



GAZETTEER OF INDIA

HARYANA

SIRSA

HARYANA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



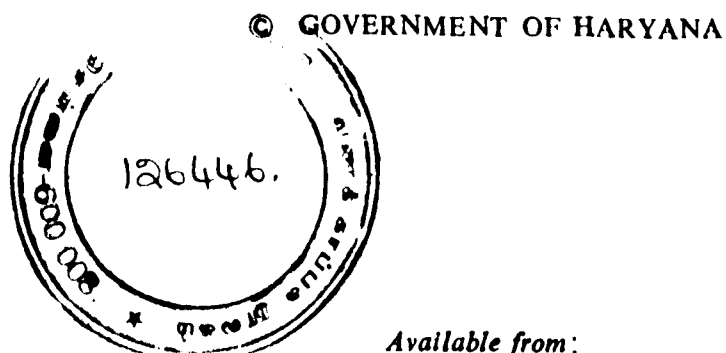
SIRSA

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FOREWORD

A district gazetteer is not merely a compendium of the statistical information in respect of a district. It also gives the historical, cultural and socio-economic background of the district. Since Independence, momentous changes have taken place in the socio-economic situation of the country. There was, therefore, need for reflecting all these changes in the gazetteers and to make them broad based and more meaningful. The Haryana Gazetteers Organisation has taken up this work in right earnest and the present volume about Sirsa district is the ninth in the series.

The distribution of population in Sirsa district is mainly hydrographic in character—the growth centres having come up in places with easy access to water. The recurring famines and droughts used to bring great distress to the people of the district. However, the availability of Bhakra Canal water since the late fifties has transformed the life of this sandy tract. The present volume provides a vivid picture of the socio-economic transformation witnessed by the district since then and particularly after its formation as a separate district in September 1975.

I hope this updated volume of the gazetteer covering all aspects of the district's life will be of great interest to administrators, research and social workers and the general public.

Chandigarh, the 21st April, 1988.

KULWANT SINGH. IAS,
Financial Commissioner Revenue,
Haryana.

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Chandigarh.

PREFACE

Gazetteer literally means a geographical index ; in a broader sense it is a mine of information embracing almost all the aspects of socio-economic life of a region. Foreign travellers and courtiers have left valuable accounts of events of their times and about the socio-economic life of the people of various regions of the country. But these accounts are not comprehensive. However, the Britishers gave a lead and provided authentic documents in the form of gazetteers covering broadly, the life patterns, customs and socio-economic conditions of a region. These writings were mainly based on the settlement reports. The gazetteers were written to acquaint British administrators who were new to the place and knew very little about the life pattern of the people. These broadly laid stress on the things which were of interest to British civil servants. After Independence, the concept of a gazetteer has undergone a radical change.

Sirsa district was carved out of Hisar district in 1975, and the present volume is the first attempt on the district. This gazetteer is the ninth in the series of Haryana District Gazetteers.

Sirsa is proud of its glorious past woven around legends, archaeological finds and Vedic references. The land was associated with Mahabharata. In keeping with this tradition of glory and valour, the people of Sirsa district, ignited the flame of India's freedom in 1857. This area suffered neglect at the hands of the British rulers. The then Sirsa district was abolished in November, 1884, and the areas now comprising Sirsa district were merged in Hisar district.

The antiquity of the district can be established on the basis of the discovery of Late Siswal, Painted Grey Ware, early historical Rangmahal and early medieval pottery from a number of its places. The district, in course of its historical growth made worthy contributions to religious and cultural development. The influence of Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism in the region is gathered from many sculptural pieces and archaeological remains recovered from Sirsa, Sikanderpur and other places. Sirsa has seen many vicissitudes. The area lay in olden days on the way from Multan to the Ganga-Yamuna Doab and had to bear the brunt of foreign invaders. Many invaders like Masud found this area remarkable for the growth of sugarcane. About 1341 A.D. Ibn-Batuta, from Tangiers, during his travels from Pak-Pattan (now in Pakistan) to Delhi passed through Sirsa and described it as a large town which abounded with rice.

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From time immemorial, this region has been watered by the mighty river Sarasvati. Drying up of this river brought innumerable miseries to the district. Once a fertile tract, it turned into a desert and became a land of recurring droughts and famines. People have still not forgotten the horrors of great **Chalisa Kal** (famine of 1783) when almost whole of the present Sirsa district was depopulated.

The creation of Haryana in November 1966, and formation of Sirsa as a separate district in September 1975, were two epoch-making events which accelerated the progress of the district. The flow of Bhakra Canal water and rural electrification transformed the life of the people of this district. The district has witnessed a phenomenal increase in agricultural output, which has boosted the overall development of the district. Thanks to infrastructural development, a district which had barely a few hectares of land under cotton in the beginning of the present century, is now a major cotton growing area and is known as a cotton belt of Haryana.

The progress of the district in the fields of agriculture, industries, communications, education, medical and social and welfare services which is a symptomatic of the progress in the state is explicitly given in the gazetteer. The tempo of the development has revolutionised the life of the people, however, the rich heritage has been preserved. No pains have been spared to keep abreast of developments in the district in many spheres and to collect and make use of the latest possible data from the diverse and scattered sources and to make the publication as accurate and self-contained as possible. Useful appendices, an index, a glossary, a considerable number of illustrations, a select bibliography and General and Irrigation maps of the district have been included in this volume. Its reference year is 1981.

The range and importance of subjects that are dealt in a gazetteer are so wide that it becomes essential to seek co-operation of experts of various departments of the state and central government, semi-government organisations and individuals. All these individuals and organisations deserve thanks for making available necessary information for this volume. It may not be possible to acknowledge the contributions to each of them individually but mention must be made of those whose involvement has been commendable. My thanks are due to Shri S.P. Dheer, Editor Gazetteers and his team of Research Officers, Shri A.K. Jain (now Editor), Mrs. Krishna Chakarvarty and Shri S.B. Dahiya who very efficiently drafted and brought out the present volume under the over all supervision of Shri S.K. Gupta, former Joint State Editor. Shri Jeet Ram Ranga, the present Joint State Editor, also deserves thanks for supervising the printing. My sincere and heart-felt thanks are also due to Dr. H.A. Phadke and Dr. K.C. Yadav of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra who wrote Ancient and Medieval and Modern Sections of chapter on

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'History' and Dr. V. K. Sharma of the same University who drafted the section on Topography of the district.

Written on a pattern prescribed by the Government of India, it is hoped that this gazetteer would be of immense use to administrators, researchers and general readers alike.

Chandigarh, the 21st April, 1988.

S. P. BHATIA, IAS,

State Editor (Gazetteers)
and Joint Secretary to Government
Haryana, Revenue Department.

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CHAPTER-1

GENERAL

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF THE DISTRICT

The name of the district is derived from its headquarters Sirsa. It is said to be one of the oldest places of North India and its ancient name was Sairishaka, which finds mention in *Mahabharata*, Panini's *Ashatadhyayi* and *Divyavadan*. In *Mahabharata*, Sairishaka is described as being taken by Nakula in his conquest of the western quarter.¹ It must have been a flourishing city in the 5th century B.C. as it has been mentioned by Panini.²

There are a number of legends about the origin of the name of the town. As mentioned earlier, its ancient name was Sairishaka and from that it seems to have been corrupted to Sirsa. According to a local tradition, an unknown king named Saras founded the town in 7th century A.D. and built a fort.³ The material remains of an ancient fort can still be seen in the south-east of the present town. It is about 5 kilometres in circuit.⁴ According to another tradition, the name has its origin from the sacred river Sarasvati which once flowed near it. During medieval period, the town was known as Sarsuti. It has been mentioned as Sarsuti by a number of medieval historians. The derivation of the name Sirsa, is also attributed to the abundance of *siris* trees [*Albizia lebbok* (Benth)] in the neighbourhood of Sirsa which seems quite plausible for it finds some corroboration also in Panini and his commentator. In ancient period Sirsa was also known as Sirsapattan.⁵

LOCATION, BOUNDARIES, AREA AND POPULATION

Location, and boundaries.—The district lies between 29° 14' and 30° 0' north latitudes and 74° 29' and 75° 18' east longitudes, forming the extreme west corner of Haryana. It is bounded by the districts of Faridkot and Bathinda of Punjab in the north and north-east, Ganganagar district of Rajasthan in the west and south and Hisar district in the east. Thus, it touches the interstate boundaries on three sides and is connected with its own state only on the eastern side.

Area.—With an area of 4,276 square kilometres, Sirsa is the third largest district in the state, the first and second being Hisar and Bhiwani respectively.

1. *Mahabharata, Sabha Parva*, Ch. 32, V.6.

*शैरीषकं महेच्छवर्षे चक्र महाश्रुतिः ।

2. Aggarwal V.S., Panini Kalin Bharatvarsha, p. 86.

3. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, XXIII, 1908, p. 45.

4. *Archaeological Survey of India Report of a Tour in the Punjab and Rajputana in 1883-84* by H.B.W. Garrick, Indian Edition, p. 9.

5. *Ibid.*

Population.—The population computed on the basis of 1981 census was 7,17,053 persons. Though areawise Sirsa is the third largest district, its population is the lowest in the state.

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

Sirsa seems to be in the administrative division of Hisar Feroza during Firuz Shah's reign. In the time of Akbar, Sirsa was one of the *dasturs* of Hisar Feroza Sarkar and much of its area lying in the present Sirsa district was covered by *mahals* of Fatehabad, Bhattu, Bhangiwal (Darba), Sirsa, Bhatner (or Hanumangarh, Rajasthan) and Puniyana (Rajasthan).¹ With the decline of the Mughal empire, the tract comprising Sirsa district came under the control of Marathas. The whole of Delhi territory of which the tract formed part was ceded by the Marathas to the British in 1810. Sirsa was part of the outlying district of Delhi territory under the charge of an Assistant to the Resident. In 1819, the Delhi territory was divided into three districts—the Central which included Delhi, the Southern including Rewari, and the North-Western including Panipat, Hansi, Hisar, Sirsa and Rohtak. In 1820, the latter was again sub-divided into Northern and Western and Sirsa along-with Hansi, Hisar and Bhiwani formed Western district (Haryana district and later known as Hisar district).

In 1837, Sirsa and Rania parganas were taken out of Haryana district and along-with Guda and Malaut parganas were formed into a separate district called Bhattiana. The pargana of Darba from Hisar district and the small pargana of Rori confiscated from erstwhile princely state of Nabha were transferred to Bhattiana in 1838 and 1847 respectively.² In 1844, Wattu pargana running up to Satluj was added in the Bhattiana district.³ The whole of the Delhi territory along-with district of Bhattiana and Hisar was transferred to Punjab in 1858 and the district of Bhattiana was renamed as Sirsa.

In 1861, 42 villages of Tibi tract of Rania pargana were transferred to the then state of Bikaner.⁴

The Sirsa district which comprised three tahsils of Sirsa, Dabwali and Fazilka was abolished in 1884 and Sirsa tahsil (consisting of 199 villages) and 126 villages of Dabwali tahsil formed one tahsil and the same was merged in the Hisar district and the rest of the portion was transferred

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879—83, pp. 26—27.

2. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 53.

3. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879—83, p. 35.

4. According to *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892 (page 53), 42 villages were transferred to the Bikaner State, however, in the *Bikaner District Gazetteer*, 1972 (page 56), the number of villages as such was 41.

to the Ferozpur district (Punjab).¹ There was no change till the Independence of the country except that a village was transferred from Sirsa tahsil to the then state of Bikaner in 1906.²

The entire area of the district was included in the new state of Haryana on November 1, 1966. In 1968, Sirsa tahsil was bifurcated into Sirsa and Dabwali tahsils. In 1974, three villages of Dabwali tahsil were transferred to Sirsa tahsil. On September 1, 1975, Sirsa and Dabwali tahsils were constituted into a separate Sirsa district with headquarters at Sirsa.

TOPOGRAPHY

The terrain of Sirsa district may be broadly classified from north to south into three major types, i.e., Haryana Plain, alluvial bed of the Ghaggar or Nali and sand dune tract.³ The topographic characteristics of the three types are briefly discussed below :

Haryana Plain.—The Haryana Plain is a vast surface of flat to rolling terrain, and extends southward to the northern boundary of the alluvial bed of the Ghaggar. It covers over 65 per cent of the area of the district. The elevation of the surface from east to west varies from 190 to 210 metres above the mean sea level. The most diagnostic feature of the Haryana Plain is the presence of palaco channels which set the occurrence of sand dunes in this terrain unit apart from those in the dune tract. The plain is traversed by numerous dune complexes and shifting sands. It is not possible to discuss all the sand forms but details of some specific features are highlighted. For example, fixed sand dunes and dune complexes are generally oriented in north-west-south-east direction and rise from 2 to 13 metres above their base. The features are broad and possess rounded crests. Such features may be noted at Kheri, and in the area enclosed by Sirsa, Darbi and Burj Bhangu. Scattered hummocks—small rounded features of sand accumulation, are generally up to 2 metres high. Some, up to 8 metres in height, are rare occurrences. Dunes increase in propensity as one approaches the southern limit of the plain bordering Nali and sand dune tract.

Alluvial bed of the Ghaggar—Nali.—A clayey surface of almost flat, featureless plain bordered in the north and west by the Haryana Plain and in the south along the sand dune tract, is a manifestation of the misfit nature of the present day Ghaggar. Waterlogging is a serious problem in many parts of this flat surface of impervious clay of great thickness. At places, swamps support a high density of tall grass.

Sand dune tract.—This tract covers the southern most part of the district. The area is northward extension of the sand dunes of Hisar district and Ganganagar district of Rajasthan. The dunes are locally called *tibbas*. *Tibbas*

1. (a) *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XIII, 1887, p. 19.

(b) The Sirsa district was abolished by Panjab Government Notification No. 684, dated October 15, 1884 and since then the Sirsa tahsil had formed a sub-Division of Hisar district.

2. *Ibid.*

around Ellanabad are 9 metres high; *Naugaza Tibba* at the border of Rajasthan is 17 metres high; *Tikonta Tibba* is some 14 metres high and the one south of Shahpuria is 13 metres high. All *tibbas* are broad based transverse ridges, some more than 3 kilometres long without a break. Linear to complex ridges, short to fairly long but narrow at the crests, and generally 2 to 5 metres high are also present throughout the sandy stretch of the land.

DRAINAGE AND GROUND WATER

The Ghaggar, the most important seasonal river in Haryana and the only river that flows through the district, enters the area near Ranga. It flows in narrow meandering course in south-westerly direction. The river bed is cut into the surface of Haryana Plain and is generally 3—5 metres deep. The river bed suddenly widens near Mallewala to over 1 kilometre, whereafter it continues to increase in width downstream. South-west of Saha, the river channel develops into a long finger-like wide lake due to its damming at Ottu from where two prominent canals take off. The Northern Ghaggar Canal follows a course north of the abandoned Ghaggar bed. The Southern Ghaggar Canal tends to follow gaps in fixed sand dunes and at times flat sandy terrain. The Ghaggar leaves the district and enters Rajasthan a little to the south-west of Kariwali. In its lowermost bed which is about 5 kilometres wide, some parts are extensively swampy and the channel itself makes a few long linear lakes. The swamps are marked by the growth of up to 3 metres high grass. The river bed is almost a flat featureless surface supporting many prosperous settlements.

Many palaeo channels most likely to be of the Ghaggar, may be noted in many parts of the Haryana Plain in Sirsa district. Palaeo channels are excellent for ground water exploitation. Not only is the ground water fresh in quality but is also available in large quantity. Due to recent developments in agriculture, many of the numerous abandoned channel depressions have been levelled down. However, many extensive abandoned channels still occur as long and wide depressions. These may be noted between Shahpur Begu and Arnian Wali; at Ludesar and Nathusari-Kalan, amidst cluster of small sized sand dunes between Mehna Khera, Bhaudin, between Mamber Khera Major distributary and Rori branch of the Bhakra Canal System, between Giddar Khera and Jandwala and terminating south-west in the Rajasthan Feeder, between Sadewala and Bani distributaries and between Sheranwali (Shahidanwali) distributary and Southern Ghaggar Canal.

The volume of seasonal flow in the Ghaggar has not been assessed. However, the total discharge of the Ghaggar is estimated to be 2,159 million cubic metres.¹

1. Government of India, Ministry of Irrigation and Power, New Delhi, *Report of the Irrigation Commission*, 1972, Vol. II, p. 425.

Ground Water.—The subsoil water is within 3 to, 9 metres in the Nali tract. In most of the Haryana Plain the water table is generally more than 15 metres deep. In the sand dune tracts, the ground water is also very deep. In a narrow fringe of land adjacent to the Nali the water table is about 9 metres beneath the surface. Deep to very deep ground water is saline but in the Nali tract, the subsoil water is of the good to marginal quality. On the average, recharge to the ground water reservoir is high mostly from seepage from canals and irrigated fields. In 1973-74, the average rate of accretion to water table was estimated at 479.29 m. cu. m. as against 28.81 m. cu. m. of ground water draft.¹

GEOLOGY

Quaternary formation comprising fluvial and aeolian deposits occupy whole of the district.

The aeolian deposits which are characterised by sand dunes are confined to the southern part of the district. The alluvial deposits are divided into two heads—newer and older. The former occurs usually in the active flood plains of the Ghaggar in the northern part of the district and are composed of sand, silt, clay and occasional gravel. Calcareous concretions in various proportions are found mixed with other constituents. The alluvial sediments are heterogeneous in character. The quaternary alluvium is deposited on a basement of metamorphic and igneous rocks of pre-Cambrian age. The bed rock topography over which the alluvium rests, slopes towards the north-east.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Kankar and saltpetre are only minerals found in the district. Small deposits of *kankar* occur at several places in the sandy tract.

Saltpetre occurs in large quantities as an alkaline efflorescence at various places. It grows on the ground as well as on mounds. Cloudy weather or rainfall adversely affects its growth. A number of refineries exist in the area for the extraction of saltpetre. The important localities where saltpetre is extracted are in the central and northern parts of the district.

SEISMICITY

According to tectonic map, the district lies on Delhi-Lahore Ridge which is bounded by thrusts. No earthquake of any significance has originated in the zone in the past. It has, however, experienced earthquakes originating in the great Himalayan boundary fault and the Hindukush region. The notable Kangra earthquake of April 4, 1905 and Chamba earthquake of June 22, 1945 affected the district. The maximum intensity experienced was VI M.M.²

1. V.K. Sharma, *Ground Water Potential in Haryana, Geographical Review of India*, 1978, pp. 301—308.
2. M.M. intensity according to Modified Mercalli Intensity Scales 1931 denotes; Felt by all; many frightened and run outdoors. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster or damaged chimneys. Damage slight.

and the district has been assigned to zone II in seismic zoning map of India where the maximum seismic intensity may reach VI M.M. For important structures founded on consolidated soil, a provision of horizontal acceleration of 4 per cent gravity and its 50 per cent regarding vertical acceleration would ensure a reasonable amount of safety.

FLORA¹

The district, in the arid zone, comprises xerophytic type of flora. According to the recent classification by H.G. Champion and S.K. Seth the forest of this district fall under the description, Northern tropical forest desert thorn (68/CI type).

Flora is scanty and sparse and varies according to locality factors and soil type. In saline and alkaline part of the district, Mesquite is common along with *Farash* and *Jal*. In moist localities and irrigated areas are found *Shisham* and *Tut*. In sandy areas, *Jand*, *Rahera* and *Babool* are quite common. *Sarkanda*, *Khip* and *Phog* are also frequent in sandy localities.

Medicinal herbs found in the district are *Bansa*, *Indirain*, *Asgandha*, *Glo*, *Kharanthi*, *Ak*, *Bhakra* and *Dhatura*. Shrubs found in this area are *Hins*, *Karaunda*, *Puthanda*, *Bansa*, *Panwar*, *Babool*, *Karir*, *Phog* etc.

In village waste lands and uncultivated fields, tree species are scattered and are of little commercial value. With the increase of irrigation and due to land hunger, such lands are being broken up for cultivation. Grazing incidence is very heavy in these areas and they are in the last stage of retrogression. Such lands may be utilised for raising fodder grasses like *Anjan*, *Dhaman* etc. The forest areas are confined along the strips of rail, road, canal and drains. Of the compact areas, some are protected forests under state government while others are private forests managed by the Forest Department. Biological barriers in the form of trees and shrubs play a vital role in different operations of desert control. They are the cheapest methods of reducing wind velocity and to control the movement of sand. Soil erosion by high velocity winds is checked by raising biological barriers across the wind direction in the form of wind breaks and shelter belts. Such works are being done along canals, roads, railway lines and drains. Species which are being planted along these strips include *Kikar*, *Shisham*, *Neem*, *Bakain*, *Jand*, *Siris*, *Gulmohar*, *Farash*, *Khairi*, *Kana*, *Retz*, *Rahera*.

Afforestation works are done for sand dune fixation and preservation of moisture in the soils in available areas. In farm forestry scheme, plants are raised on the periphery of fields of the farmers to create wind breaks so that the crops are protected from desiccating winds.

1. The full account of flora along with botanical names can be seen in the table-I at the end of the Chapter.

GENERAL

The important grasses found in the district are *Anjan*, *Dhaman*, *Dub*, *Kana* and *Dabh*. *Anjan*, *Dhaman* and *Dub* are palatable fodder grasses which are dwindling on account of uncontrolled grazing. The grasses in waste lands are poor in quality and quantitatively inadequate for requirements.

FAUNA¹

Mammals

The district is inhabited by a varied groups of animals. Primates are represented by the rhesus macaque of *bandar* and the common *langur*.

Big cats like tiger and leopard once abundant in the district are no more seen. The carnivore found in the district are, the Jungle cat, the small Indian civet, the common mongoose, Jackal and the Indian fox.

The grey musk-shrew or *chuchunder* and two species of bats, the common yellow bat and the Tickell's bat are usually seen. The five striped palm squirrel or *gilheri*, the Indian porcupine or *sahi*, the Indian gerbille, the common house rat and the common house mouse are the common rodents found. The Indian hare belong to the order lagomorpha is also found in the bushes.

Chinkara or ravine deer is seen in the district but its number is decreasing. Blackbuck and the bluebull or nilgai are found in the district. These are more common near Bishnoi villages where the shooting or killing them is prohibited.

Birds

Game birds.—A large number of game birds, some of them residential are found throughout the year while others are winter visitors. Various types of ducks and geese such as eastern Greylag Goose, Barheaded Goose, Brahminy Duck, common Shelduck, Pintail, common Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, Wigeon Bluewinged Teal, Shoveller, common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck and Tufted Duck can be seen at the Ghaggar and tanks during winter. Some other ducks such as Comb Duck, Cotton Teal, Spot-bill Duck, Treeduck are found throughout the year at suitable habitat. Dabchick is also a residential bird.

Other game birds like partridges and quails are also common. Indian Black Partridges (the state bird) and Grey Partridges are common. Grey Quail is a winter visitor, while Black Breasted or Rain Quail, Jungle Bush Quail, Whistler and Rock Bush Quail, Little Bustard Quail, Indian Yellow Legged Button Quail, Indian Bustard Quail are resident species.

1. The zoological names can be seen in the table-II at the end of the Chapter.

Sandgrouse, namely the Indian Sandgrouse, has been noted as resident bird while large Pintail Sandgrouse, Spotted Sandgrouse, Imperial or Blackbellied Sandgrouse visit the district in winter. Their flocks, large and small, regularly visit favourite waterholes.

Among pigeons and doves, Bengal Green Pigeon is found in the vicinity of villages chiefly on Ficus trees and Blue Rock Pigeon occurs in almost all the villages. Western Turtle Dove is a winter visitor. Indian Ring Dove, Indian Red Turtle Dove, Indian Spotted Dove, Indian little Brown or Senegal Dove and Indian Emerald Dove are generally found in all cultivated fields.

Birds of Economic Importance.—Scavengers like Pariah Kite, Brahminy Kite, Whitebacked Vulture, King Vulture, Tawny Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, White eyed Buzzard Eagle, House Crow and Indian Jungle Crow, etc. keep the district cleared of dead animals by feeding on them. The Indian Scavenger Vulture besides feeding on dead animals, consumes a large quantity of human excreta. Predators like Blackwinged Kite, Indian *shikra*, laggar Falcon, Shahin Falcon, Redheaded Merlin and Kestrel are residential birds of the district. Others like Booted Hawk Eagle, Eastern Steppe Eagle, Pale Harrier, Marsh Harrier, etc. visit the district in winter. These along with Spotted owl and Eagle owl keep a check on the population of not only rodent pests but also various insect pests by eating them.

The challenge of insect pests is also met with the various insect eating birds, both resident and migratory. Swifts, such as Indian House Swift, Indian Palm Swift and swallows like Western Swallow, Indian Wire Tailed Swallow and Indian Striated Swallow consume insects as their staple diet. Shrikes or butcher birds as they are popularly called, feed upon insects. Shrikes found in the district are Indian Grey Shrike, Indian Bay Backed Shrike and Rufous Backed Shrike. Other insect eating birds are King Crow, Brahminy Myna, Indian Pied Myna, Indian Myna, Bank Myna and Northern Jungle Myna. Babbler, warblers and flycatchers of various species feed on different types of insects. Larks and wagtails feed on a considerable amount of worms in addition to insects. Rosy pastor and common Starling, both winter visitors may specially be mentioned for their role in destroying numerous insects including locust on a large scale and thus help in saving crops to some extent.

Colourful birds.—The colourful birds add beauty to the varied wild-life of the district. The most common colourful birds are Blue Jay, Northern Green Barbet, Coppersmith, Northern Goldenbacked Woodpecker, Indian Golden Oriole, Large Indian Parakeet, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Pied Crested Cuckoo, Koel, Common Crow Pheasant, Kingfishers such as Small

GENERAL

Blue Kingfisher, White Breasted Kingfisher, Indian Pied Kingfisher, Red-vented Bulbul, Indian Purple Sunbird, *Lal Munia*, Indian Spotted *Munia* and crested bunting etc. The national bird of India, the common peafowl is quite common.

Besides, such attractive birds as Hoopoe, Indian Small Green Bee Eater and Indian White-eye or *Baboona* are also seen in and around villages.

Besides, different types of storks, cranes, ibis and egrets and lapwings are also found in the district. In the river-beds, one can see two species of terns.

Reptiles

Snakes.—The poisonous snakes like common Indian Karit, Russel's viper, *Phoorsa* and other snakes like Blind Snake, Indian Python, John's sand boa wolf snake, rat snake and sand snake are found in the district.

Lizards.—The common lizards can be seen in the houses. *Kirja* or *girgit* is found in the lawns and hedges and attracts the attention by changing its colours. *Sanda* is found in sandy areas. Besides, a few other types of lizards are found in bushes and areas of thick vegetation.

Tortoises.—Two species of tortoises are found in the district.

Frogs.—The common frogs found in the district are Indian Bull Frog, Indian Cricket Frog, Indian Burrowing Frog and common toad.

Fishes.—The different water courses of the district abound with many species of fish. The species important from the point of view of food and game are the featherback fish *parri*, *katla*, *mrigal*, *chunni*, *bata*, *siriha*, *ghally*, *mallee*, and the snake-head fish, *dolla* and *curd*.

CLIMATE

The climate of this district is characterised by its dryness and extremes of temperature and scanty rainfall. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from November to March is followed by the summer season which lasts upto the end of June. The periods from July to about the middle of September and from the middle of September to October constitute the south-west monsoon and post-monsoon seasons respectively.

Rainfall.—Records of rainfall in the district are available for Sirsa only for sufficiently long periods. The details of the rainfall recorded at this station are given in Table I of Appendix. These details might represent the rainfall pattern for the district as a whole. The average annual rainfall in the district is 32.53 mm. The rainfall in the district increases

generally from west to east. About 72 per cent of the annual normal rainfall in the district is received during the short south east monsoon period, July to September, July and August being the rainiest months. There is significant amount of rainfall in the month of June, mostly in the form of thunder showers. In the rest of the year, there is very little rainfall. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year in the district is very large. During the period, 1901 to 1975, the highest annual rainfall as recorded was 327 per cent of the normal in 1917. The lowest annual rainfall amounting to only 34 per cent of the normal was recorded in 1920. In the same period the annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 24 years. The three consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once, whereas the two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred five times. Occurrence of such low rainfall in two consecutive years is quite common in the district. It can be seen from the Table II of Appendix that the annual rainfall in the district was between 100 and 600 mm. in 64 years out of 76 years between (1901-1977) for which the data is available.

On an average there are 20 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm or more) in a year in the district. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded in the district was 165.4 mm on September 22, 1917.

Temperature.—There is no meteorological observatory in the district. However, records of Ganganagar (Rajasthan) on the west-north west of the district and Hisar on the east-south east are available for a longer period. Hence the mean meteorological conditions prevailing at these stations may be taken as representative of those prevailing in the district in general. There is rapid increase of temperature after February. The mean daily maximum temperature during May and June which is the hottest period varies from 41.5°C to 41.7°C. On individual days the maximum temperature during the summer season may rise up to about 49°C. The hot scorching winds, which blow in summer add to the discomfort. Afternoon thunder showers which occur on some days bring welcome relief, though only temporarily. With the advance of the monsoon into the district, by about the end of June, there is appreciable drop in the day temperatures and the weather becomes cooler during the day time, but the nights are even warmer than those during the summer season. With the added moisture in the monsoon air, the nights are often uncomfortable. After the withdrawal of the monsoon from the district in the later half of September, the temperatures begin to decrease. The decrease in temperature is rapid after October and the drop in temperature after nightfall is particularly trying. January is generally the coldest month with the mean daily maximum at 21.1°C and the mean daily minimum at 5.1°C. In the cold season, the district is affected by cold waves in the wake of passing western disturbances and the minimum temperature drops down to about 3.3°C occasionally.

Humidity.—Relative humidity in the mornings is generally high during the monsoon season and during the period December to February, it is usually about 70 per cent or more. Humidity is comparatively less during the rest of the year, the driest part being the summer season with the relative humidity being about 30 per cent in the afternoons.

Cloudiness.—During the monsoon season, the sky is mostly moderately to heavily clouded. In the rest of the year, the sky is generally clear or lightly clouded. Cloudy sky prevails for brief spell of a day or two in association with passing western disturbances in the cold season.

Winds.—Winds are generally light in the district with some strengthening in force during the late summer and monsoon seasons. During the south-west monsoon season while winds from the south-west or west are more common, easterlies and south-easterlies also blow on some days. In the post-monsoon and winter season while south-westerly or westerly winds are more common in the mornings, northerlies and north-westerlies are predominant in the afternoons. In summer, winds are more common from the west or south-west in the mornings. In the afternoons they are mostly from directions between west and north-west.

Special Weather Phenomena.—Some of the depressions which originate in the Bay of Bengal in the south-west monsoon season, and which move across the central parts of the country reach the district during the last stages of activity and cause widespread rain before dissipating. An occasional post-monsoon storm or depression also affects the district. Thunder storms occur throughout the year but the highest incidence is during the monsoon season. Dust storms occur often during the hot season. Occasional fogs affect the district in the cold season.

ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

Ecology is the study of inter-relationship between organisms and their environment. Air, water, soil, plants and animals are the components of environment which keep on interacting with another to maintain mutual balance called "Ecological Balance". Holocentric concept of ecology and environment is not at all new in the district.

The people had been protecting animals and trees since long past, even in extremely varied physio-graphical conditions of the district. Animals and trees had been the subject of worship. The black buck ('Hiran', 'mirg') and the ravine deer (*Chinkara*) could be seen in large number in the neighbourhood of Bishnoi village during the last century. The peacock (*mor*) was found

in the considerable number in villages which was regarded with a certain amount of veneration.¹

A *tirbaini* or combination of the *nim*, *pipal* and *bar* trees growing together was specially sacred and to plant such a combination was an act of *pun*. The *knir* tree was also worshipped by women.²

Owing to dry climate and non-availability of plenty of water, the villages by and large were not under slum conditions. The village sites except in the canal area were as a general rule clean and the absence of local drainage or any large amount of moisture, kept the sources of water supply free from any great pollution during the 19th century.³

The people even now carry the same sentiments towards animals and trees. The deers can be seen roaming very frequently even today in some parts of the district. Killing of animals and birds are prohibited by the government. On religious grounds, the Bishnois do not allow to kill the deers in their fields. Peacock is the national bird while the Black Partridge is the state bird and both these birds are protected under the law. Tree worship is still prevalent in the district. *Pipal* has been declared as the state tree in Haryana. There is general awareness in the district to keep the environment worth living.

1. *Gazetteer of Hisar District*, 1892, pp 19-20.

2. *Ibid* p. 74.

TABLE I
BOTANICAL NAMES

A—Trees

1. <i>Jand</i>	<i>Prosopis cineraria</i> (L) Druce
2. <i>Rahera</i>	<i>Tecomalla undulata</i> (S)
3. <i>Khairi</i>	<i>Acacia senegal</i> Wild
4. <i>Beri</i>	<i>Zizyphus mauritian</i> M Lam Syn. Z. <i>Jujuba</i> (non Mill)
5. <i>Raru</i>	<i>Acacia loucophloea</i> Wild (Roxb.)
6. <i>Jal or Van</i>	<i>Salvadora oleoides</i> Decne
7. <i>Bash</i>	<i>Ficus bengalensis</i> L
8. <i>Peepal</i>	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.
9. <i>Lasura</i>	<i>Cordia dichotema</i> Forst. f.
10. <i>Imli</i>	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.
11. <i>Barna</i>	<i>Crataeva nurvala</i>
12. Mesquite or <i>Pahari Kikar</i>	<i>Prosopis chilensis</i> (Molana Stuntza)
13. <i>Kikar</i>	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L) Willd
14. <i>Neem</i>	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> Juss
15. <i>Farash</i>	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i> (L) Karst
16. <i>Shisham</i>	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb.
17. <i>Siris</i>	<i>Albizia lebbek</i> Benth.
18. <i>Bakain</i>	<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.
19. <i>Gulmohar</i>	<i>Delonix regia</i> (Boj). Raf.
20. <i>Parkinsonia</i>	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> L.
21. <i>Pilkhan</i>	<i>Ficus infectoria</i>
22. <i>Safeda</i>	<i>Eucalyptus</i>
23. <i>Caster</i>	<i>Ricinus Communis</i> L.
24. <i>Kana</i>	<i>Sacchacum bengalense</i>
25. <i>Sarkanda</i>	<i>Erianthus munja</i> (Roxb) Jesus
26. <i>Knip</i>	<i>Leptanenia hyrotechnica</i> (Forsk) Decne
27. <i>Tut</i>	<i>Morus alba</i> L.
28. <i>Kachnar</i>	<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i> Lamk.

TABLE II

ZOOLOGICAL NAMES

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SIRSA DISTRICT GAZETTEER

29. Popular	<i>Populus nigra</i> L.
30. Amaltas	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.
B—Shrubs	
1. Hins	<i>Capparis sepiaria</i> L.
2. Karaunda	<i>Carrisa ohaca</i> Stapf. ex. Hans.
3. Puthkanda	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.
4. Bansa	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees
5. Panwar	(i) <i>Cassia tora</i> L. (ii) <i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.
6. Babool	<i>Acacia Jacquemontii</i> Benth.
7. Malleh	<i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> (Burm.f.) Wight and Arn.
8. Karir	<i>Capparis decidua</i> (Forsk.) Edgew
9. Phog	<i>Calligonum polygonoides</i> L.
10. Khip	<i>Leptadenia pyrotechnica</i> (Forsk.)
11. Ak	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) Ait.f.
12. Amarbel	<i>Cuscuta relfexa</i> Roxb.
C—Medicinal Herbs	
1. Bansa	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees
2. Indirain	<i>Citrullus colcynthis</i> (L.) schrad.
3. Asgandha	<i>Withania somnifera</i> (L.) Dunal.
4. Glo	<i>Tinospora Cordifolia</i> Miers ex. Hock. Thoms Thoms.
5. Kharathi	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm f.
6. Bhakra	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.
7. Dhatura	<i>Datura stramonium</i> L.
D—Grasses	
1. Anjan	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> L.
2. Daman	<i>Cenchrus setigerus</i> Vahl
3. Dub	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> L. Pers.
4. Kana	<i>Saccharum bengalense</i> Retz. Jesw
5. Dabh	<i>Desmostachya bipinnata</i> (L.) Stapf.

Mamals

Rhesus macaque or bandar	<i>Macaca mulatta</i> (Zimmermann)
Common langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i> (Duffresne)
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i> (Linnaeus)
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i> (Linnaeus)
Jungle cat	<i>Felis chaus guldenstaedt</i>
Small Indian civet	<i>Viverricula Indica</i> (Desmarest)
Common mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i> (Geoffroy)
Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i> Linnaeus
Indian fox	<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i> (Shaw)
Grey musk-shrew or chuchunder	<i>Suncus murinus</i> (Linnaeus)
Common yellow bat	<i>Scotophilus heathi</i> (Horsfield)
Tickell's bat	<i>Hesperoptenus tickelli</i> (Blyth)
Five striped palm squirrel or gilheri	<i>Funambulus Pennati</i> (Wroughton)
Indian porcupine or sahi	<i>Hystrix indica</i> (Kerr)
Indian gerbille	<i>Tatera indica</i> (Hardwicke)
Common house rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Linnaeus)
House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i> (Cuvier)
Chinkara or ravine deer	<i>Gazella gazella</i> (Pallas)
Blackbuck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i> (Linnaeus)
Bluebull or nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i> (Pallas)
Birds	
Eastern Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser rubrirostris</i> (Swinhoe)
Barheaded Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i> (Latham)
Brahminy Duck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> (Pallas)
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Linn.)

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SIRSA DISTRICT GAZETTE

Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i> (Linnaeus)
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca crecca</i> (Linnaeus)
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (Linnaeus)
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera strepera</i> (Linnaeus)
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i> (Linnaeus)
Bluewinged Teal	<i>Anas querquedula</i> (Linnaeus)
Shoveller	<i>Anas clypeata</i> (Linnaeus)
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i> (Linnaeus)
Ferruginousduck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Guldenstadt)
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i> (Linnaeus)
Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos</i> (Pennant)
Cotton Teal	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> <i>Coromandelianus</i> (Gmelin)
Spothill Duck	<i>Anas Poecilorhyncha</i> (Forester)
Tree Duck	<i>Dendrocygna Javanica</i> (Horsfield)
Dabchick	<i>Podiceps ruficollis capensis</i> (Salvadori)
Black Partridge	<i>Francolinus francolinus asiae</i> (Bonaparte)
Grey Partridge	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i> <i>interpositus</i> (Hartert)
Grey Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix coturnix</i> (Linnaeus)
Blackbreasted or Rain Quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i> (Gmelin)
Jungle Bush Quail	<i>Perdica asiatica punjaubi</i> (Whistler)
Rock Bush Quail	<i>Perdica argoondah</i> (Sykes)
Little Bustard Quail	<i>Turnix sylvatic dussumier</i> (Temminck)
Indian Yellowlegged Button Quail	<i>Turnix tanki tanki</i> (Blyth)
Indian Bustard Quail	<i>Turnix suscitator taigoor</i> (Sykes)
Indian Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus erlangevi</i> (Newman)
Pintal Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata caudacutus</i> (Gmelin)
Spotted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles senegallus</i> (Linnaeus)

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Imperial or Blackbellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis orientalis</i> (Linnaeus)
Bengal Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i> (Latham)
Blue rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (Gmelin)
Western Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis meena</i> (Sykes)
Indian Ring Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto decaocto</i> (Frivaldszky)
Indian Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica tranquebarica</i> (Hermann)
Indian Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinesis suratensi</i> (Gmelin)
Indian little Brown or Senegal Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis Cambayensis</i> (Gmelin)
Indian Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica indica</i> (Linnaeus)
Parih Kite	<i>Mulvus migrans</i> (Boddaert)
Barahminy kite	<i>Haliastur indus indus</i> (Boddaert)
Whitebacked Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i> (Gmelin)
King Vulture	<i>Torgos calvus</i> (Scopoli)
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax vindhiana</i> (Franklin)
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i> (Pallas)
White-eyed Buzzard Eagle	<i>Butastur teesa</i> (Franklin)
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i> (Vieillot)
Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos culminatus</i> (Sykes)
Indian Scavenger Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i> (Linn)
Blackwinged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus vociferus</i> (Latham)
Indian shikra	<i>Accipiter badius dusmunieri</i> (Temminck)
Laggar Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i> (Temminck)
Shahin Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus peregrinator</i> (Sundevall)
Redheaded Merlin	<i>Falco chicquera chicouera</i> (Daudin)
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> (Linnaeus)

Booted Hawk Eagle	<i>Hierasaetus pennatus</i> (Gmelin)
Eastern Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis nipalensis</i> (Hodgson)
Pale Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i> (Gmelin)
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus</i> (Linnaeus)
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i> (Temminck)
Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian House Swift	<i>Apus affinis affinis</i> (J.E. Gray)
Western Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian Wiretailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithi filifera</i> (Stephens)
Indian Striated Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica erythropygia</i> (Sykes)
Indian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor lahtora</i> (Sykes)
Indian Bay Packed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus vittatus</i> (Valenciennes)
Rufous Backed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i> (Vigors)
King Crow	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis albirictus</i> (Hodgson)
Brahminy Myna	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i> (Gmelin)
Indian Pied Myna	<i>Sturnus contra contra</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i> (Linnaeus)
Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres gininianus</i> (Latham)
Northern Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus fuscus</i> (Wegler)
Blue Jay	<i>Coracia benghalensis benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus)
Northern Green Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylonica caniceps</i> (Franklin)
Coppersmith	<i>Megalaima haemacephala Indica</i> (Latham)
Northern Goldenbacked Woodpeckers	<i>Dinopium benghalense benghalense</i> (Linnaeus)
Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus kundoo</i> (Sykes)
Large Indian Parakeet	<i>Pseittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli)
Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator Jacobinus serratus</i> (Sparrman)

Koel
Common Crow Pheasant
Small Blue Kingfisher
Whitebreasted Kingfisher
Indian Pied Kingfisher
Redvented Bulbul
Verditer Flycatcher
Indian Magpie robin
Indian Purple sunbird
Lal munia
Indian spotted munia
Crested bunting
Common Peafowl
Hoopoe
Indian Small Green Bee-eater
Indian White-eye
<i>Reptiles</i>
Common Indian Krait
Russel's viper
Phoorsa
Blind snake

<i>Eudynamys scolopacea scolopacea</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Centropus sinensis sinensis</i> (Stephens)
<i>Alcedo atthis bengalensis</i> (Gmelin)
<i>Halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Ceryle rudis leucomelanura</i> (Reichenbach)
<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Muscicapa thalassina thalassina</i> (Swainson)
<i>Copsychus saularis saularis</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Nectarinia asiatica asiatica</i> (Latham)
<i>Estrilda amandava amandava</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Lonchura punctulata punctulata</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Melophus Lathamii</i> (Grey)
<i>Pavo cristatus</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Upupa epops</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Nerops philippinus philippinus</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Zosterpos palpebrosa palpebrosa</i> (Temminck)
Family .. Elapide
<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i> .. (Schneider)
Family .. Viperidae (Shaw)
<i>Vipera russelli</i>
<i>Echis carinatus</i> .. (Schneider)
Family .. Typhlopidae
<i>Typhlops porrectus</i> .. <i>Stoliczka</i>
Family .. Typhlopidae

Indian python	<i>Python molurus molurus</i> (Linn.)
John's sand boa	<i>Eryx johni johni</i> (Russell)
	Family .. Colubridae
Wolf snake	<i>Lycodon striatus</i> (Shaw)
Rat snake	<i>Ptyas mucosum</i> (Linn.)
Saru snake	<i>Psammophis leithi</i> Gunther
	(i) <i>Hemidactylus brooki</i> (Grey)
	(ii) <i>Hemidactylus flaviviridis</i> (Ruppell)
Kirla or Girgit	<i>Calotes versicolour</i> (Daudin)
Sanda	<i>Uromastix harawicki</i> (Grey)
Other types of lizards found in the district	(i) <i>Mabuya macularia</i> (Dum. and Bibr.)
	(ii) <i>Ophiomorus tridactylus</i> (Blyth)
	(iii) <i>Acanthodactylus cantoris cantoris</i> (Gunther)
	(iv) <i>Varanus monitor</i> (Linn.)
Tortoises found in the district	(i) <i>Geoclemys hamiltoni</i> (Grey)
	(ii) <i>Kachuga dhongoka</i> (Grey)
Amphibiana	Family .. Ranidae
Indian bull frog	<i>Rana tigerina</i> Daudin
Indian cricket frog	<i>Rana limnocharis</i> Wiegman
Indian burrowing frog	<i>Rana breviceps</i> Schneider
	Family .. Bufonidae
Common toad	<i>Bufo melanostictus</i> Schneider
Fishes	
Parri	<i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas)
Katla	<i>Catla catla</i> (Hamilton)
Mrigal	<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i> (Hamilton)
Chunni	<i>Cirrhinus reba</i> (Hamilton)

Bata	<i>Labeo bata</i> (Hamilton)
Siriha	<i>Labeo gonius</i> (Hamilton)
Rohu	<i>Labeo rohita</i> (Hamilton)
Magur	<i>Clarias batrachus</i> (Linnaeus)
Singhara	<i>Aorichthys seenghala</i> (Sykes)
Ghally	<i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> (Block)
Mallee	<i>Wallago attu</i> (Schneider)
Dolla	<i>Channa punctatus</i> (Bloch)
Curd	<i>Channa striatus</i> (Bloch)

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

THE ANCIENT PERIOD

The antiquity of the district can be established on the basis of the discovery of Late Siswal, Painted Grey Ware, early historical Rangmahal and early medieval pottery from a number of its places.¹ The district was explored in 1883 by H.B.W. Garrick under the supervision of General A. Cunningham.² The report refers to small earlier excavations at Hari-pur and Sikanderpur some of whose material was displayed in the Gurdwara at Sirsa and at the town hall there.³ Later, Suraj Bhan,⁴ Silak Ram,⁵ and Breham Dutt⁶ explored a number of new archaeological sites in the area. The evidence so far gathered is very meagre just to provide an outline of the different phases of the historical growth of the district.

The earliest phase of the pre-history of the district is gathered from the discovery of Late Siswal Ware at Bani⁷ (near Haryana-Rajasthan border in Sirsa Tahsil). Late Siswal, the rural cultural pattern of the Harappan age in Haryana, is characterised by 'evolved types and austerity in shapes and designs' of the pottery painted in black or chocolate over red or pinkish

1. For details of explorations reference may be made to the following :—

- (i) A. Cunningham, *Archaeological Survey of India Report, XXIII*, Indian Edition, Varanasi.
- (ii) Suraj Bhan, *Pre-historical Archaeology of the Sarasvati and Drisadvati Vallies*, Baroda University Ph.D. Dissertation, 1971, MS.
Excavations at Mitathal (1968) and other Explorations in the Sutlej-Yamuna Divide, Kurukshetra, 1975.
- (iii) Silak Ram, *Archaeology of Rohtak and Hisar Districts*, K.U. Ph.D. Dissertation, 1978, MS.
- (iv) Breham Dutt, *Settlements of the Painted Grey Ware in Haryana*, K.U. Ph. D, Dissertation, 1980, M.S.

2. *ASIR*, op. cit., pp. 8-11.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 10.

4. Suraj Bhan, *Mitathal*, p. 123.

5. Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 83-88.

6. Breham Dutt, *op. cit.*, pp. 103—05.

7. Suraj Bhan, *op. cit.*

surface with linear designs¹ and is assignable to a time bracket of c. 2300—1700 B.C.² It has been further pointed out that the close affinities of the culture with north Rajasthan (Kalibangam-I) and its more evolved character in Haryana point to Rajasthan as the source of the culture.³ These early settlers were perhaps followed in course of time by the Late Harappans (1700—1500 B.C.) whose pottery has been discovered at Jodhkan⁴ (24 kilometres east of Sirsa). As only one site has so far been discovered, nothing tangible can be inferred except that these latter people, as is known from the evidence of a number of excavated sites in the adjoining districts, represented a degraded form of culture as gathered from their inferior pottery, rarity of art forms and the conspicuous absence of script, seals, clay bangles, steatite and weights.⁵

With the advent of the Painted Grey Ware culture (generally associated with the Aryans) begins a new phase in the History of the district. The culture is so called after its typical fine grey pottery painted with black designs and discovered at a number of places in the district—Jodhkan, Rania, Himayun Khera, Nakora, Kariwali and Bani.⁶ The absence of structures and the dearth of household objects suggest simple life of these people.⁷ It has been suggested that the preponderance of the ware in the Sarasvati and the Drishadvati valleys, its chronological position in the first half of the first millennium B.C. and its occurrence at sites alluded to in the later Vedic and *Sutra* literature might indicate the association of the PGW culture with the later-Vedic and the *Sutra* age.⁸

Sarasvati, the holiest of the rivers mentioned in the early Vedic literature passed through the district in its south-westerly course towards the deserts of Rajasthan. The *Brahmana* and the *Sutra* literature⁹ give us an idea of the religious rites performed on the holy banks of the Sarasvati between Vinashana where it disappeared (in Rajasthan) and Plakshaprasavana or the place where it originated (in the outer Himalayas). The distance between the two was covered according to *Panchavimsa Brahmana*¹⁰ in forty days on horse back. The pilgrimage which was thus performed passed through

1. Suraj Bhan op. cit., p. 108.
2. Suraj Bhan, opinion cited; see also D.P. Agrawal, *The Copper Bronze Age in India*, New Delhi, 1971, pp. 116—18, for comparative view.
3. Suraj Bhan in *Sources of the History of India* (ed. S.P. Sen), II, Calcutta, 1978, p. 110.
4. Braham Dutt, op. cit., p. 103.
5. Suraj Bhan, *Mitathal*, p. 17; R.S. Bisht, Excavations at Banawali; 1974-77, *Proceedings of the Seminar on Harappan Culture in Indo-Pak sub-continent*, Srinagar, 1978.
6. Suraj Bhan, *Mitathal*, p. 123, Braham Dutt, op. cit., pp. 103—05.
7. Suraj Bhan : op. cit (*Sources of the History of India* II, p. 113).
8. *Ibid.*, p. 114.
9. *Panchavimsa Brahmana*, XXV, 10, 1, 15, 16, 21, 23. P.V. Kane, *History of Dharma sastra*, Poona, 1953, IV, pp. 557—58.
10. *Pan. Br.* op. cit.

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Sarasvati's confluence with the Drishadvati (in Rajasthan)¹ and then proceeded onwards through the district. The area was included in the kingdom of the Pandavas for in the *Mahabharata* special mention is made of Sairishaka in course of Nakula's conquest of the western region.² It perhaps continued to be a part of the realm of the Parikshitas and thereafter had also to suffer devastation of the crops by locusts, droughts, famines and other natural calamities, resulting in migrations of people to other parts of the country.³ The town was perhaps known to Panini.⁴ Since according to the Puranas the Kuru *Janapada* was included in the Nanda empire,⁵ the area covered by the district may also have formed a part of it. Although no Northern Black Polished Ware has so far been found in the district but the discovery⁶ of Asokan pillars from adjacent places like Fatehabad and Hisar, may possibly suggest its inclusion also in the Mauryan empire.

