad of Ghor to conquer the fort of Bathinda and asked him to give Sunam as her reward. Others accept a derivation from Sunam, which in Arabic means the hump of a camel. When Qutb-ud-Din Aibak saw that the place had this shape he named it Sunam, but this etymology is untenable, as the town is said to have assumed its present shape only after Taimur's invasion (AD 1398). Sunam was held by Hindu Rajas till conquered by Muhammad of Ghor. Sultan Shams-ud-Din Altmash gave it to his page Sher Khan in Jagir. Ghais-ud-Din Balban gave it to Timar Khan, with Samana, (now in Patiala District), on the death of his cousin Sher Khan, and subsequently conferred it on his own son Bughra Khan. Under Muhammad Shah Tughlaq, its dependent tribe revolted. Firoz Shah brought a canal through Sirhind and Mansurpur to the town in 1360, and in 1398 Taimur attacked it. It is an ancient site, and by digging 40 or 50 feet deep, statues, big bricks and bones are found. In the time of Akbar, it was a *Pargana* of Sirhind. During Muslim rule, Sunam was a centre of politics like Samana and Sirhind (now in Patiala District).

Baba Ala Singh, the founder of the erstwhile Patiala State, had won this town from Muslim rulers.

Akbar's courtier Abul Fazal has recorded in his *Ain-i-Akbari* that Emperor Akbar often came to Sunam on hunting expeditions.

The town was famous for its seat of learning Dar-ul-Uloom where theology was taught to Muslims drawn from far and near.² The important and ancient places in the town are described below:

Sita Sar

It is ancient tank spread over 80 *bighas*. It is said that Sita, wife of Rama, washed her hair in this tank when she was turned out of the

1 The Tribune, dated 9 August 1983

2 *Ibid*

house by Rama. Even now the widows of the surrounding area come here and wash their hair. It is also said that at one time *kumb* fair of the Punjab was held here. This tank, it is said, was filled with the water of River Saraswati. The tank is, now, not in good condition. Shiv Mandirs have been built in the south west and north of the tank. A small Shitla Mata Mandir has also been built in the south of the tank in which an ancient idol of Mata has been installed.

Suraj Kund

This building is situated in the east of the town at a distance of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ km. The *thek* of Surajpur of Sunam is also very near. At one time it was spread over a large area. At this place, a large Mandir of Sun god existed but, it is said Mahmood Ghaznavi or Taimur demolished it. It is also said that River Saraswati was flowing near the Suraj Kund.

There are, now, three small temples at this place. The Suraj Kund is now in a dilapidated condition.

Khangah Pir Bana Banoi

It is an old building in the city and a monument of the Muslims. A mosque has been built in the building in the north-west of the grave of Pir Bana Banoi. Pir Bana Banoi whose real name is said to be Mohmood or Khawaja Mahmood was a Sayyad by caste. Before the partition of the country, a big fair used to be held here in the month of *Chet* (March-April) in which people from Peshawar, Multan, Rawalpindi and Lahore (now in Pakistan) used to attend. Professional dancers used to dance and qawwalis were sung at the fair.

This place is revered by all sections of people of the area. It is said that Pir Bana Banoi killed the then ruler of the Surajpur Fort who was in the habit of keeping the newly wedded brides of the town for first three nights.

It is also believed that people visited by evil spirits are cured when they put their head in a hole in the west of the outer-gate of the *Khangah*.

Samadh Bhai Mool Chand

This samadh is situated in the Suth-east of the town. This place is equally revered by the Hindus and Sikhs of the town. They pray for the fulfilment of their desires, which it is said, are fulfilled.

Bhai Mool Chand was a Khatri (Duggal) by caste. His father was a shopkeeper at Bathinda. He wanted his son to join the same trade.

But Bhai Mool Chand was least interested as from the very childhood he remained occupied in meditation. It is also said that he was born with a long grey *bodi* (hair knot). He was the disciple of Pandit Ganga Ram who was of saintly nature. Bhai Mool Chand also became a saint by nature. Big sardars of the area started revering him. Even Baba Ala Singh, the founder of Patiala State, held him in high esteem and made frequent visits to his place. Gurditta, a chaudhary of Sangrur also gave him due respect.

Bhai Mool Chand was well-known in the area for his spiritual attainments. Guru Teg Bahadur too recognized his intense spirituality even when the Bhai was a child.

Sunam is the birth place of the great martyr Udham Singh who shot dead Sir Michael O' Dyer on 13 March 1940 in London and took revenge from him of the 1919 Jalianwala Bagh massacre at Amritsar. Later on, Udham Singh was hanged on death by British authorities on 31 Juuly 1940 on which date every year a Shaheedi Mela is held at Sunam with great enthusiasm to pay homage to the great Indian martyr. In the memory of Shaheed Udham Singh, his statue has been installed in the town. A stadium has also been built in the memory of the martyr.

There are a degree college, a government higher secondary school for girls, a government high school for boys, two private high schools, one 50 bedded hospital and a Zimindara rest house at Sunam.

There is a class II municipal commitee at Sunam. Its population in the 1981 Census was 36,180 persons, as against 26,966 in 1971.

Tapa.—Situated on the Ambala-Bathinda railway line, Tapa is a sub-tahsil of Barnala Tahsil. It lies 19 km south-east of Barnala and 46 km from Bathinda. By road it is 47 km from Sangrur, the district headquarters. It is also connected by road with Ludhiana (97 km) and Chandigarh (168 km).

The town is said to have been named after Tapa Rama, a disciple of Baba Sukha Nand who spent his life in meditation. Two fairs are held every year on his *smadh*.

A fair on *chet chaudash* is held for one day in the month of March-April in the momory of Baba Sukha Nand, whose *math* exists here. People have great faith in him and do not take false oaths when his name is invoked. People of all communities join in the celebrations of this fair.

There are two high schools, one each for boys and girls, a private high school for boys, one 8 bedded primary health centre and a Zimindara rest house at Tapa.

Its population in the 1981 Census was 8,467 persons, as against 6,220 in the 1971 Census. It has a class III municipality.

Thikriwala.—Situating in the Barnala Tahsil, it is linked with pucca road and is 5 km from the tahsil headquarters, in the north.

To commemorate the martyrdom of Sardar Sewa Singh, a fair is held for three days in the months of January -February at this place. Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala formed Praja Mandal in the then Patiala State and pressed hard for the fulfilment of the political and other demands of the public before the then ruler, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh. He was put behind the bars where he went on hunger strike and died. A large number of people attend this fair.

A fair is also held on the Baisakhi day every year in the memory of Baba Buta, a Sidh, and obeisance is paid at his *smadh*. About 8,000 people, both Sikhs and Hindus, come to attend this fair. Horse and chariot races, and weight-lifting and wrestlings are arranged on this occasion.

The village has a government high school, a 25 bedded rural hospital and a post office. Its population in the 1971 Census was 4,804 persons.

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