What happened to the district after the Mauryas? Who succeeded them in the area? Was it included in the Gupta empire? These questions cannot be precisely answered. On the basis of the slender numismatic and epigraphic evidence, few terracotta figurines and the discovery of Rangamahala ware of the Kushana period (1st—4th century A.D.) from a number of sites⁷—Bajeka, Bhaudin, Moju Khera, Sikanderpur, Sirsa and Suchan, it may safely be said that the region also came under the influence of the Kushanas, the Yaudheyas and the Guptas. The Kushana hold receives some support from the recovery of their copper coins⁸ and crude imitations of coin-types of Vasudeva-I⁹ as also figurine moulds¹⁰ of a lady and another of a seated male deity holding attributes in his four hands belonging to the same period. Among other numismatic finds are the copper coins of the Yaudheyas bearing the legend *Yaudheya Ganasya Jayah*. The coins were found at Sirsa in association with the Kushana suggesting thereby the latter's replacement by them.¹¹ The district perhaps came under the sway of the Guptas and the

1. P.V. Kane, op. cit.
2. *Mahabharata* (cr. ed), II, 29, verse 5.
3. H.C. Raychaudhuri, *Political History of Ancient India*, 6th ed., Calcutta, 1953, pp. 45-6.
4. V. S. Aggarwal, *Paninikalina Bharivarsha*, Varanasi, V. S. 2012, P. 86.
5. H.C. Raychaudhuri, op. cit., p. 233.
6. For details see—*Marg, Haryana Heritage*, Sept. 1974, p. 23; C. Rodgers, *Archaeological Survey of India, Report of the Punjab Circle, 1888-89*, Calcutta, 1891, p. 43; B.C. Chhabra 'Asokan Pillar, at Hisar, *Vishvesh-varanand Indological Journal*, Hoshiarpur II, Pt. II. (Sept. 1964), pp. 319-22.
7. Silak Ram, op. cit., pp. 83-88, *Indian Archaeology : A Review*, 1967-68, p. 22.
8. Four Kushana copper coins recovered from Sirsa are now preserved in Kurukshetra University Museum, Nos. 141-144.
9. Silak Ram, op. cit., p. 261.
10. *Ibid.*, p. 233.
11. *Ibid.* p. 129.

Pushpabhatu of the Thanesar kingdom. A stone slab containing an inscription in Sanskrit verse assignable to about 5th/6th century A.D. was discovered at Sirsa. It contains a eulogy of a king whose name is entirely lost along with the major portion of the composition.¹ Yet another is an inscription on a miniature pot bearing only four letters in the northern group of alphabets, *savasapu* (*savaspu*) meaning 'full of steam or water'.²

During the ninth century the district came under the hold of the imperial Pratiharas of Kanauj. An inscription³ of the time of Bhoja (c. 836—890 A.D.) found at Sirsa, is of considerable importance for the religious history of the region. It records the construction of a brick temple of Shiva by Nilakantha, a Pasupata saint of Sirsa. Further it provides us information about last five generations of Pasupata Acharyas who lived at Sirsa during the 8th-9th centuries. Another inscription⁴ of this period is from Jodhkan belonging to a temple containing twenty-five lines of Sanskrit verse in beautifully carved alphabets of the northern group.

The district lay on the route from Multan to the Ganga-Yamuna Doab and, therefore, had to bear the brunt of the frequent Muhammadan attacks.⁵ Sultan Mahmud's successor Masud is known to have himself marched to Sirsa where the surrounding area he found remarkable for the growth of sugarcane which were used by his forces to fill the mote in course of their attack on the fortress.⁶ Masud appointed his son Majdud as governor of the region from Hansi to Indus⁷ including of course the district of Sirsa which lay in between. Majdud, however, lost his life in the struggle against Maudud, the new ruler of Ghazni and consequently the district passed on to the new master.⁸

The struggle for succession after Maudud's death provided an opportunity to the Hindu rulers to assert their independence under the leadership of the Tomaras of Delhi.⁹ The Tomara hold over the district finds support in

1. Annual Progress Report of the Punjab Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India, 1919, p. 18; *Epigraphia Indica*, XXI, pp. 292 f; Devendra Handa, Some Important Towns of Haryana, *Journal of Haryana Studies*, III, No. 2, pp. 4 and 8.
2. Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 231-32.
3. *Epigraphia Indica*, XXI, p. 295 f. Sirsa has also yielded a silver Adivaraha type of coin of Bhoja (Kurukshetra University Museum).
4. Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, pp. 247-48. The inscription unfortunately could not be read as soon after its discovery, it was taken over by L.K. Srinivasan, the then Superintending Archaeologist, Dehradun Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (*Ibid.*).
5. Devendra Handa, *op. cit.*, p. 5.
6. *Tarikh-i-Firishia*, Eng. tr. John Briggs, Calcutta, 1910, pp. 63-64, Whitehead, R.B., *op. cit.*, Later at the time of Taimur's invasion mention is again made of the sugarcane jungles of Tohana. Both the towns of Sirsa and Tohana are situated on the Ghaggar (*Imperial Gazetteer of India*, *op. cit.*, pp. 53-4).
7. *Tarikh-i-Firishia*, *op. cit.*, p. 69.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 70.
9. *Ibid.*, pp. 71-72.

the discovery of coins of their rulers¹ Sallaksanapala (A.D. 978—1008), Anangapala (A.D. 1049—1097) and Mahipala (A.D. 1103—1128) from Sirsa, suggesting their recapture of the district from the Ghaznavid occupation. This finds corroboration in inscriptions also. The Palam Baoli inscription (A.D. 1280) states that 'the land of Hariyanaka was first enjoyed by the Tomaras, and then by the Chahamanas',² while according to the Delhi Museum inscription (A.D. 1328) 'there is a country called Hariyana, a very heaven on earth. There lies the city called Dhillika (Delhi) built by the Tomaras'.³ The Tomaras soon lost their hold over Haryana to the Chahamanas of Rajasthan. The fragmentary Chahamana *prasasti* of Ajmer Museum makes a special mention of Arnoraja's carrying 'Chahamana arms up to the Sindhu and Sarasvati rivers and his expedition to Haritanaka'.⁴ In view of this, it may not be unreasonable to suppose that Arnoraja brought Haryana under his subjection which included also the area covered by the modern district of Sirsa. Vighararaja IV, another ruler of the dynasty, by his capture of Delhi and Hansi not only continued Chahamana hold over the area but extended it as far as Ambala district as the discovery of Delhi-Siwalik inscription originally found there would suggest.⁵ The protection of the area from the Muslim onslaughts now became the sole responsibility of the Chahamanas, who under Prithviraja II took effective measures in this direction by appointing his maternal uncle Kilhana as guardian of the Hansi fort, who built there strong and high gateway in order to protect the region around from the Muslim incursions.⁶ The district along with Agroha, Hisar and Hansi, finally passed on to the Muslim rule after the defeat of Prithviraja III in the second battle of Taraori (A.D. 1192). According to Hasan Nizami, Prithviraja, who joined the battle late, tried to escape but was recognised, pursued and finally captured in the neighbourhood of Sarsuti (Sirsa).⁷

The district, in course of its historical growth made worthy contribution to the development of culture as well. The influence of Buddhism in the region is gathered from the Divyavadana⁸ while many Jaina sculptural pieces and architectural remains recovered from Sirsa and Sikanderpur⁹

1. Silak Ram, *op. cit.*, p. 268. The coins are exhibited in Gurukul Museum, Jhajjar.
2. *Epigraphia Indica*, V, Appendix, p. 34.
3. *Ibid.*, I, p. 93 f.
4. Ajmer Museum Inscription, line 15; Dasaratha Sharma, *Early Chauhan Dynasties*, p. 180.
5. For details see—*Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, LV., p. 41 f; *Epigraphia Indica*, XXVI, p. 104; Delhi Siwalik Inscription.
6. *Indian Antiquary*, XLI, p. 19.
7. Elliot and Dowson, *History of India as told by its own Historians*, II, p. 215. Some of the coins of Prithviraja found at Sirsa are preserved in the Gurukul Museum, Jhajjar (Silak Ram, *op. cit.* p. 268).
8. *Divyavadana*, as quoted by Devendra Handa, *op. cit.* pp. 4 and 8.
9. Now exhibited in the Kurukshetra University Museum.

testify to the growth of Jainism in the area. The finds include pedestal of images, heads of Tirthankaras, miniature, shrine containing Jaina figurines in white marble. Among other sculptures¹ representing gods and goddesses and suggesting influence of other traits of Hinduism mention may be made of Vishnu with *Kirtimukha* and partly preserved *prabhamandala* in grey stone, and another about four feet high, attended by two votaries; an ably executed image of Indra in reddish sandstone, mounted on an elephant along with his consort; four armed Surya in sandstone, head of a lady in blackish stone, Narasimha along with attendants, Yamuna on tortoise with panels consisting of designs and animal motifs and a copper image of Samaji (Samadeva) riding a horse (dated Sam. 1221 i.e. 1143 A.D.). The images may be placed in the period from 8th to 12th century A.D. That building of temples was considered an important cultural activity in the region can be gathered from the aforementioned Sirsa inscription² referring to a majestic temple of Yogisvara (Shiva) made of burnt bricks and thick slabs of stone with a golden *sikhara*, and adorned with images of Vishnu and Lakshmi, various other god and goddesses, *gandharvas*, *yakshas*, *kinnaras* and *siddhas*. It must have been indeed, a magnificent piece of architecture. Several other remains such as door frames decorated with floral and geometrical designs, elaborately carved columns, lintels, slabs, etc. further testify to the existence of numerous Brahmanical and Jaina temples all over the district.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Under the Delhi Sultans

After the demise of Shihab-ud-din Ghuri, one of his generals, Qutb-ud-din Aibak laid the foundation of the Turkish rule in India on July 24, 1206. The territory now comprising the Sirsa district became a part of his newly founded kingdom along with adjacent territories. Aibak is reported to have established a military outpost at Sirsa.³ Except for quelling uprisings and collecting land revenue, this agency did not seem to have interfered in the internal affairs of the people.

Aibak's death in 1210 brought chaos and confusion for a while. Nasir-ud-din Qubacha, the Governor of Punjab tried to fish in the troubled waters. He occupied the Sirsa district and began to rule over it independently. But his sway over the district proved short-lived: Taj-ud-din Yalduz, the ruler of Ghazni snatched the district from him along with other territories. But Yalduz's hold also proved very short: Iltutmish having measured sword with him at Taraori (Karnal) brought the entire region under his control. It seems that in this battle Qubacha helped Iltutmish, for after the battle of Taraori we find Sirsa being under Qubachas control.⁴

1. Ibid; *Archaeological Survey of India Report*, 1883-84, pp. 10-11; Silak Ram, *op. cit.* pp. 189-90, 207, 220-

2. *Epigraphia Indica*, XXI, p. 295 ff.

3. See K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. II p. 32.

4. Ibid.

Qubacha enhanced his power very rapidly, so much so that in 1220 he declared his independence. Iltutmish launched a fierce attack on him. In the fight that ensued, Iltutmish defeated Qubacha and brought the district under his control.¹ After clearing his way of his enemies, Iltutmish is reported to have made some serious changes which had great impact on the administration. He divided his kingdom into several *iqtas*.² The present district constituted the *iqta* of Sirsa.³ An officer called *mukta* controlled the affairs of the *iqta* under the direct supervision and control of the Sultan.⁴

This arrangement continued upto 1290 when after the deposition of the last of the Mamluk rulers, Shams-ud-din, the district came under the control of the Khaljis. The new masters exercised greater and far more strict control over the district than their predecessors. Their economic hold was coercive to the extent that they bled the people white. As a result, the suffering people grew restive. But the strong hand of the rulers made them ineffective. The situation changed, however, after Ala-ud-din Khalji's death (1316). The people raised their heads against the oppressive rule. There was some relief for sometime. The district was, however, again brought under the same type of rule by the Tughlaqs who replaced the Khaljis.

During the reign of Muhammad Tughlaq (1325—51), Ibn Batuta, the famous traveller from Tangiers travelled through the district (1341). He has given a very interesting description of Sirsa. "It is large", says he "and abounds with rice which they carry hence to Delhi".⁵ Unfortunately, there is no reference to other places, but it is summarised that the district was not in as bad a shape as it came to be during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Firuz Shah who succeeded Muhammad Tughlaq took very keen interest in the district. He visited the district quite frequently and took great delight in going on hunting expeditions in the jungles over there. He founded the town of Firozabad near Rania in 1360 and had drawn a canal from the Ghaggar, passing by the walls of Sarsuti (Sirsa) to this city.⁶ A pertinent question is often posed: Why did Firuz develop such a fancy for this otherwise arid tract? The reason for this is not far to seek; Firuz's mother belonged to this district⁷ and he is believed to have spent a part of his early childhood here.

1- See K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. II, p. 32.

2. An *iqta* was roughly speaking, a present day commissary like administrative division.

3. K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. II, p. 33.

4. For administration of an *iqta* see *ibid*, pp. 40-41.

5. J. Wilson, *Final Settlement of the Sirsa District* (hereafter S.R. Sirsa), 1879—83, pp. 25—29.

6. Ibid.

7. Barkat Ali, *Tarikh Dhattan*, p. 49.

After Firuz's death, the district felt the full force of those intensive discords which ruined the Delhi kingdom. The situation worsened further when Timur, the Amir of Samarkand, launched a fierce attack on India in 1398. After crossing the Indus in September, and traversing through the plains of Punjab and Rajasthan in the succeeding two months, he entered the Sirsa district in November. Timur made a halt for sometime at Kinar-i-Hauz, probably the Annakai Chhamb, a lake near Rania. Having relaxed here, he resumed his march with speed. His first attack was on Firozabad¹ where he met little opposition. Emboldened by this, he attacked Sirsa. Here, too, the story of Firozabad was repeated.² The powers did nothing to stop the blood bath and destruction brought by the invaders. In consequences, the people suffered a great loss in men, money and material.³

After Timur's attack, the Tughlaqs lost their hold over the district. The people of the area accepted no body's command and lived in freedom. The Sayeds, who succeeded the Tughlaqs, tried to bring them under their control. But they seem to have achieved little success. However, in 1450, Bahlol Lodhi, the then Governor of Punjab, capitalized on the situation and brought them under his sway which lasted under him and his successors for a little over 76 years (1450—1526).

Under the Mughals

In 1526, Babur, the Mughal invader from Central Asia, wrested the district alongwith other territories from the last of the Lodhis-Ibrahim. Babur brought the district under his effective control by placing it under the *sarkar* of Hisar. Humayun, who succeeded Babur in 1530 seems to have made no change in the existing arrangement. But Humayun's rule proved short-lived: he was thrown out by an Afghan noble, Sher Shah Suri in 1540. We get a reference to the district in the annals of this time. Rao Kalian Singh, the ruler of Bikaner was driven out of his state by the Chief of Jodhpur. The displaced Rao occupied the district, made Sirsa his headquarters for a time until the defeat of his enemy at Ajmer by Sher Shah enabled him to return to Bikaner.⁴

Sher Shah was an administrative genius. He divided his whole kingdom into sixty-six *sarkars*. Sirsa came like the earlier time, under the *sarkar* of

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Hisar whose administration was carried out by two officials, namely *shiqdar-i-shiqdaran* and *munsif-i-munsifan*. The *sarkar* was further divided into *parganas*. Unfortunately, there is no direct evidence to give the exact number of *parganas* into which the district was then divided. The *parganas* were controlled by *shiqdars*, *munsifs* and junior officials like *qanungos*, *khajanchis*, etc. The smallest unit of administration was village which was administered by the *muqadams* and *panchayat*, *patwaris* and *chaukidars* helped them in discharging their work.¹

Sher Shah ruled for only five years (1540—45). There was peace, prosperity and tranquillity everywhere during his rule. But not after him. He was succeeded by pigmies who brought chaos and confusion. The Mughal Emperor Humayun took advantage of the new situation, and wrested his lost kingdom from them. In consequence, this district again came under the Mughal sway (1555). But as the ill-luck would have it, the very next year Humayun was no more on the scene, and once again there was chaos and confusion all around. However, in 1556, his illustrious son Akbar controlled the situation and brought the district under his tight control.

Akbar, like Sher Shah, was a great administrator. He divided his Empire into several provinces (*subas*), provinces into *sarkars* and *sarkars* into *mahals*. The villages were, like the earlier times, the smallest units of administration. The administrative picture of the district based on the *Ain-i-Akbari* was as given in table below :

Administrative division of Sirsa district in Akbar's time

	Suba	Sarkar	Mahal	Area (bighas)	Revenue (dams)
Sirsa District	Dehli	Hisar	Sirsa	2,58,355	43,61,368

The *Ain* does not give the number of villages. The administrative machinery that controlled the villages, the *mahals* and the *sarkar* was almost of the same type as was found in this region in the time of Sher Shah. This administrative set-up remained intact during the reigns of Akbar's successors—Jehangir (1606—1627), Shahjahan (1627—1658), and Aurangzeb (1658—1707). There was peace and tranquillity all around.

After Aurangzeb's death (1707), the position changed drastically. The mountebanks and imbeciles who sat on the Mughal throne after Aurangzeb, failed to check the forces of chaos and confusion that were let loose at that time. In consequence, the people became disorderly all around, and refused to pay revenue to their masters. Their villages, which were nothing short of fortresses, surrounded by mud walls could only be reduced by artillery and

1. It is Firozabad Harni Khora.

2. Timur, *Malfuzat*—vide Elliot and Dowson, *History of India as told by its own Historians*, Vol. III, pp. 428-29.

3. For details see. K.C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. II, pp. 57-59.

4. J. Wilson, *S.R. Sirsa*, pp. 25—29.

1. See Abul Fazl, *Ain-i-Akbari*, Eng. Tr. H.S. Jarret, Vol. II, pp. 291—310.

huge force which the local authority could not always muster. The situation worsened further when Nadir Shah, a Turkoman free-booter, who after assuming the throne of Iran in 1736, launched a fierce attack on India in 1739.

In the troubled times, after Nadir's retreat, a local tribe of the Bhattis who had settled in the district in the eighth century¹ came to have some political control: their chief Mohammad Hasan Khan occupied Rania, Sirsa and Fatehabad.² The Bhattis led a pastoral and predatory life driving about their cattle in search of pasture and carrying off their neighbours' cattle when they had a chance. Their hand was against every man and every man's against them.³ The chiefs of Bikaner were engaged in 'incessant struggle with the Bhattis' for the possession of the district. The annals of Patiala are also 'full of raids and counter-raids between the Sikhs and their hereditary foes, the Bhattis'. Ala Singh, the founder of the Patiala state kept the flame of struggle against the Bhatti chief Muhammad Khan, burning throughout his life. Ala's son and successor Amar Singh followed his illustrious father in this regard. In 1774, he succeeded in taking the district from Amin Khan.⁴

In 1783, there befell another great calamity—the great *Chalisa* famine (of 1840 Vikrama Samvat) that laid the whole country waste. The great heads of cattle which roamed over the prairie died of thirst and starvation, and numbers of the population must also have died of famine. The survivors fled to more favoured retreats.⁵ Amar Singh and his troops also left the district: 'some ten or twelve of the larger villages held out, and for a time almost the whole of the Sirsa district must have been a desert'.⁶

The moment Sikhs left the district, Muhammad Amin Khan reoccupied it. He did his best to rehabilitate the deserted tract. Unfortunately, he died in 1790. His successor Qamar-ud-din devoted most of his time fulfilling the incomplete mission of his father. But he does not seem to have succeeded to any appreciable extent.⁷

In 1799, the Irish adventurer George Thomas, whose head quarters was at Hansi in the Hisar district, after having established some authority over the Ghaggar Valley's 'allied with the Bhattis'. There ensued a deadly strife between them and the Rajputs of Rajasthan and the Sikhs of Punjab. The struggle had continued hardly for a year when Nawab Qamar-ud-din died. He was succeeded by Zabita Khan who decided not to disturb the alliance formed by his successor. The struggle came to an end, however, in 1802, after the

1. Barkat Ali, *Tarikh Bhattian*, p. 32.

2. Ibid. p. 72.

3. J. Wilson, *S.R. Sirsa*, pp. 25—29.

4. Ibid. 25—29.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid.

7. Barkat Ali, *Tarikh Bhattian*, p. 81.

defeat of George by the Marathas. In consequence, the whole of the tract including the Sirsa district came under the control of the Marathas. But the Maratha hold proved to be very short-lived: after the defeat in the Second Anglo-Maratha War their chief Daulat Rao Sindhia gave the district along with the Delhi territory to the British vide the treaty of Surjiarjan Gaon, December 30, 1803.¹

MODERN PERIOD

Under the East India Company

Although the Marathas surrendered the district to the British East India Company on December 30, 1803, Nawab Zabita Khan did not accept the sway of the new masters. Mirza Ilias Beg who was placed as *nazim* to look after George Thomas' territory with headquarters at Hansi, was assigned the job of controlling the Bhattis. He proved a failure. In consequence, reinforcements were sent from Delhi. In the struggle that ensued the Bhattis proved their worth. They killed Mirza Ilias Beg and shattered his forces. The British sent their own force under Col. Browning. But, he too got, a befitting reply at Sirsa. The British lost a number of their soldiers in the battle, the Colonel being one of them. The British troops had to retreat leaving Bhattis as they were.²

After this the Bhattis organised regular predatory incursions inside the British territory, and despite their best efforts, the British could not stop them till 1810.³ In this year, however, the British launched a fierce attack on Sirsa and Rania on December 19 and 21 respectively. Col. Adam, the British commander found his work very easy as the Nawab chose to surrender without fighting.⁴

The British treated the defeated Bhatti Chief sympathetically. He was allowed to keep the jagir of Sirsa and Rania as before. This situation changed after seven years. The Nawab kept on sending plundering expeditions to the British territory quite frequently. In 1817, William Frazer, the Resident at Delhi, took a serious note of the whole affair. He sent a message to the Nawab to give up his jagir in return for a pension or face serious consequence. The threat worked. The Nawab accepted to surrender his jagir. In consequence, he was given a pension of Rs. 1200 per month and a small jagir comprising 5 to 6 villages and the town of Rania.⁵

The Uprising of 1857

The British rule of about half a century from 1803 to 1857 produced a great deal of discontent and disaffection among almost every section of the

1. Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sandas*, Vol. IV, pp. 42—46.

2. Foreign Political Consultation, No. 70, Sept. 2, 1818.

3. Foreign Political Consultation, No. 70, Sept. 2, 1818, No. 94, Dec. 28, 1810, No. 20 Jan., 7, 1811.

4. Ibid. No. 57—60, July, 19, 1811.

5. Barkat Ali, *Tarikh Bhattian*, p. 92.

people throughout Haryana. The Sirsa district was not exception to this: right from the chiefs to the lowest man over here was unhappy with the 'new order' created by the 'Sahib Logs'. In other words, the ground for a general uprising against the British lay prepared in the district. It only required to spark for the bursting forth of a conflagration. This was provided by the sepoys on May 10, 1857 at Ambala and Meerut.

On hearing the news of the happenings at two places and Delhi, the people of the district rose up in revolt. At Sirsa, a sizeable number of sepoys were stationed. They, too, rose in open mutiny. But the news of the uprising and murdering of Europeans at Hansi and Hisar somehow reached the European residents at Sirsa well in time. In consequence, they fled before they could be overtaken. Capt. Roberts, the Superintendent of Bhattiana, and his family moved to Ferozepur via Dabwali and Bathinda. Other Europeans, about 17 in all, went to Sahuwala with Donald, the Assistant Superintendent, and took shelter in the Patiala state. Hillard, Officer Commanding of the contingent, and Fell, Assistant Patrol proved a little less intelligent: they went into the barracks of the sepoys who did not listen to them at all and asked them to leave at once. They left to die. The sepoys obliterated all the vestiges of the British rule from Sirsa. They occupied the tahsil treasury and seized Rs. 8,000 from there. Having done this, they went to Hansi, where all the rebel troops of the district had assembled. After staying there for sometime they made their way to Delhi via Rohtak.¹ By the 1st week of June the entire district had slipped off the British hold.

This situation did not last for long. After a short while, General Van Courtlandt, the Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepur, attacked the district on instructions from John Lawrence, the Chief Commissioner of Punjab. His forces consisted of 670 men and two guns. Captain Robertson acted as a political officer under him. The General started his operation with the pargana of Sirsa where he encountered opposition from Nur Samad Khan, the Nawab of Rania. A pitched battle was fought at Odhan, a small village near Rania on June 17. The Nawab's men fought but the British firearms played a vital role in the contest. As many as 530 of the Nawab's men fell fighting as the victory went to Van Courtlandt. The Nawab effected his escape but he was caught while passing through the Ludhiana district and condemned to death by hanging at Ferozepur Cantt.² Nawab's tomb still stands here.³

On June 18, the village of Chhatrian, where Capt. Hillard and his brother-in-law were killed, was attacked. The assault came so suddenly that the villagers could neither come out to fight nor flee away to save their lives. They were ruthlessly butchered and their houses were burnt to ashes. Next

1. For details see, K.C. Yadav, *Revolt of 1857 in Haryana*, pp. 66-67.
2. Ibid. Barkat Ali, *Tarikh Bhattian*, p. 104.
3. Ibid.

day, the British attacked Kharian. Unlike the residents of Chhatrian, the villagers here were on guard and offered a tough battle to the enemy. But ultimately the British superiority in number and firearms again decided the fate of the battle. As many as 300 villagers died fighting. Overjoyed with the victory, Van Courtlandt went to Sirsa on June 20. About 800 men and two guns of the Raja of Bikaner joined him there. The General sent the Bikaner contingent under Capt. Pearse to Hisar via Bhadra, whereas he himself stayed back to reduce the pargana of Sirsa. This took the General a little more than a fortnight. On July 8, the General also left Sirsa for Hisar. On the way, he met with stiff opposition at the hands of the inmates of the villages through which he passed. However, he subdued them easily.¹

The rebellious element thus crushed, General Van Courtlandt established order throughout the district. The work of persecution also went side by side. The proprietary rights of seven villages—Mangala, Jamalpur, Hajimpur, Odhan, Chhatrian, Kharian, and Jodhkan were forfeited while heavy fines were levied on scores of other villages. He hanged nearly 133 persons and confiscated their properties. The Nawab's family was the worst sufferer. Besides Samad Khan, his cousin Gauhar Ali was arrested and hanged at Sirsa on August 18, 1857. His relatives and allies, Nawab Wazir Khan, Amir Ali Khan, Suba Khan and Umrao Ali Khan were hanged at Hisar. Ali Khan cousin of Nur Samad was given life sentence. Fearing ill fate hundred of persons ran away to distant places.²

For quite some time after the Uprising, the people of Sirsa suffered a great deal. Obviously, the spirit of vengeance on the part of the victors was working there. They were denied almost all the benefits of the Raj as a consequence of which they became backward in all respects.

Political Awakening and Freedom Struggle

This condition was not to remain for long, however, in the last decade of the preceding century, as elsewhere, the winds of changes began to blow here also. With the spread of western education, urbanization and techno-economic changes, the people especially the town-dwelling middle classes were influenced. Institutions—building efforts were also made by the people; the attempts of Arya Samajis were most significant in this direction. The main credit for this goes to Lala Lajpat Rai and Dr. Ramji Lal who propagated the ideals of the Samaj among the people. As a result, the first Arya Samaj was established at Sirsa in 1892.³ Other towns and big villages followed suit soon after.

The Arya Samajists brought political awakening to the people of the district. As a result, they started taking interest in public life. Some people

1. K.C. Yadav, *Revolt of 1857 in Haryana*, pp. 108—111.
2. Ibid. Barkat Ali, *Tarikh Bhattian*, pp. 104-105.
3. K.C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III, p. 123.

also joined the Indian National Congress. It may, however, be pointed out here that the Congress activities here were restricted to a limited number of people belonging to the urban middle classes only. To the villages the 'new wind' was yet to go.¹

In 1914, came the First World War which was by all means a big event. The people of Sirsa, as those of other districts in Haryana, came to the help of the government in its war efforts by men, money and material. Young men from villages enlisted themselves in the Army. The rich contributed liberally to the War Fund and the War Loan as the following Table shows :—

Contribution to War Loan by the people of Sirsa²

Name	Amount	Position in the whole of Punjab
	Rs.	
Seth Sukh Lal	12,00,000	First ³
Family of Ram Sukh Das	1,06,000	..
Mrs. Sukh Lal	1,00,000	First among women
K. S. Khan Yakin-ud-din	66,000	..

What was the reward for all this ? A few rich town dwellers and big zamindars from the villages received jagirs and other benefits for their War Services,³ but not others. The village youths, hundred of them who had offered their blood during the war were discharged from army after the conclusion of the war. The working classes and poor people residing in the towns and villages suffered on account of economic depression and sufferings that came after the war. In consequence, there was discontent and disaffection all around, Gandhiji found a great opportunity in this, and launched an all-India agitation when the government wanted to pass the Rowlatt Bill in 1919.

1. K. C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III, p. 123.

2. M.S. Leigh, *The Punjab and the War*, p. 123.

3. The rewards were given as follows.—

Name	Place	Reward
1. M. Ajit Singh	Kalanwalli	Kaisar-i-Hind Medal
2. Baba Bashanda Nand	Rori	Seat in Provincial Darbar
3. R.S. Ram Gopal	Sirsa	M.B.E. and Jagir (Rs. 500)
4. Seth Sukh Lal	Sirsa	O.B.E., Rai Bahadur
5. Khan Yakin-ud-din	Sirsa	Khan Sahib and Square land

The discontented and disaffected masses of the Sirsa area took part in the Rowlatt Bill agitation. Protest meetings were held at Sirsa in which resolutions were passed against the bill. The government took notice of the protests and passed in March 1919, one of the bills called the Criminal Law Emergency Powers Act. This infuriated the people all over the district, especially the townsmen who opposed the Act by every conceivable method. After the arrest of the Mahatma Gandhi at Palwal (April 10) and then Jallianwala Bagh tragedy (April 13), the movement reached a high pitch. The government's tried to create a rift among the people. For instance, on April, 27 they got hold of some Muslims at Sirsa who took a vow to remain faithful to the government. Their number was, however, very small.¹

After August 1, 1920, when Gandhiji launched the Non Cooperation Movement the struggle became still more intense. The Congress Committee was organised at Sirsa with Prabhu Dayal as its President, and Jai Narain as its General Secretary, Laxmi Narain Padiwal who financed the organization in a big way was its treasurer. Inspired by the newly-started Committee, several persons offered themselves for Satyagraha. Many students left schools and some lawyers boycotted courts. The Swadeshi Movement also gained momentum. The shopkeepers of Sirsa took a vow not to buy or sell foreign cloth.²

On the whole, the Movement progressed well. But it must be conceded that compared to what one met with in Rohtak or Hisar and even in Ambala or Karnal, the movement was weak. The reason for this is not far to seek : the Congress Organisation was weak here and hence weakness in the Movement. Even in its present form, on February 12, 1922, when Gandhiji withdrew the Movement after violence at Chauri-Chaura (Bihar), it came to a grinding halt here also.

As elsewhere, the withdrawal of the Non-cooperation Movement gave a sort of set-back to the national movement in the district. The Congressmen were divided into two camps : (i) Swarajists who wanted to give up Non-cooperation (also called Pro-changers) ; and (ii) Non-cooperationists. In the Sirsa area the former were in greater majority. The former took part in elections of 1923, 1925, 1926 and 1930. But they did not fare well. The Unionists defeated them almost in every village constituency, in the district.³ Some youngmen tried to improve the position by forming Naujawan Bharat Sabha (1927-28), but in that atmosphere they, too, could not succeed much.⁴

1. K.C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III, p. 156.

2. K.C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III, p. 163, The first Swadeshi Khaddar Bhandar was opened by Laxmi Narain Padiwal at Sirsa in 1925. (Pat Ram Verma, *Amar Gatha*, p. 2).

3. For details about elections see K.C. Yadav, *Elections in Punjab, 1920—47*.

4. Pat Ram Verma, *Amar Gatha*, p. 2.

In 1930, yet another all-India movement, the Civil Disobedience Movement was launched by Gandhiji. The movement bestirred the nation, and the Sirsa area was no exception. Satyagraha Sabhas were formed and volunteers were recruited who went to jail after breaking salt laws. The movement was launched on April 6, 1930 when the Sirsa Congress Committee organised a large meeting and made salt openly. From May 11 to 16, 1930 the 'Mutiny (1857) Week' was celebrated. The government arrested activists like Laxmi Narain, Nager Mal, Chanan Mal, Atma Ram, Ram Kumar, Ganpat Ram, Badri Prasad, Bhagwad Swarup, Desh Raj, etc. to crush the Movement. There were indiscriminate lathi charges at a number of places, especially on picketers of liquor shops. The Congress Organisation was declared unlawful. Despite all this, however, the struggle went on unabated (except for a brief halt in 1931), thanks to the efforts of some youngmen like Fateh Chand, Necki Ram Taula, Devi Lal, Ganpat Rai, Kundan Lal, Rameshwar Lohia, etc. In 1933, Gandhiji withdrew it and turned it into an Individual Satyagraha. The new mode of struggle did not make any impressive impact. After sometime even this was withdrawn. As elsewhere, the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement gave a set-back to the nationalist effort in the district.¹

These were bad days for the Congress, as also for the national movement. After sometime the situation improved. In 1939, there came the World War II. As elsewhere, the Congressmen in the area opposed the war efforts of the government. They started at a low key. There was no big show by the district in the Individual Satyagraha Movement, 1940-41. About two dozen people went to jail, prominent among whom were Murli Manohar, Sahib Ram, Pat Ram Verma, Madan Mohan, Bishan Singh, Har Chand, Ghenu Lal, Jan Muhammad, Hardwari Lal, Ram Lal and Paramnand. Situation changed by 1942, however, everything warmed up, when the Britishers were asked to quit India at once. The government action was equally strong. As elsewhere, where the Congress Organisation was declared unlawful here, too, and its activists were arrested. Yet the people came out to fight; several of them offered Satyagraha, prominent being Ramdayal, Hakam Chand, Madangopal, Sahib Ram, Devi Lal, Lekh Ram, Chanan Mal, Tilok Chand, Jan Muhammad, Arjan Singh, Ladu Ram, Pat Ram Verma, Suraj Prakash, Gaya Ram and Ramswarup.² As a result of the arrest of leaders and repressive measures adopted by the government, the Movement failed. By 1944, it was 'as dead as a door nail'.³

As at home, the people of the district made sacrifices to the cause of national freedom outside India also. A good number of soldiers from here

joined the Indian National Army (INA) and fought against the British forces under the leadership of Subhash Chandra Bose. Though the INA lost the war, its soldiers, when came to the villages after their release, gave great boost to the Congress activities and the national movement. As a result, the social base of the freedom struggle increased a great deal and there came Independence on August 15, 1947.

The district remained a part of Punjab until November 1, 1966 when it became a part of the newly created state of Haryana. In 1968, Sirsa tahsil was bifurcated into Sirsa and Dabwali tahsils. On September 1, 1975 Sirsa and Dabwali tahsils were constituted into a separate district with headquarters at Sirsa. The subsequent chapters will throw light on what developments have been made in different spheres of activity after Independence. However, after the formation of Haryana on November 1, 1966, the following ministeries have existed under the leadership of the Chief Ministers whose names are given below :—

Name	From	To
<i>S/Shri—</i>		
Bhagwat Dayal Sharma	November 1, 1966	March 24, 1967 (Forenoon)
Birender Singh	March 24, 1967	December 21, 1967 (Forenoon)
Bansi Lal	May 21, 1968	November 30, 1975
Banarsi Dass Gupta	December 1, 1975	April 4, 1977
Devi Lal	June 21, 1977	June 28, 1979
Bhajan Lal	June 29, 1979	June 4, 1986
Bansi Lal	June 5, 1986	June 20, 1987 (Forenoon)
Devi Lal	June 20, 1987 (Afternoon)	Continuing

The state remained also under the President's rule from November 21, 1967 to May 21, 1968 and again from April 30, 1977 to June 20, 1977.

1. Based on an interview with Pt. Shri Ram Sharma, Rohtak, 1st October, 1983: Pat Ram Verma, *Amar Gatha*, pp. 2-3.
2. Pat Ram Verma, *Amar Gatha*, pp. 13-14.
3. For details of the 1942 Movement see Jagdish Chandra, *Freedom Struggle in Haryana* pp. 110-111, K.C. Yadav, *Haryana Ka Itihas*, Vol. III pp. 190-91.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

POPULATION

The district, said to be once traversed by the legendary Sarasvati river, has been under human occupance since long. The frequently recurring famines and political strifes prevented the stabilization of any definite pattern of population.¹ The famine of 1783, known as *Chalisa kal*, depopulated almost the whole area. As a result, most of the villages were re-established after this great calamity. Gradually, the tract became populated again by both the pre-famine inhabitants as well as new migrants. When in 1803, the district came under the British control, a large part of it was uninhabited waste. There was demographic stagnation in the district until recent years.

Some demographic account of the district is available in settlement reports conducted during the 19th century. Enumerations were taken in 1855 and 1868 before census became a decennial event. The first decennial census operation took place in 1881. Since then it has been a regular feature but the boundaries of the district went on changing and the comparison of earlier inter decennial census figures is not possible. The district as constituted at present, however, had 1,65,167 persons in 1901 and 5,33,604 persons in 1971. The population further increased to 7,07,068 persons (3,76,602 males and 3,30,466 females) in 1981 with an overall growth rate of 32.51 per cent (89.48 per cent in urban population and 23.01 per cent in rural population) during 1971—81. The following figures give the population trend in the district since 1901 :—

Census Year	Population			Decadal variation (percentage)
	Total	Rural	Urban	
1901	1,65,167	1,40,045	25,122	..
1911	1,70,733	1,56,104	14,629	+3.37
1921	1,73,476	1,57,235	16,241	+1.61
1931	1,90,772	1,71,863	18,909	+9.97
1941	2,13,522	1,86,149	27,373	+11.93
1951	2,21,282	1,83,300	37,982	+3.63
1961	3,70,665	3,17,802	52,863	+67.51
1971	5,33,604	4,57,344	76,260	+43.96
1981	7,07,068	5,62,572	1,44,496	+32.51

1. Gill, Mehar Singh, *Demographic Dynamism of Hissar District 1951—1971*, A. Spatial Analysis Phd. Thesis, MSS 1979 (Panjab University, Chandigarh).

The major portion of the increase in population in pre-Independence period occurred during the years 1931—41. The decade 1901—1911 was marked by severe ravages of various diseases and droughts which took a heavy toll of the population. During 1911—21 occurred the great influenza epidemic. The decades 1921—31 and 1931—41 were generally healthy and population showed upward trend. During the decade 1941—51 the population remained more or less static, the increase was not substantial which was just 3.63 per cent over the decade. This low rate of growth of population must be due to the Partition of the country. After 1951, there was a healthy trend of growth of population in this district. The decade 1951—61 recorded all time high increase of 67.51 per cent. The next two decades i. e. 1961—71 and 1971—81 also provided a substantial growth rate of population. Roughly speaking the population of the district in 1981 rose by 4.3 times to that of 1901.

The population growth experienced by the district during the current century reveals thus two sharp breaks in the district's population growth curve, one in 1921 and the other in 1947 (1951). The population of the district which was 1,65,167 persons in 1901 increased to 1,70,733 persons in 1911 and to 1,73,476 persons by 1921, but thereafter started increasing steadily until Independence, reaching 2,21,282 persons in 1951. In post-Independence period, however, the population of the district grew at an unprecedented rate. Thus while only 56,115 people were added to the district's population during the fifty years preceding 1951, as many as 2,12,323 persons were added to its population in just twenty years thereafter. In fact, nearly two-fifth of the district's population of 1971 came only during the decade 1961—71. Further, about 24.4 per cent of the district's population had been contributed by the decade 1971—81. The post-Independence demographic history of the district therefore, is marked by several vicissitudes of far reaching implications. The changes in the pattern of its population growth have been most fundamental to the changing demographic character of the district.

The percentage decadal (1971—81) variation in population of the district was more pronounced in urban areas than in rural areas. In Sirsa tahsil, the percentage decadal variation in respect of towns was as large as 108.58 which seemed to be due to steep rise in the population of Sirsa town and notification of Rania as town. The rural decadal increase in population was higher in Dabwali tahsil than the tahsil of Sirsa. The table below gives percentage decadal (1971—81) variation in population in the two tahsils.

PEOPLE

Name of tahsil	Population			Percentage decadal variation (1971—81)		
	1971			1981		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Dabwali	1,38,513	1,17,592	20,921	1,78,472	1,49,401	29,071
Sirsa	3,95,091	3,39,752	55,339	5,28,596	4,13,171	1,15,425
District	5,33,604	4,57,344	76,260	7,07,068	5,62,572	1,44,496
				28.85	27.05	38.96
				33.79	21.61	108.58
				32.51	23.01	89.48

The post-Independence socio-economic development has infused a new set up in the State—a notable redistribution of population. The growth of population during the last two decades when viewed in its regional perspective, reveals striking variations. Five districts viz., Hisar, Sirsa, Jind, Faridabad and Kurukshetra recorded rapid increase in their population (over 35 per cent) during the decade 1961—71. During 1971—81, the decennial increase in population remained maximum in Faridabad district (40.41 per cent) followed by Sirsa, Kurukshetra and Karnal districts (around 32 per cent for each).

Density.—The density of population of the last century shows that the district was sparsely populated. The density of population of Sirsa tahsil was 87 persons per square mile (34 persons per square kilometre) in 1868 which increased to 95 (37 persons per square kilometre) in 1881. The Dabwali tahsil registered a higher density growth during this period which increased from 70 persons per square mile (27 persons per square kilometre) in 1868 to 87 (34 persons per square kilometre) persons in 1881.¹

Exactly after 100 years i.e. in 1981 the number of persons per square kilometre in the district was 165 (133 rural and 4,515 urban) against 292 in the State. Sirsa even today is the most sparsely populated district in Haryana. The density of population of each tahsil is given below as recorded in the last two censuses :

Tahsil	Population Density (per square kilometre)	
	1981	1971
Sirsa	180	129
Dabwali	142	115

It is evident that Sirsa tahsil continues to be more densely populated than that of Dabwali tahsil. Within the Sirsa tahsil, the centenary increase (1881—1981) in the density works out to be 143 persons per square kilometre, resulting in the annual pressure rate of 1.43 persons per square kilometre. In Dabwali tahsil the corresponding increase in the density remains to be 108 persons per square kilometre registering an annual population pressure at the rate of 1.08 persons per square kilometre.

The density of population makes a gentle gradient from high to low in the different segments of the district. According to 1981 census, in 61.83 per cent of the villages of the district, the density of population per square kilometre

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa district in the Punjab, 1879—83*, pp. 78-79.

fell in the range 101—200. In one village only, the density was above 500. Table below shows complete density distribution of the villages :

Range of density (per square kilometre)	Total number of villages in each density range	Percentage of villages in each density range
—10	7	2.21
11—20	6	1.89
21—50	11	3.47
51—100	60	18.93
101—200	196	61.83
201—300	29	9.15
301—500	7	2.21
501+	1	0.31
	317	100.00

Density of population in the urban areas has come down considerably because the urban area has grown almost three times as compared to 1971 census. Table below shows, the urban density of the district in relation to the State :

Census year	Urban Density of Population (per square kilometre)	
	Sirsa District	Haryana State
1961	5,796	3,479
1971	7,094	3,928
1981	4,521	3,702

The density of population of new Rania town in 1981 was the highest (5,704 persons per square kilometre) among the four towns of the district while Kalanwali town had the lowest (3,723). The density of remaining towns i.e. Sirsa and Mandi Dabwali was 4,608 and 4,089 persons per square kilometre respectively.

The noticeable feature of increasing trend in population and its impact on land during the last two decades may be seen from the table given below :

Category	Density of Population (per square kilometre)					
	1971 Census			1981 Census		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Sirsa District	125	7,094	106	165	4,521	133
Haryana State	227	3,928	189	292	3,702	232

It may be concluded that the rural area of the district is not so heavily populated in relation to overall state rural area. In contrast, the district urban population is comparatively denser to overall State urban population. It may also be seen that during the last two decades the rural density of population both in the district as well as in the State continued to increase but the urban density of population in district declined considerably more in the district than in the State. This paradoxical situation is attributed to the increase in urban area in the district.

Distribution of Population

When the area covering the present Sirsa district came under the British in the beginning of the 19th century, it was very sparsely populated. There were roughly 15-16 villages which had some population, the largest of them was Rania. The Bagar tract comprising the area south of the Ghaggar had only a single village whereas the Nali, a slightly better hydrographically, had 11 villages and the Rohi lying towards north-west had 10 villages.¹

When the first decennial census operation took place in the district in 1881, the whole of the district seemed to be fairly covered with villages. Probably the average distance between two villages was not more than four miles (about 6.5 kilometres). While the villages steadily increased in number they rose in size too and the average population of a village varied between 200 persons to 500 persons.² The growth rate of population between 1868-1881 remained 9 per cent in Sirsa tahsil and 23 per cent in Dabwali tahsil. The trend changed thereafter and the growth rate of population in Sirsa tahsil remained higher than that of Dabwali tahsil throughout the period between 1881-1981. During the last decade 1971-81, the growth rate was 33.79 per cent in Sirsa tahsil and 28.85 per cent in Dabwali tahsil. The size of villages continued to increase during the last few decades due to development in agriculture and other allied sectors.

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab, 1879-83*, p 74.

2. Ibid pp 74-75.

In 1981, there were 323 villages—317 inhabited and 6 uninhabited. The inhabited villages had 5,62,572 persons (79.6 per cent of the total population) and the remaining 1,44,496 persons (20.4 per cent) lived in towns. The average number of persons per inhabited village in the district was 1,775. Over 42 per cent of the rural population of the district was residing in 85 villages each having population in the range 2,000 and 4,999 while another 32 per cent was concentrated in 120 villages each in the population range of 1,000-1,999. Ellanabad in Sirsa tahsil with a population of 14,731 persons is the biggest village of the district followed by Jiwan Nagar (10,796 persons) of the same tahsil. In Dabwali tahsil the biggest village is Chutafa having population of 9,522 persons followed by Abub Shahar (6,271 persons). The smallest village of the district as per 1981 census is Nai Dabwali (Dabwali tahsil) where just 5 persons were residing. Next to it, were Khandanwali (10 persons), Rampura (16 persons) both of Sirsa tahsil and Ramgarh (33 persons) of Dabwali tahsil. The total rural population tabulated below has been classified into different units according to size of the population as per 1971 and 1981 censuses.—

Unit of Population	No. of Villages		Total Population	
	1971	1981	1971	1981
Less than 200	21	17	1,636	1,456
Between 200 and 499	26	16	10,359	5,796
Between 500 and 999	92	66	70,627	61,575
Between 1,000 and 1,999	120	120	1,72,449	1,73,985
Between 2,000 and 4,999	52	85	1,52,427	2,39,215
Between 5,000 and 9,999	5	11	37,382	65,058
Between 10,000 and above	1	2	12,464	25,487
Total	317	317	4,57,344	5,62,572

The above table shows that now 58.68 per cent of the villages in the district are medium sized having population in the range 500-1,999, whereas 26.81 per cent of the villages fall in the population range 2,000-4,999. The population statistics of each village has been given in Table III of Appendix.

The decennial growth of rural population in the district was 43.91 per cent in 1961-71 and 29.01 per cent in 1971-81 as against the State growth rate of 31.53 per cent and 22.16 per cent, respectively.

The urban population concentrated only in 4 towns experienced the growth rate of 44.26 per cent in 1961—71 and 89.48 per cent in 1971—81. Leaving aside the most industrialised district of Faridabad, the urban growth rate in the last decade was the highest in the Sirsa district.

In terms of area, Sirsa is the least urbanized district, having only 4 towns spread over into 32 square kilometres. The urban population in the district was 15,800 in 1901 which increased to 1,44,496 in 1981. During the last 80 years, only three villages have been ranked as towns and none of the four towns have qualified as Class-I town (i.e. having population over one lakh) so far. Historically Sirsa is the oldest town of the district and is categorised as a Class-II town (population between 50,000—99,999). The second biggest town is Mandi Dabwali classified as Class-III town (20,000—49,999) followed by Rania as Class-IV town (10,000—19,999) and Kalanwali as Class-V town (5,000—9,999). The growth of population in these towns has been depicted in the table given below :—

Town	1981	1971	1961	1951	1941	1921	1901
Sirsa	89,068	48,808	33,316	24,980	20,718	16,241	15,800
Mandi Dabwali	29,071	20,921	15,421	10,380	6,655	..	..
Rania	16,714	12,464	..	..	..	..	..
Kalanwali	9,643	6,531	4,079	2,622	..	..	..

About 61 per cent of the urban population of the district is concentrated only in Sirsa town. The population of this town went over 5.5 folds between 1901—1981. Similarly, the population in other towns increased steadily. Sirsa town registered a higher growth of population between 1971—1981 as it was made district headquarters of newly created Sirsa district in 1975. In general, it may also be added that percentage of urban population to the total population of the district increased from 14.29 in 1971 to 20.44 in 1981 against the proportion of urban population in the State as 17.67 per cent in 1971 and 21.88 per cent in 1981. The decennial growth rate in the Sirsa district as compared to that of the State may be seen in the following table :—

Category	Percentage Decennial Growth Rate					
	1971—81			1961—71		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Sirsa District	32.51	89.48	23.01	43.96	44.26	43.91
Haryana State	28.75	59.47	22.16	32.23	35.58	31.53

Scheduled Castes

The Scheduled Castes population in the district was 1,29,848 in 1971 i.e. 24.33 per cent of the total and 1,78,655 persons in 1981 which was 25.27 per cent of the total. The representation of Scheduled Castes in State population was 18.89 per cent in 1971 and 19.07 per cent in 1981. Among all districts of the State, percentage of Scheduled Castes to the total population is the highest in Sirsa district. The proportion of Scheduled Castes population to the total population showed an increase in the district during the decade 1971—81. Recent developmental activities carried in the district has attracted the migration of weaker sections for employment here. The population of Scheduled Castes is, however, unevenly distributed in the district. The table below gives the proportion of Scheduled Castes to total population in the villages. In more than 60 per cent of villages, percentage of Scheduled Castes population to total population was 20 per cent in 1981. In 2.52 per cent of villages there was no Scheduled Castes population at all¹ —

Percentage range of Scheduled Castes population to total population	Number of Villages in each Range	Percentage of Villages in each Range
Nil	8	2.52
5 or less	11	3.47
6—10	13	4.10
11—15	36	11.36
16—20	51	16.09
21—30	101	31.86
31 and above	97	30.60
Total	317	100.00

Nearly 19 per cent of the total urban population in the district belongs to Scheduled Castes. The following table indicates the proportion of Scheduled Castes population in towns as per 1981 census :—

Name of the town	Total Population including Institutional and Houseless Population	Total Scheduled Castes Population	Percentage of Scheduled Castes Population to total Population
Sirsa	89,068	14,949	16.78
Mandi Dabwali	29,071	6,414	22.06
Rania	16,714	4,103	24.55
Kalanwali	9,643	2,098	21.76
All towns	1,44,496	27,564	19.07

1. Census of India, 1981—District Census Hand Book, Sirsa District, p. 12.

The Scheduled Castes people are far less urbanized than the non-Scheduled Castes because of their rural-oriented traditional functional roles. The growth rate of Scheduled Castes population in the district remained 37.6 per cent against 32.5 overall growth rate of the total population during 1971—81.

Sex Ratio

Although in number the two sexes are not widely divergent, the disparity is of great interest to social scientists because of the different roles of the two sexes in society and its economy. Like other districts of the state, Sirsa too is a female deficit district. The following table gives the sex-ratio of the district and the state since 1901 :—

Sex-Ratio (Females per 1,000 males)

Sirsa District	1981	1971	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
Total	877	865	845	843	878	855	877	837	871
Rural	887	867	846	842	888	865	885	839	870
Urban	841	850	842	846	817	766	795	818	879
Haryana State									
Total	870	867	868	871	869	844	844	835	867
Rural	876	870	874	877	879	851	848	834	861
Urban	849	853	842	845	806	792	811	842	908

The number of females per 1,000 males is relatively high in rural areas in comparison to urban areas. It reflects male selective migrations to urban areas. The following table gives the sex-ratio of different towns in different census years :—

Sex Ratio (Females per 1,000 males)

Town	1961	1971	1981
Sirsa	835	840	817
Mandi Dabwali	853	860	885
Kalanwali	855	891	858
Rania	..	..	889

Literacy.—Sirsa district falls in the low literacy belt of the State. Educationally, but for Jind district, it is the most backward district of the State. The literacy rate in the district was 29.9 per cent in 1981 as against the State's average of 36.1 per cent. In spite of overall development in the district, the literacy rate increased marginally by 6.2 per cent during 1971—81. Male literacy increased from 31.6 in 1971 to 39.5 per cent in 1981 while the female literacy rose from 12.4 to 18.9 per cent during this decade. The male and female literacy figures for the State were 37.3 per cent and 14.9 per cent in 1971 and 48.2 per cent and 22.3 per cent in 1981 respectively. Literacy among the Scheduled Castes in the district in 1981 was the lowest (10.91 per cent) among all the districts and was approximately half of the overall State literacy rate (20.15 per cent) of the Scheduled Castes. It is revealed that in 1981, the smaller and bigger villages had higher literacy than the medium villages which is evident from the table given below :—

Range of population	Number of Villages in each Range	Literacy Rate (per cent)
—200	17	29.53
200—499	16	24.29
500—1,999	186	23.92
2,000—4,999	85	23.55
5,000—9,999	11	23.58
10,000 +	2	36.58
Total	317	24.32

The overall urban literacy of the district was 51.51 per cent in 1981. The two towns Mandi Dabwali and Sirsa had literacy rate around 54 while the literacy rate of Kalanwali was about 48 and over 34 per cent that of Rania.

LANGUAGE

Hindi is spoken by the majority of the people in the district, Haryanvi and Bagri are the main dialects. Bagri is spoken in the south-west of the district and Haryanvi in the east and there is no hard and fast line at which Haryanvi ends and Bagri begins. In the Nali tract and towards the north, the dialect is affected by Panjabi.

The various scripts used are Devnagri for Hindi, the official language of the State, Gurmukhi for Panjabi, Persian for Urdu, Roman for English and Lande for book keeping. The use of Urdu is limited to the older generation. The younger generation mostly uses Hindi, both in speech and writing.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

The distribution of various religious groups in the district is based on the factors of original settlement and subsequent migration patterns. As elsewhere, Hindu religious groups comprising Hindus, Sikhs and Jains make the basal population amounting to 99.4 per cent (72.3 per cent Hindus, 26.9 per cent Sikhs and 0.2 per cent Jains) in the district in 1981, followed by the Muslims and Christians.

Hindus

Hindu religion is vast and liberal in practice. The Hindus believe in worship of God in various ways. Majority of Hindus follow traditional Hindu beliefs and practices. They believe in Hindu trinity i.e. Barhma, Vishnu and Mahesh and their incarnations. Rama and Krishna are said to be the incarnations of Vishnu. Shakti in her different forms and names and Hanumana are also worshipped. Spirits of streams, trees and other lesser deities are the objects of worship particularly for the people of rural areas. Some people, however, do not believe in idol worship and pray to God who is omnipresent. Worship in temples is not strictly necessary for them. Generally people visit places of worship either daily or on special occasions. A few do ritual worship in their homes before the images and idols of gods.

The religious practices of the Hindus all over Haryana are almost identical. The variations, if at all, are due to customs peculiar to each caste and family. Most of the temples are those of Lord Krishna and Radha, Hanumana, Shakti and Shiva ; while a few temples are dedicated to local deities.

Shiva.—Shiva worship is prevalent here as in other parts of Haryana. Shiva temples or *Shivalas* are numerous as compared to other temples, as the people in rural areas perhaps have the highest faith in Shiva worship. People visit *Shivala*, generally on Mondays and on Shivratri festival and worship the deity by pouring milk and water on the *linga* (*Phalus*). *Shivala* at Dera Baba Sarsai Nath at Sirsa is an important and the oldest *Shivala* in the district. The *Shivala* at Jodhkan (Sirsa tahsil) is also said to be 135 years old.

Rama.—Rama is worshipped by all Hindus as the incarnation of Vishnu. The idols of Rama, Sita and Lakshmana are placed in temples. Rama is worshipped on various occasions such as Dussehra, Diwali and Ram Navami and Ram Lila the story of *Ramayana* is staged on the occasion of Dussehra. The temple at Pohrakan (Sirsa tahsil) dedicated to Rama is of worth mentioning.

Krishna.—Lord Krishna is also worshipped here as in other parts of the country. Temples dedicated to him are found everywhere in the district. Bansi Vatt Mandir near Bhadra tank, Radha Krishan mandir near *goshala* and Shamji ka Mandir in Noharia Bazaar at Sirsa town deserve mention. The temples one each at Ding, Ludesar and Fagu also carry wide significance.

Hanumana.—Hanumana is also worshipped with great devotion and his temples are also found everywhere in the district. The deity is worshipped on Tuesday and on this day people offer *parshad* at his shrine. *Sawa Mani* i. e. distribution of $1\frac{1}{2}$ maund of *parshad* of *churma* is observed when a wish is fulfilled. Moreover, Hanumana is considered as the god of strength. Aherculean task is initiated by chanting *Jai Bajrang Bali*. In Sirsa town, Hanumana temples at Rania road and *goshala* road deserve mention. Other important temples are at Ellanabad, Kuranganwali and Farwain.

Shakti or Devi.—Shakti in different forms is also worshipped here along other deities. The worship of Shiva's consort Durga is increasingly worshipped these days. *Jagratas* (vigils) are performed to get her blessings. People worship the goddess on *Chet Sudi Ashtami* (March-April). Two *Devi* temples at Dabwali town are important.

Shani Devta.—*Shani*, one of the 9 planets (*Nakshatras*) of the solar system, is also worshipped in the district. Two temples, dedicated to *Shani Devta* at Sirsa town, are located in Noharia bazaar and Bhadra bazaar. People worship *Shani* idols in these temples on Saturdays by offering mustard oil. Since *Shani* is not worshipped in temples elsewhere in the state, the existence of these two temples in the Sirsa district is quite significant.

Minor deities.—Most of the malevolent deities are worshipped by women and children. Some Muslim *pirs* are also worshipped. At Sirsa town, shrine of Khwaja Abdul Shakur in Mohalla Gujjar is worshipped on Thursdays.

Bhumia or Khera.—Bhumia, or the god of homestead or the village itself often called Khera is highly significant. Bhumia is worshipped on Sundays and people light earthen lamps and offer *gur* or *shakkar* at the shrine. Significantly Khera worship is connected with the rabi and kharif harvests and likewise the first milk of a cow or buffalo is offered to Bhumia. Bhumia is also worshipped on other occasions. The bridegroom before proceeding to the bride's house and again after marriage along with his bride worship Khera and seek blessings for happy married life. When a woman is blessed with a son, she lights lamps in the shrine.

Gugga Pir.—Gugga or Jahar Pir, considered to be the greatest of the snake-kings is worshipped throughout the district on the 9th Bhadon (August-September) i. e. the Gugga Naumi and generally the 9th of any month and all Mondays are his days. His shrine usually consists of a small one-room building with a minaret on each corner and a grave inside. It is called a *mari* and is marked by a long bamboo with peacock plumes, a coconut some coloured threads, and some *pankhas* and a blue flag on the top. On Gugga Naumi, this fly-flap known as *chhari* is taken round the village with the sound of *derus* and the devotees salute it and offer *churmas*. Devotional songs known as 'Pir Ko

Solle' are sung in honour of the Pir to the accompaniment of *deru*. It is believed that the spirit of Gugga temporarily takes abode in the devotee dancer. Gugga Pir is also a subject of folk songs.

Smallpox sisters.—*Mata* is worshipped for protection against smallpox. Of the seven sisters, *Sitla Mata* is supposed to be the greatest and most virulent and is worshipped on *Sili Satam*, 7th of *Chaitra* (March-April). Beside, *phag* the day after Holi, and Mondays, especially in *Chaitra* or *Asadha*, are favourable days. Women and children participate in the worship.

Other Saints

Ramdevji.—Ramdevji is said to belong to Tanwar Rajput clan hailing from Runicha in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. The people who immigrated from Rajasthan especially rever Ramdevji.¹ He is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Krishna in Rajasthan. His devotees visit Runicha to pay homage to the deity. His male devotees are known as Kamads and females are called Terah Taalis and they sing songs in praise of Ramdevji. The important temples dedicated to him are at Sirsa, Dabwali, Kagdana, Ludesar, Ellanabad, Rampura (Bagrian) and Kuranganwali.

Jhambha Jee.—Jhambha Jee² believed to be incarnation of Vishnu is worshipped by Bishnois. His main preaching was not to harm animals and trees. The birth anniversary of Jhambha Jee is celebrated by Bishnois in temples dedicated to him. The place of pilgrimage of Jhambha Jee is at Mokam a small village at a distance of 16 Kilometres from Naukha Mandi in Rajasthan.

Ravidas—As elsewhere Hindus especially Chamar community worship Ravidas, a great saint. Guru Ravidas was a disciple of Ramanand and a contemporary of Kabir. Temples for his worship have been erected at Sirsa and Dabwali. The birth anniversary of the *guru* is celebrated on the *puṇima* of *Magh* (January-February). On this occasion *jhankies* from the life of the *guru* are taken out in procession with *bhajan mandlis* singing devotional songs.

Maha Rishi Balmiki.—Balmiki community rever Rishi Balmiki, the composer of the *Ramayana*. Rishi Balmiki's birth anniversary is celebrated

1. His shrine consists of an idol of blue horse with Ramdevji.
2. He was born in 1485 at Pipasar in Bikaner. When a lad of five years, he used to take his father's herd to water at the well, and had for each head of cattle a peculiar whistle, which it knew and recognised, at the sound of his whistle the cows and bullocks would come, one by one to the well, drink and go away. One day a man, named Udaji, happened to witness this scene and struck with astonishment, attempted to follow the boy when he left the well. He was on horse back and the boy on foot, but gallop as fast as he would, he could not keep up with the walking pace of the boy. At last in amazement, he dismounted and threw himself at his feet. The boy at once welcomed him by name though he then saw him for the first time. The bewildered Udaji exclaimed "Jambha Jee" (omniscient) and henceforth the boy was known by this name.

on the *Purnima* of *Asuj* (October), with great enthusiasm. On the occasion, *jhankies* from the life of the Rishi are taken out with *bhajan mandlis* singing devotional songs. Mass *kirtan* is performed in the temples dedicated to Rishi Balmiki.

Arya Samaj.—A socio-religious movement for the eradication of illogical and superstitious beliefs began to flourish in the district towards the close of 19th century. The Arya Samaj was established at Sirsa in 1892 and influenced remarkably the social and religious life of the district.

Sikh Faith.—The Sikh faith evolved during the Bhakti movement with the preachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The followers of Sikh faith believe in monotheism. Guru Granth Sahib is their holy book which consists-teachings of ten Gurus and various Hindu saints and Muslim Pirs. They rever this holy book as *Guru*. Besides observing some Hindu festivals, the Sikh celebrate Gurburbs (birthdays and martyrdom days of the Sikh Gurus) and Baisakhi. *Akhand Path* is organised on the occasion of birth, marriage and death. Gurudwaras one each at Chormar Khera and Naṛrang in Dabwali tahsil and one at Hassu and two at Desu Malkana in Sirsa tahsil are held in high esteem.

Jains.—Followers of Jainism worship 24 Tirthankaras, the last Tirthankara was Mahavir. There are three temples of Swetamber and Digamber sects of Jains in Sirsa town and one at Dabwali. Like other Hindus, they celebrate all other festivals.

Christians.—Christians are in small number in the district. There are four churches, two each at Sirsa and Dabwali. They gather at churches on Sundays for prayers. The community celebrates Christmas, Good Friday and Easter.

Muslims.—Some Muslim families are settled in the district. There is a mosque known as Jama Masjid at Sirsa where the Muslims offer *namaz* and celebrate their religious festivals. Mosque-Shah-bu-Shah at Panihari (Sirsa tahsil) and a mosque at Chutala (Dabwali tahsil) are also of great significance.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

The people in the district still continue to follow the old festive traditions of observing *Amavasya* and *Purnmashi* in lunar month. *Amavasya* is the last day of the dark fortnight of the lunar month and Hindu say special prayers and give alms. *Purnamashi* is end of the lunar month and stands for the full moon-night. However, the most significant festivals celebrated here are Teej, Raksha Bandhan, Janmashtami, Gugga Naumi,

Dussehra, Diwali, Sankrant, Vasant Panchmi, Shivratri, Holi, Gangor and Ramanavami. All these Hindu festivals in the district as elsewhere are celebrated with full devotion and gay. The festivals of Jains, Sikhs, Muslims, and Christians are also celebrated with equal enthusiasm. The two festivals viz, Teej and Gangor carry wider local significance. The former is celebrated on *Sawan Sudi-3* (July-August) while the later on *Chet Sudi-3* (March-April) every year with great festivity and fairs on these occasions are held at many places. Teej commonly called as Haryali Teej closes the torturous dry spell and sets in the rainy season in full bloom. The greenery and wet season inspire for excitement particularly among teenaged girls. The newly married girls too grace the occasion with them in their respective villages. All in their best, assemble in groups under the shadows of tall trees for swing and sing threading their emotions into songs. The humour, pathos and passions contained in these songs are really touching. The Teej thus is a kale of cultural activities and various social customs relating to newly married girls who make this festival more alive and significant.

Teej opens the gala of festival celebrations which continues till Gangor. Next to Teej and equally important for the teenaged girls is the *Kartik Snan* which falls in the month of *Kartik* (October-November). The girls after a regular bath and worshipping Lord Krishna for full month in the early hours of the day in the village pond go for *Ganga Snan*. The festival is connected with Lord Krishna who is said to have promised the *gopis* that he would meet them in future in the month of *Kartik*. The idol of Sanjhi is made on the wall of the house with clay and is fully decorated with clothes and ornaments just ten days before Dussehra. The girls daily sing in praise of Sanjhi till her erected idol is immersed into village pond on Dussehra with full honour and show. Goverdhan Puja is observed on the day following Diwali, when cow dung collected in the courtyard is worshipped. This worship is connected with Lord Krishna.

Sankrant is celebrated on *Magh-1* (January-February). People take bath in the morning, clean their houses and the newly married women honour the elders of the family by presenting gifts to them. *Phag* which is ceremonised on the day following Holi is an occasion to play with colour, water and *korda*. Men who throw water on women are chased by the women for pleasant beating. The joyful battle and fun continue till the conclusion of celebrations at late night.

After fourteen days of Holi, Gangor celebration falls. On the day, idols of Ishar and Gangor are taken out in procession and songs in their praise are sung till they are immersed into water.

Most of the fairs are of religious origin, however, they also exhibit a bit commercial colour as thousands of people participate. The traders

obviously grace the occasion to sell their goods. The brief account of important fairs held in the district are discussed below :

A fair popularly known as Mela Ram Dev is held annually at Kagdana, Ludesar, Ellanabad, on *Magh Sudi-10* (January-February), on *Magh Sudi-9* at Kuranganwali and bi-annually at Mandi Dabwali on *Bhadon Badi-10* (August-September) and *Magh Badi-10* (January-February). This fair is dedicated to Ram Devji Maharaj (1469—1575) who is said to be a saint of Tanwar—Rajput clan hailing from Runicha in the then Bikaner State.¹ A fair of Gangor is held in the district at Ellanabad and Sirsa town on *Chet Sudi-3* (March-April) and at Bhagsar a day earlier i.e. *Chet Sudi-2*. This fair is held in the memory of Ishar and Gangor.²

A particular type of fair called Mela Sacha Sauda is held at Sirsa town on the last Sunday and at Shahpur Begu and Jagmalwali on first Sunday of every month. This fair is celebrated in the memory of a faqir Shah Mastana,³ who preached thankfulness and fair dealings.

1. In 1914, one Panchan who belonged to the priestly class of Kamaria among the Chamars and who had faith in the saint, constructed a platform in the village in his name. In 1932, a Brahmin, Thakur Dass by name, fell a victim to leprosy, as a result of which he began to live away from the village in a hut. One day the Brahmin saw (had *darshan* of) Ram Devji Maharaj riding horse. Thakur Dass joined Panchan in worship of Ram Dev and got constructed a pukka temple by raising subscriptions from the Chamars. The Brahmin got cured of leprosy. This strengthened the belief of the villagers in the saint and they began to hold the fair in his honour.

2. Legend is that these two lovers tried to run away but were detected before they could cross the village boundary. To escape the wrath of the villagers they drowned themselves into a tank and died. Then onwards, they are being taken as divine souls.

3. Baba Shah Mastana was a great saint. His name was Khema Mal but for remaining always in meditation, people started calling him as Mastana Shah. He was the disciple of Baba Sawan Shah belonging to Radha Swami cult. He was very fond of singing and dancing. When he used to meditate, he started dancing which was against the principles of Radha Swami Sect. Baba Sawan Shah asked Shah Mastana to refrain from his habit of dancing as women followers were also among the devotees. Mastana Ji, however, failed to do so and Baba Sawan Shah asked him *DIG, KHOH WICH* (jump into the well). Mastana Ji like a sincere pupil jumped into the well. When other followers of Baba Sawan Shah reached the well they found Mastana dancing into the well. They asked him to come out from the well but Mastana Ji refused to do so until Baba Sawan Shah came himself there. Then Baba Sawan Shah came to the well and asked him to come out and allowed him to establish his own way of preaching. Since then Baba Mastana set up *Sacha Sauda* and his followers used to dance when they perform *Satsang*.

Another such type of fair known as Mela Baba Bhuman Shah¹ is held at Mangla, Maujain, Kuta Budn and Gidranwali. The date of fair varies from place to place and coincides with the visit of Baba Bhuman Shah (Belonging to Kamboj community) to above places.

Another socio-religious fair called Holi is held at Jiwan Nagar on *Chet Badi-1* (March-April). It is widely celebrated by the people belonging to Namdhari sect. Mass marriages among Namdharis are performed on this occasion.

The Baisakhi fair is held at Sirsa town on *Baisakh-1* (April 13) with full zeal which reflects the joy among peasantry in particular and masses in general. On this day, a fair known as Mela Baba Boota Singh is also held at Suchan (mandi) in the memory of the Baba.²

A fair known as Mela Shah-bu-Shah is held at Panihari on *Bhadon-1* (August-September). It is celebrated in the memory of a Muslim saint Shah-bu-Shah. People worship *samadhi* of the saint on this day.

The fair dedicated to goddess Devi held at Kagdana on *Magh Sudi-10* (November-December) and the Gugga fair held at Chutala on *Bhadon Badi-9* (August-September) are other important fairs of the district.

SOCIAL LIFE

Social Groups

The important social groups in the district are Jats, Bishnois, Rajputs and Sainis. They are notable caste groups of cultivators concentrated in the rural areas. The displaced persons have settled in many parts from where the Muslims had gone out. In addition to towns, their main concentration emerged in the irrigated areas and around the towns and in various rural service centres. The uprooted people conspicuously avoided the unirrigated areas of *Bagar* which did not suit to their agricultural expertise.

1. Baba Bhuman Shah was born in Samvat 1744 (c 1688 A.D.) at village Bahulolpur, district Mintgumri (Pakistan), in a respectable family of Chowdhri Hassar. His mother's name was Rijo. He died in Samvat 1818 (c 1762 A.D.). There are many legends attached to the name of Baba Bhuman Shah. To quote one such legend, once when he was two and a half years old and was sleeping in a cradle, a snake spread its hood over his face to protect him from the sun shine. His mother was stunned to see a snake near him. But the snake disappeared immediately. After this incident, people started to see Baba Bhuman Shah in a very large number. The family shifted from Bahulolpur to Dyal Pur. He used to take cows to the forests where he always kept plenty of food with him to serve passers-by and the saints. Once Guru Govind Singh, while passing through the forest alongwith followers saw Baba Bhuman Shah serving saints. Guru Govind Singh and his followers took meals to their full and Guru Govind Singh blessed Baba Bhuman Shah with open hands to serve the *Sadh Sangat*.

2. Baba Boota Singh was born in the house of Baba Khushal Singh (who belonged to the family of Baba Guru Nanak Dev in Samvat 1862 (c 1806 A.D.) at village Mehmedpur, tahsil, Pak-Pattan of Pakistan. He died at village Bhaudina, district Sirsa on *Magh Badi-10*—sankranti in Samvat 1922 (c 1866 A.D.).

To carve out a respectable place in the new social environment they had to work hard. Compared with the local people they are geographically as well as occupationally more mobile.

The other important social groups are of Brahmans and Banias or Mahajans. A sizeable section of the society known as backward classes has also been described for their distinct position.

Jats.—This is the largest social group in the district. They are of two types *Deswali* and *Bagri* and the later are in majority. The *Bagris* are found in large number in the western part of the district. They are largely concentrated in a pocket of *pantallisa*—a compact tract of 45 villages in Sirsa tahsil. *Deswali* (*Deswala-desi*) Jats claim to be the original Haryanvi and *Bagri* Jats are immigrants from Rajasthan. Though not prevalent earlier, inter-marriage now takes place between them. Occupationally all Jats are agriculturists and are fine cultivators. They have also joined defence forces in large number. Both these professions are traditionally followed by them. They are also turning towards other professions with success.

Bishnois.—Bishnoi sect originated during the 15th century. The Bishnois are followers of Jhambha Jee believed to be an incarnation of Vishnu. They observe twenty-nine principles laid down by Jhambha Jee. Most of them have migrated from Rajasthan and settled in different parts of the district. The use of tobacco and meat is forbidden. They abstain from taking animal life and cutting trees. They prefer camels to bullocks for agricultural operations. They all are fine agriculturists and are coming into other fields also.

Rajputs.—They trace their origin from Rajputana. Beside agriculture, they have joined into defence as well as civil services. A few of them, still wander as *Bagri Lohars/Gadia Lohars*.

Sainis.—They are mostly agriculturists. They prefer vegetable cultivation to foodgrains. They are scattered in various parts of the district.

Brahmans.—There are different sections of Brahmans in the district. Some Brahmans practise astrology and palmistry and besides getting fee for their service, they also receive offerings in various forms. The Brahmans, however, are leaving their hereditary professions with the time. Many of them have shifted to agriculture, trade and services.

Banias (Mahajans).—Banias are all Aggarwals and they trace their origin to Maharaja Agarsen whose capital was at Agroha in Hisar district. Most of the Banias are engaged in trade and industry. They now have switched over to other occupations also with equal success.

Aroras and Khattris.—Aroras and Khattris have migrated from West Punjab (Pakistan).¹ They have mostly settled in urban areas. Majority of them are engaged in trade and services. They have been able to make up what they lost in Pakistan with zeal and untiring efforts.

1. A small number of Aroras lived in Sirsa tahsil before the Partition of the country. They used to work as traders.

Kambojs.—They are known as Kambo in the district. They have migrated from Pakistan during the Partition and are scattered in various parts of the district. They were good cultivators but now they are shifting to trade and services. They specially rever Baba Bhuman Shah.

Backward Classes.—A section of the society which is socially and economically backward comprises several social groups. Broadly they belong to Chamar, Balmiki, Dhanak, Bawaria, Bazigar, Nayak and Sapela communities. These communities are very conscious of their social and political rights. Few safeguards provided for them in the Constitution have helped them for their uplift and betterment.

The Chamar is occupational term and its members used to work in leather and also worked as agricultural labourers. From their old profession of leather they are now shifting to agriculture and services.

Like Mochis, Raigars also work in leather. They are engaged in shoe-making and repairing, but they have no inter-marital relations with Chamars.

Balmikis were the scavengers and even now follow this profession in urban areas. However, in the rural areas they have turned as cultivators or agricultural labourers and a few work as sweepers. They also rear pigs, goats and sheep. They rever Maharishi Balmiki and their *guru* Lalbeg.

Dhanaks were weavers but with the advancement of textile industry they have changed their profession. In the urban areas some of them now work in allied pursuits while in rural areas many work as agricultural labourers.

Bawarias were fond of wandering. They were hunters of wild animals and still they are fond of hunting. In past, they used to cooperate with thieves and depended upon them for their livelihood. But now they have given up such unlawful activities and most of them are working as agricultural labourers. Like Bawarias, Nayaks or Aheris was a hunting class in the past. They are still fond of hunting but do not take it as their profession. Now they are agricultural labourers.

Bazigars belong to a gypsy tribe. They are jugglers and acrobats and are settled in a few villages in the district where they work as agricultural labourers. The Bazigars specially rever their Guru Makeem Shah.¹ The religious gathering of Bazigars is held at Rania for four days on 3rd to 7th of *Asadh* (June-July). There is another class of wandering tribes known as Sapelas or Saperas. Some of them have settled permanently in Rania, Bharolanwali and Sirsa and the head of the family goes alone for his pursuit even now. The Sapelas also prepare and sell certain indigenous medicines for curing snake and scorpion bite.

1. The living Guru Makeem Shah is the son of Baba Shaver Shah and grand son of Baba Hari Singh. According to one legend Baba Hari Singh was none else but Hari Singh Naluwa and is revered by Bazigars.

INTER-CASTE RELATIONS

In the changed circumstances the caste-system has become flexible. It, however, persists here and there in the district and liberal laws have helped to remove the rigidity in the caste system even in rural areas. Some social groups such as Jats and Aroras are more liberal in inter-caste relations which have influenced the social behaviour of other people also. The evil of untouchability is vanishing and the people have less hesitation to mix or dine together. Inter-caste dining is not so restricted as inter-caste marriage is. Caste-system thus has some bearings on social and democratic life of the district and in political campaigns, caste still plays a prominent role. Otherwise inter-caste relations are cordial and all live happily together in villages.

JOINT FAMILY SYSTEM

In the past, the people in the district were strongly family centred. This could probably be due to adverse circumstances prevailing in the district due to frequent occurrence of famines and droughts. All their ventures were family oriented. The family is locally called as *Kunba*. A group of families having common ancestors is called *thola*. Two or more *tholas* are jointly called *Panna* or *Patti*. A new trend is to settle on farm lands and these new settlements are called *dhanis*. Any decision to break with the tradition and employ new method could usually be a family rather than individual decision. In most of the cases it must be group decision involving several families. These conditions were till recently found in many villages. The joint family system which was very successful until recent past has, however, lost its roots now. The joint family system which has been distinguishing feature of Hindu society since long, is weakening its fibre because of individualism. Various factors are responsible for this change. The most important factor which is responsible for this slow and steady change in the rural areas are pressure on land, increase in population followed by spread of education and seeking of employment by people elsewhere. In urban areas the people are generally engaged in tertiary sector for their livelihood. It is no longer possible for one earning member of family to support the whole undivided family and obviously an individualistic bias emerges to look after one's own family. Even the trend of latest legislation on inheritance has hardly been conducive to the continuance of the joint family system.

INHERITANCE

According to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, sons and daughters, the mother and the widow alongwith other heirs¹ of the deceased, inherit the inter-state property simultaneously. A daughter has as good a claim to her father's property as a son, provided the father does not debar her by law

1. Specified in clause I of the schedule,—vide section 8 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956.

(in case of his self-acquired property only). However, inspite of the right conferred by law, it appears to have become a general practice for the girls not to claim any part of the inter-state property. In the absence of a brother, a girl may some time give her land to her near relatives, though in such cases, she usually retains her right to property.

CUSTOMS AND RITUALS

Customs and rituals of different communities of the district do not fundamentally differ from that of the corresponding communities of other districts of the state. The intensity of regional influence on these practices, however, vary from district to district. An exhaustive treatment of customs and rituals prevailing among each of the communities is not possible. However, in order to depict a broad spectrum, customs and rituals prevalent among major communities have been described.

Different customs prevail among various social groups. As elsewhere, life in this district too starts with celebrations and ends with various rituals. The birth of a child particularly that of male is an occasion to celebrate. To mark it an auspicious and happy time, *thali* (a brass plate) is rung in the house. A *Thapa* (sign of hand) is made with *geru* (saffron colour clay) at the gates of houses of nears and dears on *chhati* (6th day). The parents of *jachha* (mother of the baby) are informed immediately who send ghee, gifts, ornaments and clothes etc. for their daughter and her baby. Other relatives also send greetings and gifts for the new arrival in the family. Some superstitious ceremonies also accompany the birth of a child. A branch of tree (mostly of *neem* tree) is hung on each side of the main gate of the house to ward off evil spirits. Among Khattris a small bag of *mehndi* (in liquid form) is also tagged at the gate.

On the tenth day, *hom* ceremony is performed when sacred fire is lighted and whole house is sprinkled with the Ganga water. Generally Brahman does the *hom* and he is consulted for the child's horoscope. The name of child as proposed by Brahman after studying *nakshatras* was almost final in the past but it is not necessarily binding now a days. However, many people still do not like to deviate from initial word of the name proposed by family Brahman. The Brahmans, relatives and friends are entertained to a feast.

Among Bishnois, the house is cleaned after 30 days and the ceremony is performed by *Gayana* i.e. their religious priest and not by Brahman. *Gayana* performs the *hom* ceremony by burning the sacred fire and chanting *mantras* of Bishnoi faith. Among Aroras, the *chola* is an important ceremony which is celebrated on 11th or 40th day of the newly born son when new clothes consecrated by Brahman are worn. A feast is given to friends and relatives. Muslims summon a *kazi* who repeats *azan* in the infant's ear. On the 60th day, the mother takes a bath and sweetened rice are distributed. The name is given on the 40th day by opening the Koran.

There is another ceremony relating to the birth of a son among Hindus. If a son is born after a long wait or in older age of parents, *dasottan* is performed. Bishnois call it *sirdohan*. The Brahman or *Gayana* gives *aahutee* in the sacred fire, for long life of the boy. A feast of sweets (*ladoos*) is given to friends and relatives after this ceremony. Almost all Hindus perform the *mundan* ceremony when the boy is a few years old. On this occasion his hair are cut and head shaved for the first time and friends and relatives are entertained to a feast.

Various rituals and ceremonies are performed on the occasion of marriage. The most important is *sagai* (betrothal). In the past, *sagai* among Hindus was settled through the institution of family barber but now it is settled either through relatives or other dears and nears. Generally, proposal for betrothal comes from bride's side. Among Bishnois betrothal is on reciprocal basis, however, this system is on wane and like other Hindus, Bishnois also follow the traditional system of engagement. *Sagai* is performed at boy's home by girl's father, before the village panchayat and relatives, who applies *tilak* on the forehead of the boy with turmeric and rice. Generally, sweets, fruits and cash are given by girl's father on this occasion. Later after consultation with the Brahman, the girl's father sends a letter on paper stained yellow with turmeric to boy's father, which announces to him the date fixed for wedding. This is called *jagan* (or *dora* in case of Bishnois). After that, various rituals such as *bann*, *bhat neotna* are observed on both sides. The maternal uncle of the girl or boy presents the *bhat* on wedding day (a day earlier in case of boy) consisting of presents including wedding suits for the bride or bridegroom. Friends and relatives used to present *neota* to the parents of the boy or the girl until recently but *neota* is on wane and is taking the form of gifts and presents. In case of girl, *kanyadan* in form of cash and presents is still given by all the nears and dears on the eve of *phera* ceremony. Generally the marriages start from *Dev Uthani* Gityas (11th *Sukal Pakasha* of *Kartika*) and end with *sili sattam* (7th *Sukal Paksha* of *Asadh*). Among Bishnois, marriages are performed mostly in summer season. A day earlier or on the wedding day friends and relatives join *Jeman* (feast) hosted by boy's parents. Before the marriage party leaves for bride's house, the *ghurchari* is performed. The bridegroom, dressed in his wedding suit brought by his maternal uncle, *kangna* or seven knotted sacred thread tied on his right wrist (though on wane) and head dress consisting of a crown or crest over the turban and sometimes a *sehra* and *kalgee* is made to sit on the mare's back. No *ghurchari* is performed among Bishnois and the boy covers his head with turban only and goes to his temple for worship and blessings. Among Aroras and Khattris the bridegroom cuts branch of *jandi* during *ghurchari*. Among the Hindus the barber leads the decorated mare with bridegroom on its back. The women follow the *ghurchari* and boy's aunt or an elderly woman carries a utensil of water. One of his married sister puts her wrap over the right hand and on it places rice which she flings at his crown as the bridegroom goes along. He goes and worships

the god of the homestead. Thereafter the *janet* or *baraat* (marriage party) usually comprising the relatives and friends, set out midst music. The *baraat* is received by the bride's side and is taken sometimes in procession with the bridegroom on the mare to a place where arrangements have been made for their stay or towards the bride's house. After *barauthi* or *milni* (welcome of the *baraat* by the village panchayat), *jaimala* is exchanged between the bride and bridegroom. Among Bishnois this ceremony is called *dukao* when the bridegroom performs *chari marna* with the branches of *ber* tree.

For actual marriage ceremony the Brahman lights the sacred fire and calls upon the girl's father to perform *kanyadan* (formal bride-giving). Then takes place *phas* or binding ceremony. The *phas* are performed in accordance with Ayya Samaj or Sanatan Dharma system. Among the Deswali Jats, the girl leads in the first three *phas* and the boy in last. The Bagri Jats reverse this; with the boy leads in the first three and the girl in last. The latter is followed generally by all other communities. After the fourth *phera* the boy and the girl sit down, their positions, however, changed, the bridegroom now sitting on the girl's right. Bishnois do not have *phas*. Among them binding ceremony is *piribadal* or exchange of stools by the bride and bridegroom who also take each other's hand (*hathlewa*). *Anand Karaj* prevails among Sikhs. The bride and bridegroom go round the holy *Granth* and hymns from *Granth* are recited. The civil marriage is very rare. The departure of *baraat* is ceremonised with *vidai thape* where bride's eldest aunt marks *mehndi* painted hand on the chest and back of bridegroom's eldest uncle or grandfather. The *baraat* generally returns the same day or at the most next day unlike past when it used to stay for two days.

The ceremonies are highly colourful, picturesque, and at times interesting also. However, there are minor variations among certain castes in the performance and observance of these ceremonies. Few ceremonies have become extinct and a few now have evolved with the time.

In old days, *muklaw* (consummation of marriage) took place after a long time as girls were married at an early age much before they attained puberty. Early marriage is no more in practice and *patra pher* is performed just after *phas* along with other concluding ceremonies. But in few communities, *muklaw* is still observed as before. After the *muklaw* or *patra pher* the bride is finally settled in the bridegroom's house. Among Muslims, *nikah* is the binding ceremony of marriage. *Nikah* which is read first to the girl and then to the boy and on acceptance, the marriage is contracted.

The dowry system prevails everywhere. In the past, the girl's father out of love and affection for her, used to give some daily necessities of life. But of late, the dowry system has become a great social evil. Now it is very difficult for a poor father to marry even an able daughter without money. Even

the dowry legislation of 1961 has not succeeded in achieving its object. People by-pass the law. However, the most simple and dowryless marriages are performed among Namdhari Sikhs even today in the form of mass marriages on Holi festival.

WIDOW MARRIAGE

Karewa is a simple sort of a marriage for widows. It is in essence, the Jewish Levirate; that is to say, on the death of a man his younger brother has first claim to the widow, then his elder brother and after them other relations in the same degree; though *Karewa* cannot be performed while the girl is a minor, as her consent is necessary. But it has been extended so that a man may marry a widow whom he could not have married as a virgin, the only restriction being that she is not of his own clan. In Jats, it has been prevalent for centuries and other castes except Rajputs, Brahmans and Banias followed the Jat tradition. The father of the widow gives one rupee to the brother of her daughter's deceased husband as a mark of giving the daughter to him. On fixed day before the assembly of relations the man throws a red wrap over the women's head and puts wristlets (*chura*) on her arm. Such a marriage generally does not take place within a year of the husband's death. Among Rajputs, Brahmans and Banias, the *Karewa* has also made its appearance recently.

Punar vivah is more common than *kerewa* among Rajputs, Brahmans and Banias. When none of the brothers accept their sister-in-law as wife, *punar vivah* is performed anywhere in their caste. The important ceremony in *punar vivah* is putting *jai mala* (garland) around each other's neck. Under no circumstances can a women perform the *phas* twice in her life. But in case the husband died shortly after marriage and the girl has not lived with him or if she has no issue, she is re-married with all the ceremonies usual at marriage. This type of *punar vivah* is mostly adopted by the Banias.

Kara is another form of widow marriage. It is marriage of a widow outside her husband's clan. There is no ceremony attached to *kara* and a mediator helps in the marriage. A woman married by *kara* is socially regarded as lower than other women, as she is brought for rearing her new husband's children and as a life companion in middle age.

Widows who do not wish to marry live on the property left by their husbands. In urban areas, however, the educated ones take up employment or engage in some kind of paid or honorary social work.

Hindus and Sikhs cremate their dead. On the third day the knuckle-bones and other small fragments of bones (*phul*) are collected. If they can be taken to be immersed in the *Ganga* at once, well and good, but they must not be brought into village till finally taken to the *Ganga*. The post cremation rites include *chautha* (4th day), *Dashmi* (10th day), *Tehrvi* (13th day) or

Satarvi (17th day) relating to final mourning and *pagri* ceremony. Children under 8 years of age are buried without ceremony. Bishnois, Muslims and Christians bury their dead. Earlier the Bishnois used to bury their dead in the *poli* (house) close to entrance but now they use a separate burial ground outside their village.

The orthodox death rituals are disappearing fast. The death as the ultimate course of life is being accepted. People no longer follow in toto what they used to do earlier on the advice of priests and nothing extraordinary is spent on death rituals.

DIVORCE

The marriage ties are solemn and sacred in the society and hence divorce is not prevalent on any scale. There is a general tendency to suffer hardships resulting from ill-matched marriages and people lead a miserable life rather than to dissolve the marriage. However, with the coming into force of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, a few cases of divorce are being instituted in law courts.

POSITION OF WOMEN

The age old social dogmas which has debarred women to rise, are disappearing. *Purdah* system though prevalent in the district is no more called a taboo to women upliftment. Dress and ornaments have undergone change with the modernisation. The traditional concept of women being nothing more than a house wife or at best an ornamental being has undergone a revolutionary change and today we see women successfully invading what were previously exclusive men's domains. Now they are participating zealously in all activities of life. Education has brought about a welcome change in the status of women in the society, however, female education is still at its infancy in the district regarding the desired change in women status.

HOME LIFE

Dwellings—Until recent past, the towns contained as a rule one main street with well built shops on either side. The residential houses were built in *mohallas* where central street was usually broad. Sirsa within its old four walls is built in architectural style of Jaipur city and is divided into square blocks each intersected by wide roads. The recent settlements in the towns have, however, developed according to modern town planning and the houses are airy and have all modern facilities. The villages on the other hand are of much more humble appearance. A common dwelling in Bagri villages was the *jhumpa* or *jhompri* a round hovel with walls made by inter-weaving branches of the *ak*, *jal* or *kair* bush and filling up

the interstices with mud, and a thatch of *bajra* straw (*karhi*). Another Bagri dwelling was the *chaunra* or *dunda* against a round hovel with mud walls (*bhit*) and a roof of *bajra* thatch and only one opening to serve as door, window and chimney closed by a wicket. Sometimes the villagers were contented to use unshapen clods (*dhims*) of earth dug out of dried pond to construct a wall. Initially the people made a shelter at new place locally called as *parwa* or *chhappar*—an oblong house with mud walls and thatched roof. Gradually it was developed into a house having a *sal* and *kotha* with the walls of sun-dried bricks plastered over with mud and a flat roof of rafters and branches covered with clay. Many of the poorer immigrants even when settled down permanently in a village were contented with the rugged huts. The bigger or richer villages, however, boasted of a few pukka houses. But in general a village was a conglomeration of kacha houses with courtyards which had sprung up in a haphazard fashion and to which the only access was by a tortuous insanitary passage. Outside the residential part of the village was an open space where manure, fuel and fodder were stacked (*gatwara*). Near the *abadi* was at least one large and deep pond (*johars*). The tank was generally surrounded by a thick fringe of large trees, chiefly *pipal*, *bar*, *kikar*, *jal*, etc. Most of the villages were settled at the edge of a natural depression where the drainage water collected in rainy season.

With the prosperity, the faces of the villages have undergone a change. The new houses have been constructed with bricks suiting the local requirements and look airy and comfortable. In general, immediately after the entrance to a house, there is a room called *dahliz* or a big hall called *darwaza* or *pauli*. Besides, having a drawing-room or meeting-room, it is used particularly at the sides, for cattle and there are mangers and stables where fodder is chopped. There follows an open space or yard known as *angan* or *sahan* and at the rear of this or on either side is a verandah called *dallan* or *bichala* and behind this again are inner rooms for sleeping and living called *kotha/kothi* or *kothiya*. There are innumerable variations and sometimes two or three minor enclosures will be found inside the main enclosure which are sub-divided by walls. Within the enclosures are *chuhlas* or hearths. The *hara* in which the daily porridge is cooked and milk boiled, is generally outside the entrance and built against the outer wall of the house. The houses are generally single storeyed and the roofs are used for drying wood, fodder or grain and also for sleeping in the summer. The houses usually lack bathrooms and latrines. Some old pukka houses have beehive-shaped receptacles (*burj*) built with bricks in a circular form with pointed dome-shaped roof. The modern houses in the villages like in urban areas, however, have separate kitchen, bathroom and drawing and bed rooms and many of them are double storeyed or even three storeyed. By and large, the old settlements were compact and the village had one or at the most two

entrances (*Phalsa*) and there was generally no passage right through it. But now the villages are scattered and the trend now is to build houses outside along the roads or in the fields.

FURNITURE AND UTENSILS

There are few articles of furniture and utensils of daily use. The articles of furniture consist of bedsteads (*khats* or *manjis*) and a few small stools (*pidas* and *patras*). The clothes are generally kept in *pitara* made of sticks, wooden box or in iron trunk which are being gradually replaced with steel almirah or attache case. The utensils consist of churning stick (*rai* or *madhani*) for making butter; and an array of earthen and metal dishes (*bhanda*) for use in the work of the household. These are of different shapes and sizes, from the large earthen jar (*ghara*) used for bringing water from well to the small earthen mug (*matkana*) used to ladle out water from the *ghara* for drinking; or the metal pot (*bhartiya*) in which *randher* or vegetables are cooked; the small metal cup (*chhana* or *bataka*) out of which milk, water etc. are drunk. Most of the furniture and utensils are made in the village and are very cheap and simple, but metal vessels are comparatively expensive and are bought from outside. The metal vessels generally made of brass and bell-metal (*kansi*) consist of large narrow mouthed cauldrons (*toknas* or *degs*) for storing water or cooking at feasts, smaller vessels of similar shape (*toknis*) for carrying water to the field, some tumbler shaped drinking vessels (*gilas*), a tray (*thali*) to eat, a larger tray (*parant*) for kneading dough, a brass ladle (*karchhi*) and a spatula (*khurchana*) for turning *roti* etc. Some notable iron vessels are iron disc (*tawa*) for baking *chapatis* and a pair of tongues (*chimta*), a frying pan (*karahi*), a sieve (*chhalni*), an iron bucket (*balli*) for drawing water from the well and huge iron cauldrons (*karahis*) used for large scale parties. Besides, *ghara* or *painda* the other earthen utensils are the *handi* for cooking vegetables and pulses, the *kadhoni* for boiling milk and the *biloni* for churning curd, the *chhaj* made of straw and *tokra* or *tokri* made of branches of trees are the two important items of the household, the former is used for separating the waste from grains and the latter is used for carrying out rubbish. The spinning wheel (*charkha*) and cotton ginning machine (*charkhi*) are the two other important articles in the house.

In *dahliz* or *pauli* or *darwaza*, the resting place of male members, one may come across a few bedsteads, *palangs*, *moorahs*, hookah and agricultural implements.

The above detail relates to a traditional house. With time, the inside appearance of the house has undergone a significant change. Modern furniture, utensils of stainless steel and aluminium and porcelain and glass

wares have found a place according to social status and taste. Tables, chairs and sofas of different descriptions are also in use. Pressure cookers and oil stoves are now familiar articles of the kitchen. Consequently, some traditional furniture and utensils are becoming extinct day by day. With the use of electric appliances, radio sets, transistors and decoration materials, the houses appear more lively and attractive. The houses of upper class people in towns, of course, seem more beautiful in design, decoration and have the facilities of refrigerators, room coolers etc. With rapid modernisation, some people in villages, too, are leading life close to town life where ample furniture and other basic household amenities are available.

DRESS AND ORNAMENTS

The dress of the people is simple and minimal. Till sometime back, a little boy could be seen wearing nothing except a string round his waist, while in grown up stage a small cloth in the form of *langoti* between his legs was provided. However, the children now have a complete wear at least a shirt or a frock even at tender age. The traditional Bagri summer dress of male comprises a *dhoti* tucked up between the legs, wrap (*chadder*) thrown over the shoulder, a turban (*pagri* or *potiya*) on head and *juti* on feet. Until recently, a Bagri did not wear *kameej*, however, a few wore a vest (*kurti*), or long coat *bugtari* or *angrakha* of cotton, the sleeves of the latter were sometimes very long and wide so that they could hang down from the wrists in a peculiar fashion. Now instead of *kurti*, most of the Bagris wear *kurta* or shirt. The every day clothes were usually made from coarse cloth (*gada*) but now machine-made cloth is preferred. The typical Bagri *pagri* is of red or coloured cloth and is typically worn. The Bagri *juti* is also peculiar in look, generally heavier than ordinary *juti*. In cold weather most of them carry comfortable woollen blankets (*kambal* or *loi*). The *khes* or *dohar* of cotton are another type of wrap used in winter. Men in service put on pants or *pyjamas* and *dhoti* along with shirt, bushirt or *kurta*. The young mostly wear pants, bushirts, shirts, coats, sweaters, leather footwears of different types but no head wear. This change is almost universal in urban areas. Some men particularly among Bishnois, Sikhs and displaced persons wrap variously known as *chaddar/chadra* or *rehmed* instead of *dhoti* or *payjama/pants*. Every Sikh uses headwear called *pag*, some using it in unmindful way while the other wear it properly bleached and fashioned.

Murki or *tungal* different forms of ear-rings, worn by men earlier are becoming out of fashion now and a gold finger-ring and to a lesser extent a gold hain in neck are popularly worn by men in rural as well as in urban area. A wrist watch and *kara* are also used by many.

Bagri women by and large wear a petticoat (*sariya* or *ghagra*) of coloured, striped or printed cotton and a wrap of cotton (*orhna*) worn over the head. It is generally striped or coloured and is called as *chunri*. Sometimes the wrap is of a bright colour (*phulkari*) ornamented with bits of looking glass. Instead of *kurti* as elsewhere put on, the women here wear *kanchli* or *angi*, richly embroidered covering up to waist. Another equally significant dress of women consists of *lehnga* of different colours and lighter than *ghagra* and *peelia* (substitute of *orhna*) which is multi-coloured and yellow in the centre. The Bishnoi women wear slightly different dress. They wear long *ghagras* unlike the women of other communities. Their *orhna* is also multi-coloured and is broader as to cover the abdomen. They have a distinction in wearing *borla* (prepared from beads) on the forehead. Traditional dress of Sikh women in the past comprised trousers (*suthan*) or *ghagra* both generally of blue colour, *kurti* and a cotton wrap (of a dark colour ornamented with silk *phulkari*) known as *utla* or *dupatta*. The complete dress of a woman is called *tiwal*. The traditional dress is on wane and is generally worn by elderly women. The general dress of the young females is *salwar* and *kamiz* or *jumper*. The wrap of cotton worn over the head is called *orhna*, *dupatta* or *chuni*. After marriage, the ladies also wear *petticoat*, *sari* or *dhoti*, *choli* or blouse.

In the cold weather the women used to wear woollen petticoat (*dhabla*) and woollen shawl (*lonkariya*). The *sopli* or *dupla* though of coarse cotton cloth were also used to protect against winter. Now a days woollen shawl, cardigans, sweaters, and other woollen garments are frequently used.

Women of all classes are fond of ornaments (*tum* or *gahne*). The ornaments are usually made of gold and silver, and when the women cannot get them of gold or silver, they wear artificial jewellery and bangles or armlets of coarse glass (*kanch*) or lac. The designs and the types of ornaments are varied and numerous. The ornaments worn by women earlier, in the district numbered no less than 81 including five for the nose alone.¹ These included *tikka*, *singarpatti*, *borla*, *phini* on forehead, *hansli*, *jhalra* (long hanging of silver or gold coins), *haar*, *patheri*, *torgor*, *kanthi* or *kuthla*, *galsari*, *guliband*, *jaimala*, and *hamel* etc. round the neck. *Karanphool*, *bugli* or *bujni*, *kante*, *bundi*, *tops*, *baliyan*, *murki* on the ears, *koka*, *tili*, *nath*, *purli* for the nose, *tad*, *chhann*, *pachheli*, *kangani*, *chara*, bracelets in order from shoulder to wrist, *kara* on hand, ring in the finger, *tagri* round the *lehenga* or *sari* and *ramjhol* (*jhanjhan*), *kari*, *chhaip*, *kare*, *nevari*, *tali* and *pali*, *pajeb* worn on the legs.

The use of traditional jewellery which was very heavy, as described above has now become out of date and at present jewellery in common use include necklace for the neck, *purli* or *koka* for the nose and *pajeb* for the

ankles. The educated women do not use much jewellery except a chain round the neck and a few bangles on the wrist. A widow does not wear bangles of lac or glass and use very few items of jewellery. The use of ornaments otherwise, except on special occasions or ceremonies is on the decline. Putting up of hairs in braids (*chunda*) and the practice of tatooing (*khinana*) once common have almost disappeared.

FOOD

Majority of the people in the past, lived round the year, on *bajra*, *moth*, barley, milk and milk products (curd, butter milk, butter, *ghee* etc.). Their simple meal was in the form of *roti* (made of flour of *bajra* or barley or wheat) and *randher*. *Kalewa* (break fast) and *sanjh* (supper or dinner) was taken mostly in the form of *randher*. Lunch was generally in the form of *roti* along with pulses, vegetables or *karhi* (made of gram flour and curd or butter milk). *Randher* even today is the major constituent of breakfast and the dinner. It is a typical food consisting of *rabri* made of *bajra* and curd or butter milk or *khichri* made of *bajra* and pulses. *Sattu* made of barley and *dalia* made of wheat are also other forms of *randher*. *Rabri* and *sattu* are the summer diet while *khichri* is that of winter. *Dalia* is taken all round the year but more frequently in summer. *Randher* is by and large taken along with milk or butter milk. The poorer classes who could not afford milk or butter milk had to be contented with *rabri* and *khichri* made with water only.

For lunch or other meal of the day, *roti* prepared on *tawa* along with fresh green vegetable such as green pods of *moth* or *guar* or gourds and melons was considered much prized and relished food. When these were not in season, the vegetable-sellers from the river valleys travelled long distances to the villages of this dry tract to sell turnips, carrots and other vegetables.

In the absence of vegetables pulses or *karhi*, people had to take *rotis* along with *chatni* made of salt and red chillies. The other cheap substitute of *chatni* was pickle of *teet* and *gur/shakkar* if available was taken fondly with *roti*. Some locally available green vegetables were *channa saag*, *sarson saag* or *bathua* in winter and *powar* in rainy season. *Bhujje* or *raita* made of *bathua*, raw gram leaves and *guar* beans also constituted a common man's diet. The people in towns too depended considerably on milk and milk products, however, in their food, pulses and vegetables were appreciably consumed.

Bajra was staple grain with wheat and rice to be consumed on festive occasions. The guests were generally served with wheat *chapati* and *bura* (sugar) mixed with *ghee*. The delicacies like *halwa* (*seera*), *kheer* and

¹ M.L. Darling, *The Punjab Peasant in Prosperity and Debt*, 1925, p. 64.

pureh were prepared on festive occasions. Other preparations consisted of sweets like *ladoo*, *jalebi* etc. Besides *lassi*, the favourite cold drink were *sharbat* made of sugar and water and was served on social and religious occasions. People were generally fond of smoking tobacco and a group of them could be seen sitting over *hookah*. This habit still dominates the rural scene particularly among village elders. Of late, the cigarettes and *biri* have become common in the district.

The prevailing local saying "*Bagar ka mewa; pilu aur pinju* (the fruits of the Bagar are *pilu* and *pinju*) indicated the local fruits. The *pinju* is the fruit of *ker* tree and *pil* or *pillu* that of *jal* tree and both are available in summer season. The common fruit of winter was *ber*. Among other fruits special mention could be made of *matira* or *kachara* (water-melon or melon). With the development of horticulture and irrigation, citrus fruits and vegetables are grown locally and others not grown locally are readily marketed.

Milk and its products were the major constituents of the diet of people. The parents possibly gave a cow as gift to their daughter on her marriage so that she could not be deprived of milk while entering into her married life. Low consumption of wheat, rice, vegetables and pulses and too much dependence on coarse grains were the peculiar features of rural diet in the past. The past glimpses of the food consumption in the district is distressing, the present, however, looks bloomy. The district has witnessed a recent revolution in agriculture and that has transformed the rural life. Wheat and rice consumption are no more luxury for the people here. The district is surplus in foodgrains and harvests a rich cash crop of cotton. Consequently, the people spend unreservedly on food items. The prosperity has brought a change in food habits. Instead of milk and *lassi*, tea and soft drinks have become popular. Tea stalls are very common everywhere in the district. Restaurants and other eating places have come up. The consumption of liquor is common and is increasing day by day.

Varied food preparations are within easy reach of a common man. Gone are days when people had to take *churma* for long journeys. On the way to their destination, they take snacks or other bakery products. Customary presents in the form of *sidha*, *kothli*, *sindhara-kasar* or *gur* are substituted with sweets and fruits.

With the arrival of displaced persons the number of non-vegetarian people has gone up considerably. The local population is also gradually developing non-vegetarian habits. Along vaishnav *dahbas*, *tandoori* and non-vegetarian *dahbas* have sprung up considerably.

Desi ghee is still preferred to vegetable and hydrogenated oils. The Bishnois by and large try to avoid vegetable *ghee* in their kitchens. The people of the district are now no longer isolated from the rest of the state in food taste and diet.

The overall development in the district has brought modernity without deviating from old social food habits and customs. Still the visitor or guest is fed with the best available food in the house. The kitchen is kept sacred. The daily chores of village women is cleaning the kitchen with cow dung, yellow clay and water early in the morning before preparing meals. Generally, male members take the meal first and then follow the female members, however, in towns, the young generation prefers to take meal jointly irrespective of sex. Before meal people do remember God. The meal is mostly taken on the floor close to kitchen. The village life thus still revolves round the old eating habits and social values. In towns and among rich families of villages, western influence on food and the etiquettes is noticeable.

GAMES AND RECREATION

In the past, the villagers old and young, were fond of games and sports and had a wonderful variety of ways in which they amused themselves. They took a great interest in races and many people from far and wide witnessed horse, camel and donkey races. They also enjoyed themselves with various competitions like sack-races, blindfold races etc. The wrestling was the most exciting event in the country side and the fame of a champion wrestler was spread far and wide.¹ Similar to wrestling *saunchi* (like boxing) was played by *jawans* or *gabhrus* (youths).

Other equally interesting games were *mugdar* (dumb-bell) similar to weight lifting, *kabaddi*, *tap* or *chhal* (high jump) over a buffalo, *khuddu khundi* (hockey), *rassa khichna* (tug of war), *guli danda* (tip cat) etc. *Dasa bise*, *chhori-chhora*, *lukan-chhipan* (hide and seek) *charak chundi* were a few games which were the source of entertainment for the children. The cow-boys generally played *jhurni danda*, *cheera*, *bad kua* and *ka kundrali*. They also took pleasure in playing flute or *algoja* while rearing the cattle. Girls were fond of swinging on a swing (*jhula*) during *sawan* (July-August). The village housewife found little time for amusement. However, in spare time, she turned at *charkha* (spinning wheel) and amused herself with folk songs in the company of others. The month of *Phalguna* (February-March) had been month of merry-making for women. Singing of traditional songs and dancing in moonlight nights was noticeable feature.

The old men entertained themselves with *pasa* and *chopar*. Strolling bands of players, dancers, buffoons and acrobats usually of Nat and Bajigar communities gave ample entertainment to the masses with their skill. Kanjars, Jogis, Mirasis, Doms and Sapelas too amused the people very often. The *saang*, however, was the most important source of entertainment for the public.

1. J. Wilson Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa district, in the Punjab, 1879-83, P. 204.

There were thus varied sources of entertainment for the people in the past. Most of the games played in the past have now become extinct. Wrestling and kabaddi, however, continue to be popular sports among young and middle-aged. Modern games like hockey, football, basket ball, *kho kho* and net ball played in schools and colleges have more or less replaced the other games. The boys now may be seen playing games like *buntas* (marbles) and *pithoo* (games of ball and pieces of stones) while the girls play *bijho bandre* known as *pehal dooj* also and rope jump etc. *Chopar*, playing cards and chess are some of the indoor games which are played and enjoyed everywhere in the district.

The *Saang*—a strong cultural and community entertainment till some-time back has received a set back due to cinema. The steps, however, have been taken to revive its popularity with concerted effort of the government. The recorded music whether by gramophone, tape recorder, transistor, or radio set has penetrated into the simple life of village-folk. Cinema seems to be the most attractive source of entertainment for urbanites in particular and ruralites in general. Women and girls still amuse themselves with community singing. Around Teej they assemble and swing and sing while around Holi they assemble in moonlit night in the open and sing and dance.

Daphla dance is very common among Bagri community and is quite common in *Phalguna* (February-March). The life of women folk is changing and they now take part in various games and other recreational activities.

Community listening is another popular entertainment of the villagers. Drama parties and *bhajan mandalis* roam from village to village round the year for the entertainment of the people. Religious ceremonies, festivals, fairs, marriages and visiting relatives too regale the masses when they free themselves from routine work.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Until recent past, the life in the district revolved round bread and butter. Community life was so well knit that the society as a whole struggled to survive against hardships. *Kaal Bagar se upje* (famine comes from the Begar) was the well known saying in the area and such miseries, led to evolve a cohesive community life which exists even today in the villages though famines and like distresses are now things of the past. People from all walk of life still retain the homogeneous character and they have close contact with each other. Almost the whole village shares joy and sorrow together. The social, cultural and religious functions require a combined attention in village life.

Folk Culture

Folk culture in its various forms viz., folk songs, dances and theatre gives a vivid description of community life of the district. Folk culture which

is broadly a Bagri culture has a rich inheritance. The *ragi* parties which roam from village to village help to accelerate the cultural rhythm. The cinema like in other districts has not penetrated so deeply in the district and folk culture still continues to enliven the country side, which hums with songs and dances on festivals and other occasions. The urban life, however, has been much influenced by the cinema and recorded music and the popularity of folk songs has faded. Apart from cinema, the social interactions like marital relations with the people of other parts of the state have also affected the urban community. Haryanvi folk songs like *Jeth Mera Das Padh Rya Ree*, *Ay Mera Dewar B. A. Pass...* (Elder brother of husband is matriculate whereas his younger brother is graduate), however, have everlasting impact on the urban culture also. Such songs are equally relished by women-urban or rural on merry-making occasions. Recorded music is making in road to the rural life too. The government through Public Relations Department and All India Radio is making efforts to maintain the folk culture of the area.

Folk Songs.—Folk culture is preserved through songs. These songs express hope, aspirations, love, longings, joys and sorrows of the masses. A good number of these are nature songs while the others relate to tales of events.

The month of *Sravana* (July-August) brings ecstasy in its wake. The village women go gay and sing *Sravana* songs and swing about 15 to 20 days before Teej or Haryali Teej. It falls on third of the lunar month. The women come out in colourful costumes for swinging, singing and merry-making.

During the month, there is greenery every where and the sky remains over-cast with dark clouds. There is a variety of songs each connected with the occasion. The long wait for Teej is expressed in this song :

*Neem ki nimoli paki, sawan kad awega
Awe re meri ma ka jaya, ke ke chiji lawega*

(The fruit of neem tree has riped and it is still not known when *sawan* would come. My brother would come then and bring innumerable sweets and gifts).

The starting of rainy season is thus explained in the following song :—

*Kali to ghata re bee ra umari
Umra' baras lo meh
Meh walo jhar lagyo,
Chomaso jhar lagyo.
Mithi to karde re ma kothli,
Jaunga bebe nai len
Meh walo jhar lagyo,
Chomaso jhar lagyo.*

(O'brother, the sky is overcast with dark clouds. It may rain heavily as the rainy season has set in. O' mother, prepare the *sravana* sweets meant for gifts.

I will go to bring sister from her husband's house. It may rain heavily as the rainy season has set in).

The married girls visit their parents' house on Teej and celebrate the festival with their friends. Love and affection between brothers and sisters also become a key note of the Teej songs :—

*Tamle gi jar mai tamla ugyo,
Sichi dudh malai re*

*O kun beera hindo mandyo,
Aa kun hindan aae re*

*Satbir beera hindo mandya,
Kamla hindan aae re*

*Hole jhota deye mera beera
Dare maregi bai re*

*Daran, maran ka hasla ghara dun,
Churian ki chatrai re.*

(There is every where green and a baby tree has grown near a tall tree. There is no dearth of milk and curd. Whose brother has come for giving the swing and whose sister has come to enjoy swing? Brother Satbir has come to give swing to his sister Kamla.

The sister requests the brother not to swing her too high as she fears to fall. However, the brother consoles her saying that he would get her *hasla* and bangles).

In the month of *Kartika*, the village women take bath in the early hours in the village pond. They take out mud from the pond and make *Pathwari* on its bank. They worship *Pathwari* as goddess and sing.

*Panch sakhi ral panni ne challe ye,
Hum panchoo raki batlaye.
Hari ka nam barra se
Ye kuch dharam karo mere bahan,
Hari ka nam barra se
Pahli sakhi va nuver bolle,
Johar kudh vado, pewe banwa do,
Ye arre nahvenge sri Bhagwan.*

(The five young girls go to bring water. They talk to each other. God is supreme, we should do some pious deeds. One of them says, she would dig the pond and construct bricked steps where Lord would take a bath).

The month of *Phalgun* (February-March) is very pleasant and excited. The women sing and dance in the moon-lit night. On Holi, people play Holi and sing.

*Phul ke ser par chakre go cheera,
Phul ke hath me gulab ke chhari,
Holi khelo re kahniya, rut fagunee*

(One Phul the brother of wife carries water on his head and some one carries rose tree branch in his hand. It is month of *Phalgun*, O' Krishna join us for Holi).

Marriage is a special occasion when folk songs are sung.

Halwa halwa chal mhari lado

(Oh my dear one go slowly—an advice from friends of bride on the occasion of *pheras*).

When the bride leaves her father's home her friends sing :—

*Yoh ghar chhorya dada tera
Mai chhori teri dehlarye,
Nyu mat kar ae lado meri tanne rakhi,
Ane Jane Mai*

(O grandfather, I leave your house, I leave for new house. No dear one, do not be sentimental, I will manage to have your frequent visits).

Another hearty send off is expressed in the following song :—

*Sathan Chal pari re,
Mere dab dab bhar aye nain,
Apni sathan ka main kurta simadyun,
Batna ki do do laar
Sathan chal pari re.....*

(Our friend is departing and we all are full of tears. I stitch a shirt with double lines of buttons. Our friend is departing).

The following song reveals a peculiar feature of the area. A girl married in Bagar tract grumbles :—

*Ek mere bap ke char dheewarian thee
Jo behayee char koont mein
Ek Bagar Me, thujee khadar me
Te ejee Haryana me, chauthi Desh me
Rovu nai ke tere jee ne
Bhot dukhi su Bagar desh mein*

(We are four daughters of our parents. All are married in different directions. One is married in Bagar second in Khadar, third in Haryana and the fourth in a nearby area. I curse the barber who got me married in Bagar where I am very much in trouble.).

There are songs connected with all religious, social and cultural occasions and of the heroes like Alha Udai, Fatta Jaimal, Bhoora Badal, Nal Damyanti, Satyavan Savitri and Gopi Chand Bharthri. *Ragani* is another type of folk song which is sung when a *swang* is staged.

Bhopa Bhopi—the folk singers from the adjoining Rajasthan state, frequently visit the district. They sing in praise of local deities. They also sing other popular folk songs. They use musical instruments known as *ravan hatha* and *khanjari*.

Folk dances.—Folk dancing, an outburst of surging emotions is of various kinds. Folk dances like *Daph* and *Gugga* dances are common among males while *Ghumar*, *Gangor* and *Loor* dances among females.

After harvesting, youths gather at night at the outskirts of the village and enjoy loud singing with *Daph* dance. *Daph* dance is also popular on the occasion of *P'rag* (Holi) festival. On *Gugga* festival, the devotees sing and dance before the *chhari* of *Gugga* Pir.

Around Holi, 15 to 20 days before, the women assemble and enjoy dancing late in the nights. *Ghumar* and *Loor* dances are popular on these days. In *Ghumar* dance, the girls dance in a circle. The following lines are sung during *Ghumar* dance, the hero and heroine invite each other :—

*Jad O piya tera bajega dhutara,
Khula rakhu ho chubara
Jad re majejan tanai chundri chahiye,
mere dhore aaiye re majejan*

(O love, I keep my door open to wait for the sound of your dhutara (a musical instrument). Come to me. O love, when you need *chunri* (head wear).

Loor dance, popular in the Sirsa tahsil, is associated with Holi. Songs with different themes are sung with *Loor* dance. In one of the songs, son-in-law entreats his mother-in-law to send his wife with him.

*lbke hele chhor jawaira,
kardyun charkho pidho re,
Charkho pidho gaaran bhatara.
katan ali chahiye re,
katan ali ghal majejan,
gharki lobhan chahiye re.*

(O, son-in-law, do not take my daughter this time since I want to prepare for her *charka* and *pidha* (house hold items). I have plenty of these things, I need only my wife to work on them and one who can look after household.)

Gangor dance is associated with worship of idols of Ishar and Gangor by married and unmarried girls. One of the song with *Gangor* dance is :—

*Hari hari dub liyo,
gangor puj liyo,
rani puje raja nein
mahe pujan suhag nein*

(Remember the God and worship Gangor. The queen worships king and I worship my husband.)

Folk-Theatre.—*Swang*¹ or *saang* is the main form of the folk-theatre of the region. For sometime past, it has been on the wane due to popularity of cinema and recorded music. The government and some voluntary organisations are making efforts to revive this old form of folk theatre.

REHABILITATION

The large scale communal disturbances that followed Independence and the Partition of the country in 1947 inflicted vast suffering on lakhs of people who were forced to migrate from Pakistan to India and vice versa. Millions of uprooted Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan entered what was then called the East Punjab (India). The problem faced by both government and people were immense and were overcome with great courage. The areas now in Haryana took a leading share in the resettlement of immigrants. A number of migrants from Pakistan settled in the areas of the Sirsa district. These were mainly from Multan, Lyallpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Bahawalpur, as evident from the statement below :—

District of Origin (in Pakistan)	Number of Displaced Persons Settled		
	Rural Areas	Urban Areas	Total
Multan	9,848	3,260	13,108
Lyallpur	3,807	1,910	5,717
Dera Ghazi Khan	1,845	991	2,836
Bahawalpur	3,740	740	4,480
Others	2,871	911	3,782
Total	22,111	7,812	29,923

1. *Saang* is a form of open-air theatre and the stage is in midst of the audience. The formalities of the drama like costumes, curtains and make-up are hardly observed. All the artists are males who perform the female roles also. The audience sit on all the four sides of the stage.

Refugee Camps

Initially two relief camps were organised in the district ; one each at Sirsa and Dabwali. The educational institutions which kept closed for some months up to February 1948, provided some of the accommodation. The services of the staff and students were utilized in the management of the camps. Students who rendered three months' special service in the camps were considered eligible for the award of certificate/degree of the Panjab University, without taking the examination.

A number of facilities were provided in the camps including free food-grains ration and clothing. A dispensary was opened for immediate medical relief. Fruits, multi-vitamin tablets and some special items of diet were issued to refugees on medical advice. Arrangements were made for cleanliness and street lighting. The camps thus provided much needed immediate relief to the displaced persons and provided breathing time to all concerned to plan their future.

Steps were taken speedily to resettle the rural refugees in villages, evacuated by the Muslims, and the urban refugees in towns.

Rural Rehabilitation

Measures were taken for the resettlement of rural displaced persons so as to get them back to normal work and to help them with the sowing of the rabi crop of 1947-48. Initially, land allotment was made on group basis. Persons who were near relatives or were bound by ties of friendship, formed together into groups and secured temporary allotments. All agricultural displaced persons who owned or held land and were cultivating in Pakistan, were eligible for such allotment. These temporary allotments were later converted into quasi-permanent allotments in April, 1948, to encourage cultivators to improve the land given to them. This was a preliminary step towards their resettlement. Claims were invited from displaced persons, and orally verified at tahsil headquarters. Unfortunately, many displaced persons made exaggerated claims and obtained excessive allotments. To defeat these tactics, the government obtained the original revenue records from Pakistan and re-verified the claims of the displaced persons. These also showed that there was a substantial difference between the land left behind in Pakistan by the incoming displaced persons and that abandoned by the Muslims in East Punjab (India). The latter was smaller. To overcome this problem, available land was converted into standard acres, and graded cuts were applied in making allotments to displaced claimants, the bigger ones receiving the largest slab of cuts.

The work of conferring final proprietary rights on allottees was taken in hand in September, 1955. Bogus and excessive allotments were cancelled, and only the genuine claim of each displaced person, verified from the revenue record received from Pakistan, was admitted. This resulted in the return to the

evacuee pool the evacuee lands usurped by displaced persons. Every effort was made to allot land of the similar quality as that left by the claimant in Pakistan.

Out of 19,785 allottees, proprietary rights have been conferred on 19,002 by March 31, 1981.

Agricultural Loans.—Allottees of land were given assistance by way of agricultural loans for purchasing bullocks, implements, fodder, seed and for the repair of wells and houses. In order to minimise misuse, loans were advanced in kind instead of cash. The following figures show the loans advanced in the district during 1947-48 to 1951-52 :—

Year	Loan Advanced (Rs.)
1947-48	3,04,012
1948-49	4,17,863
1949-50	8,58,042
1950-51	3,21,232
1951-52	68,400

No resettlement loan was disbursed after 1951-52.

Rural Housing.—Heavy rains and floods had damaged a large number of houses. According to statistics available, there were 4,200 undamaged houses, 43 repairable houses and 410 houses beyond repair in the district. Even these houses were unevenly distributed. In some villages the number of houses was in excess of the needs of the allottees, while in others almost the entire *abadies* had crumbled and not a single house was available. Houses were allotted on a temporary basis in the first instance. Rules for allotment of these houses were framed thereafter. Record, including information of the details of evacuee houses in the villages, the number of rooms, the dimensions, the general conditions and the value of the houses were prepared and lists of the allottees showing the value of houses left by them in Pakistan were also made. The *Halqa* Revenue Officer, generally a Naib Tahsildar, did the allotment work. A list giving the order of precedence was prepared. After setting aside a few houses for common purposes, allottees were given a chance of selection according to their place on the merit list.

Urban Rehabilitation

The problem of providing residential accommodation became more acute with the tendency of immigrants to settle largely in urban areas. Consequently a number of schemes to utilise the available properties left by Muslims and to develop more housing were put through. All the Muslims abandoned properties were taken over under the Punjab Evacuee Property Ordinance IV of 1947, later replaced by the Administration of Evacuee Property

Act, 1950. Such properties comprising houses, shops, vacant sites, *khokas* (dilapidated houses) and industrial establishments were temporarily allotted to displaced persons on rental basis. Their permanent disposal started in 1953-54. The properties valuing below Rs. 10,000 (below Rs. 50,000 for industrial establishments) were declared allottable, while those assessed above these figures were to be sold by open auction. Properties lying vacant or in unauthorised possession were similarly auctioned.

In the urban areas of Sirsa, Dabwali and Kalanwali, there were 1117 evacuee properties which were managed by the District Rent and Managing Officers. These became a part of evacuee pool for compensating displaced persons with verified claims. Allottable properties were given away permanently as compensation to claimants against such claims. If the value of a property was in excess of his due compensation, the claimant was allowed to deposit the difference by instalments. Properties occupied by non-claimants were offered to them on annual instalments. By March 31, 1981, 1112 properties stood permanently allotted to displaced persons.

Housing Schemes.—As stated in the foregoing paragraphs, the urban housing problem was acute, following from the fact that most of the urban Muslims evacuees were labourers and artisans and, therefore, their houses were unpretentious whereas the incoming urban displaced persons were businessmen and shopkeepers, used to better dwellings. To meet the grave situation arising from the inadequate residential accommodation available and to provide suitable shelter to displaced persons, the government drew up the housing schemes such as 4-marla (cheap) tenements at Sirsa and Dabwali numbering 100 and 150 respectively.

Small Urban and House Building Loans.

The refugees were encouraged to restart their business, trade or other profession. A scheme for providing loans and grants was introduced in February 1948, under the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Act, 1948. The loan was limited to Rs. 5,000 to an individual, Rs. 20,000 to a group of 4 or more displaced persons and Rs. 25,000 to a cooperative society. The grants were restricted to unattached women, widows and others who were unable to repay loans but at the same time wanted monetary help for resettlement. The maximum amount of grant was limited to Rs. 500.

Small Urban Loans.—These loans were advanced to displaced persons to enable them to establish themselves in different vocations. All classes of displaced persons comprising traders, artisans, industrialists, students, lawyers and medical practitioners were helped. These loans carried an interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum and the recovery of the loan

was to be started after 3 years of disbursement. The loans together with interest were repayable in equal instalments spread over a period of 6 years. The loans and grants were strictly to be utilised for the purpose for which they were asked for by the applicants or sanctioned by the government. An amount of Rs. 1,12,800 was advanced to displaced persons during 1948-49 to 1956-57. The scheme to advance small urban loan was discontinued after 1956-57.

House Building Loans.—House building loans were advanced for the purchase of plots in model towns and housing colonies to build their own houses. The repayment of the loan was on easy instalments. The scheme was started in 1949-50 and it was discontinued after 1955-56.

Payment of Compensation

Compensation was paid to displaced persons who had abandoned immovable property in Pakistan, after verifying their claims, under the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950. Interim compensation was sanctioned for certain categories of displaced persons who were in urgent need of relief. The interim scheme was later replaced by the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954. Under it, scaled compensation was prescribed. It gave proportionately more to smaller claimants and less to the bigger claimants. This compensation was paid out of the compensation pool to which the central government had contributed.

IMPACT OF DISPLACED PERSONS ON LOCAL POPULATION

The rehabilitation of displaced persons in the district had a long term beneficial effect in a variety of ways. It has influenced the socio-economic pattern of the people of the district particularly those residing in the rural areas, since 73 per cent of the total displaced persons (29,923) in the district had settled there. They soon got down to hard work and gave evidence of superior skill in cultivation. In this way, they acted as an example and stimulus in improved agricultural practices. A small number of 7,812 (27 per cent) displaced persons settled in the urban areas of the district.

Aroras from the district of Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan were sharp witted and resourceful shopkeepers and businessmen. As compared with the local business community they were more energetic and their settlement in the urban areas of the district quickened process of change. They successfully set themselves up as shopkeepers and traders and completely changed the appearance of the bazaar and to some extent brightened rural life by providing modern paraphernalia like soaps, powders, mirrors, hair clips and celluloid toys.

The energy and resourcefulness displayed by displaced persons influenced the local population and helped to shake off inertia. Inhibitions against the education of the younger generation received a jolt. The mixing of refugees with local people also influenced the latter's way of living including food habits. Dress and fashions also changed. Bushirts, trousers and pyjamas co-existed with the old types of shirts and *dhotis*. The *salwar* and *kamiz*, the traditional dress of the Punjabi women, was eagerly adopted by young girls, and even some of the grown up women abandoned their traditional *ghagras*. The local women also started discarding heavy silver ornaments like bracelets and anklets. However, there was little community intermingling and marriages continued strictly confined to the respective communities.

Displaced persons are now almost completely identified with their new habitat in the district. The process of an inter-mixture of dialects is also afoot, and the displaced persons from West Punjab (Pakistan) can often fluently speak the local dialect.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the main stay of the people and as such it plays a predominant role in the economy of the district. According to the 1981 census, 70.87 per cent of the total working population of the district was engaged in agriculture as against 61.37 per cent in the state as a whole. Amongst the working population of the district, cultivators account for 47.96 per cent and agricultural labourers 22.91 per cent as against 44.97 per cent and 16.40 per cent respectively for the state. Significantly, the percentage of both cultivators and agricultural labourers is higher in the district than in the state, which clearly indicates that the economy of the district is mainly agricultural.

All efforts are being made to develop the agricultural sector by distribution of improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, increasing irrigational facilities and promoting modern techniques of multiple cropping practices and improved agricultural implements. The government is also promoting animal husbandry and forestry which play though subsidiary but an important role in the agricultural economy.

On the whole, the modern farm technology has been widely accepted by the farmers of the district. As a result, productivity of farms per hectare has increased manifold and the approach to farming has undergone almost a radical change. Farming as an occupation has made a big leap forward from merely a way of life to that of well-conceived commercial enterprise.

IRRIGATION

The average annual rainfall in the district is 378.8 mm and is one of the lowest in all districts of the state. Moreover, the rainfall is irregular and the variations from year to year are considerable. This uncertainty of rains necessitates the development of artificial sources of irrigation to take advantage of richness in the soil and to sustain droughts. No perennial river passes through the district.

Irrigation facilities were completely lacking in the district up to the late 19th century. Owing to the depth of water below the surface there was no irrigation from wells in the Bagar (corresponding to the south-eastern corner of the district) and Rohi (corresponding to the north-eastern portion of the district). In the Nali circle (corresponding to the area lying on both sides of

the Ghaggar and enclosed in its arms), there were 82 masonry and 27 kacha wells which provided irrigation in 44 villages and irrigated 892 acres of land in 1879—83.¹

In 1888-89, the Sirhind canal was extended to this district and irrigated portions of 15 villages near Dabwali. This irrigation was only escape irrigation and in the driest years when water was most needed, very little was available. Still the benefit to the villages was great, for even if they could not be irrigated, they were assured of supply of sweet drinking water for men and cattle. In 1894-95, the Sirsa branch of the Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal was extended to the district and irrigated some 31 villages in the Nali circle, most of which were situated to the east of the Sirsa town. The irrigation was not very extensive and there were frequent closures owing to breaches and other causes, but in spite of this the villages irrigated benefited greatly. In 1897, the Ghaggar canals were dug as a famine relief work. The Ghaggar river was dammed at Ottu below Dhanoor village and two high level canals which were to supply water to villages whose lands had not yet been reached by the Ghaggar floods. Though these canals did not fulfil the high expectations yet they had done some good. Large areas of rice were provided irrigation from these canals and larger areas above dam received flood water than these used to receive water formerly. These canals resulted in the increase of irrigated area which was reported to be 5.9 per cent of the total cultivated areas in 1921-22.

In the district with so little rainfall, variably floods of the Ghaggar were very valuable and great efforts were made to take full advantage of them. When the land was flooded in the rainy season, it was ploughed and sown with *jowar* or *moth* for the kharif crop or with wheat or gram for the rabi. A small area which was above the natural flow of the floods, was irrigated by *jhalars* or *tuyas* erected on the banks. When the height to which the water must be raised was not great, the peasants employed the *chambar*—an apparatus on the principle of the lever or *dhenkli* consisting of a strong beam with the leather bag fastened below one end and a weight of stone placed on the other. For rice cultivation, banked enclosures (*kund*) were made on the low-lying land most subject to inundation by surrounding 50 or 60 acres of land with a bank of earth high enough to keep out ordinary floods. When the river came down in flood, so much water was let in to the *kundas* as was required. So long the flood outside stood higher than the level of the land inside the *kund*, the cultivator could, by knocking a whole in his bank, let in as much water as the crop wanted from time to time and then closed the entrance again. Sometime the level of the flood outside was artificially raised by a water cut from higher up the stream or an embankment lower down or water was brought

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab, 1879—83*, p. 217.

directly by a water cut from one of the lakes or depressions. During the settlement of 1879—83, 146 *kunds* were enumerated which altogether covered 8,957 acres. Later towards the close of the 19th century, the government tried to utilise the flood water of the stream by a dam at Ottu and digging two canals further on.

After the commencement of irrigation from Bhakra Nangal Project, there has been significant improvement in the irrigational facilities in the Sirsa district. The extension of canal irrigation, installation of tubewells and other minor irrigation schemes have led to manifold increase in the irrigated area of the district. Consequently, in 1980-81, 72.6 per cent of the cultivated area in the district was irrigated through various sources.

The following table shows the area irrigated through different sources during 1975-76 to 1980-81 :—

Year	(Thousand Hectares)			
	Canals	Tubewells and Other Sources	Total	Percentage To Net Area Sown
1975-76	142(86.1)	23(13.9)	165	41.7
1976-77	168(86.2)	27(13.8)	195	49.1
1977-78	195(82.6)	41(17.4)	236	60.0
1978-79	211(82.1)	46(17.9)	257	65.2
1979-80	223(77.7)	64(22.3)	287	72.3
1980-81	225(77.8)	64(22.2)	289	72.6

(Note.—Figures in brackets are as percentage of total net area irrigated).

Significantly enough, the share of canals in the total net area irrigated has decreased and that of tubewells increased over the period. The share of canals decreased from 86.1 per cent in 1975-76 to 77.8 per cent in 1980-81 and that of tubewells increased from 13.9 per cent in 1975-76 to 22.2 per cent in 1980-81.

Canal Irrigation

By far the most important means of irrigation in the district are canals and little less than four-fifth of the net irrigated area is served by canals. Canal irrigation in the district is provided by two canal systems viz., the Bhakra Canal and the Ghaggar Canal.

Bhakra Canal System.—Three channels of Bhakra Main Line Canal i.e. Fatehabad branch, Sukhchain distributary of Ratia branch and Bhakra Main branch provide irrigation to the district and were constructed between 1954 to 1966. The Fatehabad branch system irrigates the south-western part of the district.

The Sukhchain distributary irrigates a small portion lying to the south of the Ghaggar, and the Bhakra Main Branch system irrigates the north-western parts of the district.

Ghaggar Canal System.—The Ghaggar Canal System irrigates the south-western portion of the district and is fed from flood water of the river Ghaggar during monsoons. During other months, this system is fed by Bhakra Main Line Canal through Ottu feeder of Rori branch. This system comprises Northern Ghaggar Canal and Southern Ghaggar Canal.

Modernisation of existing channels.—Lot of valuable water was being lost as seepage from *kacha* water courses into sandy lands of the Sirsa district where the losses were as much as 20 to 30 per cent. To save this valuable water from going waste, the government embarked a plan to make water courses pukka by lining them. The work of lining these water courses is done by Haryana State Minor Irrigation (Tubewells) Corporation Ltd. The cost is recovered from the cultivators in easy instalments under the provisions of Haryana Canal and Drainage Act, 1974.

Sprinkler irrigation.—There are certain areas in the district which are uncommanded by the flow irrigation and many of them consist of sand dunes. Sprinkler irrigation was introduced to some of these fields on an experimental basis in 1977-78.

Tubewells

The tubewells are the second most important source of irrigation in the district and 22.2 per cent of the net irrigated area is served by them. Wells are practically non-existent and the few are for domestic use only.

The underground water in most parts of the district being rich in carbonates and bicarbonates is not suitable for irrigation. Before the commissioning of Bhakra Nangal Project, the canal irrigation was not sufficient, and there had been a single crop system. The government started exploring the underground water resources and deep trial boring was done at various places in the district. A ground water testing laboratory was established in 1974. The average depth of water varies from 2 metres to 27 metres. The depth of water increases in the north-western parts of the district particularly in Dabwali block where it was 27 metres below surface. In the south-western parts, the depth of water ranged from 2 metres to 8 metres. It was found from the exploration that fresh water was available along the Ghaggar popularly known as Nali area and along the courses of unlined canals. A little further on both sides of the Nali area, the ground water was suitable and could be used by blending it with canal water or with a specific dose of gypsum.

Thus to supplement canal water at critical stages, the installation of tubewells was encouraged. In March 1981, there were 55 dug wells, 1,250 pumping sets, 7,265 tubewells and 55 direct irrigation and augmentation tubewells. The following table shows the number of tubewells and the area irrigated by tubewells from 1975-76 to 1980-81 :—

Year	Number of Tubewells and Pumping Sets	Area Irrigated by Tubewells (000 hectares)
1975-76	8,217	23
1976-77	8,781	23
1977-78	9,597	41
1978-79	10,229	46
1979-80	11,016	64
1980-81	13,546	64

The above table shows that the number of tubewells has progressively increased since 1975-76. As a result the area under tubewell irrigation has increased by over 178 per cent.

Land Utilisation

The total area of the district according to village papers measured 4,27,219 hectares in 1980-81. The broad use of the land in 1980-81 is shown below :—

Nature of land Use	Area (Hectares)	Percentage of Total Area
Cultivated	3,68,101	86.2
Uncultivated	57,211	13.4
Permanent Pastures and Grazing	1,907	0.4

The cultivated area (net area sown) is 86.2 per cent of the total area of the district as compared to state percentage of 81.1. Since 86.2 per cent of the total area of the district is under plough, there is hardly any scope to bring more area under different crops for increasing agricultural production. Therefore, all efforts need to be diverted towards increasing per hectare yield through enhanced irrigational facilities, multiple cropping and application of latest farm technology.

Size of Land Holdings

According to Agricultural census 1980-81, total number of operational holdings in the district was 63,458¹. The average size of holdings in the district was 6.07 hectares (highest in the state) against 3.52 hectares average size of the state. The break-up of operational holdings into different sizes has been given below :—

Size of Group (in Hectares)	No. of Holdings	Area (in Hectares)
0—0.5	5,258	1,517
0.5—1.0	5,810	4,540
1.0—2.0	10,629	18,248
2.0—3.0	8,209	24,152
3.0—4.0	6,531	24,034
4.0—5.0	5,594	27,026
5.0—7.5	8,982	65,359
7.5—10.0	4,720	45,566
10.0—20.0	5,668	1,11,035
20.0—30.0	1,320	34,937
30.0—40.0	495	17,112
40.0—50.0	144	5,807
Above 50.0	98	5,702

About 47.1 per cent of the total holdings are below 3 hectares and the maximum number of holdings lies in the size group of 1.0—2.0 hectares.

¹. *Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 1985-86, P. 188.*

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

AGRICULTURE

The economy of the district is predominantly agricultural. After Independence, almost all the area fit for cultivation has been brought under plough and the district has made notable progress in the field of agriculture after the formation of Haryana in 1966 and more so after it was made a district in 1975. This is evident from the fact that the foodgrains production which was 374 thousand tonnes in 1975-76 increased to 419 thousand tonnes in 1980-81, thus registering an increase of 12.00 per cent between 1975-76 to 1980-81. The production of wheat, gram, paddy, cotton and oilseeds also registered significant increase during this period.

Role of Agriculture Department

The Agriculture Department guides the farmers in the latest technological advancements in the field of agriculture. These include intensive methods of cultivation for higher production per unit area through new cropping patterns, preparation of crop plans, agricultural crops and gardens, use of fertilizers and good seeds, and laying out of demonstration plots to show to the cultivators the superiority of new strains and agronomic practices recommended for the district. The village level workers of the department impart training and education to farmers in their respective areas on matters relating to improved seeds, fertilizers and improved agricultural practices.

The Department of Agriculture at the district level is headed by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, who is assisted by six Agricultural Officers, 50 Agricultural Development Officers and other field staff.

Soils

The soils of this district are sandy to sandy loam in texture. These may be divided into two tracts namely, the Ghaggar belt and the Rohi or semi-arid zone. The soils around Ghaggar belt are loamy to clay loam in texture. This belt extends to an area of 3 to 5 kilometres on both sides of the river and at some places it extends to 5 to 7 kilometres. The Ghaggar river passes through Sirsa, Rania and a part of Bada Gudha blocks. The soil of this tract is very fertile and paddy, cotton and wheat are most important crops of this tract.

The soils of the remaining tract are sandy to sandy loam in texture. There are also sand dunes lying on the north-western border of the district which are adjoining Rajasthan. During summer, hot and dry winds blow through-out the day and cause shifting of sand dunes from one place to another. This is a serious problem in some villages of the district.

Crops

The crops in the district are divided into two main categories, viz., kharif and rabi, locally named as *gawani* and *asadhi*. The former is the summer season and later the winter season crop.

The major kharif crops of the district are cotton, paddy and *bajra* while the minor ones are sugarcane and *jowar*. Other minor kharif crops are *moong*, *moth*, groundnut and vegetables. The major rabi crops are gram, wheat and oilseeds and minor ones barley and vegetables.

Major foodgrain crops of the district are gram, wheat and paddy and major cash crops are cotton and oilseeds.

Foodgrains Crops

Gram.—It is a major rabi crop throughout the district. It forms a good diet both for human beings and cattle. It is mostly grown under *barani* conditions and therefore, its acreage shows wide variations from year to year. The area under this crop was 82,810 hectares in 1974-75 increased to 1,56,883 hectares in 1976-77 and dwindled to 1,10,200 hectares in 1979-80 and again increased to 1,55,925 hectares in 1980-81. The percentage of area under gram to total cropped area was 29.82 percent in 1980-81 and was highest for any single crop. The important varieties grown in the district are G-130, A-208 and C-235.

Wheat.—Wheat is another important rabi crop in the district. It is grown mostly in irrigated area. The area under this crop has increased considerably over the years. It was 66,380 hectares in 1974-75 which increased to 97,253 hectares in 1980-81. The increase in area under this crop is largely due to increase in irrigated area and the introduction of new local and exotic high-yielding varieties.

The main high yielding varieties grown in the district are Kalyan, Sona (K-227), Sonalika (S-308), WH-147 and HD-2009.

Bajra.—*Bajra* is mostly grown in *barani* areas of Sirsa block. The area under this crop fluctuates every year depending on the intensity of rainfall. The area under *bajra* was 49,930 hectares in 1974-75, 61,650 hectares in 1975-76, 37,900 hectares in 1977-78 and 8,400 hectares in 1979-80. It was 18,501 hectares in 1980-81. The most common variety grown in this district is BJ-104. Because of high yielding potential, hybrid varieties are rapidly replacing the local varieties.

Paddy.—It is an important kharif crop of the district and is mostly grown in Sirsa and Raia blocks in the area around both sides of the Ghaggar in Sirsa tahsil. The area under this crop has increased over the years, from 12,240 hectares in 1974-75 to 19,956 hectares in 1980-81. The popular varieties grown in the district are PR-108, IR-8 and Jaya.

Commercial Crops

Cotton.—It is the most important commercial crop of the district and is grown almost in all the blocks. The soil and climate of the district are suited

for this crop and cultivation has responded actively to canal irrigation. The area sown under cotton increased from 62,683 hectares in 1970-71 to 98,000 hectares in 1980-81. The increase has mostly been of the American cotton because of its long staple and suitability for the mills. Sirsa district has the second highest proportion of area under cotton and its production in the state as a whole. The main varieties of cotton grown in the district are H-777, G-27 and Bikaneri (J-34).

Rape and Mustard.—It is also an important commercial crop grown in the district. The area under this crop has increased from 13,291 hectares in 1974-75 to 45,777 hectares in 1980-81. It is mainly grown in Dabwali and Bada Gudha blocks.

Table IV, V and VI of Appendix give details about the area under principal crops, the yield per hectare and the production of principal crops from 1975-76 to 1980-81.

Fodder Crops

About 14.5 per cent of the total cropped area of the district is under fodder crops. Apart from these crops, the stalks of *bajra*, *jowar* and maize and the chaff of wheat, gram and minor cereals are used as animal feed. The forage crops are generally sown in the rainfed areas in the kharif season and irrigated conditions in the rabi. The important among fodder crops are *chari* and *barseem*. The following table gives the area under fodder crops from 1975-76 to 1980-81:—

Area under fodder groups

(In 000' Hectares)

Year	
1975-76	82
1976-77	62
1977-78	62
1978-79	66
1979-80	60
1980-81	76

Cropping Pattern :

The absence of assured means of irrigation and lack of infrastructural facilities such as transport, marketing, storage and credit had direct bearing on the composition of the crops grown in the Sirsa district in the beginning of the present century. Mainly the inferior foodgrain crops were grown. The area under cash crops was not much significant. The principal crops at that time were *bajra*, gram and barley. Rice and wheat were cultivated only in small area having irrigation facilities. Among cash crops only oilseeds were cultivated. Cotton, now the most important cash crop of the district had just 8 hectares of area under it in 1900-01.

The following table showing area under principal crops in 1900-01, 1930-31 and 1980-81, brings out clearly the changes in the cropping pattern of the district during the last eighty years :—

Area under Principal Crops

(In Hectares)

Crops	1900-01 ¹	1930-31 ²	1980-81
Rice	2,335	2,641	19,956
Wheat	10,175	20,434	97,253
Jowar	9,143	12,221	266
Bajra	62,147	77,381	18,501
Barley	45,043	29,977	6,815
Gram	51,749	1,35,511	1,55,925
Oilseeds	44,289	4,878	45,777
Cotton	8	748	98,100

(Note.—Figures for 1900-01 and 1930-31 relate to the then Sirsa tahsil which included the areas of the present Dabwali tahsil. Figures given in acres have been converted into hectares).

The above table shows that between 1900-01 and 1930-31 the area under wheat, *jowar*, *bajra* and gram increased. Increase was more significant for wheat and gram. There was insignificant increase in the area under rice. The area under barley and oilseeds declined considerably during the same period, decrease being more sharp in case of oil seeds. Though area under cotton increased from 8 to 748 hectares but increase was not significant enough to affect the cropping pattern.

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer, Statistical Tables, 1912, Table 19.*

2. *Ibid 1935, Table 19.*

The period between 1930-31 and 1980-81, witnessed significant changes in the cropping pattern. The area under rice, wheat, gram, oilseeds and cotton increased manifold. Increase was more significant for cotton and oilseeds—two main cash crops of the district. The increase in area under rice and wheat was also significant but increase in area under gram was not much significant. On the other hand area under *jowar*, *bajara* and barley decreased considerably. The decrease was more sharp in case of *jowar*, which had just 266 hectares in 1980-81 as against 12,221 hectares in 1930-31. Area under barley and *bajra* decreased to 6,815 and 18,501 hectares respectively in 1980-81 from 29,977 and 77,381 hectares respectively in 1930-31. Thus, cropping pattern in the district witnessed significant changes since 1900-01. Among the cereal crops there was a noticeable fall in the area under coarse and low value crops like *bajra* and *jowar*, whereas the area under superior crops like rice and wheat has gone up from 2,335 hectares and 10,175 hectares respectively in 1900-01 to 19,956 hectares and 97,253 hectares respectively in 1980-81. The area under gram also showed an upward trend.

Moreover, with the availability of assured irrigation facilities and consciousness among cultivators, the area under low-yielding and low-value crops has been substituted by cash crops over the period. The area under cotton has increased from barely 8 hectares in 1900-01 and 748 hectares in 1930-31 to 98,000 hectares in 1980-81. The total cropped area in 1980-81 was 5,23,000 hectares of which food crops claimed 3,00,500 hectares or 57.46 per cent, while non-food crops covered 2,22,500 hectares or 42.54 per cent. It is significant to note that cropping pattern in the district has changed in favour of non-food cash crops over the period. Though food crops still occupy large proportion of total cropped area, but the proportion of non-food cash crops in the total cropped area has increased significantly.

These changes in cropping pattern have given an entirely new look and direction to the economy of the district. The tract where earlier mainly *bajra* and gram were grown is now known as cotton belt of Haryana. *Bajra*, the most important crop of the district in the beginning of the present century has now been relegated to sixth place whereas cotton is now second most important crop of the district next only to gram. Tremendous increase in cotton production has given rise to the opening of many cotton ginning factories.

The changes in cropping pattern discussed in foregoing paragraphs have taken place after the beginning of the planning era in 1951. Cropping pattern remained more or less static till then. Most of these changes were apparently due to additional facilities made available under various Five Year Plans in the form of irrigation, chemical fertilizers, better seeds, credit and marketing and better agricultural extension services. Cropping pattern in the district responded favourably to these changes in the infrastructure.

Agricultural Production and High Yielding Varieties

As the 99.5 per cent of the total cultivable area in the district has been brought under cultivation, the agricultural production can be increased only through intensive cultivation. Use of high yielding varieties of seeds of various crops have revolutionised the agriculture in the district. With the adoption of these varieties production has increased manifold and area under cultivation as a proportion of total cultivable area is the highest in the state. The High Yielding Varieties Programme was introduced in the areas now comprising Sirsa district in 1966-67, when Mexican varieties of wheat, high yielding varieties of paddy and hybrid *bajra* were propagated and the maximum area was brought under these varieties. The yearwise area under these varieties since 1975-76 is given below.

(Hectares)			
Year	Wheat	Bajra	Paddy
1975-76	70,000	18,000	12,000
1976-77	76,000	15,000	12,000
1977-78	82,000	16,000	13,000
1978-79	1,05,000	22,000	16,000
1979-80	93,000	5,000	18,000
1980-81	94,000	7,000	18,000

Horticulture.

The climatic conditions and soils of the district are suitable for citrus, *ber*, grapes and guava. Sirsa is the leading district in the state, where citrus fruits are grown on commercial scale. Area under fruits can be increased considerably if some fruit preservation industry is set up around Dabwali. It will help the cultivators in getting better price of their produce. The scope of grape cultivation is limited because of the poor marketing facilities. The area under *ber* cultivation can be increased considerably.

Among vegetables, chilly, potato, cauliflower and cabbage, carrot and tomato have good scope.

The approximate area under fruits and vegetables in the district during 1980-81 was as under :

	Approximate area (Hectares)
Fruits	
Citrus	104
<i>Ber</i>	70
Grapes	4
Guava	30
Mango	6
Miscellaneous	30
Total	244
Vegetables :	
Chilly	200
Sweet potato	1
<i>Singhara</i>	..
Long Melon	..
Others	84
Rabi Vegetables :	
Potato	19
Garlic	..
Onion	4
Carrot	55
Cauliflower	95
Pea	..
Tomato	30
Others	35
Total	523

There are two Agricultural Development Officers (Horticulture) one each at Sirsa and Dabwali. There is also a nursery for fruit plants at Sirsa, where plants of citrus fruits, *ber*, grapes and guava are available for sale.

Agricultural Implements

Improved agricultural implements and machines play a vital role in increasing agricultural production. The farmers are gradually mechanising agriculture and adopting improved implements in accordance with their utility and scope for use. The brief description of agricultural implements used by farmers is given below :—

Plough.—It is made of wood or iron, the wooden one is generally of *kikar* wood. It scratches the soil up to 4 or 5 inches. In small land-holdings, fragmented and non-contiguous holdings, this plough is ideally suited as it does not disturb the level of the land. Of late, the use of iron plough has become more popular as the figures indicate. In 1961 there were 39,814 wooden and only 5,841 iron ploughs. In 1977 the number of wooden and iron ploughs increased to 47,125 and 39,755 respectively. The increase in the number of iron ploughs during 1961—77 has been much higher than in case of wooden ploughs.

In 1982, there were 37,000 wooden ploughs and 26,205 that of iron. The farmers are switching over to mechanised farming. Consequently there is noticeable decline in plough number.

Tractor.—The use of a tractor, though limited to a few big farmers, is becoming increasingly popular. The district had only 405 tractors in 1961. Their number increased to 3,275 in 1977 and 7,403 during 1981-82. Almost all types of tractors manufactured in the country are operating in the district.

Bullock-cart.—This is the traditional load carrying device of the farmer. It is commonly used for carrying the farm produce to the threshing ground, grains to the homestead and surplus to the market and even as a means of transport. There were 5,188 carts in the district in 1961, 7,910 in 1977 and 11,286 in 1982.

Cane-Crusher.—It is another important agricultural implement used for crushing the cane. Wooden crushers, in vogue before Independence, have been replaced by steel crushers. There were 142 cane crushers in the district in 1961 and their number increased to 755 in 1977, however, it declined to 469 in 1982.

Other implements.—A number of other tools and implements such as spade, *kasola*, *pora*, *kulhari* (axe), *dranti* (sickle) and seed drills are used. Although the scope of mechanised farming is limited because of the small land holdings, the modern implements are being gradually adopted by the farmers. The traditional system of threshing wheat under the feet of bullocks has almost been discarded in favour of the mechanised method through power threshers operated by the tractors or small motors. The farmers have adopted the improved implements, such as harrows, power thresher and seed-cum-fertilizer drills.

Seeds

The Agriculture Department plays an important role in publicising the use of improved seeds. It also concentrates on multiplying and distributing improved seeds to the farmers. The better yielding varieties of some seeds used by the cultivators in the district are as under :—

Kharif	
<i>Bajra</i>	PHB-14, BJ-104, HS-I
<i>Moong</i>	Versha, Baisalki, T-9
<i>Gwara</i>	FS-277
Cotton	H-777, G-27, Bikaneri (J-34)
Sugarcane	CO-1148, CO-1158, CO-975
Rabi	
Wheat	C-306, Sonalika, WH-147, Kalyan, Sona, HD-2009
Gram	G-130, H-208, C-235
Barley	BG-25, C-138, BG-105
<i>Raya</i>	A-29 (Prakash), L-18
<i>Sarson</i>	BSH-I
<i>Taramira</i>	ITS-4
<i>Toria</i>	ITS-4
Barseem	Mascavee

The seed is procured from National Seeds Corporation, Haryana Seeds Development Corporation, Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar and the various government seed farms.

The quantities of improved seeds distributed by the Agriculture Department in the district during 1974-75 to 1980-81 are given in the table below :—

Year	Seeds Distributed (Quintals)
1974-75	2,814.23
1975-76	3,404.35
1976-77	6,582.53
1977-78	4,858.83
1978-79	4,444.32
1979-80	7,483.23
1980-81	10,245.99

Manures and Chemical Fertilizers

The use of manures and fertilizers has increased considerably in the past few years. The farmers use compost, farm-yard manure and chemical fertilizers to increase agricultural production. Night-soil and other urban wastes were neglected earlier as the people did not like to use them due to social prejudice. Now these are being used in considerable quantities. Green manuring with leguminous crops add to the fertility of the soil. Among all kinds of manuring practices, green manuring has been found to be the cheapest. Chemical fertilizers are very useful for foodgrain crops.

The following figures regarding the distribution of chemical fertilizers show that the use of chemical fertilizers is becoming more and more popular among the cultivators of the district and it has increased more than three-fold during 1974-75 to 1980-81 :—

Chemical Fertilizers Distributed (Metric tonnes)

Year	Nitro- genous	Phos- phatic	Potash	Total
1974-75	6,718	501	141	7,360
1975-76	7,855	950	200	9,005
1976-77	12,207	1,637	514	14,358
1977-78	15,799	3,279	839	19,917
1978-79	19,613	3,698	1,042	24,353
1979-80	17,396	3,964	1,263	22,623
1980-81	17,495	4,652	1,596	23,743

Compost Manure

Urban Compost.—Urban wastes are a potential source of plant food ingredients. Efforts have been made in the past few years to conserve these wastes for manurial purpose. The municipalities of Sirsa, Dabwali, Kalanwali and Rania are producing urban compost. Compost produced at these places is sold to the farmers.

Rural Compost.—The preparation of compost manure in the rural areas is also being promoted. The extension workers for manure advise the farmers in villages for the preparation of compost and train them in the technique of scientific composting. The following figures show the compost prepared and compost utilized, both urban and rural, in the district from 1974-75 to 1980-81 :—

(In Metric tonnes)

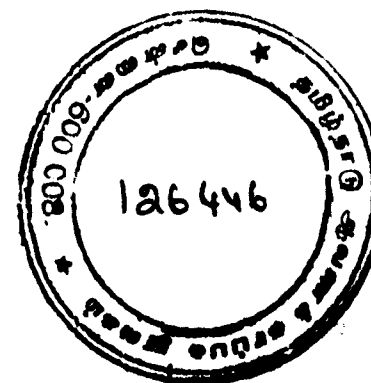
Year	Compost Prepared	Compost Utilized
1974-75	1,70,000	1,45,000
1975-76	1,65,000	1,40,000
1976-77	1,65,000	1,40,000
1977-78	76,400	70,500
1978-79	1,23,650	1,20,550
1979-80	69,650	51,930
1980-81	62,620	47,340

Green Manuring

Green manuring is very important for soil fertility as it directly adds nitrogen to the soil. It also improves soil texture by addition of humus or organic matter. The addition of organic matter improves both heavy and sandy soils. The water holding capacity of the soil also increases. The practice of green manuring with sunn-hemp and *dhaincha* is being steadily popularised.

The area under green manuring has considerably increased over the years as is evident from the following figures :—

Year	Area Under Green Manuring (Hectares)
1974-75	265
1975-76	280
1976-77	280
1977-78	355
1978-79	365
1979-80	340
1980-81	602



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Crop Rotation

Two crops in a year is the common practice in areas of assured water-supply. In *barani* areas single cropping is still in vogue where either kharif or rabi is sown. Mixed crops are commonly grown in *barani* tracts. Gram and wheat or gram and barley with rows of *sarson* or *toria* are sown mixed to provide safeguards against uncertainty of weather. The rotation varies from soil to soil and it differs under irrigated and *barani* conditions. The general rotation of crops followed by farmers in the district is given below:

1. Cotton—	wheat—	cotton
2. Cotton—	fallow—	cotton
3. Bajra—	wheat—	bajra
4. Bajra—	gram—	bajra
5. Paddy—	wheat—	cotton
6. Gwara—	wheat—	cotton
7. Gwara—	fallow—	cotton
8. Pulses—	wheat—	cotton
Barani		
1. Bajra—	fallow—	fallow
2. Fallow—	gram—	bajra
3. Gwara—	fallow—	bajra
4. Fallow—	Rape seed—	gwara
	mustard—	

Agricultural Pests and Diseases

Crops are occasionally exposed to damage from a variety of diseases and pests. Downey mildew and ergot in *bajra*, *jassid* and pink boll worms in cotton and paddy and root weevil, annalids and blast in rice are some of the major kharif crop diseases in the district. Red hairy caterpillar (*kotra*) is another dangerous pest which creates terror among the farmers during kharif and attacks almost all the crops.

The ergot disease can be controlled by floating the seed in 10 per cent salt solution and downey mildew by roguing diseased plants and spraying by any of the fungicide like Miltox, Blitox, Bolitone and Dithane M-25.

Jassids and other sucking pests can be effectively controlled with systemic insecticides like Dimecron, Metasystox, Anthio and Rogor. Field sanitation combined with insecticidal sprays with Sevin and Zolone against pink-boll worms have proved quite effective and have improved the quality of cotton seed.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Paddy root weevil and annalids are given soil treatment of systemic granules of Thimet, Lindane and Phorate. Blast on rice can be checked by Hinoson Blitox or other copper fungicides.

Red hairy caterpillar can initially be controlled with BHC 10 per cent and later when mature, application of Nuvan and Thiodan spray are effective.

Wilt in gram and termites on wheat are two most serious disease insects affecting rabi crops in the district. Late sowing and conserving moisture have proved beneficial in lessening the incidence of wilt in gram. Seed treatment with Aldrine 30 per cent EC at the rate of 4 ml/Kg in wheat and 10 ml/Kg in case of barley are popular among the farmers.

Oilseeds in rabi are attacked by sawfly larve, painted bug and aphids (*chepa*). BHC 10 per cent and Malathion can check sawfly and painted bug while aphids can be easily controlled by use of systemic insecticides like Dimecron and Metasystox.

Rats are serious pests for wheat and gram. These can be controlled by feeding baits poisoned with Zinc Phosphides, Rodaprin and fumigation with Celphos tablets. Large quantity of stored grains are destroyed by pests like *dhora*, *khapra*, lesser grain borer and rust red flur beetle. These can be effectively controlled by fumigating the store, containers (grain bins/gunny bags) with Celphos and Ethylene Dibromide.

The Agriculture Department educates farmers regarding different control measures to reduce damage to crops. Legal action under the East Punjab Agriculture Pests, Disease and Noxious Weeds Act, 1949, can be taken against cultivators who do not eradicate weeds, pests and diseases.

Integrated Cotton Development Project (World Bank)

The Project was started in the year 1976-77 with the financial assistance of World Bank with an outlay of Rs. 110.22 lakh. The project area in Haryana comprised Sirsa and Rania blocks of the Sirsa district and Ratia, Fatehabad and Bhuna blocks of Hisar district.

The main object of the project was to increase cotton production by increasing yield per unit area through the adoption of improved technology.

Area Coverage.—In all the five blocks of project the area under cotton before the start of the project i.e. 1975-76 was 90 thousand hectares; out of this 56 thousand hectares was under American cotton and 34 thousand hectares was under *desi* cotton. The area under cotton sharply declined from 90 thousand hectares in 1975-76 to 39 thousand hectares in 1976-77.

Due to this alarming trend, the project was started and thereafter, there had been a steady increase in the area under cotton which increased from 39 thousand hectares in 1976-77 to 118.39 thousand hectares in 1980-81.

Seed Distribution.—It was proposed to cover the entire project area under American cotton with improved seed of recommended varieties. Necessary arrangements were made for meeting the seed requirements and 3289.54 quintals of certified seed was distributed in the year 1980-81.

Fertilizer Distribution.—The pre-project fertilizer consumption in the project area was estimated at 50 Kg per hectare. It was proposed to raise it to 80 Kg per hectare as per recommendation of the Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. The maximum fertilizer consumption level was achieved during 1979-80 which was 64 Kg. per hectare. The years 1980-81 and 1981-82 were the most drought affected years when the fertilizer level remained slightly low.

Training Programme.—The farmers and field functionaries are imparted training in improved technology of crop production. During 1980-81, 75,700 farmers were imparted training.

Field Sanitation.—For increasing the production of good quality cotton, the hibernation of pink boll worm is required to be checked at proper time. For this purpose the farmers are required to be educated in the importance of field sanitation by removing cotton sticks from the fields and burning the remaining parts (debris) of the cotton plants like unopened bolls, burrs and flowers, etc. By the end of February, the field staff engaged in the project area is put on the special duty for the education of the farmers and ensuring the clearance of the cotton sticks from the fields after shedding their floral parts.

Integrated Pest Control.—Effective pest control in the crop like cotton is only possible through an integrated approach and adoption of all possible pest control measures. An effective pest surveillance is conducted before taking up aerial and ground spray operations. Depending upon the extent of infestation, the farmers are guided to spray their crop only when required with a particular type of insecticides looking to the intensity of particular insect.

The surveillance work has been streamlined in order to know the exact insect/pest situation for quickly taking up suitable remedial measures. In 1980-81, 60 villages were covered under this programme. Under the project entire area under cotton was covered either through ground spray or aerial spray. During 1980-81, an area of 1,85,000 hectares and 25,310 hectares was covered by ground and aerial spray respectively.

Demonstrations.—Practical field demonstration in the farmers fields is one of the most important tool for making an impact of improved technology.

The farmers only get convinced when they themselves see the effect of applied technology on their own fields. Taking this as a measure for disseminating knowledge of improved technology, the effective result demonstration plots were laid out on the farmers fields and 90 demonstration plots were arranged during 1980-81.

Short Term Credit.—Cotton crop required a heavy investment for its successful cultivation for which the cotton growers need credit facilities. This facility has been provided under the World Bank Cotton Project through co-operative and commercial banks and Rs 518.60 lakh were distributed as crop loan amongst the farmers in 1980-81.

Production.—As a result of the integrated approach under this project, the average yield per hectare arose from 9 quintals in the year 1972-73 to 15 quintals in the year 1980-81. The total production under Integrated Cotton Development Project (World Bank) area stepped up from 1,07,000 bales in 1976-77 to 3,48,000 bales in 1980-81.

Agricultural Research

The Haryana Agricultural University is conducting research in the development of agriculture and has established a Cotton Research Station and a Krishi Gyan Kendra at Sirsa with a view to disseminate the latest findings in agricultural research and to advise the farmers in disease control, soil management, etc.

Cotton Research Station, Sirsa.—A Cotton Research Station was established at Sirsa during 1976. The work was initially started with a view to reconstitute variety 320-F and to restore its original genetic potential. The station develops high yielding early maturing varieties of cotton which are resistant to pests and diseases. High yielding variety H-777 was released during 1978 for the World Bank Cotton Project area. Variety H-665-C, a long staple cotton, was also released for project area during the same year. The variety H-777 has made significant impact on the cotton production of the state. Besides, the station caters to the need of foundation seed of cotton required for organising onward stages of seed multiplication for supplying genetically pure seed to the growers. Further, the staff engaged at Cotton Research Station, Sirsa is to disseminate the research findings to the cultivators. Similarly, Krishi Gyan Kendra established at Sirsa demonstrates the efficacy of research findings at farmers fields.

Before the transfer of research work to Haryana Agricultural University, the then Fodder Research Station at Sirsa developed and released 17 fodder varieties for cultivation in the erstwhile Punjab state. The following were the

more important varieties which were evolved and released by the Fodder Research Station, Sirsa:—

Sr. No.	Crop	Variety	Year of release	Yield (Quintals/Hectare)		
				Green fodder	Dry matter	Seed
1.	Jowar (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>)	1. J.S. 20	1937	420	145	12
		2. J.S. 263	1948	450	160	8
		3. J.S. 29/1	1949	450	160	8
		4. S.S.G. 59-3	1960	750	250	2
2.	Teosinte (<i>Euchlaena maxicana</i>)	Improved Teosinte	1956	600	150	10
3.	Guar (<i>Cyamopsis tetragonoloba</i>)	Guar No. 2	1956	300	60	13
4.	Cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>)	1. F.O.S.1	1938	250	53	5
		2. No. 10	1960	270	40	4
5.	Moth (<i>Vigna aconitifolia</i>)	T-3	1942	225	58	8
6.	Barseem (<i>Trifolium alexandrinum</i>)	MESCAVI	1930	1,000	175	4
7.	Lucerne (<i>Medicago sativa</i>)	T-9 (Sirsa-9)	1942	900	200	1.5
8.	Senji—Yellow (<i>Melilotus parviflora</i>)	FOS.1	1953	275	62	10
9.	Metha (<i>Trigonella foenum graecum</i>)	T-8	1951	200	40	6
10.	Oats (<i>Avena sativa</i>)	1. Weston—11	1950	400	96	15
		2. Brunker—10	1950	400	96	15
		3. FOS 1/29	1937	450	102	16
		4. Algerian	1937	450	108	17

Many of these varieties are still holding the field and have done well in other parts of the country as well.

Krishi Gyan Kendra, Sirsa.—Haryana Agricultural University has a Farm Advisory Centre at Sirsa, known as Krishi Gyan Kendra. A team of specialists in different subject matters such as agronomy, soil, horticulture, vegetable crops, entomology, farm management, agricultural engineering, home science, veterinary sciences and animal sciences have been provided at this Krishi Gyan Kendra with a Co-ordinator as their Incharge.

The objectives of the Krishi Gyan Kendra are to disseminate the latest technology in the fields of agriculture, livestock farming and home management

to the different functional and rural people, to field-evaluate a research findings and to provide feed-back to the scientists about the field problems of the farmers. The dissemination of knowledge is done by holding farmers' fairs, training camps, demonstrations, campaigns, exhibitions, film shows, etc. Field days on different crops in respect of different package of practices, cattle shows, vegetable shows and calf rallies are arranged through-out the district. The owners of best animals/crop samples and standing crop demonstrations are awarded prizes. The farmers of the district are apprised of the results based on the latest agricultural technology developed by the university scientists from time to time. The university has adopted 5 villages, namely Panniwala Mota, Karamgarh, Chhatrian, Kharekan and Burj Bhangu. The dissemination and adoption of different practices related to agriculture and animal husbandry has resulted in a noticeable development in these villages which have served as a model for the surrounding villages and other areas of the district.

Agricultural Co-operatives

Increased agricultural production depends on a number of factors like the provision of timely and adequate credit, use of significant inputs, viz., chemical fertilizers, improved seeds and insecticides/pesticides, and facilities for marketing of agricultural produce as well as storage arrangement. The agricultural service co-operatives are aimed at meeting these requirements. It is through co-operative farming that scanty resources of the agriculturists can be pooled, thus bringing to them the gains of large-scale intensive farming. Through co-operative marketing, the enormous profits to middle-men can be checked and higher dividends secured to the farmers.

In 1981, the total number of co-operative societies of all types excluding industrial co-operatives was 482 with a total membership of 1,18,724. Their owned funds and working capital amounted to Rs. 6.45 crore and Rs. 39.85 crore, respectively. Almost all the inhabited villages of the district were covered with one or the other type of the co-operative society. For meeting the credit, fertilizers and consumer goods requirements, there were 184 agricultural credit and service societies with the total membership of 78,032 in June, 1981. These societies advanced short and medium term loans to the extent of Rs. 13.05 crore during 1980-81. Besides, these societies distributed 16,812 tonnes of fertilizers through a network of 62 regular sub-depots in the district. Their owned funds and working capital were Rs. 2.40 crore and Rs. 12.99 crore respectively in June, 1981. The Sirsa Central Co-operative Bank Limited, Sirsa with its 12 branches lends funds to member societies.

Joint farming societies have also been organised. The government provides loans and assistance to these societies. The total number of farming societies in district in June, 1981, was 36 with membership of 408.

The other agricultural cooperatives in the field are cooperative marketing societies, garden colonies societies, irrigation societies, poultry societies, dairy and milk supply societies and cattle breeding societies.

The number, membership, owned funds and working capital of these societies in the year 1981 are given below :

Type of Society	Number	Member- ship	Owned Funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Working Capital (Rs. in lakhs)
Marketing	6	3,408	36.48	64.87
Garden colonies	1	11	0.06	0.06
Irrigation	—	—	—	—
Poultry	1	15	0.05	0.01
Dairy and Milk Supply	84	4,788	1.27	1.49
Other Agricultural Non-Credit	2	29	0.01	0.01
Sugarcane	—	—	—	—
Other Processing	1	32	0.03	0.03
Milk Union	1	46	0.57	0.90
Total	96	8,329	38.47	67.37

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Animal Husbandry plays a role in district economy next only to agriculture. The famines which had from time to time visited the district proved more fatal to cattle than to human beings. Recurring famines and the shrinking of the grazing land due to increase in cultivated area, the cattle breed in the district did not deteriorate to any noticeable extent. Cattle disease was not very much prevalent in the district and violent outbreak was seldom recorded. The commonest diseases, however, were *Sitta-cow-pox* and *Mun Khur-foot* and mouth disease. The general precaution against cattle disease was to stretch a string across the village gate with an earthen saucer attached to its centre in which a charm had been written. The female buffalo calves (*Jhotl*) were all kept for milk and the cow (*bhari*) was the most indispensable member of the Zamindar's household. The *ghee* made from buffalo milk that he got was his source to get grain, in times of scarcity. In drought conditions when fodder was hardly procurable every effort was made to keep the family buffalo (in milk), however, other cattle could be disposed of to some extent. At the close of 19th century, a good buffalo costed Rs. 70 but inferior ones could be had for Rs. 20 and fair one for Rs. 40—50. Cattle breeding after the spread of cultivation was probably on wane but in Sirsa tahsil breeding still appeared to hold its own.¹

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, pp. 201-202.

Indiscriminate breeding over the years, however, rendered a good number of bovine stock as non-descriptive. Even in the pure stock, the in-breeding resulted in a large number of low yielders. Unmindful and ill planned breeding practices led to the generally weak and inefficient conditions of the livestock causing a set back in the quality rearing of cattle in the district. Realising the role of livestock in the district economy, the government executed dynamic programmes to develop the cattle wealth for the economic prosperity of the cattle breeders. To carry out all gamut of animal husbandry practices on scientific lines, the veterinary services have been extended in the district after the formation of Haryana. Animal Husbandry in the district is now looked after by the Deputy Director, Intensive Cattle Development Project, Sirsa. He is assisted by Sub-Divisional Officers (Animal Husbandry) one each stationed at Sirsa and Dabwali, officer incharge Semen Bank, Sirsa and veterinary surgeons etc. His main activities relate to cattle breeding, health cover of livestock, improvement of livestock management and livestock production programmes.

Livestock Population.—Animal Husbandry has provided gainful employment to a large number of small and marginal farmers besides landless labourers. Infact, hardly there is any rural household where either of the livestock species is not reared. The livestock population of the district was reckoned at 4.29 lakh in 1977 which increased to 5.34 lakh in 1982. The livestock population of 1982 when correlated with the area of the district worked to about 29 cattle, 41 buffaloes, 23 sheep, 14 goats, 9 camels, 1 donkey and 13 poultry birds per square kilometre. Also there were 175 heads of cattle, 251 buffaloes, 140 sheep and 52 camels per thousand human beings in 1982. The following figures show the trend of growth of livestock between 1977 and 1982.

Category	1977 (In Hundreds)	1982
Cattle	1,196	1238
Buffaloes	1,500	1774
Horses and Ponies	8	7
Donkeys	36	31
Mules	1	2
Sheep	644	989
Goats	559	587
Camels	321	367
Pigs	13	19
Poultry	653	572

Cattle and Buffaloes.—Animals especially cattle and buffaloes, play an important role in the economy of the district. Most of the farmers in the district have a pair of oxen to do the ploughing and to draw the cart. Although bullocks are being replaced by motor and electric power in some areas, yet the importance of cattle in the agricultural economy of the district remain unchanged.

In the distribution pattern of livestock population, there was significantly large proportion of buffaloes (about one-third of the total livestock) and cattle (accounted for 23.1 per cent of the total population) in 1982. Broadly cattle and buffalo population on the basis of utility may be classified as working population and breedable population. The working population is the back bone of the rural economy as it is the major draught force in the rural areas. According to 1982, livestock census, there were 177 thousand working animals consisting of 167 thousand cattle and 10 thousand buffaloes. Besides, there were 14,500 camels over four years used as draught animals.

Out of the district's total bovine population numbering 3.01 lakh in 1982, the breedable population was 1.32 lakh (0.53 lakh cows and 0.79 lakh buffaloes). This population is reared for milk production and raising the draught force. Much attention has been given by the government to improve this stock for increasing the milk production and getting the quality draught animals.

Livestock Breeding.—The district has been populated predominantly with non-descript cattle or of mixed breed stock. The cows in general, produce less quantity of milk as compared to exotic breeds. In order to increase the milk production, it was decided to resort to cross breeding in cows and selective breeding in buffaloes. An Intensive Cattle Development Project for improved scientific breeding was launched in the district in 1975-76. The scheme envisaged systematic planned method for best utilisation of superior germs plasma through proper distribution by adopting artificial insemination technique, disease control and fodder management. To provide breeding facilities promptly and effectively and to penetrate the benefits of latest policy of breeding to interior rural areas of the district, 88 veterinary institutions including 12 veterinary hospitals, 13 veterinary dispensaries, 4 artificial insemination centres, and 58 stockman centres were rendering artificial insemination services in the district in 1980-81.

The list of veterinary institutions has been given in Table VII of Appendix. The results of artificial insemination, done during 1975-76 to

1980-81 are given below :

Year	Artificial Insemination Done		Calves Born Through Artificial Insemination	
	Cows	Buffaloes	Cows	Buffaloes
1975-76	779	251	24	—
1976-77	2,054	962	188	124
1977-78	5,823	2,325	742	485
1978-79	6,055	2,580	983	555
1979-80	7,276	2,652	1,155	572
1980-81	9,408	2,612	1,218	587

The above compact and extensive programmes have helped for increasing the milk potentiality. The progeny of females served with the semen of exotic bulls have already started coming into milk and there is an appreciable increase in milk yield in F-1 generation. Spectacular increase in milk yield in the first generation of daughters to that of the mothers have been noticed. The cross breed female cattle population in the district recorded in 1982 livestock census is given below :

(In Hundreds)

Cross-bred Female Cattle over 2½ years			Cross-bred Female Calves from one to 2½ years
In Milk	Dry	Not calved	
14	6	2	10

There is a great demand of high yielding milch animals out side the state. The price of quality milch animal in the district varies from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 9,000.

Gaushalas.—There are 2 *gaushalas* in the district one each at Sirsa and Dabwali. These *gaushalas* were opened out of religious sentiments to house the unproductive cattle. These were run on charity alone but under the Gaushala Development Programme, *gaushalas* at Sirsa and Dabwali have now been developed as cattle breeding-cum-milk producing centres. Apart from providing technical guidance and financial assistance, the animals kept here are provided proper health cover, vaccination and disease control measures.

Sheep Breeding.—Sirsa with a sheep population of 98,900 in 1982 has a fairly good scope for the development of sheep and consequently of wool industry. Three sheep and wool extension centres have been established in the district at Thiraj, Mat Dadu and Bada Gudha. At these centres superior rams have been stationed to provide veterinary aid and other sheep husbandry services. Improved rams maintained at these centres are given to the sheep breeders during the tapping season and taken back when breeding season is over.

With a view to improve the economic conditions of weaker sections, a special Sheep Production Programme was launched in the district in 1976-77. Under this programme small/marginal farmers and landless labourers are given loan and subsidy to adopt sheep breeding as a subsidiary occupation by setting up sheep unit of 20 ewes and one ram. Each unit costs Rs. 4,000. Rs. 1,165 on an average is given as subsidy and the balance is got advanced from commercial banks. 407 such units were established in the district under this scheme.

Poultry Farming

According to the livestock census of 1982, there were 57,200 poultry birds in the district.

One-day old chicks are supplied to the breeders at subsidized rates. The field veterinary staff in the district also provides education to the poultry farmers about the latest techniques of poultry husbandry and also help them in setting up poultry farms. Mass-scale vaccination, debeaking and deworming is also carried out through veterinary hospitals and dispensaries.

Piggery

The district had only 1,900 pigs according to 1982 census. Earlier, no improvement in the breed could be brought about since only Harijans with limited resources keeping only country pigs were engaged in pig breeding. With the introduction of exotic Yorkshire and Landrace breeds, pig breeding is getting popular. By crossing the country pigs with the exotic boars, the indigenous pig stock is being gradually replaced by the exotic pure breeds or the cross bred stock.

Animal Diseases

The common animal diseases prevalent in the district are haemorrhagic septicaemia, rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, surra, black-quarter, sheep pox and fowl pox. These diseases are controlled with prophylactic vaccinations and curative measures. Regular campaigns of inoculation and vaccination against

these diseases are conducted. The following figures show the progress of the work done for the disease control in the district during 1975-76 and 1980-81 :—

Year	Animals Treated	Vaccinations Done Against Various Diseases	Castration Performed
1975-76	14,775	83,633	428
1976-77	27,996	1,29,983	394
1977-78	21,792	2,98,708	233
1978-79	72,462	3,45,191	715
1979-80	85,000	4,48,100	700
1980-81	77,916	5,41,092	678

The Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar also provides animal disease investigation and diagnostic service to the field veterinarians and livestock owners of Sirsa district. Normally, the field veterinarians carry out preventive and curative treatment of animal diseases but if they are unable to establish a correct diagnosis of a disease outbreak in any species of livestock, including poultry, they refer the matter to the disease investigation staff of the university. The affected animals are examined and post-mortem examination is conducted to establish a correct diagnosis of the disease. In addition to the usual diseases affecting livestock, such as, foot and mouth disease, haemorrhagic septicaemia, black quarter, etc., pica in camels and haemoglobinuria in buffaloes are of particular importance in Sirsa district. These diseases are now successfully treated by the administration of suitable treatment worked out by the university scientists. String halt affects cattle and camels. Surgical treatment, developed by the university scientists, has proved very useful in these conditions.

Veterinary Hospitals.—In 1915, each tahsil headquarters in the then Hisar district had a veterinary hospital.¹ Thus, Sirsa had a veterinary hospital in 1915. A number of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries were opened in the subsequent years. In March 1981, there was a net work of 12 veterinary hospitals and 13 veterinary dispensaries to provide veterinary aid to the livestock. One mobile veterinary dispensary was started in 1976-77.

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 148.

Slaughter Houses.—To ensure the availability of hygienic and disease-free meat for human consumption, the district has recognised slaughter houses at Sirsa, Dabwali and Kalanwali. The number of animals slaughtered in the Sirsa district during 1975-76 to 1980-81 is given below:

Year	Number of Animals Slaughtered
1975-76	9,522
1976-77	10,444
1977-78	12,568
1978-79	9,718
1979-80	11,433
1980-81	12,489

DAIRY FARMING

Milk is derived mostly from cows and buffaloes. According to 1982 livestock census, the milch cows and buffaloes were 48,800 and 70,200 respectively and the density of milch animals in the district was 30 per square kilometre.

Though Haryana has been known for its cattle and dairy products but the production of milk has been in small quantities by individual cultivators. These cultivators adopted cattle breeding as subsidiary to farming. As in other parts of the state, milk trade remained disorganised in Sirsa district and adulteration of milk and milk products was rampant. Their prices ruled high during summer months, when adulteration too was at its highest. The dairying on modern lines was entirely absent. To develop the dairy industry on commercial lines the Dairy Development Corporation was set up in 1970. To bring the entire programme under the co-operative ambit, the whole activities of the corporation were transferred to Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation Ltd., on April 1, 1977.

Presently, a chilling centre at Sirsa with a handling capacity of 20,000 litres per day is functioning which earlier under Desert Development Programme was proposed to be converted into milk plant, with a handling capacity of 1 lakh litres per day, expandable to 1.5 lakh litres per day. Now due to the implementation of operation flood-II programme in the state, National Dairy Development Board has agreed to include this project in Operation Flood-II programme and to provide funds for the same. Keeping in view the revised requirements, it has been decided to set up a liquid milk plant of 60,000 litres, per day. This milk plant will provide assured and standard milk to the consumers and ready market for the milk produce of farmers. A milk chilling centre with a handling capacity of 15,000 liters per day is also being set up at Goriawala.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Earlier the milk union was playing a negligible role in the various activities of dairy development. The job of milk procurement and provision of technical inputs was being done by Haryana Dairy Development Co-operative Federation.

With a view to reorganize and revitalise the dairy development in the state on Anand Dairy Pattern, the HDDCF has launched operation Flood-II programme with a financial outlay of Rs. 37.12 crore. The funds would be made available to the HDDCF from Indian Dairy Corporation on loan-cum-grant basis in the ratio of 70 : 30. The entire state is covered for replicating Anand Dairy Pattern Cooperatives.

In March 1981, there were 93 milk producers co-operative societies with a total membership of 4,189 in Sirsa district. During the year 1984-85 about 161 milk producers co-operative societies functioned during the flush season with a total membership of around 7,600.

FISHERIES

At district level the Fisheries Department is represented by the Fisheries Development Officer, Sirsa. He is assisted by three Fisheries Officers, one each at Sirsa, Ottu and Dabwali and functions under the administrative control of the Director of Fisheries, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The district has unfavourable climatic conditions for fish propagation. Low rainfall, high velocity winds and longer spell of high temperature lead to loss of water by evaporation. The soil is sandy and water is also lost by seepage from ponds. To exploit the fish potential of the area, the department established a Fish Seed Farm at Ottu in 1961-62. Since then it has been providing technical advice on fish farming to the Panchayats and individuals.

A departmental survey conducted in 1966-67 and 1967-68, has revealed that only 115 acres of water area is suitable for fish culture in the district while another 65 acres of water area can be made suitable after improvement of the ponds. During 1980-81, 27.5 acres of water area in the district was stocked. It produced 6,500 quintals of fish during 1980-81 worth Rs. 6.50 lakh. Besides, the department auctioned the fishing rights of notified waters, canals and drains of Sirsa district.

FORESTRY

The Divisional Forest Officer with headquarters at Sirsa looks after forestry in the district. He is assisted by four Forest Range Officers, one each at Sirsa, Dabwali, Kalanwali and Ellanabad ranges. Other staff includes 3 Deputy Rangers, 7 Foresters and 37 Forest Guards besides ministerial staff at divisional headquarters. The Divisional Forest Officer acts as a co-ordinator, with the Deputy Commissioner and other officers at the district level, while

at the state level he is under the administrative control of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Haryana, Chandigarh, through the Conservator of Forests West Circle, Haryana at Hisar.

The area under forests is classified according to the ownership i.e. private and state. Forests owned by co-operative bodies and private individuals are included under private forests. The state forests, on the basis of legal status, are categorised as reserved, protected and unclassed. Reserved forests are permanently earmarked for the production of timber or other forest produce. The right of grazing and cultivation is seldom allowed. In Sirsa district, there is no reserved forest. In protected forests, the rights are allowed subject to certain restrictions. The following area was under forests, in the district during 1980-81 :—

Classification of Forests

	Area (Hectares)
A. Government Forest	
(i) Reserved	..
(ii) Protected	3
(iii) Unclassed	90
(iv) Strips (added in the protected forests)	
(a) Rail	557
(b) Roads	1,661
(c) Canals	2,490
(d) Bunds	146
B. Private Forests	
(i) Forest area closed under section 4 and 5 of Land Preservation Act, 1900	..
(ii) Forest area closed under section 38 of Indian Forests Act, 1927	17

The forests of this district mainly consist of strips on either side of the roads, canals, railways, drains, bunds and some private land classed under section 38 of the Indian Forests Act, 1927. These strips are unfit for agricultural purposes and, therefore, are managed by the Forests Department for afforestation. The area of the forests closed under the Indian Forests Act, 1927 was voluntarily handed over by the owners to the Forest Department, for increasing the density of stock and as a soil conservation measure. The Forest Department is also keen to take the panchayat lands (unfit for agriculture) for afforestation under Section 38 of Indian Forest Act, 1927. According to the National

Forest Policy, about 20 per cent of the total area should be under forests in plains whereas in this district the area under forest is only 1.14 per cent. Efforts are being made to have more area under forests.

The district falls in the arid zone of the state having extremes of temperature. The south and south-western parts are an extension of the Rajasthan desert. Sand-blowing caused by high velocity wind poses a serious problem. The fertile soil particles, as a result of siltation, are transported and scattered over long distances thus imparting soil fertility.

In other situations, coarse and sterile sand particles are carried away with high velocity winds and dust storms and are deposited over fertile soil creating unproductivity. Thus the south and south-western parts of the district are affected by sand blows which threaten the agricultural production. All programmes aiming at agricultural development are likely to be rendered ineffective in case the shifting sands are not stabilised. Some area of the district is also affected by water erosion along the Ghaggar river during rainy season.

The Forest Department is, therefore engaged in the implementation of the Desert Control Programme to halt the march of the desert from Rajasthan and to protect the protective bunds of the Ghaggar from water erosion and floods, etc.

Considering the deficiency of tree growth, the problems of shifting sands, and to protect the Ghaggar river bunds, the policy of the Forest Department is to raise shelter belts and wind breaks in the area, for protective and productive purposes and to meet the fuel and house-hold requirements of the local people. At the same time to make farmers tree conscious, farm forestry is being introduced on a very large scale in irrigated areas. The main projects are discussed below :

Fixation of sand-dunes.—Sand-dune formation is a common phenomenon all along the Rajasthan border of Sirsa district. These sand-dunes are advancing into the interior parts of the district with strong south-western winds rendering the cultivated lands infertile by accumulation of sand. Sand-dune areas are mostly under agriculture in this district, and an insignificant portion of these sand-dunes is being tackled by Forest Department under planned afforestation of *sarkanda* grass and other tree species like *Accacia tortilis*, *Accacia nilotica*, and castor. Biological barriers in the form of trees and shrubs play a vital role in different operations of desert control. These are the cheapest methods of reducing wind velocity and to control the movement of sand.

Raising of shelter belts.—The forestry schemes aim at afforestation of waste strips along rail, road and canal banks. These improve the situation as these act as shelter belts against prevailing winds. A dense belt of trees

against the strong sand bearing winds check velocity and thus the sand is accumulated towards the windward side instead of encroaching upon the cultivated land on the leeward side. Moreover, the shelter belts protect the crops from the evil desiccating effect of hot winds.

Farm Forestry.—Plants are raised on the periphery of the fields of the farmers to create wind-breaks so that crops are protected from the desiccating winds. Afforestation works were carried out under the Farm Forestry Scheme including the works carried out under Crash Scheme for Rural Employment. The works carried out under this project from 1971-72 to 1980-81 are as under.—

Year	Kind of Work	Targets Achieved (in Hectares)
1971-72	Plantation of agricultural fields	20
	Plantation in compact blocks	21
1972-73	Plantation in agricultural fields	80
1973-74	Plantation in agricultural fields	55
	Plantation in compact blocks	10
1974-75	Plantation in agricultural fields	22.5
1976-77	Plantation in agricultural fields	10
1977-78	—	—
1978-79	Plantation in agricultural fields	130
	Plantation in compact blocks	54
1979-80	Plantation in agricultural fields	210
	Plantation in compact blocks	72
1980-81	Plantation in agricultural fields	190
	Plantation in compact blocks	42

Afforestation and regeneration are essential parts of forestry in this district. It becomes particularly urgent and important in dry belts of Ektanabad and Chutala. The forests have got to be planted and protected constantly so as to protect the land from erosion, to refertilize the soil, to arrest aridity and to influence the climate.

Forest produce is divided into two categories, major and minor. The major forest produce includes timber and fire wood and the minor forest produce consists of grasses like *sarkanda* and *mallah* (*Palla*). *Shisham* (*Daldergia sissoo*) provides the best timber for furniture. *Kikar* (*Accacia nilotica*) and

and provide excellent firewood. Tanning industry depends upon the bark of *kikar* trees, *sarkanda* grass is used for *mudha* and *ban* (rope) making. Thatching is done with this grass. The *mallah* and other grasses are used as fodder.

The following figures show the income derived from the sale of major and minor produce for the year 1971-72 to 1980-81 :—

Year	Income from Forest Produce (Total Revenue)	
	Major	Minor
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1971-72	1,32,457	1,265
1972-73	1,34,887	1,222
1973-74	97,756	2,275
1974-75	2,56,713	2,630
1975-76	1,14,850	1,580
1976-77	2,03,425	1,480
1977-78	4,27,950	—
1978-79	36,134	3,651
1979-80	3,64,806	3,651
1980-81	3,34,344	2,727

NATURAL CALAMITIES

FAMINES AND DROUGHTS

The first famine of which we have any authentic account is that of A.D. 1783, the *Chalisa Kal* (Samvat 1840). The famine had devastating effect on the areas now comprising Sirsa district. The country was depopulated. It laid the whole country waste. The great herds of cattle which roamed over the prairie died of thirst and starvation, and many people must also have died of famine. The survivors fled to more favoured tracts and the town of Sirsa was wholly deserted. Only some ten or twelve of the larger villages held out. The pastoral tribes who had been accustomed to live on the produce of their cattle, having no stores of grain to fall back upon, perished or were compelled to migrate, and the whole tract was left a desert. It had not recovered itself when 20 years later it was nominally brought under the British rule. From an enquiry made village by village, it appeared that in A.D. 1800, there was not a

single village in the sandy tract south of the Ghaggar valley and in the dry tract north of the Ghaggar and along the Ghaggar valley, there were only 11 villages. One could go for miles without coming near an inhabited village.¹

Drought conditions prevailed in the district in 1837-38. The kharif harvest was total failure, and owing to the failure of the Ghaggar floods, and of the winter rains, there was almost no rabi and the water and fodder shortage made it difficult to keep the cattle alive and greatly depressed the people. Many sufferers from the scarcity found employment in the restoration of old town of Sirsa, where the digging of the town-ditch and the building of the rampart gave work to some hundreds of able bodied labourers, who were in those hard times satisfied to earn an anna a day.²

In common with the whole of the tract between the Yamuna and the Sutlej, the district was visited with severe famine in 1860-61. The harvests of 1858-59 were poor and in 1859-60 the kharif almost entirely failed, and the rabi was far below the average. The crops of both the kharif and rabi harvests failed entirely, and as, owing to the three previous bad years, the district was ill prepared to meet such a scarcity. Much distress was felt here as well as in the whole country between the Yamuna and the Sutlej. Barley, the cheapest grain trebled its price in six months and sold at 13 *seers* (1 *seer* = 0.933 kg) a rupee. Of the kharif demand of 1860, Rs. 58,416 or nearly one-third of the total annual (revenue) demand, was suspended on account of the drought, and many of the people left the district temporarily to seek a means of livelihood elsewhere. Large number of cattle died. An amount of Rs. 16,000 were spent on famine relief and Rs. 23,000 were distributed to 283 villages in advances for the purchase of seed and cattle. Only 53 per cent of the revenue demand was realised during the year, and almost the whole of the balance was remitted.³

The districts of Hisar and Sirsa again suffered, more perhaps than any other district in the Cis-Sutlej tract, in the famine of 1869-70. The price of barley rose to 12 *seers* a rupee. Many people left the district, though *taccavi* advances were largely made for wells and ponds to keep them near their villages, and Rs. 33,000 were spent in the relief of about a lakh of destitute persons, many of whom, however, were immigrants from Rajasthan. According to an estimate made at the time little more than a quarter of the horned cattle were left.

Scarcity prevailed in the district in 1877-78. The autumn rains of the former year failed. The kharif of 1877 in consequence failed and there was little rabi in 1878. As usual, cattle suffered severely from scarcity of fodder.⁴

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83, pp. 27-29.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 42.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 66.

4. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 187.

The district was again visited by the drought in 1880-81. The out-turn for the whole district was estimated at less than a third of an average kharif. The dry seed-time prevented the people from sowing a large area for the rabi, and a two months' drought in January and February made the out-turn poor, so that the total produce of the rabi was only half an average harvest. Prices rose considerably, the stocks of grain began to be exhausted, and the people migrated in numbers from the dry tract towards the rivers. The grass dried up and fodder sold at famine prices, the cattle became enfeebled by starvation and a good many died.¹

The district was again hit by drought in 1895-96. The rabi harvest of 1895 was poor and this was followed by poor kharif in 1895 and a very bad rabi in 1896. The monsoon of 1896 failed completely. The prices, which had been rising steadily since April 1895, reached their highest point in November 1896.

Only two years elapsed and the district was again visited by a famine. The kharif of 1898 was bad, and was followed by bad rabi in 1899 and then came one of the worst monsoon on record. The scarcity of fodder caused immense mortality among cattle and the distress among people was intense.

The district remained free from famine for the next three decades. In 1929-30, the district was again gripped by scarcity. Famine conditions prevailed in the district in 1932-33, 1936-37, 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41, and 1941-42. Of these, the famine from 1938-40 was of severe nature and reduced the district in particular to a state of distress and poverty unknown since 1899. Number of measures were taken to provide relief to the famine affected people. There has been no famine since 1941-42, but scarcity still occurs due to drought conditions and brings economic strains to the agriculturists in particular and the rural masses in general.

After a gap of nearly four decades, the district was again hit by drought during 1979-80. 92 villages during kharif harvest of 1979 and 158 villages during Rabi harvest of 1980 were affected by the drought. Government took several relief measures. Land holdings tax was remitted to the tune of Rs. 12.26 lakh and recovery of *taccavi* was postponed.

Famine is now a thing of the past. Because of better means of communications and transportation, food can easily be transported from one place to another in case of shortage of supply in any part of the country. Moreover, with the extension in irrigational facilities and improved agricultural technology, agricultural production has increased manifold. Increased agricultural production has helped in buffer stocking for lean period and buffer stocked foodgrain has been used to help the people in drought affected areas invariably.

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report of the Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83, pp. 71-72.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES

Sirsa has remained an industrially backward district. There were, however, some traditional industries which were hereditary in character and were carried on by the rural or local artisans from the ancient times. Such industries mainly catered to the local needs of the people and included artisans like carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, weavers, *kumhars*, *teltis*, etc. The manufactures carried on by the artisans were the simple trades by which the produce of the village was prepared to suit the simple wants of the agricultural population, and their customers were in each case a very small number of peasants whose purchases and means of paying for articles supplied dwindled so soon as their harvests failed. There was no outside market for articles manufactured in the district and thus the artisans were dependent on the harvests almost as directly as the peasants themselves.¹ Mention may also be made of woollen *chadars* which the Jat and Bishnoi women usually embroidered with wool.

Saltpetre (*shora*) was manufactured in considerable quantities. It was made from the saline earth by a class of men called *shorgar*. They dug a long narrow drain on some high ground and covered it with tree branches and grass. On this they sprinkled powdered earth from the old village mounds, and poured over it water which soaked through the earth into the drain carrying with it the saltpetre in solution. The dark brown liquid was drained off into a basin lined with lime and after it had been left there to evaporate for six days or so, the residue was boiled in an iron cauldron. Thereafter, it was allowed to cool. It crystallised into dirty brown crystals which were delivered by the manufactures to their employer, the contractor, at about one rupee per *maund*. The contractor purified and recrystallised the saltpetre at Sirsa or some other central point and then exported it. It did not seem to have been manufactured to any extent in this district until 1860. In 1882-83, it was manufactured in villages of the Ghaggar valley where the large mounds were found. The contractor used to pay annually to the village proprietors for permission to extract saltpetre from their land. Such payments varied from Rs. 22 to Rs. 260 averaging about Rs. 100 per village.²

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83, p. 184.

2. *Ibid*, p. 13.

The district remained industrially backward mainly due to unfavourable geographical conditions, lack of communications and scarcity of basic raw materials. However, by 1916, three cotton ginning factories had been established at Mandi Dabwali besides a railway locomotive workshop at Sirsa.¹ The setting up of cotton ginning factories further encouraged the production of cotton in the area and also served as an impetus for industrial development.

In 1947, the number of small-scale industrial units in the district was only 9 with an investment of Rs. 64 thousand and providing employment to 16 persons. There was, however, no large scale industrial unit. During the period from 1947 to 1966, the number of small-scale industrial units set up was 107 with an investment of Rs. 1.6 crore and providing employment to 1,378 persons. During the period from 1966 to 1976, the number of such units set up was 290 with an investment of Rs. 3.13 crore and providing employment to 2,327 persons. In March 1981, there were 1,160 small-scale units with a capital investment of Rs. 6.80 crore providing employment to 6,232 persons. Besides, there was a considerable number of units which were not registered.

Large and medium scale units came into existence in the district only during sixties. In 1966, there were two such units. However, in 1980-81, their number rose to five out of which two units were in the co-operative sector. These units produced goods worth Rs. 7.50 crore approximately and provided employment to 1,572 persons.

A detailed account of all the categories of industries, i.e. large and medium-scale, small-scale and the village and cottage industries is given hereafter :

LARGE AND MEDIUM SCALE UNITS

Large and medium-scale units are engaged in the production of cotton yarn, oil and solvent oil extraction, cotton ginning and pressing, media craft paper and milk chilling. A brief description of each large and medium scale industrial unit is given below :

Gopi Chand Textile Mills, Sirsa.—The mill went into production in 1967 with a capacity of 12,096 spindles which rose to 18,592 spindles in 1976. Its installed capacity was further increased to 21,200 spindles in 1978. In 1980-81, its production was worth Rs. 540 lakh and it gave employment to 1,292 persons.

B.G. Finance and Industries Ltd., Sirsa.—The unit started production in 1966. The unit has 12 oil expellers for crushing of cotton seeds, 52 *kohlus*

for crushing of mustard seeds, and a solvent extraction plant. The cotton seed, groundnut and rice bran extractions are exported to foreign markets. Its exports during 1980-81 were to the tune of Rs. 1.60 crore. In 1980-81, its production was worth Rs. 3.50 crore and it gave employment to 85 persons.

Hafed Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factory, Ding.—It is a co-operative sector enterprise, owned and run by the Haryana Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd., Chandigarh. The unit started functioning in February 1981 with an investment of Rs. 252.37 lakh providing employment to 80 workers.

Milk Chilling Centre, Sirsa.—This unit was established in 1980-81 by the Haryana Dairy Development Co-operative Federation Ltd., Chandigarh. It is proposed to convert it into a Milk Plant shortly.

Jagdamba Paper Industries, Sirsa.—The unit was established in 1981 for the production of media craft paper with a capacity of 1950 metric tonnes. The unit was installed with a fixed capital investment of Rs. 85.5 lakh and provides employment to 200 persons.

Small-Scale Industries

In 1966, there were 116 small-scale industrial units in the district. The number rose to 1,160 in March 1981, with a total investment of Rs. 6.8 crore providing employment to 6,232 persons.

These units have been classified and details of their number, investment and employment is given as follows :—

Serial No.	Category	No. of Units	Total Investment (Rs. in lakh)	Total Production	Employment
1	Agricultural Implements	75	140	Rs. 1,700 lakh	890
2	Rice sheller	30	374	1.12 lakh Tonnes	1,050
3	Cotton Ginning	17	150	2.80 lakh Bales	650
4	Pottery	3	1.5	Rs. 2.80 lakh	250
5	Bone Meal	2	1.5	Rs. 3.25 "	80
6	Saltpetre	4	1.9	Rs. 22.00 "	190
7	Handloom	54	1.5	Rs. 5.00 "	258
8	Desi Juti	168	1.95	Rs. 2.00 "	450
9	Carpenters	57	1.15	Rs. 8.00 "	290
10	Blacksmith	260	1.15	Rs. 15.00 "	680
11	Village Pottery	69	1.15	Rs. 2.00 "	280
12	Other cottage industrial units	255	1.09	Rs. 4.00 "	610
13	Other servicing units	166	1.00	Rs. 2.00 "	554

1. Hisar District Statistical Tables, 1935, Table. 28.

A brief description of some of the important categories is given below :

Cotton Ginning and Pressing.—Cotton is one of the main crops of the district. This has led to the establishment of a number of small-scale industrial units for its processing and 17 such units are situated at Sirsa, Dabwali, Ellanabad, Rania, Kalanwali and Ding while about 60 servicing and jobbing units are scattered over in big villages. The total turn over of all these units was about 2.85 lakh bales during 1980-81.

Rice Shelling/Milling Industries.—Paddy is also another important crop of this district. Sirsa district holds the third position in production of paddy in the state only after Karnal and Kurukshetra. In 1980-81, about 30 rice shellers were working in the district at Sirsa, Rania and Ellanabad to process paddy into rice with total turn over of 1.12 lakh tonnes.

Agricultural Implements.—The Ramgarhias of this area have given a lead in Haryana by setting up 75 units in this district for manufacturing agricultural implements such as wheat threshers, tractor trollies, harrows, seed and cotton seeds drills, levellers, etc. These items are manufactured at Sirsa, Dabwali, Rania, Ellanabad, Kalanwali, etc., and are being sold in the entire state and also in adjoining parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The total turnover during the year 1980-81 was to the tune of Rs. 17 crore.

Bone Meal and Crushing.—Two important units, namely, Dabwali Bone Mills and Bawa Crushers and Fertilizers are engaged in the production of bone meal and crushing at Dabwali. In 1980-81, their annual production was worth Rs. 3.25 lakh.

Saltpetre Refining Industry.—Saltpetre manufacturing is an important traditional industry of the district. In 1980-81, 4 units were engaged in the refining of saltpetre. Sirsa is second to Kurukshetra district in the production of refined saltpetre in the state. In 1980-81, the production of these units was worth Rs. 1.90 lakh.

Village and Cottage Industries

The number of village and cottage industrial units in the district during 1980-81 was 863. The units included artisans engaged in handloom/pitlooms weaving, *desi juti* making, carpentry and blacksmithy, earthen potteries, basket-making, *ban* making, etc. The break-up of the main village and cottage industries was as under :

Type of Village and Cottage Industries	Number of Units
Handloom/pitloom weaving	
<i>Desi juti</i> making	54
Carpentry/Wood work	168
Blacksmithy units	57
Village pottery units	260
Other cottage industries	69
	255

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES

The industrial development in the district is looked after by the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Sirsa. The District Industries Centre provides all necessary guidance and assistance to the entrepreneurs, i.e., identification of appropriate industries, procurement of machinery, essential raw materials and matters connected with finance, power connections, exploring marketing for the finished goods, etc. In short, the District Industries Centre is playing a pivotal role in the development of industries in the district.

Some of the important facilities provided to the entrepreneurs for establishing industrial units in the district are discussed below :

Industrial Plots.—In order to organise the industrial activity and to provide cheap land and regular supply of power and water to the entrepreneurs the government developed industrial plots of various sizes at Sirsa, Dabwali and Kalanwali.

Credit Facilities.—The state government advances loans to small-scale industries under the State Aid to Industries Act. Besides, loans are also available from the Haryana Financial Corporation and the commercial banks.

After independence, the provisions of the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, were liberalised. Loans are advanced to small-scale industries for the construction of factory buildings, purchase of machinery and equipment, etc. to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh against tangible security in the form of land, building and machinery (fixed to the ground), either of the applicant or of his surety. These loans are also made available for the expansion and modernisation of existing industrial units.

The loans advanced in the district during 1976-77 to 1980-81 are given below :

Year	Loans Disbursed	
	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Beneficiaries (number)
1976-77	1.28	23
1977-78	1.41	30
1978-79	0.63	24
1979-80	1.90	68
1980-81	0.98	34

Haryana Financial Corporation grants loans up to Rs. 30 lakh in case of a limited company/registered co-operative society and up to Rs. 15 lakh in other cases. These loans are granted for the creation of fixed assets to new concerns or for expansion or for rationalising existing industrial units. Loans granted by the Corporation are generally repayable within a period of 10 years with a gestation period of one year. In order to create self-employment, the Corporation helps the technical entrepreneurs, i.e. those who have diploma or degree in any discipline of engineering. It advances loans up to Rs. 2 lakh on reduced margin, i.e. 15 per cent on the value of security provided that the industrial unit concerned is solely owned by such an individual.

Loans on liberal terms are also granted to ex-servicemen up to maximum of Rs. 10 lakh provided that they have served in the defence forces for a minimum period of 5 years. Such loans are granted at a reduced margin of 15 per cent on the value of security and again subject to the usual condition that the concern is exclusively owned by such an individual.

The loans sanctioned and disbursed in the district by the Corporation are given below :

Year	Loan Sanctioned		Loan Disbursed	
	Number of Units	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Number of Units	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1970-71	10	48.14	1	1.67
1975-76	15	93.95	4	10.75
1978-79	9	30.38	9	23.23
1979-80	21	30.00	10	28.68
1980-81	13	54.05	22	28.57

The commercial banks have introduced schemes for providing credit facilities to industrial units at concessional rates of interest and on easy terms and conditions. Credit is generally given to the industrial units for capital investment, i.e. construction of factory shed, purchase of machinery and equipment, etc. Commercial banks play a significant role in the industrial growth by way of providing substantial financial assistance to the entrepreneurs. A sum of Rs. 14.90 crore as a loan was advanced to 108 units in 1980-81 by commercial banks.

Supply of machinery on hire-purchase basis.—The National Small Industries Corporation, an agency founded and controlled by the Government of India supplies machinery to small-scale units on hire-purchase basis on easy terms on the recommendations of the state government. After an initial payment of five to ten per cent of the total cost of machinery and equipment by the loanee, the remaining loan is paid by him on easy annual instalments.

The Haryana State Small Industries and Export Corporation, a state undertaking, also supplies machinery on hire-purchase basis. It provides financial assistance up to Rs. 50,000 in each individual case on a nominal rate of interest. The intending entrepreneur gives only a margin of 10 per cent of cost of machinery with one solvent surety. The loan is repayable in 13 half yearly instalments ; the first instalment being repayable after one year from the date of delivery of the machinery.

Supply of raw material.—The supply of raw material like iron and steel, steam coke, hard coke, copper, zinc, wax, etc., is regularly made to quota-holders and deserving industrialists by the Department of Industries. The quota is fixed after proper assessment. The requirements of imported raw material and equipment are assessed by the state government and necessary recommendation made to the Government of India for import licenses/release orders on the basis of the year-to-year policy framed by the Government of India.

Marketing Assistance.—The Haryana State Small Industries and Export Corporation assists the small-scale industries in marketing their products. The Corporation also assists the small-scale industries in marketing their goods abroad.

The small-scale industries are assisted to market their goods through the participation of small industries in the government stores purchase programme and purchase preference over the large and medium units of Haryana Government purchases.

Relief from taxation.—The new units established in the district are exempted from the payment of electricity duty for a period of 5 years. Further concession in tariff is provided to certain chemical and other allied industries using power as principal raw material.

The new units are also exempted from property tax for a period of five years.

Inter-state sales tax payable by the new units is treated as an interest-free loan for a period of 5 years from the date of their going into production. The amount of inter-state sales tax involved in any particular year is recoverable after a period of 5 years and is payable in a further period of 5 years in 10 equal six-monthly instalments. This concession is, however, subject to the limitation that the total amount to be treated as interest-free loan in this manner in any particular year, does not exceed 8 per cent of the capital investment.

All industrial units set up within the municipal limits are exempted from octroi on capital equipment and building material from the date of their provisional registration with the District Industries Centre, Sirsa, till the date on which they are issued regular registration certificates within a period of three years. These units are also exempted from octroi on raw material for a period of five years from the date of their regular registration.

The industrial units set up outside the municipal limits and subsequently included within the municipal area are eligible for exemption from octroi on equipment and building material for the unexpired period of three years from the date of their provisional registration.

RURAL INDUSTRIES SCHEME

In 1977, the state government launched a Rural Industries Scheme to reduce unemployment among rural educated youths and to bring about gradual decrease in urban-rural disparities through the development of small scale and cottage industries in the rural areas. Under this scheme any bonafide resident of Haryana can set up a unit in the rural area. Incentives are granted on the basis of investment on plant and machinery up to Rs. 1 lakh. Loans from financial institutions, viz., banks and Haryana Financial Corporation are provided to the tune of 80 per cent of the cost of the project and the state government provides 10 per cent loan as seed money at the rate of 4 per cent up to the limit of Rs. 20 thousand on soft terms and conditions. Besides, loans and cash subsidy, the state government provides other incentives, i.e. interest subsidy, sales tax exemption for a period of first two years, exemption from octroi on raw materials and finished products and exemption on electricity duty. In addition, priority is given to the rural industrial units in the allotment of construction materials at controlled rates. These units are provided electric connection on priority basis. Some of the products of the rural industrial units such as polythene bags, steel and wooden furniture, cement pipes, bandages, hand-made papers, file covers, etc. are purchased by the state government.

The following figures show the progress made with regard to the establishment of rural industrial units in the district from 1977-78 to 1980-81 :

Year	Number of Units Set Up	Employment Provided
1977-78	12	123
1978-79	38	134
1979-80	168	383
1980-81	142	272

The following figures show the extent of financial assistance and other incentives provided under the Rural Industries Scheme :

Year	Financial Assistance Provided by Banks/ Haryana Financial Corporation	Cash Subsidy	Seed Money	Interest Subsidy
	(Rs. in lakh)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1977-78	4.86	—	24,295	—
1978-79	6.18	—	73,835	1,898
1979-80	17.85	1,43,835	1,56,624	50,017
1980-81	14.90	62,060	1,06,127	39,784

RURAL ARTISANS PROGRAMME

With a view to help and encourage rural artisans and others, the government has launched 'Rural Artisans Programme'. Under this programme, interested persons are provided training during which a stipend up to a maximum of Rs. 100 per month is granted to an individual. Subsidy for various purposes is provided to rural artisans, farmers having less than 5 acres of land, landless labourers and members of Scheduled Castes/Tribes. Workshed subsidy is provided up to a maximum of Rs. 3,000 to an individual and up to Rs. 5,000 to a co-operative. Similar amount of additional subsidy is also provided for plant and equipment. Tools and kit subsidy is paid to the artisans up to maximum of Rs. 250. Subsidy for the latter two items is payable only after the completion of the aforesaid training.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There are four institutes for industrial training and technical education which provide training facilities in various trades and crafts, viz., Government Polytechnic, Sirsa ; Industrial Training Institute, Sirsa ; Industrial Training Institute, Nathusahi Chopta and Government Industrial School for Girls, Sirsa. After the completion of training, trainees are encouraged to start their own work.¹

1. For details, see Chapter XV on 'Education and Culture'.

SOURCE OF POWER

Sirsa district remained without electric power up to 1937. The Sirsa Electric Supply Company, a private licensee, provided diesel electric power to Sirsa town in 1938 for domestic and commercial purposes. Some small industries were also run by diesel engines. With the availability of hydel power from Bhakra-Nangal Project in 1956-57, the diesel power was substituted with hydro-electric power. The Sirsa Electric Supply Company was taken over by the Haryana State Electricity Board on February 9, 1972.

The number of grid sub-stations in the district is 11. The total number of industrial consumers was 1,968 and their monthly consumption was 19.70 lakh units as on March 31, 1981.

There are 11 grid sub-stations in the district and their location and capacity is given below :

Sr. No.	Capacity of Sub-station	Location of Sub-station
1	132/11 KV 1×16 MVA	Sirsa
	132/33 KV 1×16 MVA	
	132/33 KV 1×8 MVA	
	33/11 KV 1×4 MVA	
2	33/11 KV 2×4 MVA	Farwain
3	33/11 KV 1×2 MVA	Nathusari
4	33/11 KV 1×4 MVA	Madho Singhana
5	33/11 KV 1×4 MVA	Ellanabad
6	33/11 KV 1×4 MVA	Rania
	33/11 KV 1×2 MVA	Rania
7	33/11 KV 2×4 MVA	Jagmalwali
8	33/11 KV 2×4 MVA	Panjuana
9	33/11 KV 1×2 MVA	Kalanwali
10	33/11 KV 2×4 MVA	Dabwali
11	33/11 KV 1×1 MVA	Rori

Average daily consumption of power in the district in 1980-81 by various categories of consumers was as under :

Category	Average Daily Consumption (Lakh units)
1. Industrial Consumers	0.65
2. Agricultural Consumers	1.01
3. Commercial Consumers	0.10
4. Domestic Consumers	0.27
5. Other Consumers	0.04

INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

The industrial labour in the district is mostly drawn from villages surrounding the industrial towns. Some of them, however, belong to Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring states. Some employers have constructed accommodation within the premises of the factory for seasonal labour. The minimum wages are revised after every two years in scheduled employments to improve the standard of living conditions of the workers.

Since most of the factories in the district are seasonal, it is free from industrial unrest as strikes and lockouts are rare. During 1981, only one strike occurred from March 23, 1981 to May 17, 1981 in Gopi Chand Textile Mills, Sirsa. Workers numbering 1,287 were affected due to this strike and 65,637 mandays were lost.¹

The trade union movement is also gaining momentum in the district. There were eight trade unions registered in the district in 1981.²

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVES

The development of industrial co-operatives is essential for growth of industries especially in the cottage and small-scale sector. Stress is, therefore, laid on the development of industries through co-operatives. The industrial co-operatives ensure that decentralisation of industry is accompanied by proper improvement of techniques of production, procurement of raw material and marketing of finished goods.

1. No strike has taken place in the district after May, 1981.

2. The list of trade unions may be seen in Chapter XVII on 'Other Social Services'.

The development of industrial co-operatives in the district is looked after by the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sirsa who is assisted by one Industrial Inspector and four Industrial Sub-Inspectors. Industrial co-operatives have made considerable progress in the district in the last few years. The following figures vividly indicate the progress achieved by industrial co-operatives in the district :—

Particulars	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
1. No. of Societies	160	146	140	125	115	113
2. Membership	2,060	2,048	1,981	1,841	1,776	1,759
3. Business Turnover (in 000 Rs.)	2,865	2,344	2,055	2,451	3,249	3,460
4. Working Capital (in 000 Rs.)	3,053	3,141	3,350	3,283	3,311	3,576
5. Share Capital (in 000 Rs.)	1,447	1,373	1,392	1,327	1,411	1,438
6. Reserve Fund (in 000 Rs.)	3	3	3	3	3	3

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

INDEBTEDNESS AND MONEY-LENDING

The village money-lender played a part of a cardinal importance in the village economy. The money-lender in the Sirsa district during the 19th century, did not, however, had such a hold on the peasantry as in most parts of the region because many of the proprietors and cultivators were sufficiently prosperous and provident to be quite independent of the money-lender.¹ The capital in the Sirsa district was somewhat scarce, 24 per cent per annum was a high rate of interest; commoner rates were 18½ to 18 per cent per annum. The interest on lending with good security was 12 per cent per annum and it increased to 36 or 37½ per cent per annum in cases where it was difficult to exact repayment of a debt. When the grain-dealer made an advance in grain to be paid in kind, the usual stipulation was that 1½ times the amount advanced was to be repaid at harvest, whether that be one month or six months off, but such bargains were comparatively rare and few peasants were deeply in debt to their bankers or had to mortgage their lands.²

The peasants generally were unusually free from debt and independent of the money-lender and sales and mortgages of land by cultivating proprietors were few.³ But with the end of 1894-95, the position changed. Thereafter, up to 1901-02, there was almost continuous record of famine and failure with only occasional gleams of prosperity. These seven years had swallowed up the fat years which preceded. A large number of persons, including even the thrifty Jats, had to migrate to other districts temporarily to obtain food and work. In many cases such persons mortgaged their lands, before going, to provide the wherewithal for their journey. There was a glut of land in the market and consequently a fall in value which necessitated still further mortgages to enable owners to get the sum necessary for their maintenance.⁴

Apart from the secured debt there was a vast amount of unsecured debt due from agriculturists to the village money lenders. The incidence of unsecured debt was somewhat more serious. Later in 1920, an enquiry was conducted from village to village to know the extent of unsecured debt in the

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83, p. 102.

2. Ibid p. 191.

3. Ibid p. 210.

4. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, pp. 167-68.

then Sirsa tahsil. It revealed that the total debt was Rs. 24 lakh and the incidence of debt was calculated at Rs. 13 per head of population.¹ Miscellaneous debt was generally accountable to expenses of weddings and funerals, replacement of agricultural stock and successive bad harvests. Instances were found where the interest charged on old debt was so excessive that repayment of the principal appeared improbable. But for the large sums of unspent pay brought back from the World War-I by a host of demobilized soldiers, the district would have been in the worst possible condition. Here many ex-soldiers paid their way for a time by pawning or selling the jewellery bought on their return home before the drought began, and it is said that, when it was at its worst, Rs. 20,000 worth of necklaces, bangles and the like came daily into Sirsa bazaars for pawn or sale. Harvest after harvest failed and there came a time in 1921 when there was nothing left to advance. Money lending came to partial stand still because money as well as credit was exhausted.²

An effort to tackle the problem of agricultural debt was commenced in the beginning of the present century by the opening of Sirsa Central Co-operative Bank in 1915. Despite the fact that local agricultural conditions and the economic habits of the people were not conducive for the spread of co-operative banking, village societies were formed and were financed through the Sirsa Central Co-operative Bank which dealt with 142 societies and the Madho Singhana Rural Union which dealt with 52 societies. Their capital was Rs. 2.93 lakh and Rs. 1.83 lakh respectively.³

Apart from setting up co-operative agencies, the government regulated indigenous financing through various legislative measures, such as the Usurious Loans Act, 1918 ; Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1930 ; Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1934 ; Punjab Debtors' Protection Act, 1936 and Punjab Registration of Money-Lenders' Act, 1938. Despite various laws, the money-lenders continued to by-pass the provisions of these laws. They indulged in various mal-practices. Most transactions were either oral or against ornaments, promissory notes were obtained for a higher amount than what was actually advanced even duplicate accounts were kept. All money-lenders did not obtain licences by getting themselves registered. They did not maintain regular accounts. Though in 1980-81, there was no licensed money-lender in the district, the money-lending work was done by a large number of persons. Money-lending, particularly in rural areas of the district continues to be a significant source of credit.

1. Final Report of the Sirsa Tahsil, 1923, p. 7.

2. M.L. Darling, *The Punjab Peasant in Prosperity and Debt*, 1925, pp. 99—101.

3. Final Report of the Sirsa Tahsil 1923 p. 8.

In addition to co-operative agencies, institutions like the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and various commercial banks provide credit facilities in rural areas. The government also advance *taccavi* loans under the Land Improvement Act XIX of 1883 and the Agriculturists Loans Act XII of 1884. The following table shows the *taccavi* loans advanced and the number of persons benefited since the formation of the district :—

Year	Taccavi Loans Advanced	Persons Benefited
	Rs.	Number
1975-76	1,11,000	18
1976-77	1,75,000	39
1977-78	1,00,000	15
1978-79	12,37,517	4,742
1979-80	70,25,546	1,068
1980-81	58,671	16

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT

The progress made by co-operative institutions in the district has been impressive, they compete with the commercial banks in mobilising savings and also providing credit facilities especially to the agricultural sector. On June 30, 1981 there were 184 primary agricultural credit societies and 28 non-agricultural credit societies. These societies provide facilities for short and medium term credit under crop loan scheme for fertilizers, improved seeds, agricultural implements, marketing, storage and the extension of advanced agricultural techniques. The non-agricultural credit societies comprise mostly employees credit societies catering to the credit requirements of persons outside agriculture. The following statement gives an idea of the dimensions of co-operatives :—

Year ending June	Societies (Number)	Membership (Number)	Working Capital	(Rs. in lakh)	
				Deposits	Loans advanced
1	2	3	4	5	6
Agricultural Credit/Service Societies					
1975	528	81,211	521.59	8.23	448.34
1976	191	56,420	439.76	8.61	650.96
1977	187	56,783	626.24	10.18	672.17
1978	184	68,542	672.16	10.60	699.48
1979	184	72,560	907.30	12.21	1,060.39
1980	184	74,847	1,121.25	13.63	996.26
1981	184	78,032	1,298.66	14.66	1,304.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
Non-Agricultural Credit Societies :					
1975	33	1,824	5.26	0.09	0.29
1976	33	1,907	6.73	0.08	1.39
1977	30	1,776	6.59	0.08	0.23
1978	28	1,771	6.18	0.04	0.30
1979	28	1,771	6.55	0.04	0.05
1980	28	1,771	6.61	0.03	—
1981	28	1,771	6.44	0.03	—

CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK

The Sirsa Central Co-operative Bank Limited, Sirsa was started in 1915. In 1981, it had 12 branches, 2 at Sirsa and one each at Ludesar, Nathusari (Chopta), Ding, Suchan, Odhan, Mandi Dabwali, Damdama Majra-Jiwan Nagar Rania, Kalanwali and Ellanabad. The share capital of the bank was Rs. 102.79 lakh and working capital was Rs. 1,447.59 lakh and deposits were Rs. 319.47 lakh. The bank advances short and medium term loan to individual members through its affiliated co-operative societies for seasonal agricultural purposes and the marketing of the crops. Relevant information pertaining to this bank is given below :—

(Position as on June 30)

(Rs. in lakh)

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
1. Share Capital	89.69	61.58	67.60	75.43	78.38	85.84	102.79
2. Working Capital	556.69	498.28	611.50	650.18	968.83	1,205.51	1,447.59
3. Deposits	154.22	165.50	172.25	231.02	384.42	325.81	319.47
4. Loans advanced—							
(i) Short term	441.10	476.12	666.59	801.67	1,161.92	950.79	1,440.45
(ii) Medium term	59.23	11.93	58.15	9.40	49.63	224.74	64.23
(iii) Industrial	12.16	8.39	6.74	..	4.74	5.10	4.00
(iv) Marketing	234.08	207.82	258.89	..	..	0.64	1.67
(v) Milk Supply Societies	0.50	..	..	..	..	..	..
(vi) Non-Agricultural purposes	3.24	9.64	11.90	6.63	18.94	8.44	11.70

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Co-operative banking is organised as a federal structure. The primary co-operative societies constitute the foundation of the system. The working capital of the bank is derived mostly from the share capital contributed by the co-operative societies and their deposits. The co-operative bank in turn arranges finances to meet the requirements of the members of the co-operative societies. The management of the bank consists of the elected representatives of the co-operative societies.

PRIMARY LAND DEVELOPMENT BANK

There are two primary land development banks in the district, one each at Sirsa and Mandi Dabwali. These were established in 1966 and 1980 respectively. These banks provide long term credit facilities for the purchase of tractors, installation of tubewells, improvement of land, levelling of land and payment of old debts. The security for these loans is immovable property. Such facilities are not provided to farmers by other co-operative credit institutions. The following statement shows the working of these banks from 1975 to 1981 :—

(Year ending June)

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
1. Membership (Number)	4,819	5,116	8,013	9,145	10,755	12,027	15,257
2. Share Capital (Rs. in lakh)	21.77	25.21	31.35	41.21	51.35	60.77	76.07
3. Loans advanced (Rs. in lakh)	103.62	118.89	109.15	171.00	242.61	226.04	368.63
4. Loans outstanding (Rs. in lakh)	285.91	320.04	377.62	472.68	580.77	719.93	959.95

JOINT STOCK BANKS

Prior to Independence (1947), there were three joint stock banks in the district. The Central Bank of India established its branch at Sirsa in 1936. The State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur opened its branch at Mandi Dabwali in 1945 and Punjab National Bank at Sirsa in 1946. Till bank nationalisation in 1969, there was nominal expansion in the banking facilities. In 1969, there were only 9 branches of various commercial banks in the district. As a result of rapid expansion in the banking facilities after 1969, the number of branches rose to 23 in 1975. Banking expanded rapidly after the formation of Sirsa as a district in 1975 and the number of branches rose to 39 in 1981.

These banks carry on normal banking activities including deposits, remittances and advances against government securities and other goods. The total deposits of Scheduled Commercial Banks in December, 1983 stood at 4059 lakh resulting in per capita deposit as Rs. 538. The credit-deposit ratio in the district remained 97.86 per cent during 1983. All government transactions are handled by the State Bank of India as the local agent of the Reserve Bank of India. The joint stock banks, location of their branches and year of their opening in the district are given in the table VIII of Appendix.

RURAL ORIENTATION OF COMMERCIAL BANKING

Sirsa has done a remarkable progress in the agricultural production and still it has ample potential to develop further. Credit is an important input in the production, be it agriculture or industrial sector. It must be said to the credit of banks that during the period since their nationalisation in July, 1969 their performance in penetrating deep in to the rural areas for extending their branch net work has been quite impressive. There were 20 urban and 16 rural bank branches in December 1976 in the district which increased to 24 and 28 respectively in December 1980.

In qualitative and quantitative terms, commercial banks credit to agricultural sector has undergone significant changes in terms of approach and *modus operandi* over the last decade or so. In order to carry out lending operations in rural areas on sound and systematic lines, a few major strategic decisions have been taken by commercial banks. These include Village Adoption Scheme, Specialised Agricultural Branch, Regional Rural Bank, Farmers' Service Society etc. After introduction of social control and nationalisation of banks, the Government/Reserve Bank of India have formulated several schemes such as Integrated Rural Development (I.R.D.P.), Twenty Point Programme, National Rural Employment Programme (N.R.E.P.), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (R.L.E.G.P.), Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (S.E.E.U.Y.) etc. All these schemes have a definite target group to ensure that sufficient credit is flowed by the banks. Besides, launching these schemes, the government have also given credit targets for banks such as 60 per cent credit-deposit ratio in rural and semi-urban areas, 40 per cent lending to priority sectors, 16 per cent of advances direct to agriculture, one per cent of advances under differential rate of interest scheme etc.

In the beginning of eighties, number of bank offices per thousand sq. kilometres rural area was 15 and the rural population per bank branch covered was 20,913.

According to Reserve Bank of India, branch licensing policy, new bank offices may be set up in rural and semi-urban areas of deficit districts i.e. districts in which the average population per bank office is more than national average—at present 20,000. There are 58 villages each having

population over 2000 as per 1981 census. These villages are the potential service centres for the rural population. To encourage the scope of financial assistance and exploit the rural saving for resource mobilisation, more rural bank branches serving a cluster of villages need to be opened in the district.

INSURANCE

With the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India became the sole agency for life insurance. The Life Insurance Corporation of India entered the field of general insurance in 1964. The general insurance too was nationalised in 1971. Subsequently in 1973, general insurance business was separated from Life Insurance and General Insurance Corporation was formed.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India opened its sub-office at Sirsa in May, 1961. It was upgraded as branch office in April, 1974. In 1980-81, there were 7 development officers and 140 agents in the district. Business secured by Corporation in the district during 1971-72 to 1980-81 is given below :

Year	Number of Policies	Sum Assured	Development Officers	Agents on Roll
		Rs.		
1971-72	856	1,18,47,000	8	128
1972-73	1,195	1,28,81,000	7	147
1973-74	1,138	1,29,53,000	7	106
1974-75	1,032	1,14,92,000	9	141
1975-76	1,418	1,55,44,000	9	134
1976-77	1,527	1,87,09,000	8	126
1977-78	1,377	1,73,48,000	8	108
1978-79	1,329	1,68,08,000	8	116
1979-80	1,450	2,23,20,000	7	125
1980-81	1,622	2,97,66,000	7	140

GENERAL INSURANCE

Prior to nationalisation of general insurance in 1971, there were different companies doing general insurance business in the district. In 1964, Life Insurance Corporation also entered the field of general insurance. In 1973, general insurance business was separated from life insurance and General Insurance Corporation of India was formed. The corporation functions

In the district through its four subsidiary companies, viz., Oriental Fire and General Insurance Co. Ltd., The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., The National Insurance Co. Ltd., and the United India Fire and General Insurance Co. Ltd.

SMALL SAVINGS

The net work of post offices in the district mobilize small savings in rural as well as urban areas. Post office savings banks extend banking facilities virtually at everybody's door-step. In March 1981, there were 25 sub-post offices and 120 branch post offices in the district. The following table gives the gross and net collection of small savings from 1978-79 to 1980-81.

Year	(Rupees in thousands)	
	Gross Collections	Net Collections
1978-79	26,626	835
1979-80	48,282	25,011
1980-81	72,488	29,603

A special award of Rs. 50,000 was awarded by the state government to this district for its performance in field of small savings collections during 1979-80.

A Postal Co-ordination Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Superintendent Post Offices, Hisar Division, Hisar to hold meetings with the representatives of the Deputy Commissioner and the District Savings Officer to discuss the postal savings. The committee examines cases of delay in post offices and solves difficulties in regard to intensification of small savings complaints of depositors and agents. It also suggests remedial measures for acceptance of deposits in small savings securities.

The promotion of small savings in the district is looked after by the District Savings Officer, Sirsa. Details about some of the small savings schemes are given below :—

School Savings Bank (Sanchayika) Scheme.—To promote savings habits among students, this scheme was introduced initially in 2 high schools in the

district. In 1975-76, the scheme was functioning in 5 schools with a membership of 3,226 and collections amounting to Rs. 35,465. By March 1981, the number of schools covered under the scheme was 43 with a membership of 14,230 and collections amounting to Rs. 2,35,093.

Pay Roll Savings Groups.—In order to popularise the habit of thrift among the lower income groups and to make the act of savings as far as possible easy and automatic, the District Savings Officer persuades employees and employers in the public and private sectors to start Pay Roll Savings Groups in their establishments. Under this scheme an employee gives an authorisation in favour of his employer for deduction of savings regularly from his salary/wages for being credited to C.T.D. (Cumulative Time Deposit)/R.D. (Recurring Deposit) accounts in post offices.

In 1980-81, there were 116 Pay Roll Savings Groups in the offices, schools and industrial units in the Sirsa district with a membership of 4,901 who deposited Rs. 15,20,610 in C.T.D./R.D. accounts in post offices.

Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana.—A new scheme called the Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana was introduced on April 1, 1972. Women workers and the representatives of the trade unions and associations are assigned specific areas for explaining the small savings schemes and to secure deposits in C.T.D. and R.D. accounts. The workers earn 4 per cent commission on all deposits made through them. In March 1981, there were 7 agents working in the district.

Agency System.—Individuals and registered organisations are appointed as authorised agents for National Savings Certificates and Time Deposit Accounts. In March 1981, 39 agents were working in the district under the standardised agency system. Their total collections during 1980-81 were Rs. 20,72,640.

CURRENCY AND COINAGE

Before the introduction of decimal coinage in 1957, the silver coinage consisted of the rupee, the eight anna and four anna pieces and the nickel coins consisted of the two anna and one anna pieces, besides the copper pice. A rupee converted into 16 annas or 64 pice. The anna was equivalent to 4 pice.

The decimal coinage introduced in the country from April 1, 1957 took time to become current. The government preceded the change by an extensive public education programme to make it smooth. The conversion tables were displayed at all prominent places of money transaction. The public took some time to get accustomed to the change and the new coinage became readily acceptable. Naya paisa, came to be called paisa and the prefix *naya* was dropped from June 1, 1964.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Before the construction of the Rewari-Ferozepur railway line, trade between west and the districts round Delhi went along the Delhi-Sirsa Road, which passed through the towns of Hansi, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa. Being located on this road, Sirsa was an important trading centre during the middle of the 19th century. Most of the trade of Bikaner and the then Rajputana states used to pass through the district. Wheat, flour, sugar and cotton goods were largely exported to these states.¹ Annual trade of Sirsa town in 1860 was estimated at Rs. 8 lakh.² Some of the commercial houses in Sirsa were very wealthy and had their branches in many other large cities. The construction of Rewari-Ferozepur railway line in 1883 greatly affected the position of Sirsa as a leading trade centre. Earlier, Sirsa had a considerable through trade with Lahore, Karachi and Ferozepur, but with the opening of railway line, most of this went directly through railway.³

The construction of Bikaner-Jodhpur railway line further affected the position of Sirsa as a trade centre. Its place as a collecting centre was taken by Dabwali on the Bikaner-Jodhpur-Bathinda railway,⁴ and new grain market was constructed at Dabwali. Thus, in the beginning of the present century, Dabwali also became an important trading centre of the district.

In the beginning of the present century Rania, Rori and Ellanabad were other principal markets though only of local importance.⁵ Rania and Rori had commercial importance even before British occupation. By 1923, the chief markets in the district were Sirsa, Dabwali Mandi, Kalanwali Mandi and Suchan Mandi.⁶

After Independence, the towns of Sirsa and Dabwali continued to be important trading centres. Kalanwali and Ellanabad also acquired commercial importance.

Sirsa, Dabwali, Kalanwali and Ellanabad have number of cotton ginning and pressing factories and dal mills. In addition, there are number of rice mills at Sirsa.

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, pp. 211-12.
2. *Correspondence relating to the Settlement of the Sirsa District 1860*, p. 64.
3. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 210.
4. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1904, p. 188.
5. *Final Report of Second Revision of the Regular Settlement of the Sirsa and Fazilka Tahsils*, 1900-1904, p. 4.
6. *Final Report of the Sirsa Tahsil*, 1923, p. 2.

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Sirsa, Mandi Dabwali and Kalanwali are big wholesale markets for agricultural produce. Sirsa is a big *mandi* for wheat, cotton and paddy, Dabwali, for wheat and *gur*, and Kalanwali for cotton and wheat. Other wholesale and retail markets in the district are at Ellanabad, Rania, Rori and Ding.

REGULATED MARKETS

The usual course of trade in agricultural produce from producer to consumer is through middlemen who are whole-salers, retailers and commission agents or *arhtias*. To save the cultivators from the evils of unhealthy market practices and ensure fair price to the cultivator for his produce, the government has regulated the markets under the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961. Market committees representing growers, dealers, co-operative societies and the government are set up for these markets. The market committees regulate and help the sale and purchase of agricultural produce. In March 1981, there were 12 regulated markets (5 principal yards and 7 sub-market yards) in the district. Some important details about these regulated markets are given below :

Sr. No.	Regulated Market and the year of Regulation	Principal Market Yard	Sub-Market Yard	Number of Villages	Main Arrivals
1	Sirsa (1941)	New grain market with extension	1. Rania	115	Cotton, gram, wheat, paddy, <i>gowara</i> , <i>bajra</i> , pulses, <i>gur</i> , <i>khand</i> , onions and potatoes
2	Dabwali (1947)	New Grain Market	1. Chutala 2. Old Mandi Dabwali	71	Cotton, gram, wheat, <i>bajra</i> , <i>gowara</i> , moong, <i>gur</i> , <i>khand</i> , onions and potatoes
3	Kalanwali (1959)	New Grain Market	1. Rori 2. Odhan	55	Cotton, gram, pulses, wheat <i>bajra</i> , <i>gowara</i> , <i>gur</i> , <i>khand</i> , onions and potatoes
4	Ellanabad (1964)	New Grain Market	Jiwan Nagar	54	Cotton, gram, wheat, paddy, <i>bajra</i> , <i>gowara</i> , <i>gur</i> , <i>khand</i> , onions and potatoes
5	Ding (1962)	Boundaries of old Mandi	Suchan Kotli	26	Cotton, gram, <i>bajra</i> , <i>gowara</i> and pulses

The details of the arrival of different commodities in the regulated markets during the period 1971-72 to 1980-81 are given in Table IX of Appendix. The produce is handled in large quantities and specialised operators perform services. These *mandis* provide a system of competitive buying, eradicate mal-practices, ensure the use of standardised weights and measures and provide storage facilities.

The market-committees derive their income from the market fee which is levied and collected at the rate of two percent of the price of the produce bought and sold in the *mandi*. The income is also derived from licence fee, composition fee and penalties.

CATTLE FAIRS

Fairs in the districts are chiefly religious and of these few have commercial importance except the cattle fairs. The account of the religious fairs has been given in the chapter on 'People'. Five cattle fairs are held in the district. Three of these fairs are held at Sirsa on *Phalgun Badi Chhatt* (February-March), *Sravan Sudi Ashtmi* (July-August) and *Asadh Badi Ashtmi* (June-July). Another two fairs are held at Rania on *Magh Badi Ashtami* (January-February) and *Baisakh Badi Ashtami* (April-May). The dates of these fairs are determined according to the Vikrami Samvat and, therefore, do not fall on the same date every year.

Camels, buffaloes, bullocks and calves are brought to these fairs for sale. Traders and farmers from the neighbouring states of Punjab and Rajasthan come to buy cattle in these fairs.

The cattle fairs were organised by the municipalities earlier. Their control and management was taken over by the government (in the Development and Panchayat Department) on November 24, 1970,—vide Haryana Cattle Fairs Act, 1970. A cess is charged at the rate of 4 per cent on the sale price of the cattle and is paid by the purchaser and rupee one per head of cattle is charged from the seller.

Under the provisions of the Haryana Cattle Fairs Act, 1970, after deducting all expenses on cattle fairs and establishment charges, 20 per cent share of net income is reserved at state level for the development of cattle and animal husbandry schemes. Remaining 80 per cent share of income is allocated in equal proportion to all the Panchayat Samitis in the district for the development of cattle and animal husbandry schemes or other related purposes, as the state government may specify. The following data show the income accrued and expenditure incurred at these fairs during

1975-76 to 1980-81 :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1975-76	56,622	3,065
1976-77	64,111	4,453
1977-78	76,142	4,775
1978-79	76,087	6,461
1979-80	75,372	7,511
1980-81	79,498	8,690

CO-OPERATION AND TRADE

There are six co-operative marketing societies in the district which conduct wholesale business in the supply of agricultural seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and agricultural implements. These societies are located at Sirsa, Ding, Kalanwali, Mandi Dabwali, Rania and Ellanabad. The membership of the cooperative marketing societies comprises primary societies and individuals. The societies help operations of the affiliated cooperative societies. They arrange for the marketing and processing of agricultural produce and maintain godowns for storage. The membership, share capital and working capital of these societies from June 30, 1975 to June 30, 1981 are given below :—

(Position as on June 30)

Particulars	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
1. Number	8	6	6	6	6	6	6
2. Membership	3,619	2,811	2,972	3,245	3,347	3,377	3,408
3. Share Capital (Rs. in lakh)	6.40	6.68	7.67	7.80	8.46	8.87	8.87
4. Working Capital (Rs. in lakh)	60.26	66.99	70.12	49.02	58.49	46.00	64.87
5. Value of Stocks Supplied (Rs. in lakh)	40.36	41.16	442.79	308.71	385.75	328.33	312.69

Consumers' Co-operative Store.—The Sirsa Central Co-operative Consumers' Store came into existence in December, 1975. Another consumers' co-operative store was opened at Mandi Dabwali in 1979. The membership, share capital and working capital of these stores from June, 1976 to June,

1981 are given below :—

(Position as on June 30)

Particulars	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
1. Membership (Number)	655	1,040	1,210	1,481	2,844	2,978
2. Share Capital (Rs. in lakh)	1.07	2.23	2.27	3.05	7.30	8.98
3. Working Capital (Rs. in lakh)	1.69	3.41	4.26	9.04	14.87	13.51
4. Goods Supplied (Rs. in lakh)	6.07	29.65	27.89	22.40	49.76	64.61

STATE TRADING

Major fluctuations in the prices of foodgrains and the difficulties experienced by consumers have led to state trading. For the distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities, initially the government started a net-work of fair price shops in urban and rural areas. With a view to ensure availability of wheat, rice and sugar in the open market for consumption by the general public, the government promulgated various orders from time to time. The Haryana Foodgrains Dealers Licensing and Price Control Order, 1978 required dealers to obtain licence for storage and sale of these commodities. Under the provisions of this order, no person can store for sale more than 25 quintals of wheat, *bajra*, and barley, 10 quintals of maize and 4 quintals of rice, without a valid licence. The storage limit for a wholesale dealer is 200 quintals of wheat whereas for *Chaki* (flour mill) owners, this limit is 100 quintals. Similarly under the Haryana Sugar, *Gur/Khandsari* Dealers Licensing Order, 1978, no person can store for sale more than 10 quintals of sugar and 100 quintals of *gur/khandsari*. Presently the sugar is being supplied to the depot holders by the cooperative marketing societies/co-operative consumers' stores for distribution to the card holders.

The number of fair price shops opened in different areas of the district for distribution of sugar, wheat, wheat *atta*, and rice to card holders was as follows :—

Year	Urban	Rural	Total
1973-74	32	188	220
1974-75	27	208	235
1975-76	29	185	214
1976-77	30	245	275
1977-78	34	237	271
1978-79	31	242	273
1979-80	42	245	287
1980-81	57	280	337

The issue rates of various commodities at fair price shops during different years were fixed as under:

(Rate per kilogram in rupees)

Commodity	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
1. Wheat <i>atta</i>	1.49 to 1.52	—	—	—	—	1.47 to 1.55	1.45 to 1.56
2. Wheat	—	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.37	1.37	1.57
3. Rice Basmati (Superior)	2.54	2.54	2.54	—	—	—	—
4. Rice Begmi	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	—	—	—
5. Rice Basmati	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.18	2.18
6. Sugar	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	—	2.85 to 3.50	3.65

By March 31, 1981, 1,27,565 ration cards were issued in urban/rural areas of the district. These card-holders obtain their supplies of wheat, *atta*, sugar, rice, kerosene oil and ghee through fair price shops functioning in the district.

As regards coarse grains, there is no control over the distribution of *gram*, *bajra*, maize and barley and consumers purchase requirements from the open market by bidding system or through a licensed foodgrains dealer. There were 1,850 foodgrains dealers (licencees) on March 31, 1981 in various markets of the district.

Thus while a battery of legal provision exists to regulate the purchase, storage and distribution of essential articles, mostly food, and distribution arrangements have been organised to physically ensure that supplies get to consumers, in practice, a mixed system of a free and regulated distribution system exists. It is tightened when there are shortages and allowed to work itself more freely when supply-demand position is stable.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

There was no uniform standard of weights and measures prior to 1941 so much so that it sometimes varied from village to village and a *seer* ranged from 40 to 102 *tolas* in weight at different places according to usage. With

increased commercial and industrial activity in the country, this chaotic situation created a sense of uncertainty. It was accentuated often by fraudulent practices. One of these practices was to use weighing apparatus by hand thereby cheating the producer of his produce by unscrupulous traders. It was to remedy these evils that the Punjab Weights and Measures Act, 1941 which was itself a corollary to the Central Standards of Weights Act, 1939, was enacted.

To bring uniformity and standardise weights and measures and to facilitate international trade, the metric system of weights and measures was introduced in 1958. However, to avoid hardship to the public, a transitory period of two years was allowed permitting use of weights and measures in vogue immediately before the enforcement of the Act. Thereafter, the public has become well acquainted with the new weights and measures and now experiences no difficulty.

The Inspector, Weights and Measures, Sirsa, supervises enforcement work to ensure accuracy in the use of weights and measures, through frequent inspections and periodical stampings.

STORAGE AND WAREHOUSING

In villages, people store agricultural produce in houses, *kothas* (bins) or in bags. In markets, the commission agents and co-operative marketing societies maintain godowns. Mills and factories maintain godowns at their premises to stock the raw material.

The godowns maintained by private dealers vary greatly and are generally not of desired specifications. To organise better warehousing, the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing Corporations) Act, 1956, was passed and was later repealed by the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962. The Haryana Warehousing Corporation was established under the latter Act on November 1, 1967. The Corporation was authorised to acquire and build godowns and run warehouses for the storage of agricultural produce and other notified commodities. The rate of storage charges varies from commodity to commodity. However, for major foodgrains such as wheat, rice, barley, maize etc. it is 37 paise per bag up to 100 kg. per month.

In 1980-81, the Corporation was running 7 warehouses, four in its own godowns at Sirsa, Mandi Dabwali, Ellanabad and Kalanwali and three in hired godowns at Rania, Ding and Sirsa. The total storage capacity of all the warehouses was 61,219 metric tonnes.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

Before the advent of the Mughals, the most important route, from North-West Frontier to Delhi was through Tala nba to Pak Pattan, Dipalpur, Fatehabad, Ahrwan and Tohana to Delhi.¹ This route passed through the areas now comprising Sirsa district.

ROADS

There were no pukka roads in the district except for a mile or two near Sirsa town during 19th century, but a wide unmetalled road from Delhi entered the district at Nareli Khara from Hisar and ran by Sirsa, Dabwali to Fazilka. Another broad road ran to the west of this road, nearly whole length of the district from Sirsa by Abohar to Fazilka and was much used by Pawindah traders from the frontier, who annually passed through the district in the cold weather, with their long strings of camels laden with merchandise from Kabul and Kandhar, on their way to Delhi. Other broad roads ran from Sirsa, north-east to Rori, south-east to Darba, south to Jamal and west to Ellanabad. Except where here and there these roads crossed a sand-hill, or traversed an unusually sandy bit of country, or where sand had been blown on to the road, they for eight months in the year presented a hard smooth surface along which cart or camel moved without difficulty. Indeed the same could be said of every village-road in the district, and except where impeded by the sand which formed a serious obstruction only in comparatively few places, there was no difficulty for either carts or camels in getting from any one village to any other. In the four months of the rainy season traffic was not so easy, the roads got soft and muddy and easily cut up, and rain water stood on the lower parts of these for days, the Ghaggar spread over the country in their neighbourhood and some villages in their valleys became almost quite surrounded by water. Ferry-boats were maintained when necessary at Kharekan and Ghoradwali where the roads from Sirsa to Dabwali and Abohar respectively crossed the Ghaggar. The principal roads passing through the district had camping grounds with wells of drinkable water at regular stages, and few *serais* for travellers.²

With the opening of Rowan-Bathinda railway in 1883, the bulk of the grain trade and other trade was directed to it from Delhi-Sirsa road, which

1. B.S. Nijjar, *Punjab Under the Great Mughals* (1526—1707 A.D.) p. 228.

2. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83, pp. 187-188.

has so far provided the main line of communication and trade. With the opening of railways, the road development was neglected and it may be of interest to know that in 1915, all the roads in the district were in very bad condition. In parts of Sirsa even the Delhi-Sirsa road had been completely covered with drifting hillocks of sand and the wayfarer found it easier to trudge across the neighbouring fields. As a consequence of the bad state of roads, wheeled traffic was only confined to the large towns and the ordinary means of transport was the camel.¹

No worth-while progress was made in the road development till the Independence except that the Delhi-Sirsa road (a section of Delhi-Multan road) was taken over by the Public Works Department from the District Board in 1924 and was metalled. In 1947, the Sirsa district had only 84.55 kilometres of metalled road length. The post-Independence period and particularly the period after the formation of Haryana in 1966 has a steady expansion in road construction. The table below clearly indicates the rapid expansion in road construction since 1947:

Period	Total Metalled Length	Length Per 100 Square Kilometres of Area	Length Per Lakh of Population
	(Kms.)	(Kms.)	(Kms.)
At the time of Independence (1947)	84.55	1.98	15.85
As on April 1, 1951	84.55	1.98	15.85
At the end of Third Five-Year Plan (March 1966)	306.71	7.18	57.84
At the time of formation of Sirsa district (September, 1975)	837.68	19.61	157.16
As on March 31, 1981	1,267.95	28.82	174.06

The above table vividly shows that during three Five-Year Plans (1951 to 1966) only 222.16 kilometres of roads were metalled, whereas after the formation of Haryana between 1966 to 1975 in a period of just 9 years 530.97 kilometres of roads were metalled. After the formation of Sirsa as a district, 430.27 kilometres of roads have been metalled between 1975 to March 1981. In 1970, the government embarked upon a crash programme of linking every village with a metalled road. In 1971, 101 villages

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, pp. 178-79.

had been linked with metalled roads but by March 31, 1981, 310 villages had been linked with metalled roads leaving only 13 villages to be provided with link roads.

The district now has a fairly large network of roads. The total length of roads maintained by the P.W.D. (B& R) as on March 31, 1981, was as follows :—

Particulars	Metalled (Kms.)	Unmetalled (Kms.)
National Highways	84.55	—
State Highways	68.18	0.10
Major District Roads	182.90	—
Other Roads	932.32	192.65
Total	1,267.95	192.75

A brief description of the more important roads is given below.—

National Highway

Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki Road (N.H.10).—It is the only national highway passing through the district. It is the oldest road of the district and prior to Independence, it was known as Delhi-Multan road. It follows the alignment of the old trade route from North-West Frontier to Delhi. It was unmetalled up to 1924 and only a small portion near Sirsa was metalled. It was taken over by the Public works Department from the District Board in 1924 and was metalled.

The road enters the district from Hisar side at 231 kilometre and leaves the district at 315.55 kilometre and then enters the Bathinda district (Punjab). The total length of the road falling in the district is 84.55 kilometres. Initially, it was a single lane road of a metalled width of 9 feet but now it is 22 feet wide in its entire length falling in this district. This road passes through Sirsa, Odhan and Dabwali, and provides an important link with Hisar, Rohtak and Delhi.

State Highway

Sardulgarh-Sirsa-Ellanabad-Tibbi Road (S.H. 23).—The total length of this road in the district is 68.18 kilometres. It traverses the district from north-east to west, enters it at 10.28 kilometre near village Musahabwala and passes through Sirsa and Ellanabad and leaves at 78.56 kilometre near

village Talwara Khurd. It connects Barnala (Punjab) on the one side and Tibbi (Rajasthan) on the other. The road (except a small portion—0.10 km) is metalled and bitumen surfaced and is 12 to 18 feet wide.

Major District Roads

The major district roads provide important links with different towns and villages of the district. These roads are, State Border-Rori-Kalanwali road (23.52 kilometres), Kalanwali-Dabwali road (29.02 kilometres), Bhattu-Ludesar-Jamal road (27.20 kilometres), Sirsa-Ludesar-Bhadra road (32.73 kilometres) and Sirsa-Rania-Chichal Kotli (Jiwan Nagar) Bijuwala-Dabwali road (70.43 kilometres).

Other Roads¹

The other roads include other district roads and village link roads. The district is well provided with metalled roads and in March 1981, 310 villages of the district were connected with roads.

Canal Inspection Roads

There are well maintained unmetalled inspection roads along the banks of the canals. These roads are maintained by the Irrigation Department. These are not open to public. In 1980-81, the length of such roads in the district was 1,287 kilometres, out of which 1,028 kilometres was motorable and 259 kilometres was non-motorable.

ROAD TRANSPORT

Vehicles and Conveyances

In the absence of metalled roads in the district as late as in 1880, people travelled on rare occasions like visits to holy places, for marriages and other social occasions. Mostly journey was performed in groups, and often on foot. Camels were the popular means of communication, and paths suited to them ran from village to village. Country carts driven by camels, were used for moving from village to village and unmetalled roads were used by these country carts. During droughts and famines, which frequently visited the district, people moved *en masse* with their cattle, camels and carts. Better vehicular traffic was confined to larger towns like Sirsa and Dabwali. In most sandy areas of the district, the camel was the chief means of transport of merchandise.

With the passage of time, metalled roads were constructed and villages and towns were linked by metalled roads. Vast improvement in means of communication gradually resulted in use of better vehicles. First of all, rubber tyre tongas, drawn by a horse, became one of the swifter means of conveyance. Some people kept horses for their personal use. Later, appeared cycles, motor cars, trucks and jeeps. People of this district are now very fond of keeping jeeps for their personal use.

COMMUNICATIONS

There are now *thejas* and hand-carts, horses and donkeys, camels, tongas, cycles, rickshaws, motor-cycles and scooters, jeeps and station wagons, cars, buses, trucks, tractors and tempos. The tempo which appeared in this district only a few years ago has now become a popular means of public transport particularly in rural areas. These are also used for carrying goods.

The total number of registered vehicles in the district during 1975-76 to 1980-81 is given below:

Vehicles	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Cars	157	174	207	239	257
Jeeps	261	279	298	304	337
Station Wagons	—	—	—	—	4
Buses	—	—	—	10	98
Scooters	390	511	625	757	1,103
Motor Cycles	1,264	1,493	1,653	1,820	2,106
Trucks	293	381	458	504	545
Tractors	2,704	3,553	4,392	5,587	6,564

It clearly indicates that there has been a significant increase in the number of vehicles in the district in the past few years. This increase is indicative of the progress the district has made in road transport, passenger as well as goods.

Goods Transport

Goods traffic is handled by private operators. It is largely run by single vehicle owners and is mostly unorganised. Nevertheless, the system of booking agencies has developed which cater to the needs of both the operators and the traders. The operators are provided with parking godowns and warehousing facilities and traders with a regular satisfactory service. Private operators have organised themselves in the district to reduce competition, to regulate traffic and to share profits. The trend now is to prefer goods transport by road even for long distances because it is prompt, quick and provides door-to-door delivery. The trolley fitted tractors are also used by farmers for transporting their produce to the market towns. In March 1981, there were 545 trucks registered in the district,

1. From March 1981 to March 1985, 166 Kilometres roads have been metalled.

The private owners are members of the Truck Union, Dabwali Road, Sirsa. The trucks required by the traders and goods companies are supplied by the union at fixed rates. Three other truck unions in the district are at Dabwali, Kalanwali and Rania. There are private goods transport companies in all major towns and grain markets in the district.

Passenger Transport

Before the formation of Haryana, there was satisfactory bus service only on the Dabwali-Sirsa-Delhi route. In other parts of the district, particularly in the west and south, the bus service both private and nationalised was inadequate and unsatisfactory. Travel facilities for passengers were lacking. There was no bus stand worth the name even at Sirsa and Dabwali. There were no weather shelters along the roads, and passengers often had to wait for buses for hours in the blistering heat, sand storms and in the cold.

A sub-depot existed at Dabwali before the formation of Haryana in 1966. Another sub-depot at Sirsa was opened in 1971 with a fleet strength of 30 vehicles to cater to the passengers traffic requirements of the area. Nationalisation of passengers transport in November 1972, led to the expansion and improvement in the frequency of the bus service. A full-fledged depot was established at Sirsa in April 1978, with a fleet strength of 89 buses and Dabwali sub-depot was merged into it. Haryana Roadways, Sirsa with a fleet strength of 135 buses on March 31, 1981, catered to the bus routes in the district and inter-state routes extending to Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi.

The bus routes passing/touching the district are given in Table X of Appendix.

There is no luxury or air-conditioned coach under operation in Sirsa depot.

Local/shuttle services.—No local city service is at present under operation in Sirsa district. However, some shuttle services are running to serve the rural population of the district. The routes on which these buses ply are:

1. Sirsa—Kussar
2. Sirsa—Kamal
3. Sirsa—Kharekan
4. Sirsa—Ding Mandi
5. Sirsa—Rania
6. Sirsa—Bhupp

7. Sirsa—Modia Khera
8. Sirsa—Darbi
9. Sirsa—Phoolkan
10. Dabwali—Banwala
11. Dabwali—Nuhiyan Wali (Nahiyawali)
12. Dabwali—Odhan
13. Dabwali—Panniwala Mota
14. Dabwali—Jattan Wali (Jandwala Jatan)
15. Dabwali—Bijuwali
16. Dabwali—Kaluana
17. Sirsa—Arnian Wali
18. Sirsa—Ali Mohmad
19. Sirsa—Nirwan
20. Sirsa—Sahuwala

Station wagons, tempos, cars and three wheeler scooters which have been registered as taxis, provide transport in urban areas and from convenient points in rural areas.

Temporary bus stand existed at Sirsa and Dabwali with amenities such as tea-stalls, newspaper vendors and fruit shops. Facilities like drinking water and toilets have been provided at both the bus stands. Modern bus stands are likely to come up at both these places shortly. There is also a proposal to establish bus stands at Ellanabad, Kalanwali and Rania and bus shelters at different places such as Ding Sikanderpur, Nathusari (Chopta), Kuranganwali, Odhan and Bijuwali.

RAILWAYS

Three railway lines of the Northern Railway pass through the district. Rewari-Fazilka and Sadulpur-Hunumangarh lines are metre gauge (1 metre wide) whereas Suratgarh-Bathinda line is broad gauge (1.676 metre wide).

Rewari-Fazilka Railway Line.—It is a metre gauge railway line and was constructed in 1883. It is the oldest railway line in the district. The construction of this railway line in 19th century enabled the people of the area to get good prices for their harvests and it prevented the tract from being desolated by the succession of famine years through which it had passed. The railway line enters the district from Hisar side, the first station falling thereon in the district is Ding. It traverses the district through Jodkhan Halt,

Suchan Kotli, Bejeka Halt, Sirsa, Kharekan Halt, Bada Gudha, Sukhchain Halt, Kalanwali and Rattangarh Kanakwal Halt and covers 73 kilometres in the district.

Suratgarh-Bathinda Railway Line.—Jodhpur-Bikaner railway line was extended to Bathinda in 1902. This broad gauge railway line enters the district from Hanumangarh side and cuts through the north-eastern fringe of the district. The first station on this line in the district is Lohgarh Abub Halt whereafter it crosses the Punjab and Haryana territories and passes through Dabwali station and finally crosses to Bathinda district.

Sadulpur-Hanumangarh Railway Line.—This metre gauge railway line was opened to traffic in 1927. It enters the district from Nohar (Rajasthan) side and traverses the district for 14 kilometres and passes through Surera Halt and Ellanabad and leaves for Hanumangarh.

TOURIST FACILITIES

In the past, serais served the people by providing shelter and other facilities. Till the beginning of this century, there existed a number of serais along Delhi-Sirsa road. But with the change of time and improvement in the means of transport, these serais have ceased to exist as an institution. Nevertheless almost every village and the town has a *chopal* or dharmasala, the maintenance of which is an old tradition of the area. These are used for the stay of marriage parties and other common purposes, as well as for visitors. The existing dharmasalas in towns owe their origin to the generosity of the rich residents. There are many good dharmasalas at Sirsa and Dabwali. The newly constructed Janta Bhavan dharmasala at Sirsa is the biggest one with modern facilities and has 24 rooms and a big hall. The list of important dharmasalas in the district is given in the Table XI of Appendix.

There are no good hotels in the district. However, Haryana Tourism Department has built Kala Teetar with motel restaurant, bar and boating facilities on Bathinda-Ganganagar Defence Highway at Abub Shahar. It has 4 rooms (2 air-conditioned and 2 non-air-conditioned). Another tourist resort, Shikra has been built at Asa Khera. It has 2 suites and also provides restaurant facilities. 'Surkhab' restaurant has been opened at Sirsa with bar facilities. It has become popular both with outsiders and local residents.

There are rest houses at important places in the district for the stay of touring officials. These rest houses are maintained by P.W.D. (B. & R.), Irrigation Department, Haryana State Electricity Board, Market Committees, etc. A list of the rest houses indicating the number of suites and reservation authority is given in Table XII of Appendix.

1. The tourist complexes at Abub Shahar and Asa Khera were closed in 1983-84. Now these have been re-opened.

POST OFFICES

In 1892, the then Sirsa tahsil had 10 imperial post offices at Sirsa, Chutala, Dabwali, Ellanabad, Bada Gudha (Gudha Kalan), Jamal, Jodhkan, Rana, Rori and Kalanwali. Sirsa was a sub-office with money order and savings bank facilities while all other post offices were branch offices with money order facilities only.¹

By 1912, the number of sub-offices rose to two and that of branch offices to 11 in the then Sirsa tahsil, sub-offices were at Sirsa and Dabwali and branch offices at Ding, Ellanabad, Bada Gudha, Jodhkan, Kalanwali, Mangala, Naurang, Rania, Rori, Dabwali village and Chutala.² Between 1892 to 1912, the post office at Jamal was closed and new post offices were opened at Ding, Mangala, Naurang and Dabwali village.

In 1935, while the number of sub-offices remained the same but the number of branch offices was reduced from 11 to 10. The post offices at Jodhkan, Mangala and Naurang had been closed between 1912 to 1935 and new post offices having been opened at Alike and Suchan Kotli.³

After Independence, there was rapid extension in postal facilities particularly in rural areas and in 1961, the number of post offices increased to 73. As a result of further extension in postal facilities the number of post offices rose to 120 (14 sub-offices and 106 branch offices) by 1971, and these post offices were under the jurisdiction of Superintendent of Post Offices, Hisar. In 1972, Sirsa head post office was established.

The number of post offices was 125 (one head post office, 22 sub-offices and 102 branch offices) in 1975 and it further rose to 144 (one head post office, 25 sub-offices and 118 branch offices) by March 31, 1981 as detailed in Table XIII of Appendix.

All the villages of the district were provided with daily mail delivery and in Sirsa and Dabwali, the mail was delivered twice on all the days of a week except Sundays and national holidays.

TELEGRAPHS

In 1982, a telegraph line ran along the railway line with a telegraph office at each station. There was also a postal telegraph office of the second class at Sirsa.⁴

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 219.
2. *Hisar District Gazetteer, Statistical Tables*, 1912, Table 31.
3. *Hisar District Gazetteer, Statistical Tables*, 1935, Table 31.
4. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 219.

In 1915, Sirsa was the only postal telegraph office in the district. But the railway telegraph offices at all railway stations in the district were opened to the public. There were 6 railway telegraph offices at Sirsa, Dabwali, Ding, Suchan Kotli, Bada Gudha and Kalanwali railway stations.¹

In 1961, there were 8 postal telegraph offices in the district located at Sirsa, Dabwali, Kalanwali, Bada Gudha (Gudhan Kalan), Keharwala, Ding, Rania and Ellanabad.² The number of telegraph offices rose to 11 in 1971. These were located at Dabwali, Chutala and Kalanwali in Dabwali tahsil and Sirsa, Suchan, Ding, Ottu, Rania, Moju Khera, Khari Surera and Ellanabad in Sirsa tahsil.³

In December 1981, telegraph facilities were available at the post offices of Sirsa Head Office, Nai Mandi Sirsa, Sirsa Court, Sirsa Town, Mandi Dabwali, Dabwali Town, Chutala, Ellanabad, Kalanwali, Rania, Jiwan Nagar, Khairpur and Bada Gudha.

TELEPHONES

The first telephone exchange in the district was opened at Sirsa in 1955. In 1981, 7 telephone exchanges were functioning in the district at the following places.

Name of Exchange	Year of Establishment	Number of Telephone Connections in 1981
Sirsa	1955	1,313
Kalanwali	1961	110
Ellanabad	1962	131
Ding	1970	24
Dabwali	1972	389
Rania	1973	22
Jiwan Nagar	1980	16

In 1981, the telephone service was available for the general public at the public call offices at Chutala, Abub Shahar, Ganga, Masitan Kaluana, Risalia Khera, Jamal, Bada Gudha, Shahpur Begu, Rori, Amritsar, Bhaudin, Jodhkan, Dabwali rural, Nezaadala, Bajeka, Talwara Khurd, Koriwala, Johrar Nali, Madho Singhana, Panniwala Morecka, Mangala, Desu Jodha, Suchan Kotli, Kuta Budh, Bani, Kharian and Odhan.

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 179.

2. *Census of India*, 1961, *District Census Handbook*, Hisar District, 1966, Part II, pp. IV-XV.

3. *Census of India*, 1971, *District Census Handbook*, Hisar District, 1974, pp. 30-35 and 38-49.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Miscellaneous occupations in rural and urban areas constitute a significant part of the life of the district and the pattern is the same as elsewhere in the state. Many earn their livelihood from professions other than agriculture and industry. These are mostly in the form of services and sales necessary to attain a certain level of livelihood. The growth of these occupations depends greatly on the economic development of a particular region. These occupations cover members of the public and defence services and in addition, there are many engaged in earning a livelihood on self-employed basis. Self employed persons generally work in shops or in their own houses, some go about hawking their goods or services. In addition to these, there are a few people, who are engaged in domestic services and work as cooks, bearers, servants, gardeners and chowkidars. Some women work as *ayahs* or part-time maid servants.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Before Independence, development was negligible and the growth of employment in the public sector was insignificant. After Independence, and with the implementation of Five-Year Plans, however, there has been a vast increase in the number of jobs in the public services under the state and central governments, as also in local bodies and quasi government organisations. Several new departments came into being to carry out developmental activities in the sphere of agriculture, co-operation, industry, communications, animal husbandry, etc. The new era of development started only after the creation of Haryana in 1966 and a sizeable part of the working population was able to attain jobs in the public sector. The creation of new district of Sirsa on September 1, 1975 gave further impetus to employment opportunities in public services. On March 31, 1973, the number of persons employed in public services in administrative departments and office of the state and central governments, quasi government organisations and local bodies was 4,180. This number rose to 7,621 by March 31, 1976. On March 31, 1982 the number of persons employed in public services was 13,255.

The persons in the government employment are given dearness allowance broadly related to the cost of living. In addition, grade IV employees are provided with liveries and other benefits. The provisions of interest-free advance, for the purchase of wheat recoverable during the same financial year and loans for the construction of houses and purchase of bicycles/auto-vehicles and for the celebration of the marriages of the children also exist for

government employees. The security provisions like group insurance, ex-gratia grant, family pension and other benefits for the families of government servants who die while in service have also been provided. The distribution of Haryana Government employees working in the district on March 31, 1982 is given below.—

Category	Gazetted	Non-Gazetted	Total
Males	45	8,596	8,641
Females	17	1,078	1,095
Total	62	9,674	9,736

Out of the total employees, 3,023 employees belonged to Education Department, 1,792 to Irrigation Department, 764 to Transport Department, 736 to Police, 565 to Agriculture Department, 559 to Medical and Health Department, 410 to Revenue Department, 274 to Animal Husbandry Department, 259 to P.W.D. (B & R) and 247 to P.W.D. (Public Health). The strength of employees in any of the remaining departments did not exceed to 150.

Some categories of government employees are eligible for rent-free accommodation. The government have also provided residential accommodation to government employees against a deduction of 10 per cent of the pay. Since the number of government houses is limited, the allotment is made seniority wise. Other employees who have not been provided with government accommodation are being given house-rent allowance on the basis of the population and Sirsa is the only town in the district where house rent allowance is admissible.

Employees in public services are not restricted from forming associations or unions to safeguard their service interests.

DEFENCE SERVICES

The Jats, Sikh Jats, Bishnois, and Rajputs in the Sirsa district contributed a large number of recruits to the different branches of the defence services during the two World Wars.

A large number of soldiers from the district fought during the Chinese Aggression in 1962. Wing Commander A.J.S. Sandhu of village Morewala (Sirsa tahsil) received Vir Chakra posthumously for his distinguished service during Pakistan Aggression, 1965. Five persons belonging to the armed forces were reported killed while four were wounded during the Pakistan Aggression, 1971.

The ex-servicemen of this district mostly belonged to agricultural community and were concentrated in Ludesar, Rori, Sherpur, Chaharwala, Ding and Kalanwali. There were in all 7,947 ex-servicemen in the district in 1981-82 as against 3,180 in 1973-74.

The state government have granted several concessions to the armed forces personnel and their families belonging to Haryana. These concessions include rewards in the form of cash and annuity to winners of gallantry decorations; employment concessions by way of reservation in vacancies, age and educational relaxation; and pension, ex-gratia grants and educational grants to the armed force personnel or the families of those killed, disabled or declared missing. These concessions are granted according to the status of the personnel and the extent of disability. Further facilities by way of reservation of industrial and residential plots, houses of the Housing Board, Haryana and exemption from house tax are also provided to the ex-servicemen.

The Zila Sainik Board, Sirsa looks after the welfare of the ex-servicemen and the families of the serving defence personnel. Two funds, namely Post War Service Reconstruction Fund (raised during the World War-II) and the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen (raised in 1964) have been created by the Government of India for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their dependents. These two funds were amalgamated in 1980 and this fund is now known as Amalgamated Fund. The income from this fund is mainly utilised for grant of stipends to ex-servicemen/their dependents and grant of loans to the ex-servicemen for their rehabilitation.

SERVICES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

With the growth of economic activity, employment avenues increased within private sector also. Although the people preferred government employment due to security of service and benefits of dearness allowance, house rent allowance, etc. yet the private sector absorbed a significant section of the population. The skilled and experienced persons in private sector get an edge even over the government employees in the matter of wages and perks in some establishments. The provision of bonus, overtime allowance, contributory provident fund and non-transferable status of the employment were quite a few provisions which made employment in private service attractive. The industrial and commercial establishments, shops, schools and other educational institutions provide most of the employment in private sector. 2,587 persons (16.5 per cent of the total employment) were employed in the district in private sector in 1981-82. Excluding Jind district, the employment in private sector in the district is still the lowest among all the districts of the state. There are adequate measures under various labour laws to look after the welfare of workers in industrial establishments.¹

1. For more details see Chapter XVII on 'Other Social Services'.

The commercial establishments and shopkeepers in towns employ assistants, shop assistants, salesmen and helpers. The working conditions and wages of these employees are regulated through the provisions of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958. In March 1982, 1,834 employees were covered under the Act.

The pay scales of teachers in private institutions, which are recognised and receive grants from the government, are same as of those in government institutions. The teachers in private colleges like those in government colleges are governed by scales prescribed by the University Grants Commission.

Besides the above categories, there are a few professions who go independently and play no less important role in the life of the district. One of them is the category of private medical practitioners. In 1980-81, there were 1,624 registered medical practitioners in the district including 62 medical graduates.

There are 4,100 main workers in the district who are engaged in household industry-manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs while other main workers numbering 57,716 are engaged in construction, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communications and in other services as per 1981 census. It is, however, very difficult to say that the whole of the working population is engaged in a particular service throughout the year. The under employment is quite noticeable and according to 1981 census there are 14,956 persons who have been categorised as marginal workers¹ in the district.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Among these are included barbers, washermen and tailors.

Barbers.—The hair dressing, hair cutting and shaving services are rendered by barbers. Until recently the barbers combined the occupation of shaving and hair cutting with messenger of news weddings and other auspicious events. He took leading part in all family ceremonies of his *jajmans* (patrons). He was not given any fixed remuneration but was given a share in harvest like other village artisans.

The old practice of a family barber is on wane. In urban areas, it is almost non-existent and the people avail of the facilities of hair-cutting saloons. In March 1981 there were 37 registered barber shops in towns. In villages, however, the old practice still persists to some extent. They patronise their clients and visit their houses for service and get remuneration in cash as well as in kind. The wife of the barber called *nain* does some sort of hair cleaning and hair dressing of women in villages and her presence on some social and religious ceremonies is still necessary. The barbers in Sirsa town have formed a union and its members follow rules and regulations relating to their economic and social conditions.

1. A worker who gets work less than 183 days in a year is called a marginal worker.

In 1975, the number of barbers in the district was 1,100 and there was sizeable increase in the number by 1981.

Washermen.—Washermen include *dhobis*, launderers and dry cleaners. In rural areas people do their own washing. In urban areas, *dhobi* used to collect clothes from their customers but of late with the introduction of synthetic yarn clothes, this practice is on the wane. The people wash their clothes and send to *dhobis* for pressing who have set up their pressing stalls at convenient points. Some of them have opened laundry shops where they do washing and dry cleaning. Many exclusive shops for dry cleaning have also been opened. In 1981, there were 27 shops of washermen registered under the Shop Act.

Tailors.—Like other occupations, tailoring is also an age old occupation in the district. In the past, tailors made traditional local dresses and the tailoring was a caste profession. Like the family barber there used to be a family tailor. He would visit his clients and take the family order in wholesale. The tailor in old days was the counsellor to the family on cloth purchases. A tailor used to sit in the clients house a few days before marriage to make the clothes for the bride, bridegroom and members of the family. He got the remuneration in kind at the time of harvesting. Now this system of family tailors is no more prevalent. Tailoring that started as a craft in the hands of a few, has not only become a profession but also a viable industry with the onset of readymade garments. The persons trained in tailoring irrespective of caste and creed have opened shops in towns and villages for their livelihood. Tailors who run their own shops are usually referred to as master tailors and employ some junior tailors, sewing boys and helpers. Almost all are cutters, who have acquired their tailoring skill not through formal training but through long years of apprenticeship under some master tailors. The average monthly income of a tailor varies from season to season. In winter, he earns more than in summer as the stitching charges of the woollen clothes are higher. The tailoring charges vary from place to place and shop to shop depending upon the stitching skill of the tailor and the standard of living of the people. With the passage of time the style of clothes has undergone a complete change and the young men and women increasingly wear modern types of clothing making tailoring more remunerative.

There are few institutions where the females are given training in cutting and tailoring. Consequently, some ladies do stitching for themselves and for others on payment. The number of persons engaged in the occupation were appreciably large in 1981 as against 1,483 in 1975. Under Shop Act, there were 52 tailoring shops in the district in 1981.

DOMESTIC SERVICES

The domestic services include cooks, servants and maid servants. Employing of a domestic servant was considered as a sign of affluence in the past.

People of high class in towns and some land-lords in villages used to engage servants for domestic work. These servants were drawn mostly from under employed population. A domestic servant was paid between Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per month in addition to meal and clothes till about the first quarter of 20th century. With the passage of time and opening of other avenues which provided increasing opportunities of employment elsewhere, the domestic service has become costlier and is not easily available. However, part-time maid servants to supplement their meagre family income help in washing and cleaning of utensils on an average payment of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per month. A few domestic servants who come from other parts of the country, have been employed by affluent and are paid Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per mensem besides food and clothing. Some people employ *Palis* for grazing their cattle, *halis* for ploughing the fields and other for agricultural operations on contract basis in rural areas, and hardly any family employs servants for domestic work. Mostly women attend to their domestic work themselves, however, the *halis* and other agricultural labourers employed, besides, attending to agricultural operations, do domestic chores of their masters. These persons who are generally landless labourers are paid fixed proportion of the harvest or cash wages.

SELF EMPLOYED PERSONS

The occupational field of self employed persons is very vast in the present day society. In the past, when the demands of the society were limited only a particular section of population of the district was engaged in self employment. It included mostly the traditional village artisans. The institutions of *Purohit*, *sunar*, *halwai*, etc. also fall under self employed persons. Besides, hawkers, petty shopkeepers and all other skilled and unskilled persons who work for their living or provide their individual service on demand fall under this category. Changing concept in the society, circumstances and modernisation involve scopes for new occupational pattern and which in turn provides a new class of self employed persons.

The time old *julahas* (weavers), *mochis* (cobblers), *lohars* (black-smiths), *telis* (Oil pressers), sweepers, *kumhars* (potters), *khatis* (carpenters) are spread throughout the district and serve the community. They get their due share at the time of harvest for the service they render to their clients. Besides, they also get cash for their service. These skilled workers supplement their income by doing some allied jobs. The sweeper is engaged in cleaning houses in rural as well as in urban areas and gets a few rupees per month in urban areas and fixed harvest share and some daily meal in rural areas for his service. However, small gifts in cash and kind are given to him on festive, social and religious occasions. In recent years owing to better employment facilities and privileges, some sweepers have been shifting over to service in government offices and private organisations. Those who are engaged in villages also seek employment in various agricultural and non-agricultural activities. A *mochi* who

was engaged in large scale, in making of local *juties* until recent past has modernised his profession in towns. He has established his shop where besides *desi juti*, he makes shoes, chappals etc. Some cobblers may be seen hawking in town streets for his services and usually attend to the repairing, mending, and reconditioning of shoes. These classes are now well aware of their rights and fully avail of the facilities given by the government for their betterment.

Among semi-skilled workers *thatheras* (utensil makers) of Sirsa and Dabwali are well reputed for their brass utensils. The *takni* of Sirsa is a popular utensil of the area. The *thatheras* also move from place to place and sell their utensils for their livelihood. Other skilled workers such as electrician, radio mechanic, auto-mobile mechanic and cycle repairer also form a class of self employed persons. With the availability of electricity in rural as well as urban areas, the electrical appliances are widely used and an electrician finds ample jobs to earn his livelihood. Likewise, mass popularity of radio and transistor among masses has given sufficient opportunity for a few persons to turn as radio mechanic. Recent mechanisation in agriculture and rapid development in transport have made it possible to absorb many as auto-mobile mechanics for their earnings.

The priest and *Purohit* still serve on various religious and social occasions. Some of them have switched over to other trades and this profession is on the decline. Even then there are many who exclusively depend upon priestly services. Similarly the goldsmith whose domain was to make gold and silver ornaments till some time back has lost his hold to a greater extent in villages as the villagers now prefer to wear minimum traditional ornaments. Whatever modern ornaments they like to wear are readily available in towns. The goldsmiths are thus mostly concentrated in towns and serve the masses by making and selling ornaments. Some other people have also entered into this trade for their earnings.

Until recent past, *dhabas* and *halwai* shops were the only traditional places where people used to go for food. Rapid changes in food habits of the people have given birth to different kinds of eating establishments. Along *dhabas*, hotels and restaurants have sprung up. Besides *halwais*, tea and snack stalls, hot and cold drink booths and identical refreshment centres have come up well. Tea stalls are a familiar site everywhere and so are *Pan bidi* shops throughout the urban areas. It is also not unusual to come across a bakery even in a small town. The bakeries have gained popularity owing to the demand for their ready products such as bread, cakes, biscuits etc. Vegetable and fruit sellers are equally important in this field. Many people have adopted this as a whole time profession and have opened shops in towns and villages while a few sell vegetables and fruits on bicycle or on hand carts. The variety of food attracts many persons to adopt different spheres of food industry. They prepare different kinds of eatables in different seasons to earn livelihood.

There is an attractive category of self employed persons who run small shops dealing in ready-made garments, consumer goods, general merchandise or the like. Such type of establishments have engaged many people for their livelihood and most of them are concentrated in towns. Even in villages, some people have switched over to this business. *Paledars*, coolies, hand cart pedlars, rickshaw pullers and *dudhtyas* (milk sellers) are some miscellaneous self employed persons in the district who meet the daily requirements of the community and earn their bread. Till few decades back the jugglers, *banderwalas*, *reechwalas*, snake charmers and *hajigars* constituted an important class of self employed persons. They entertained the people and in return used to get something for their livelihood but they are rarely seen these days.

CHAPTER-IX ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

Agricultural pursuits dominated the livelihood pattern of the district during late 19th century. In 1883, the proportion of males over 15 years of age engaged in agriculture was larger in the then Sirsa district than in any other district of the then Punjab. For Sirsa district, the proportion was 66 per cent, while for the province it was only 55. Agriculture was the main support of even a larger proportion of the population than the figures show. Land was so plentiful and other means of livelihood afforded support to so few that many men of castes whose hereditary occupation was distinct from agriculture supplemented their occupation by engaging in agriculture sometimes as labourers only, but more often by taking land separately as tenants. The number of persons in service was small and consisted chiefly of the government servants.¹

Economy and livelihood pattern of the people even now is generally agro-based. According to 1981 census, of the total population of 7,07,068 persons, nearly 79.56 per cent live in rural areas as against 78.12 per cent for the state as a whole. Of the total population, 2,10,299 (29.74 per cent) are main workers and 14,956 (2.12 per cent) marginal workers. The number of non-workers is 4,81,813 (68.14 per cent). The ratio of main workers to total population is the second highest among the districts. Thus the district ranks second as regards the labour participation rate.

The ratio of workers to total population which was 38.00 per cent in 1961 decreased considerably to 29.22 per cent in 1971 and again increased marginally to 29.74 per cent in 1981. The change in definition of workers from census to census seems to be the main factor for decrease in workers ratio over the period. The 1981 census divides the total population of the district into three broad categories i.e. main workers, marginal workers and non-workers. The main workers have been further grouped into four categories viz., cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in household industry and other workers. The distribution of the district population according to this classification is given in the table below.

Total number of persons enumerated	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
	7,07,068	3,76,602	3,30,466
A Main Workers	2,10,299	2,01,471	8,828
(i) Cultivators	1,00,079	96,969	3,110

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab, 1879-83*, pp. 184-85.

	1	2	3	4
(ii) Agricultural Labourers		48,404	45,928	2,476
(iii) Workers in household industry		4,100	3,785	315
(iv) Other workers		57,716	54,789	2,927
B Marginal Workers		14,956	1,645	13,311
C Non-Workers		4,81,813	1,73,486	3,08,327

These figures reveal that males predominate in all categories of main workers, the proportion of women workers being far less than the percentage of males. It is only in the category of marginal workers that females outnumber males. As mentioned earlier, the proportion of main workers to total population is second highest in Sirsa district. Similarly, the proportion of males among main workers to total male population of the district is highest in the district (53.49 per cent), while that of females being very low (2.67 per cent). The proportion of workers engaged in agricultural pursuits (cultivator and agricultural labourers) is 70.61 per cent which is much higher than the state average of 60.78 per cent. As regards agricultural pursuits, the Sirsa district ranks third in the state. Non-agricultural pursuits account for 29.39 per cent as against 39.22 per cent for the state as a whole. These figures clearly bring out the fact that primary sector still dominates the economy of the district and secondary and tertiary sectors play comparatively less important role. Thus the general economic pattern of the district shows predominance of agriculture.

The following table gives the percentages of workers of the district belonging to different livelihood classes specifying their proportion under rural and urban categories :

Total Main Workers	Total	Rural	Urban
A Agricultural Pursuits	29.74	29.85	29.33
(i) Cultivators	70.61	85.49	11.63
(ii) Agricultural Labourers	47.59	57.79	7.18
B Non Agricultural Pursuits	23.02	27.70	4.45
(i) Workers in household industry	29.39	14.51	88.37
(ii) Other workers	1.95	1.62	3.25
	27.44	12.89	85.12

The above table clearly brings out the fact that agricultural pursuits preponderate in the rural areas, where cultivation of land has been prime economic activity of the people. But in urban areas, it is non-agricultural pursuits which claim a very large percentage of workers. Thus, primary sector plays an important role in rural areas while the secondary and tertiary sectors play predominant role in urban areas.

Significantly, in primary sector, the ratio of cultivators has declined since 1961. According to 1961 census, the proportion of cultivators to total workers was as high as 68.76 per cent, which declined to 54.57 per cent in 1971 and further to 47.59 per cent in 1981. On the other hand, the proportion of agricultural labourers to total workers, significantly enough, increased from 8.88 per cent in 1961 to 23.032 per cent in 1981.

Though comparable figures of occupational distribution are not available for 1981 census, however, an analysis of already available data shows that share of primary sector workers to total working force has declined from 77.64 per cent in 1961 to 70.61 per cent in 1981. On the other hand, the share of secondary and tertiary sector workers put together has increased from 22.36 per cent in 1961 to 29.39 per cent in 1981. This clearly shows that there has been more favourable shift in occupational distribution of workers in the district after 1961.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Out of the total population of 7,07,068 (1981 census) in the district, only 29.74 per cent formed the working force. Nearly 70.61 per cent of the working population was engaged in agricultural and allied pursuits and the remaining 29.39 per cent in the other pursuits. In the absence of other data regarding unemployment, the idea of employment situation in the district can only be gathered from the working of employment exchanges in the district.

Employment Exchanges.—With a view to making an assessment of manpower requirement of professional, scientific, skilled and technical workers, and to determine more correctly the type of personnel in short supply, as also to find out new employment opportunities, the State Directorate of Employment maintains district-wise records of persons seeking employment. The employment exchanges in the district register the names and qualifications of the unemployed persons seeking work.

A Sub-Employment Exchange was established at Sirsa in November, 1960. It was upgraded to the level of a District Employment Exchange in 1966. A Rural Employment Exchange was opened at Mandi Dabwali in March, 1979.¹

With the enforcement of the Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1952, in June 1960, establishments in the public sector and also those normally employing 25 or more persons in the private sector, were to notify their vacancies to the employment exchange before recruitment.

1. Two more rural Employment Exchanges were opened at Ellanabad and Kalanwali in March 1982.

The following table shows the working of employment exchanges in Sirsa district during 1979 to 1981 .—

Year	Number of Employment Exchanges at the End of the Year	Number of Registrations During the Year	Number of Vacancies Notified	Number of Applicants Placed in Employment During the Year	Applicants on the Live Register	Monthly Number of Employers Using Exchange
1979	2	8,032	4,064	2,885	9,324	36
1980	2	9,810	4,505	2,860	11,500	56
1981	2	9,737	3,590	1,862	14,697	50

The problem of unemployment in the district is complex. There is non-availability of experienced and skilled force but on the other hand, there is glut of new applicants having no work experience. The number of persons seeking employment on the live register was only 1,371 in December 1969, and it increased to 14,697 in December 1981, which included 4,487 matriculates, 2,178 under graduates, 1,100 graduates, 323 post-graduates, 421 skilled persons and 6,188 non-matriculates and unskilled. Thus problem of unemployment is more acute for the unskilled educated persons.

The functioning of employment exchanges in the district has improved the quality of services in the collection of employment market information and vocational guidance facilities. As a part of the programme of collection of employment market information, quarterly employees returns are obtained from establishments in the public sector and from employers employing 10 or more persons in the private sector. These returns contain information *inter alia* regarding vacancies which remain unfilled at the end of a quarter due to non-availability of suitable applicants. At the same time it provides information about the strength of establishments and concerns. In 1980-81, there were 240 public and 99 private establishments in the record of the employment exchanges.

There is one Vocational Guidance Unit at Sirsa, where career pamphlets, books and other useful information are provided for the benefit of students and applicants. Invitational group talks are given to students and applicants by the Employment Counsellor. Career talks are given by the Vocational Guidance Counsellors to students in the schools to guide them about better careers. Individual and group counselling work is also carried out in the employment exchanges.¹

1. The occupational research and analysis and also the publication of career books and pamphlets are done by the National Employment Service at State headquarters at Chandigarh and the Directorate General of Employment and Training Government of India, New Delhi.

Establishments and Employment.

According to Economic Census, 1980, there were 16,894 enterprises in all in the district, out of which 16,367 were non-agricultural and the remaining were agricultural. Out of the total, 16,505 were the perennial enterprises while 389 enterprises were seasonal in nature. The employment given in these enterprises is given below : —

I. Employment in Agricultural Enterprises/Establishments.

(a) Total (including unpaid workers)	801
(b) Hired workers	66

II. Employment in Non-Agricultural Enterprises/Establishments.

(a) Total (including unpaid workers)	43,059
(i) Males	39,512
(ii) Females	3,547
(b) Total Hired workers	22,185
(i) Males	19,181
(ii) Females	3,004

Thus about 20 per cent of the total working force (2.25 lakhs as per 1981 census) of the district was engaged in these enterprises.

PRICES

Broad idea about the price trends prevailing in the Sirsa district in the mid and late 19th century can be had from the following table¹:—

Average prices of Sirsa, Rania and Ellanabad

(Seer per rupee)
(one Seer is equal to 0.933 kilograms)

Rabi Produce (About 1st June)

Five Year period	Wheat	Barley	Gram	Barley and Gram	Sarson
1850 to 1854	41	..	49	..	..
1855 to 1859	45	..	75	..	..
1860 to 1864	24	..	37	..	..
1865 to 1869	20	33	32	27	17
1870 to 1874	22	36	45	22	23
1875 to 1879	21	44	39	35	20
1880 to 1883	20	39	34	38	18

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District, in the Punjab, 1879-83*, p. 289.

Kharif Produce (About the End of December)

Five Year Period	Jowar	Bajra	Moth	Mung	Til	Rice (un-husked)	Gwar
1850 to 1854	..	80	..	..	..	38	..
1855 to 1859	..	54	105	..	..	38	120
1860 to 1864	..	37	42	..	22	29	57
1865 to 1869	44	20	33	27	16	22	46
1870 to 1874	48	30	33	..	13	27	41
1875 to 1879	56	31	39	25	18	28	48
1880 to 1883	38	30	36	28	17	27	42

A close analysis of the average prices of Sirsa, Rania and Ellanabad reveals that prices of a various commodities rose considerably from 1850 to 1880. A rupee during 1850—54 could fetch a person, 41 seers of wheat or 49 seers of gram or 80 seers of *bajra* or 38 seers of unhusked rice, but in 1880—1883, rupee could get only 20 seers of wheat or 34 seers of gram or 30 seers of *bajra* or 27 seers of unhusked rice.

On the whole the prices of the different foodgrains of both harvest went up or down together according to the nature of the harvest of the year and laterly with some reference to the demand for export. In years of scarcity the difference of price between the different grains became very small. In 1838, just after the famine of 1837, when grain was probably dearer than usual, the ordinary produce was valued at more than two maunds per rupee. In 1844-45, gram and barley were sold at 4½ maunds and *bajra* at 3 maunds per rupee.¹

But the great era in the history of prices in the Sirsa district was the famine of 1860-61. In that year, owing to the widespread scarcity, prices rose higher than they had ever been before and trade was greatly stimulated. The peasants and grain-dealers of the district learned how profitable it was to watch the market and carry grain from where it was cheap to where it was dear; and they never forgot the lesson. Prices never again fluctuated so much from year to year and from village to village. The high prices of the famine year 1861 did not hold and prices were pretty low in 1862 and 1863, were high from 1864—67, but suddenly rose still higher in the famine year 1868-69, when they were higher than they had ever been before. They then fell gradually until the beginning of 1877, when they were

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District, in the Punjab 1879—83* pp. 289-90.

lower than they had been for eleven years. The failure of the rains of 1877 and the demand caused by the famine in the harvests of 1878-79, the demand on the frontier caused by the Afghan War and the scanty rainfall of 1880 kept them at a high figure until the good rains of 1881 brought them down. Owing to the good rabi harvests of 1882 and 1883, prices continued to fall and in 1882-83 were lower than they had been since 1877. The period of low and high prices since 1861 have been (1) 1862 to 1867, six years of low prices; (2) 1868 to 1871, four years of high prices; (3) 1872 to 1876, five years of low prices; (4) 1877 to 1880, four years of high prices; and (5) 1881 to 1883, three years of low prices. Prices had been, however, on the whole been much higher since 1860 than they were before.¹

By 1915, the improved communications with the outside world had the effect of steadying prices in the then Hisar district (including areas now comprising Sirsa district) to a remarkable degree. The prices became independent of the local conditions. This fact was exemplified in 1901-02, when, in spite of the fact that the crops on *barani* lands failed throughout the then Hisar district, prices remained normal.²

Prior to World War I (1914—18), prices were generally dependent on agricultural yield. Since the economy of the Sirsa district has been primarily agricultural, the prices in the district have been co-related with agricultural production and the imports of goods necessary for the requirements of this area. The outbreak of the war in 1914, caused a sudden rise in prices owing to imports being in short supply and agricultural production having been affected by poor monsoons and the bad harvests of 1915-16. In 1917, commenced a period of distress and hardship in which prices rose rapidly to allow the economic system to adjust itself. The strain on the railways resulting from the war caused dislocation of communications so that goods from an area of plenty could not be transported to areas of scarcity. The situation worsened further by the disastrous harvest of 1918. Closely followed by an unparalleled loss of life caused by influenza epidemic in the later part of 1918. These hardships brought matters to a climax and even good harvest in 1920 proved insufficient to contain the upward trend of prices. This upward trend continued up to 1929 when the general depression brought a big slump in the market accompanied by unemployment.

World War II broke out in September 1939. It created widespread scarcity conditions in respect of many articles of need. The situation was further aggravated by damage to crops by natural calamities. The Sirsa area was famine stricken, its farmers could not derive any benefit from the high prices of agricultural produce. There was slight recession

1. J. Wilson *Final Report on Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District, in the Punjab 1879—83*, p. 280.

2. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 171.

in prices in 1944 and 1945, but after 1945 the general scarcity of foodgrains and inflationary factors were responsible for the price level to rise enormously.

Consequent upon the Partition of the country in 1947, economic activities suffered to a very great extent due to dislocation of working population. A proper working force could not be developed for a long time and this affected the general economic conditions badly. There was a further rise in the price level. Price control was imposed by the Government of India in many sectors to stabilize the general price level all over the country. The measures taken proved fairly effective and there was reasonable decline in prices.

During the First Five Year Plan (1951—56) agricultural production increased considerably and prices of food products fell in 1953-54. The price control on foodgrains was lifted. But the upward trend in prices started again immediately thereafter. The general scarcity of foodgrains due to harvest failure and taking up of development activities with long gestation periods, gave birth to various inflationary factors to raise the price level during the Second Five-Year Plan (1956—61). In the Third Plan (1961—66), the prices of various agricultural products increased enormously. During the three annual plans (1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69) and the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969—74) the wholesale prices registered an unprecedented upward trend. The prices have been increasing since then.

The following table shows the average annual wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities in the district :—

(In Rs.)

Commodity	Unit	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Wheat	Quintals	105	110	112	121	120	115.50
Jowar	do	90	100	165	165	160	158
Bajra	do	85	90	60	100	100	122
Maize	do	80	82	90	65	70	75
Gram]	do	102	135	150	210	200	332
Gur]	do	130	300	300	110	165	150
Potato	do	100	500	80	60	90	125
Cotton (Desi)	per bale	240	300	300	300	340	340
Cotton (American)	do	280	455	435	340	390	450

There is a time lag between the movement of wholesale and retail prices. The reaction of the wholesale prices is quicker than that of the retail prices, because the market information regarding the movement of prices

flows down to the retailer comparatively at a slow pace. The following table shows the retail prices of important commodities in the first week of the July from 1976 to 1981 which prevailed at Sirsa :—

(In Rs.)

Commodity	Unit	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Rice (Medium)	kg.	2.00	1.75	1.80	2.00	2.25
Wheat (Kalyan)	kg.	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.50
Maize	kg.	2.00	1.50	1.60	1.80	2.25
Atta	kg.	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.60
Maida	kg.	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.25	2.40
Moong Dal	kg.	5.00	5.20	5.40	5.80	6.10
Urd Dal	kg.	4.75	5.10	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sugar	kg.	9.00	3.00	3.00	7.80	8.00
Gur	kg.	5.00	1.90	2.20	3.75	4.30
Mustard Oil	kg.	11.00	9.00	9.75	12.50	13.00
Vanaspati	kg.	13.00	11.00	11.50	12.50	14.00
Kerosene Oil	litre	1.35	1.35	1.52	1.65	1.77

WAGES

Wages generally signify all remuneration capable of being expressed in terms of money paid to a person for the work done by him. The level of wages obtaining at a particular period gives an indication about the prevailing conditions of a region. Price fluctuations generally influence the wage level.

During mid 19th century, in the then Sirsa district, wages generally rose very high at harvest time, often to 5 annas a man for a day, or 3 annas or 4 annas with food, which generally consisted of a seer of grain per day to each adult. Wages fluctuated with the fluctuations of the harvests and of prices. In times of plenty, or after an epidemic labourers were too few for the demand and wages rose high. When the harvests were bad, work was difficult to get and food was dear, and labourers were ready to work for very little. In the drought of 1837-38 able bodied men were satisfied with an anna a day and in the scarcity of 1877-78, wages of ordinary labourers fell from 3 annas to an anna a day and artisans who used to

get 5 annas were glad to take $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas. The condition of labourers of all kinds went up and down with the fluctuations of the harvest but on the whole, work was plenty, wages were high and food was cheap. The labourers were generally better off in this district than in most others.¹

As the district was merged with Hisar district in 1884, separate figures of wages prevailing in Sirsa district are not available for the years thereafter. However, from the figures pertaining to Hisar district (of which Sirsa formed part), one can have broad idea about the wage conditions prevailing in the areas now comprising Sirsa district.

During the last quarter of the 19th century, the wages of the skilled labourers per day were 5 annas to 8 annas and that of unskilled from 2 annas to 3 annas in the then Hisar district. In 1909, the daily wages of skilled labourers varied from 8 annas to 12 annas and that of unskilled labourer from 4 annas to 6 annas. The wages of skilled and unskilled labourers rose in the subsequent years and varied between one rupee $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas to one rupee 7 annas for skilled labourers and 7 annas to 10 annas for unskilled labourers in 1927. There was steep fall in the wages after 1929-30 and a skilled labourer was available for 6 annas to 8 annas per day and an unskilled labourer for 2 annas to 4 annas per day during the year 1932.

In 1937, the common rate of daily wage in the Hisar district was 4 annas per day. The masons were paid at the rates varying from 8 annas to one rupee. The wages of a blacksmith also varied from half rupee to one rupee. The ploughman got monthly wage between Rs. 6 to Rs. 10. The outbreak of World War II in 1939 caused a rise in wages of both skilled and unskilled labourers. When the wage census was taken in December 1943, the rate of daily wages for unskilled labourers in the district was 12 annas and that of a carpenter and blacksmith was two rupees $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas. The daily wages of a mason varied from one rupee 8 annas to one rupee 9 annas. The minimum monthly wages of a ploughman were Rs. 13 whereas the maximum were Rs. 27.

In 1951, the lowest rate of wage of unskilled labourers was one and a half rupee, which was six times the rate of 1937. The daily wages of carpenter and other skilled labourers varied from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. The monthly wages of ploughman varied between Rs. 38 to Rs. 66.

During the fifties the wages remained more or less constant, it was only towards 1959-60 when the wages began to rise. The rise became steep after 1969-70.

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revised Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab* 1879-83, p. 290.

Presently the workers in the district can be divided into three categories, viz., (i) whole time workers (ii) part-time workers (iii) workers on daily wages. In 1981-82, the wage rates of selected occupations in the Sirsa district were as under :

Particulars	Wages Per Mensem		Daily Wages
	Whole time	Part time	
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Casual Labour { Skilled	300.00	..	11.00
Un-Skilled	250.00	140.00	9.50
Porter	250.00	140.00	9.50
Chowkidar	250.00	140.00	9.50
Gardner	250.00	140.00	9.50
Carpenter	500.00	275.00	22.00
Cobbler	300.00	130.00	10.00
Blacksmith	500.00	275.00	22.00
Motor Driver	550.00	300.00	20.00
Tailor	425.00	..	20.00
Washerman	250.00	140.00	9.50
Barber	325.00	175.00	12.00
Scavenger	325.00	175.00	12.00

The wages of agricultural labourers are generally determined by the customary practice prevalent in the area and are regulated by the law of supply and demand. At the peak of the season, labour being more in demand the wages are high, while during the slack season, labour can be hired at lower wages. The wages for various occupations in the rural as well as in the urban areas are paid either in cash, kind or both. In addition to cash payments, breakfast and daily meals are also provided to casual labourers during the weeding, reaping, ploughing and other agricultural operations. The normal working hours are from sun rise to sun-set with a break of one or two hours. For grazing cattle, a herdsman gets two to four rupees per head per month. The rate is different for buffaloes, which are charged higher than cows. Skilled labour like carpenters and masons are employed on daily wages. The main choice of mode of payment of wages is in the hands

of the employer as he holds the best bargaining power. The labourers who are in short supply can dictate their choice to some extent only in the peak season. Even in peak season, they are generally dependent on the employer as they want to get work in off season also. The daily wages for different agricultural operations in the Sirsa district from 1976 to 1981 have been as follows¹ :

(In Rs.)

Items	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Ploughing	10.00	12.00	15.00	18.00	20.00	20.00
Sowing	10.00	12.00	15.00	18.00	20.00	20.00
Weeding	10.00	12.00	15.00	18.00	20.00	20.00
Harvesting	10.00	12.00	15.00	20.00	25.00	25.00
Picking of Cotton	8.00	10.00	12.00	12.00	15.00	15.00
Other agricultural operations	10.00	10.00	12.00	12.00	15.00	15.00
Blacksmith	15.00	18.00	20.00	25.00	30.00	30.00
Carpenter	15.00	18.00	20.00	25.00	30.00	30.00

Both prices and wages on the whole have been rising in the recent years and this phenomenon is in consonance with the general rising trend of wages and prices in the country. The price rise has outrun the rise in wages and the relative position of prices and wages has not remained constant. The slower rate of increase in wages than in prices has resulted in the decline of the real income of the workers adversely affecting their standard of living.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Programme was launched in the country on October 2, 1952. The basic problem in re-building the rural economy is the organisation of community effort at the village level, and the role of this programme towards this aim is of crucial significance. Rapid increase in food production is its prime object and its other allied activities are in the fields of animal husbandry, irrigation, cooperation, village industry, health and rural housing. The ultimate objective of the programme is the material development of the rural community by promoting self-reliance, solidarity and co-operative action.

1. The wages paid for different agricultural operations in the selected villages are taken to represent the whole district. The data given here relate to village Madho Singhana in Sirsa, Tahsil.

In September, 1975, when Sirsa was formed into a separate district, it had 4 Community Development Blocks, viz. Sirsa, Bada Gudha, Rania and Dabwali. There has been no increase in the number of blocks since then. On March 31, 1981 the blocks of the district and number of villages covered were as under :

Block	Date of Inception	Villages Covered
1. Dabwali	1-10-1960	71
2. Bada Gudha	1-10-1963	79
3. Sirsa	1-4-1959	95
4. Rania	1-10-1961	78

The Community Development Programme in the district has embraced multifarious fields like distribution of chemical fertilizers among the farmers, reclamation of land, pavement of lanes, inoculation/vaccination of animals and opening of adult education centres. Achievements in these programmes have made great impact on the community life in villages. It has helped to bring significant changes in their life pattern and thinking. Villagers have shed their earlier opposition to modern techniques of agriculture. They now unreservedly take advantage of the facilities provided by the development institutions and are generally more actively participating in the cooperative movement, small savings, health and sanitation, cattle development and similar other activities.

Integrated Rural Development Programme.—The Community Development Programme had provided an elaborate delivery mechanism in the form of development blocks and the village level extension agency. However, over the years, this mechanism had suffered considerable erosion and gradual disintegration. With the launching of the Integrated Rural Development Programme, efforts have been made to restore, to a substantial extent the mechanism provided under the Community Development Programme. Integrated Rural Development Programme in its present form was started from 1980 (earlier in 1978-79) has replaced the multiplicity of agencies for the rural poor. The programme aims at exploiting the rural productive potential so as to give benefit to the weaker section of the population in the rural areas.

LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Though the level of economic development attained by Haryana is very much above that of the national, there are wide variations from district

to district both in the structure of the economy and extent of its development. A few important selected indicators for measuring the level of the economy in the various districts have been given in the Table XIV of Appendix. From this, it appears that Sirsa district is better off according to one indicator while it is backward according to the other indicator. Since the entire state is predominantly agricultural, districts with well developed irrigation are naturally better off. However, taking all the factors into consideration, it is obvious that Sirsa lies in between the most developed districts and the least developed districts of the state and it is all set for take off position.

CHAPTER X GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Sirsa district, as a basic administrative unit, consists of two tahsils, Sirsa and Dabwali. In March, 1981, the number of villages in each tahsil was as follows:

Tahsil	Villages		
	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Total
Sirsa	233	6	239
Dabwali	84	—	84
Total	317	6	323

On the principle of decentralisation of authority in the administrative set-up, the district is divided into two sub-divisions, Sirsa and Dabwali, each being co-terminus with the tahsil area. Sirsa sub-division was created in 1903 while Dabwali sub-division came into being in 1976. The object of a sub-division is to promote efficiency in the administration and to ensure better supervision over public affairs through decentralisation. The Sub-Divisional Officer has power to deal with many matters expeditiously on the spot.

The strength of sub-division and tahsil officers in 1981 was as follows :—

Sub-Division/Tahsil	Officers	Strength
Sirsa	Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)	1
	Tahsildar	1
	Naib-Tahsildar	2
	Naib-Tahsildar (Account)	1
	Naib-Tahsildar (Agrarian)	2
	for whole of the district	
Dabwali	Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)	1
	Tahsildar	1
	Naib-Tahsildar	1

DISTRICT AUTHORITIES

Deputy Commissioner.—The general administration of the district is vested in the Deputy Commissioner. For administrative purposes, he is under the Commissioner, Hisar Division, Hisar. In other words, the state government's general authority descends through the Divisional Commissioner to the Deputy Commissioner. With the advent of democratic set up and increased tempo of developmental activities, the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Commissioner have increased enormously. He still performs the triple functions of British times being at once the Deputy Commissioner, the District Magistrate and the Collector, but his responsibilities, particularly as Deputy Commissioner, the executive head on the spot, have greatly increased.

As Deputy Commissioner, he is the executive head of the district with multifarious responsibilities. There is hardly any aspect of district administration with which he is not concerned in one way or the other. He has a special role to play in the Panchayati Raj. In addition to keeping an eye on the working of Panchayati Raj institutions, he guides the panchayats, panchayat samitis, municipal committees, market committees and improvement trusts and helps them to overcome difficulties and problems. As the senior most officer of the district he is expected to maintain contact with the elected representatives of the people.

As District Magistrate, he is entrusted with the maintenance of law and order. In the discharge of this responsibility, he is assisted by the Superintendent of Police. After the separation of the judiciary from the executive in 1964, he is only principal executive magistrate for the enforcement of security measures and exercises judicial powers under certain sections of preventive chapters of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Here he is assisted by one Executive Magistrate.

As Collector, he is the highest revenue judicial authority in the district and is responsible for collection of land holdings tax and all dues recoverable as arrears of land revenue. If a party does not pay a tax in time, the tax collecting authority sends a certificate of tax arrears to the Deputy Commissioner, who has powers to recover the amount in the same way as he does in respect of land revenue. He supervises the maintenance of land records and agricultural statistics besides the management of government lands and estates. He is also entrusted with the implementation of land reforms and distribution of *taccavi* and other loans to agriculturists. The supervision of acquisition and requisition of land and administering relief measures in case of drought, flood and other natural calamities are some of his other duties. He acts as the District Elections Officer and the Registrar for registration work. He also functions as Marriage Officer under the Special Marriage Act.

The miscellaneous duties include civil defence, jails, liaison with military authorities and welfare of the members of the armed forces; collection of loans; donations and subscriptions; and collection and supply of all sorts of information about the district. The coordination work of the Deputy Commissioner to which a brief reference has been made, forms a very important part of his overall responsibilities. While co-ordinating the activities of various departments in the district, whenever necessary, he takes care not to interfere in their internal administration, and the procedures, methods and policies of their parent departments. He holds periodical meetings of all the district level officers with a view to reviewing the progress of work done by the several departments and co-ordinating and intensifying their efforts. He has to possess a clear picture of the objectives of all the departments so as to evolve an integrated approach to various developmental activities. The Deputy Commissioner has been authorised to inspect the offices of all the departments in the district and he may call for any report and other information regarding those offices and their working. He is, in short, the head of the district administration, a co-ordination officer among various departments and a connecting link between the public and the government in so far as he executes the policies, administers the rules and regulations framed by the government from time to time and also looks after the welfare needs and requirements of the people. In fact, he has become an essential instrument in the building of a welfare state.

An Additional Deputy Commissioner has been appointed to relieve the Deputy Commissioner in work relating to rural development.

Sub-Divisional Officer.—The Sub-Divisional Officer is the chief civil officer of a sub-division. In fact, he is a miniature Deputy Commissioner of the sub-division. He exercises direct control over the Tahsildars and their staff. He has to perform executive, magisterial and revenue duties in the sub-division. An appeal from the orders of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in judicial cases pertaining to preventive chapter of Code of Criminal Procedure lies with the District and Sessions Judge. In revenue matters, he is Assistant Collector Grade-I, but under certain acts, the powers of Collector have been delegated to him.

Tahsildar/Naib Tahsildar.—The Tahsildar and Naib Tahsildar are the key officers in the revenue administration and exercise the powers of the Assistant Collector Grade-II and sub-registrars and joint sub-registrars for registration work. While deciding partition cases, the Tahsildar assumes powers of Assistant Collector Grade-I.

Their main task being revenue collection and supervision, the Tahsildar and the Naib Tahsildar have to tour extensively in their areas. They are

principally responsible for maintenance of revenue records and crop statistics. In the discharge of their miscellaneous duties, they assist the development staff in their various activities in the execution of development plans, construction of roads, drains, embankments, soil conservation and reclamation, pavement of streets, filling of depressions and disposing of work connected with rural re-construction. They also help the Block Development and Panchayat Officers in enlisting the maximum co-operation of the people in rural areas in making the Panchayati Raj a success. They are assisted by Kanungos and Patwaris.

Since the actual preparation of village records and revenue statistics rests with the Patwaris the district is divided into 227 *patwar* circles, each circle being looked after by a Patwari who works under the immediate supervision of the Kanungo concerned.

The Lambardar (a non-official) is quite an important functionary in the administration. He collects and deposits the land revenue. These deposits were previously made in the government treasury under the charge of the tahsil officers. The deposits are now made in the branches of State Bank of India. In addition to his duties of land revenue collection, he looks after the law and order in his area and any breach thereof is reported by him to the nearest police station and to the Deputy Commissioner's agency. He is assisted in his work by the village chowkidar.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT FOR DISPOSAL OF BUSINESS

In addition to sub-division and tahsil staff the Deputy Commissioner is assisted by the General Assistant and the Additional General Assistant. Assistant Commissioner/Extra Assistant Commissioners are also some times temporarily appointed in the district with varying degrees of powers. These officers relieve the Deputy Commissioner of the detailed and routine activities of his office. The General Assistant is responsible for functions and works relating to establishment, revenue, and defence etc. whereas the Additional General Assistant looks after the work relating to panchayats, panchayat samitis, five year plans and of local development works.

Various district committees have been constituted in the district. These committees help to redress the grievances of the people; to review the progress of agricultural development, to work out the ways and means to improve health and sanitation conditions; to take suitable steps for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their dependents; to work out integrated development of towns and watch the progress of revenue collection and disposal of surplus land.

DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

To administer schemes of development, the Sirsa district has been divided into 4 blocks, viz., Sirsa, Bada Gudha, Rania and Dabwali. A block was previously under the charge of a Block Development Officer but with the merger of the Panchayat Department with the Development Department on October 31, 1959, the Block Development Officer has been re-designated as the Block Development and Panchayat Officer and has been vested with powers of District Panchayat Officer under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj in 1961, the development of the block is looked after by an elected body known as Panchayat Samiti. The Block Development and Panchayat Officer functions under the administrative control of the Panchayat Samiti and also functions its *ex officio* Executive Officer.

Each block has been provided with Extension Officers from the Development, Industries, Agriculture, Co-operative and Panchayat Departments, who function under the control of Block Development and Panchayat Officer. This procedure helps in the co-ordination of several developmental activities in the block.

For the implementation of programmes relating to the uplift of rural women in the blocks, the Block Development and Panchayat Officer is assisted by Mukhya Sevikas and Gram Sevikas who are under the administrative control of the Lady Circle Supervisor, Hisar.¹ The various programmes under taken by them include kitchen gardens, arts and crafts centres, *Balwadis*, home decoration, poultry farming, etc.

Panchayats have been constituted at the village level to look after the development works.

POLICE

The police administration in the district is under the Superintendent of Police, who, next to the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The Superintendent of Police is assisted by two Deputy Superintendents; one at Sirsa and the other at Dabwali. He functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Hisar Range, Hisar.

In 1981, there were 9 police stations and 8 police posts in the district.²

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1. The Lady Circle Supervisor functions under the overall control of the Director Women Programme, Development Department, Haryana. Chandigarh.
 2. For details about the functioning of police, the Chapter XII on 'Law and Order and Justice' may be seen.

JUDICIARY

The organisation of civil and criminal justice in the district is headed by the District and Sessions Judge, Hisar assisted by two Additional Session Judges posted at Sirsa. The civil justice is administered by the Senior Sub-Judge, Sirsa and the criminal justice by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sirsa. They have under them four Sub-Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrates, three at Sirsa and one at Dabwali. The District and Sessions Judge functions under the direct control of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Previously criminal and civil business on behalf of the government in the district was done by the Public Prosecutor and the Government Advocate respectively. In 1960, a regular service known as the Punjab District Attorney service was constituted. The work of litigation on behalf of the government is done in the district by a District Attorney. He conducts cases in civil and criminal courts. He functions under the general control of the Legal Remembrancer and is not allowed any private practice. He is assisted by 6 Assistant District Attorneys, 4 of which are posted at Sirsa and 2 at Dabwali.

OATH COMMISSIONER

There are 5 Oath Commissioners, out of which three are functioning at Sirsa and two at Dabwali. They charge Re. 1 as attestation fee for each affidavit attested.

NOTARY PUBLIC

There is one Notary Public in the district. The main functions of the Notary Public are preparation and attestation of affidavit, administration of oath, etc. The fee for an attestation of affidavit is Rs. 2.50 and for certifying or authenticating a document as original is Rs. 5.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

HISTORY OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Sirsa seems to be in the administrative division of Hisar Feroza Sarkar during Firuz Shah reign but thereafter it was hardly under any settled government. In the time of Akbar, Sirsa was one of the *dasturs* of Hisar Feroza Sarkar. Prior to the British annexation, the inhabitants who were mostly roaming pastoral families, had paid little to any ruler. The only revenue derived from the tract by any chief claiming jurisdiction over it had reached him in the shape of plunder secured by an armed foray. The Bhattis exacted one-fourth of the gross produce of the cultivated land but really they took what they could get. When the Raja of Bikaner or Patiala who had jurisdiction over the part of the district, sent forward his subjects to colonise the tract, he ignored the rights of pastoral inhabitants and assumed authority to grant permission to the colonists to settle in any place not already occupied. The colonists were required to give a certain portion of the produce of their land which was usually taken in kind. The Sikh Chief of Patiala ordinarily exacted one-seventh of the gross produce. The Raja of Bikaner, nothing for the first five years but thereafter he levied his dues in cash at the rate of Rs. 2 per plough of 10 or 12 acres.¹

When the district came under the British, they seem to have at once introduced a system of cash assessments with short leases. These assessments were based on the estimates of the previous income of the Indian ruler but these were generally so high that these could not be realised in full except in unusually good year. The actual income from the land revenue each year fluctuated greatly and depended on the nature of the harvest. Villages were constantly in arrears and in practice it was decided every year how much could be taken out of the village. If the demand was not paid in time, the whole of the grain belonging to village was attached and no portion of it was released until the demand has been paid in cash or good security for future payment had been given. Sometimes, the grain was sold on the account of government as the owners were unable to redeem it.² The summary settlements effected by the British were mostly allowed to continue in force until the first regular settlement.

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report of the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab, 1879-83*, p. 318-319.

2. *Ibid*, p. 390.

The first regular settlement was completed in 1864. It was based on the principle that the land revenue demand was half the net profits of the cultivation and could be paid in an average year. The settlement was revised between 1879 and 1883 and was enforced with effect from kharif 1881 for a period of 20 years. An increase of 47 percent was secured over the previous demand and a system of fluctuating assessment was introduced into villages dependent on floods of the Ghaggar. The second revision of the settlement was completed between 1901-1902 which was sanctioned from kharif 1903 to rabi 1918 and was further extended to the end of 1921. It was based on the average produce estimates, 80 per cent of the half net assets was taken as the revenue demand but the estimates of prices and yields assumed were very cautious.

The Sirsa district was resettled in 1919-1922 and the new assessment was sanctioned with effect from kharif 1922 for a period of 20 years. The district was divided into three assessment circles known as Rohi, Bagar and Nali. The incidence of assessment in Rohi circle was 41.1 paise per cultivated acre and 60.9 paise per matured acre. In addition, a *nahri parta* of 25 paise per acre on irrigated land in certain estates was also imposed. The Bagar circle was assessed at the rate of 23.4 paise per cultivated acre and 43.2 paise per matured acre. In Nali circle, the fixed and fluctuating assessment was levied. The fixed assessment was at the rate of 43.2 paise per cultivated acre and 75 paise per matured acre. The incidence of fluctuating assessment was Rs. 1.56 paise per cultivated acre and 2.79 paise per matured acre. Besides, *nahri parta* of 19 paise per acre was levied in 25 villages irrigated, by the Western Yamuna Canal. The overall increase over the previous settlement was 53 per cent (59 per cent in Rohi, 49 per cent in Nali and 36 per cent in Bagar) the weak Bagar circle escaping with an increase of only 36 per cent.

The settlement worked well except in the years of bad rainfall and the collection was 99 per cent in 1923-24, 93 per cent in 1925-26, 99 per cent in 1926-27 and 83 per cent in 1927-28. Thereafter, due to successive failure of crops, the collection of revenue dropped to 61, 64 and 62 per cent in 1929-30, 1930-31 & 1931-32 respectively. The hardship was further aggravated due to fall in prices in thirties and subsequent failure of crops and famine conditions in 1932-33, 1936-37, 1938-39, 1939-40, and 1940-41. The prices began to rise in 1941 and land owners were better off thereafter. The settlement sanctioned upto 1942 ran for several years. The land revenue fixed at the last settlement had lost its relationship with income from land. There was a lot of increase in irrigated acreage and other factors combined to bring prosperity to land owners.

The government in order to avail a share of the enhanced income from land, levied surcharge in 1954 under the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954. Under the Act, every land owner who paid revenue in excess of Rs 10

was liable to pay a surcharge thereon to the extent of one quarter of land revenue if the amount payable by him as land revenue did not exceed Rs. 30, and two fifth of the land revenue if it exceeded Rs. 30.

The special charge was levied under the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charges) Act, 1958, from the rabi harvest of agricultural year 1957-58. The rate of special charge was based on the income tax pattern with different slabs for different categories of land-owners. The slab rates were such that the incidence of special charge mainly fell on those who could afford to pay it. While the land holders paying revenue ('Land revenue' plus surcharge) up to Rs. 50 had been exempted from the provisions of the Act, those paying more than Rs. 1,000 were subjected to 300 per cent increase in land revenue.

A cess on commercial crops namely, cotton, sugarcane and chilly at the rate of Rs. 4 per acre in the case of land which was irrigated by canal water and Rs. 2 per acre in case of other land had been levied from kharif 1963 under the Punjab Commercial Crops Cess Act, 1963. Areas under commercial crops, sown solely for domestic use upto one *kanal* in the case of chilly and 2 *kanals* in the case of sugarcane or cotton were exempt from this levy.

An additional surcharge on the land revenue at the rate of 50 per cent was levied for the development of Kurukshetra University/town in 1967. Initially, this had been levied for kharif 1967 and rabi 1968, but it was extended for kharif and rabi harvests of the agricultural year 1968-69, under the Haryana Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1969. The levy of additional surcharge was further extended upto 1973-74 but it could only be collected upto 1972-73 on account of the enforcement of the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973.

The state government took the view that the collection of these levies had become cumbersome not only for the revenue agency but also for the cultivators. To meet the situation, the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973 repealed the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954, the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charges) Act, 1958, the Punjab Commercial Crops Cess Act 1963 and the Haryana Land Revenue (Additional Surcharge) Act, 1969 and consolidated these levies into a single tax known as the land holding tax. However, the land holding tax shall not be levied and charged on land which is liable to special assessment under Section 59 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, or the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Assessment) Act, 1966. Further, during the period the above tax is levied and charged, the land shall not be liable to payment of land revenue by way of general assessment under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, or the payment of local rate under the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961. The Act brings out a concept of holdings on the basis of a family rather than the individual as a unit for the purpose of imposition of tax and provides for graded taxation on the basis of holdings'

size. The present (1981) rates of land tax are as under :

Class of land (specified in Schedule I) Comprising the land holding	Rate of tax
I	(a) Seventy paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ; (b) One rupee per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ; and (c) One rupee and thirty-five paise per 0.05 hectare for remaining land.
II	(a) Sixty paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ; (b) Ninety paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares. and (c) one rupee and twenty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.
III	(a) Forty paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ; (b) Fifty paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ; and (c) Sixty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.
IV	(a) Ten paise per 0.05 hectare for the first one hectare ; (b) Fifteen paise per 0.05 hectare for the next four hectares ; and (c) Twenty paise per 0.05 hectare for the remaining land.

The landowners of land holdings measuring 2.5 hectares or less were exempted from the payment of this tax with effect from November 15, 1978 by the Haryana Land Holdings Tax (Amendment) Act, 1978. Later a surcharge at the rate of 10 per cent on holdings exceeding 4.80 hectares but not exceeding 6 hectares and 15 per cent on holdings exceeding 6 hectares was levied with effect from June 16, 1979.

Sirsa district comprises the following assessment circles .—

- (1) Bagar
- (2) Nali
- (3) Rohi

The tahsil-wise classification of land in different circles is as follows¹ :

Tahsil	Class and Kinds of Land					
	Assess- ment Circle	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V
Sirsa	Bagar	Nehri (Perennial)	Nehri (Non- perennial Chahi	..	Unirri- gated Tal area	Banjar Kallar, Thur and Sem
Dabwali	Nali	do	do	..	do	do
	Rohi	do	do	..	do	do

Special Assessment.—The Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887 was amended by the Punjab Act XIII of 1952 to provide for special assessment of land put to non-agricultural use i.e. brick kilns, factories, cinemas, shops, hotels, houses, and landing grounds and other similar purposes. The work of special assessment was started in 1955. In the meantime, it was decided to levy the special assessment on *ad hoc* basis as a multiple of the existing land revenue with kharif 1955. Exemption was provided for hill areas including sub-mountainous areas (for 10 years) ; gardens ; orchards ; houses occupied by owners for agricultural purposes or purposes sub servient to agriculture ; small-scale cottage industries (for 10 years) ; and for any public, charitable or religious purpose. It was further provided that residential houses in occupation by owners, with a rental value not exceeding Rs. 300 would be exempted from special assessment. The enforcement of special assessment was suspended from kharif 1964.

LAND REVENUE AND SPECIAL CESSSES

Land Holding Tax.—The Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973 was enforced in 1973 and thereafter the collection of land revenue, surcharge, special charge, cess on commercial crops, additional surcharge and local rate was stopped and

1. The classification of lands in the Sirsa district is based as per schedule I of the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973.

only land holding tax was collected. The collection of land holding tax during 1975-76 to 1980-81 is given below :

Year ending	Land Holding Tax (Rs)
1975-76	58,35,220
1976-77	58,49,746
1977-78	58,62,836
1978-79	46,01,498
1979-80	35,66,444
1980-81	42,85,617

Special Cesses.—The cesses levied in the district included school cess, road cess, Patwari cess and Lambardari cess. In 1871, the local rate was imposed at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent raised to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in 1878. Thus in 1878, the cesses were school cess at 1 per cent of land revenue, road cess at 1 per cent, Patwari cess at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, Lambardari at 5 per cent and local rate at $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. These cesses added with rent of newly cultivated land, cost of village watchmen and messengers, common expenses of the village including stationery of Patwari and repairs of his office and later imposed post cess of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent amounted to 35 per cent of the land revenue demand. These cesses swallowed up a considerable proportion of half net profits of cultivation. The leaders of original body of colonists came to be known as Lambardars and on the introduction of the British rule, the lease granted to the village communities were made out in the name of those headmen. The headmen were representatives of the village communities in its transaction with the government ; they signed engagements for whole village and collected the land revenue and other dues and paid them in the treasury. In 1862, it was found that in many villages there were as many headmen as proprietors. Therefore, one or two according to the size of the village were selected as headmen and the others were left out as proprietors only.

During the revision of settlement, 1879-83, Zaildars were appointed against the payment of 1 per cent of the revenue realised by the government. Thus there were 34 Zaildars in the then Sirsa area, with an average annual emoluments of Rs. 62 in Sirsa and Rs. 37 in Dabwali. The Zails were very small and in many cases, these were very much scattered. During the settlement of 1901-02, the scattered Zails were apportioned among neighbouring Zails and their number was reduced to 20. The Zaildars were graded into 3 categories, 2 Zaildars at Rs. 200 each, 5 at Rs. 150 each and 13 at Rs. 100 each. Besides, 10 Inamdars at Rs. 50 each were appointed.

Till 1948, Zaildars and Inamdars continued to supervise and assist in the collection of land revenue. These institutions were finally abolished in 1952 and now only Lambardars are responsible for the revenue collection. Prior to the enforcement of the Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973, the Lambardar was paid *pachhotra* at the rate of 5 per cent of land revenue. Since various levies were consolidated into land holding tax, the lambardars' allowance was fixed at 3 per cent of the new tax. The allowance was again raised to 5 per cent in 1980-81.

Local rate has grown from small beginnings. It included road, school and post cesses. These cesses were later consolidated into local rate of $10\frac{5}{8}$ per cent of land revenue. It was subsequently enhanced a number of times and was later governed by the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961, when it was 50 per cent of the land revenue. With the enforcement of the Haryana Land Holdings Tax Act, 1973, it was decided that during the period the land holding tax is levied, the land shall not be liable to the payment of local rate.

The Patwari cess had been fixed at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the land revenue, but in some of the villages it had been fixed at 10 per cent. In tahsil Dabwali, a Patwari was entitled to levy 1 per cent on the rent of all land broken up from the prairie after settlement. In 1880, the Patwari cess was founded and appropriated in fund from which Patwaris were paid. Besides, the Patwari cess was fixed uniformly at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on land revenue. The Patwari cess was remitted in 1906.

Water rate.—Water rates (occupier's rate) were initially levied on the area irrigated during each crop under the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873 which was later replaced by the Haryana Canal and Drainage Act, 1974. The rates were revised a number of times and the last revision made in rabi 1949. The income for 1975-76 to 1980-81 is given below :

Year ending rabi	Amount (Rs.)
1975-76	1,40,25,166
1976-77	1,39,98,994
1977-78	1,47,35,696
1978-79	1,48,44,559
1979-80	1,11,34,432
1980-81	1,83,99,001

Betterment charges.—Betterment charges are levied under the Punjab Betterment Charges and Acreage Rates Act, 1952. It is levied on areas served

by irrigation projects to recover part of the cost of the projects. The income from this levy from 1975-76 to 1980-81 is given below .

Year	Income (Rs.)
1975-76	22,18,451
1976-77	1,08,765
1977-78	23,797
1978-79	18,094
1979-80	4,716
1980-81	2,355

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

An estate, which is usually identical to a village, is the unit of revenue administration. Each estate is individually assessed and its record of rights and registers of fiscal and agricultural statistics maintained separately. All the proprietors are by law jointly responsible for payment of land revenue. However, this is only in theory but not in practice. Individual proprietor is himself responsible for the payment of land revenue and other charges. Each estate is represented by one or more Lambardars in its dealings with the government. Estates are grouped into *patwar* circles under the charge of a Patwari, while 15 to 20 circles form the charge of a Kanungo, whose duty is to supervise the work of Patwaris.

In March 1981, the district was divided into tahsils, *kanungo* circles, *patwar* circles and revenue estates as follows :—

Tahsil	Number of Kanungo Circles	No. of Patwar Circles	No. of Revenue Estates
Sirsa	10	158	239
Dabwali	4	69	84
Total	14	227	323

The following staff in the tahsil attends to the revenue work :—

Tahsil	No. of Tahsil- dars	No. of Naib Tahsil- dars	No. of Office Kanungos	No. of Asstt. Office Kanungos	No. of Patwaris	No. of Asstt. Patwaris
Sirsa	1	2	1	2	146	..
Dabwali	1	1	1	..	71	..
Total	2	3	2	2	217	..

The head of revenue administration in the district is the Collector (Deputy Commissioner). He is a steward of the state and is bound to respect and preserve from encroachment every private right in the soil, which has been created or confirmed by the state. He must ensure and assist in the measures to prevent the damage to crops from causes which are in any degree controllable by man. He must encourage and assist in every effort made by a right holder for the development of his estate. The Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) is the Assistant Collector Grade-I but as a measure of decentralisation, the powers of Collector under certain Acts have been delegated to him for the tahsil which falls in his areas.

The Tahsildar is an important officer and incharge of the tahsil for revenue work including revenue judicial work. He has to control the *Patwar* and *kanungo* agencies. He ensures the collection of revenue in time, to point out promptly to the Collector any failure of crop or natural calamities, which renders suspension or remission necessary and to carry out within his own sphere, other duties concerning land revenue administration. His work involves extensive touring, providing opportunities to deal on the spot with partition cases and other matters connected with the appointment of Lambardars, lapses of land revenue assignments, etc.

The Patwar is appointed for a circle consisting of one or more villages. Besides the proper maintenance of record, the Patwari is required to report to the Tahsildar any calamity affecting crops, cattle or the agricultural classes and to bring to his notice alluvial and diluvial action of rivers, encroachment of government land, the death of revenue assignees and pensioners, the progress of work made under the agricultural loans and similar laws and the emigration and immigration of cultivators. He undertakes survey and field inspection, aides in other government activities like distribution of relief etc., prepares papers showing the land holding tax demand due from each landowner and furnishes all information that may be required to facilitate the collections. He himself is not permitted to take any part in the collection of the revenue except when any *Lambardar* refuses to accept total demand from each landowner and no immediate alternative arrangement can be made.

The Patwari is under the immediate supervision of circle supervisor known as Kanungo. The Kanungo is responsible for the conduct and work of Patwaris. He constantly moves about his circle, supervising the work of Patwaris, except in the month of September when he stays at tahsil headquarters to check *jamebandis* received from Patwaris. There is an Office Kanungo in each tahsil who is Tahsildar's revenue assistant. His chief work is the maintenance of revenue records. He has also charge of the forms and stationery required by Patwaris, keeps the accounts of mutation fee, records the rainfall and maintains the registers of assignees of land revenue and other miscellaneous

revenue registers. He is the custodian of all the records received from Patwaris. A well-ordered *Kanungo* office is an important factor in the revenue management of a tahsil.

At district headquarters, there is a Sadar Kanungo assisted by a Naib Sadar Kanungo. The Sadar Kanungo is responsible for the efficiency of Kanungos and is normally in camp inspecting their work for at least 15 days in every month from October to April. He is the keeper of all records from Kanungos and Patwaris. He maintains copies of prescribed statistical registers for each assessment circle, tahsil and the district.

LAND REFORMS

The Sirsa district, owing to its recent colonization and development, offers facilities for the novel study of growth of landed rights. Rarely the history of rights in land go back further than to the social upheaval caused by the *Chalisa* famine of 1783. Prior to the famine, village communities were very sparsely scattered over the area at long distances from each other. Each separate household or family would break-up and cultivate what little land was required for its sustenance without interference from any other inhabitant, the cultivation being in scattered patches round the inhabited site. The demand of the state was distributed over land or over cattle or partly over the one or partly over the other. Cultivators were constantly throwing up their holdings in seasons of scarcity and moving off to places where conditions were more favourable. The difficulty under such circumstances was of course, to get sufficient land cultivated. Upto this period, nothing of the nature of the landed rights as between individuals had come into existence.

When the territory comprising the present Sirsa district came under the British rule, there were only some 30 villages along the Ghaggar and none in the sandy tract to the south nor in the dry tract to the north. As soon as the British authority was felt in the area, the colonists from adjacent areas in the south-east and south-west came to the sandy and dry tract of the district successively and founded villages which they held subject to the payment of a share of produce to the ruler under whose auspices they had settled.

The first step in the development of any landed rights was the demarcation of the jurisdiction of each estate. This was done between 1828 and 1838. The district was then found to be more or less sparsely occupied by village communities collected into inhabited sites and cultivating and pasturing their cattle on the adjacent vacant land. Such lands were not demarcated by any fixed or definite boundaries. The unit of administration was inhabited site and not any precisely defined block of land. The joint claim of village community of the land round their homestead was recognised in 1837.

Within the village community, there were two types of development. In the *bhayachara* (brotherhood) villages, each individual family could cultivate such land as it needed. When the demand was collected in kind each cultivator paid a fixed share of its produce and when it was paid in cash the proportionate share due on its cultivation was paid.

In *boladari* villages, the headmen had been from the first something more than the leaders of a band of colonists. His position had been rather that of lessee from the state, settling cultivators in the leased lands. The term of the original lease, whether from Indian rulers or the British, implied that the lease was in their favour alone. They levied fixed rents on the cultivators (*boladars*). They were responsible for the state demand and all loss arising from their income of rents in any year, being less than the state demand, caused due to absconding cultivators or other causes was borne by them. Thus, *Lambardars* or headmen were in a superior position and the cultivators were left in undisturbed possession so long the customary rent was paid. They were not concerned with profits or losses of the village administration or determination of the common village expenses. This tenancy passed on to the sons of cultivator on his death.

During the settlement of 1852, in *boladari* villages, *Lambardars* were declared proprietors of whole of the village and cultivators settled by them were declared to be tenants. In *bhayachara* villages, the men in whose names, as the leaders of the community, the original permission to settle had been made out, were declared as proprietors and the other cultivators were merely their tenants. The loss of their incipient proprietary rights by many proprietors in *bhayachara* villages was to some extent compensated by a wholesale creation of occupancy tenures. Practically, all tenants except those who had settled in a village very recently or who occupied a distinctly inferior position were made occupancy tenants, all other tenants being declared to be tenants without right of occupancy. This was the case both in the *bhayachara* and *boladari* villages. The rent of the occupancy tenants was also fixed so as to leave the proprietors in *bhayachara* villages a profit (*malikana* or *biswedari*) of 5 to 10 per cent, on the land revenue after paying the land revenue and cesses, and of 50 to 100 per cent in *boladari* villages. In the latter, the proprietors paid cesses out of his *malikana*.¹ Accordingly 7 per cent of the area was held by tenants-at-will, 27 per cent by proprietors and 66 per cent by occupancy tenants.²

After the settlement of 1852—63, the tenants rapidly extended their cultivation at the rates fixed at settlement and the proprietors, of course made no objection as the greater the area of land brought under cultivation the

1. *Hisar Distr. lct Gazetteer*, 1892 p. 165

2. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83 p. 330.

larger were their profits. This state of things continued till the settlement of 1879—83 drew near, when the increased competition for, and the consequent increased value of land induced proprietors to stop new cultivation except at higher rents and to demand higher rents for land which had been brought under cultivation since settlement. The tenants in the expectation of a further grant of occupancy rights at settlement refused to pay higher rents and the consequence was a larger number of ejectment proceedings under the Tenancy Act of 1868. These tenants met with claims for occupancy rights, but the Act in question gave no substantial support to such claims. After a proposal for special legislation had been negatived the tenants' claims were in the great majority of cases rejected and in respect of lands brought under cultivation after 1868, the tenants had to pay the proprietors' demand or be ejected. Such a step brought many a tenant, whose occupancy holding conferred at the previous settlement was not large enough to support him and his family, into the greatest difficulties.¹

The above situation of tenant right made clear the importance of the tenant element in the socio-economic condition of the district. Later the Punjab Tenancy Act of 1887 was enacted but this Act hardly provided any security to tenants. Most of the suits were decided against the tenants. The following table would show the cultivating occupancy in the district after the enactment of Punjab Tenancy Act of 1887:—

Year	Percentage of Cultivated Area		
	Proprietors	Tenants with Occupancy Rights	Tenants at Will
1891	25	41	34
1901-02	27	39	34
1911-12	26	36	38
1921-22	26	36	38
1931-32	24	34	42

It will be seen from the above table that the proportion of the cultivated area in the hands of tenants rises to 75 per cent and the above account of the development of tenancy tenures will explain this feature.

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 166

After Independence, the government decided to bring land reforms especially to carry out its policy of 'land to the tillers' in order to improve the conditions of tenants and increase agricultural production. The following legislations are applicable in the district :—

1. The East Punjab Utilisation of Lands Act, 1949
2. The Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Act, 1952
3. The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1952
4. The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953
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 Haryana Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972.

Under the East Punjab Utilisation of Lands Act, 1949 the government enforced the optimum utilisation of cultivable land, and any land left uncultivated for 6 or more consecutive harvests was acquired and leased out for a term ranging from seven years to twenty years for cultivation, priority being given to Harijans. Under the provisions of the Act, no land was taken over in this district.

Under the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Act, 1952 the rights of an *ala malik* in the land held by an *adna malik* were abolished and the *adna malik* was required to pay compensation for proprietary rights.

The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1952, declared all occupancy tenants as owners of the land.

The Punjab Security of land Tenures Act, 1953 provided protection to the tenants against ejectment and conferred rights on them to pre-empt and purchase their tenancy in certain circumstances, and fixed a ceiling on the land holdings and utilize the surplus area for resettlement of ejected tenants, landless labourers and small land owners. The ceiling fixed for the land holdings was 30 standard acres for local owners and 50 standard acres for displaced persons from Pakistan.

By March 1981, 3994 cases of surplus land were decided and 13,342 hectares of land was declared surplus in the district. The resettlement of eligible tenants on 5,606 hectares was done by March 1981.

The state government gives financial assistance to the tenants and landless agricultural labourers who are resettled on the surplus area for reclamation, and also advances loan for building houses and sinking wells.

In 1972, on the recommendation of the Central Land Reforms Committee, the Haryana Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972 was enacted. This Act repealed the provisions of the two earlier Acts in so far as they relate to the ceiling on land-holdings and utilization of surplus area. The new Act provided for the assessment of permissible area in relation to a family instead of an individual, and reduced the permissible area limit to 7.25 hectares of land under assured irrigation capable of growing at least two crops in a year, 10.9 hectares of land under assured irrigation capable of growing at least 1 crop in a year or 21.8 hectares in respect of any other land including *banjar* and land under orchards. In case, the family comprises more than three minor children, an additional area at the rate of 1/5th of the permissible area of the primary unit is permitted for each additional member, provided that the total does not exceed twice the permissible area of the unit. The head of a primary unit has also been given a right to select for each of his major sons (or widow and minor children of a predeceased son) area equivalent to the permissible limit of primary unit. Further, unlike the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953, the new Act provided for vesting the rights of surplus area in the government and for its utilization for settlement of tenants and other economically weaker sections of the society, for example members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, landless persons, agricultural workers and others. By March 1981 a surplus area of 5,606 hectares was distributed among 4,012 persons in the Sirsa district.

The Punjab Bhudan Yagna Act, 1955 was passed to promote the Bhudan movement, with the object of resettling landless cultivators on land received through voluntary donations. The area of 545 acres of land was received in Bhudan movement by March 1981.

Under the Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957 all jagirs, *muafis* and jagir pensions excepting military jagirs or grants made to religious or charitable institutions granted on or before August 4, 1914 were resumed.

Consolidation of Land Holdings.—The consolidation of land holdings was started during the British period in 1920 through cooperative consolidation societies. After Independence, the urgency of consolidation was realised and the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act, 1948, was passed.

Under the Act, the work of consolidation of land holdings in the Sirsa district was started in year 1959 and has been completed in 322 villages, by march 31, 1981. The work remains to be taken up only in one village (Deoti Jodha, Dabwali tahsil).

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE, STATE AND CENTRAL

State Sources of Revenue

In addition to the land, there are various other sources from which the state derives its revenue. A brief description of these is given below :

Stamp Duty.—This duty is collected under the Court Fees Act, 1870, and the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. The former was enforced on April 1, 1870, and the latter on July 1, 1899. Both these Acts were amended a number of times. The Court Fees Act was last amended by the Court Fees (Haryana Amendment) Act, 1974. The Stamp Duty Act was last amended by the Haryana Act, No. 7 of 1967. Both these Acts required the Collector (Deputy Commissioner), District and Sessions Judge and all the Sub-Judges to ensure that the applications for all suits and other relevant documents are properly stamped according to schedule. The collection of court fee and stamp duty under these Acts during 1975-76 to 1980-81 has been as under :

Year	Judicial (under the Court Fees)	Non-judicial (under the Stamp Act)	Total
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1974-75 (1-7-74 to 31-3-1975)	4,67,155	60,54,445	65,21,600
1975-76	7,37,487	84,99,371	82,36,858
1976-77	7,92,976	58,03,445	65,96,421
1977-78	9,99,394	1,03,55,338	1,13,54,732
1978-79	9,86,947	1,23,30,157	1,33,17,104
1979-80	10,88,341	1,48,00,776	1,58,89,117
1980-81	11,45,496	1,60,24,821	1,71,70,317

Registration Fee.—The Deputy Commissioner is the Registrar in the district. The Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars are Sub-Registrars and Joint Sub-Registrars respectively.

Appeals from the orders of the Sub-Registrars are heard by the Registrar. The Inspector General of Registration, Haryana, exercises a general superintendence over all the registration offices in the state and has power to make rules consistent with the Indian Registration Act, 1908.

The following statement gives the number of registered documents, value of property and the receipts :—

Year	Number of Registrations		Aggregate Value of Property	Amount of Ordinary Fees	Other Receipts	Total Receipts
	Immovable Property	Movable Property	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1966-67	4,989	—	3,34,18,307	3,75,442	8,971	3,84,413
1967-68	5,634	—	4,22,19,502	12,34,212	1,485	12,47,097
1968-69	7,038	—	5,43,36,528	5,78,287	12,580	5,90,867
1969-70	6,449	—	5,20,86,388	5,64,850	11,342	5,76,192
1970-71	6,543	—	5,57,01,495	6,13,151	11,927	6,25,078
1971-72	6,253	—	6,75,47,239	6,43,046	7,939	6,50,985
1972-73	7,354	—	6,92,62,523	6,73,908	10,322	6,84,230
1973-74	7,688	—	7,02,94,890	7,06,552	10,804	7,17,356
1974-75	8,733	—	9,44,39,165	9,59,618	11,633	9,71,251
1975-76	7,123	—	6,98,64,089	8,24,614	13,683	8,38,297
1976-77	15,036	—	11,68,05,683	6,49,314	17,373	6,66,687
1977-78	9,296	—	14,77,96,793	11,52,193	11,700	11,63,893
1978-79	9,809	—	19,11,29,965	13,62,036	16,700	13,78,736
1979-80	10,270	—	19,52,02,982	14,00,853	19,329	14,20,182
1980-81	13,447	—	26,91,18,426	14,89,513	23,880	15,13,393

Administration of Excise and Taxation.—For the administration of Excise and Taxation Acts, the district is under the charge of the District Excise and Taxation Officer, Sirsa. He is assisted by one Additional Excise and Taxation Officer, five Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers and eight Taxation Inspectors. The District Excise and Taxation Officer, Additional Excise and Taxation Officer and three Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers also function as assessing authorities under the Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973 and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. One Assistant Excise and Taxation Officer has been posted at sales tax check barrier, Mandi Dabwali. The fifth Assistant

Excise and Taxation Officer is incharge of the enforcement wing of the department in the district and also functions as the supervising officer of the sales tax check barriers and passengers and goods tax branch. Besides sales tax work, the District Excise and Taxation Officer has to do work under all other Acts being administered by the department. The Additional Excise and Taxation Officer and the Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers do mainly sales tax work. In addition to the sales tax work, the Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers have to attend work pertaining to the Professions Tax Act also. The Excise and Taxation Officers are authorised to exercise the powers of an assessing authority in relation to all dealers, without any limit of gross turnover, within their territorial jurisdiction. The Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers are authorised to exercise such powers in cases where the gross turnover does not exceed Rs. 5 lakh. The Taxation Inspector also assists the District Excise and Taxation Officer in the disposal of taxation work and allied matters. One of the Taxation Inspectors is working for passengers and goods tax while the others are working on normal taxation work.

On the excise side, the District Excise and Taxation Officer is assisted by two Inspectors, both of whom are in charge of excise circles at Sirsa and Mandi Dabwali. The District Excise and Taxation Officer functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Headquarters), Haryana, Chandigarh for administrative purposes, whereas the appellate work of this district is attended to by the Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Appeals), Rohtak. However, the overall charge is under the superintendence of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh.

There are four sales tax check barriers in this district, which are located at Mandi Dabwali, Rori, Musahabwala and Ludesar Chowk. The sales tax check barrier, Mandi Dabwali is manned by one Assistant Excise and Taxation Officer and four Taxation Inspectors. Four Taxation Inspectors are working at sales tax check barrier, Rori while three Taxation Inspectors have been posted at each of the sales tax check barrier at Musahabwala and Ludesar Chowk. The basic functions of these barriers are to check the evasion of sales tax, for which detailed procedure has been provided in the Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973, and the rules framed thereunder. Apart from checking the evasion of sales tax, the staff posted at the barriers are also entrusted with the checking of vehicles under Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952.

The State and Central Acts enforced by the Excise and Taxation Department in this district on the excise side are:

1. The Punjab Excise Act, 1914
2. The Punjab Local Option Act, 1913.
3. The East Punjab Molasses (Control) Act, 1948.

4. The Opium Act, 1878.
5. The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930.
6. The Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948.
7. The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.
8. The Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1965.

The net excise revenue collected during the years 1975-76 to 1980-81 is shown below:—

Year	Total Collection (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Net Income (Rs.)
1975-76	1,31,15,648	39,429	1,30,219
1976-77	1,54,72,548	52,500	1,54,20,048
1977-78	1,96,45,907	55,500	1,95,90,407
1978-79	1,69,45,968	63,300	1,68,82,668
1979-80	2,64,79,176	78,500	2,64,00,676
1980-81	2,51,31,722	95,300	2,50,36,422

On the taxation side, the State and Central Acts administered by the department in this district are:

1. The Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973.
2. The Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940.
3. The Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952.
4. The Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955.
5. The Punjab Entertainments (Cinematograph) Shows Act, 1954.
6. The Punjab Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Act, 1956.
7. The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.

Sales Tax.—It is a tax on the sale or purchase of movable goods in one form or another. It is levied under the Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973, which has replaced the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, since May 5, 1973. It is a major fiscal statute. The policy of the state government in charging this

tax is to minimise the burden of this tax on people who cannot pay easily and to pass it to those who can afford to pay. With this end in view, some of the commodities which are generally consumed by the poorer class of society, have been exempted, where as luxury goods are taxed at a higher rate. Thus, motor vehicles, auto vehicles, refrigerators, clocks and watches, iron and steel safes, almirahs, radios and radios parts, gramophones, tape recorders, imported liquor are some of the items which are taxed at the rate of 10 per cent. The goods exempted from the levy of the sales tax are enumerated in Schedule 'B' appended to Haryana General Sales Tax Act, 1973.

The important goods exempted from the tax are electric energy, agricultural implements, fertilizers, vegetables (except when sold in tins, bottles or cartons), fresh fruit, sugar, textiles, goods sold to the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association, the Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), United Nations Technical Assistance Board, Save the Children Fund Association, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, World Health Organisation and those co-operative societies in whose favour a certificate is issued by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Special concessional treatment has been given to a few selected items such as foodgrains, declared goods (goods which are of special importance in inter-state trade), ready-made garments, tractors, pesticides, raw wool and knitting wool and raw hides.

The receipt of sales tax during the year 1975-76 to 1980-81 is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs.)
1975-76	1,52,48,815
1976-77	1,78,68,432
1977-78	2,17,51,579
1978-79	2,45,53,548
1979-80	2,72,72,971
1980-81	2,51,31,722

Property Tax.—The property tax¹ is leviable under the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940. This tax is charged at the rate of 10 per cent of the annual rental value of the building and lands situated in the rating areas (municipal area). A surcharge of 50 per cent of tax is also levied from April 1, 1967. The self-occupied residential houses are, however, exempted from the levy of tax to encourage construction activities in the state.

1. The Act was repealed with effect from April, 1977.

According to section 7 of the Act, the assessment of the property units in the rating areas is to be revised after every 5 years, unless this period is extended or reduced by the state subject to a maximum period of 3 years. Property unit which is assessed at an annual rental value of upto Rs. 300 is exempted from the levy of property tax. In case of widows and orphans, the exemption limit is upto the annual rental value of Rs. 600. The revenue collected under the Act during the period 1975-76 to 1980-81 is shown below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs.)
1975-76	7,14,921
1976-77	11,84,712
1977-78	1,02,885
1978-79	34,429
1979-80	35,825
1980-81	986

Passengers and Goods Tax.—The Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, 1952 came into force on August 1, 1952. The Act provides that a tax shall be levied on all fares and freights in respect of passengers carried and goods transported in transport vehicles for the public in the state. The rate of tax, which was 25 per cent of the fare or freight paid by a passenger, was enhanced to 35 per cent on July 21, 1967 and to 40 per cent on October 7, 1969. In 1977-78, it was 60 per cent of the fare and freight. However, in some cases the levy is charged in lumpsum.

The collections made under the Act during the period 1975-76 to 1980-81 is as under:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs.)
1975-76	60,37,051
1976-77	72,88,449
1977-78	82,24,868
1978-79	1,09,45,332
1979-80	1,35,70,175
1980-81	1,59,14,066

Entertainment Duty.—The Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936 was replaced by the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955, on November 4, 1955. The rates of duty have been changing over the years. The rate of tax on payment of admission to a show, which had been 50 per cent since 1967-68, was raised to 60 per cent from December 12, 1970 and to 75 per cent from January 19, 1971. The rate was revised to 100 per cent from January 15, 1973.

The collections from the entertainment duty during the period 1975-76 to 1980-81 are as under:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs.)
1975-76	16,44,015
1976-77	22,84,112
1977-78	26,11,772
1978-79	26,61,315
1979-80	32,37,385
1980-81	33,92,030

Show Tax.—The Punjab Entertainment Tax (Cinematograph) Shows Act, 1954, came into force in May, 1954. The show tax is levied on the exhibitions for every show on the number of occupied seats in a cinema house. Later in 1974, the show tax was made 10 per cent of the entertainment duty payable.

The collections of tax from 1975-76 to 1980-81 is given below:—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs.)
1975-76	1,78,591
1976-77	2,26,628
1977-78	2,75,282
1978-79	2,72,458
1979-80	2,96,297
1980-81	2,93,876

Professions Tax.—Every person who carries on trade either by himself or through an agent or representative or who follows a profession or calling or who is in employment either wholly or in part, within the state, is liable to pay for each financial year (or a part thereof) professions tax under the Punjab Professions, Trades, Calling and Employment Taxation Act 1956. The maximum limit

of the tax was Rs. 250 per annum payable by a person whose income was more than Rs. 25,000 and the minimum was Rs. 120 per annum, payable by a person whose gross income ranged between Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 8,000. However, no tax was charged from the persons whose annual income was below Rs. 6,000.

Previously this Act was administered by the Finance Department through Treasury Officers in the state. Since April 1, 1964 it was transferred to Excise and Taxation Department, now, the Assistant Excise and Taxation Officers functions as the assessing authority under the Act.

The collection of revenue in the district under this Act during the period 1975-76 to 1980-81 was as shown below:

Year	Amount
	(Rs)
1975-76	3,22,161
1976-77	2,88,336
1977-78	52,763
1978-79	18,211
1979-80	10,795
1980-81	390

This Act has been repealed with effect from April 1, 1977.

Central Sales Tax.—The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 provides for levy of tax on sales made in the course of inter-state trade and commerce. The states have been authorised to administer this Act on behalf of the Government of India. The entire collection of this tax is appropriated by the states but in case of Union Territories, the collection is deposited in the consolidated funds of India. This central fiscal enactment has given the states a major source of revenue, which is increasing day by day. Under Section 8(5) of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 the state governments have been empowered to reduce the rate of tax on certain classes of goods, or class of dealers, or traders if it is expedient to do so in the interest of state. Keeping in view the difficulties of oil traders, the state government reduced the rate of tax on oil and oil cakes from 3 per cent to 2 per cent on June 1, 1969 and on wheat flour, Maida and Suji from 3 per cent to 2 per cent from January 22, 1970.

The rate of tax during the year was as under:

1. Inter-state sale to registered dealers	3 per cent and 4 per cent with effect from 1st July, 1975
2. Inter-state sale to Government Department (Central or States)	3 per cent and 4 per cent with effect from 1st July, 1975

3. Inter-state sale of declared goods to registered dealers	3 per cent and 4 per cent with effect from 1st July, 1975
4. Inter-state sales to un-registered dealers	10 per cent.
5. Rate of tax on such goods on which tax is leviable at the rate below 3 per cent under the State Sales Tax Law	The same rate as applicable under the State Sales Tax Law
(i) Ornaments and Jewellery other than Jewellery containing precious stones	2 per cent.
(ii) Bullion and species	$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
(iii) Pesticides, cord, raw wool and all types of yarn other than cotton yarn and knitting wool	2 per cent.
(iv) Cotton yarn	1 per cent.
(v) Ready-made garments made out of Handloom or mill made cloth excluding, Fur-coats and garments prepared out of Silk made cloth, but including umbrella cloth, pillow covers except when made out of silk made cloth of the value not exceeding Rs. 30	2 per cent
6. Rate of inter-state sale of goods fixed by State Government under Section 8(5) of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 are detailed below:	
(i) Inter-state sales of Bicycles (From 1st April, 1973) including tyres and tubes dealer when sold separately to any registered subject to the production of C Form	2 per cent
(ii) Inter-state sales of oils produced from Sarson, Toria, Til, Taramira but not in hydrogenated form and oil cakes produced therefrom to any registered dealer subject to the production of C Form	1 per cent.
(iii) Inter-state sales of Foodgrains their, flour (other than wheat flour, Maida and Suji) 'Chhilka' pulses, Dal and their Chhilka, etc., to any dealer	3 per cent and 4 per cent with effect from 1st July, 1975

- (iv) Inter-state sales of scientific goods to educational, Hospital and other Research institutions subject to certain conditions mentioned in the notification The rate applicable on the sales within the State of Haryana
- (v) Inter-state sales of sheet, circles, commercial sheets, and industrial sheets made on non-ferrous metal to any registered dealer subject to the production of C Form 1 per cent.
- (vi) Inter-state sale of woollen carpet yarn to any dealer subject to the production of C Form 1 per cent.
- (vii) Scientific equipments and instrucompo- The rate applicable to the ments and spare parts of such Equipment, State of Haryana instruments and chemicals thereof when sold so, among certain other institutions

(Note:—Where there is no tax on goods on sale within the state or where the rate of tax on sales within the state is less than shown above, the rate chargeable on the sale of inter-state sale would be either nil or such smaller rates as the case may be).

The net sales tax revenue collected during the year is detailed below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	(Rs.)
1975-76	96,85,233
1976-77	1,60,69,608
1977-78	1,78,51,463
1978-79	1,97,02,783
1979-80	1,90,25,555
1980-81	2,39,13,364

Central Sources of Revenue

Central Excise Duties—The central excise is administered by the Government of India. This department is represented in the district by an Inspector who functions under the control of the Superintendent of Central Excise, Hisar. The work pertaining to the customs and gold control are also attended to by him.

The main items yielding central excise revenue in the district include textile, tobacco warehouse, the newly installed paper factory in village Ram Nagar (new Sirsa), electric batteries, motor vehicle parts, motor vehicle trailers, woollen fabrics (processing and grey fabrics) and steel furniture. The cotton textile unit works under the self removal procedure introduced in 1968. The woollen fabric unit (processing), paper factory and electric battery unit function under the Selective Type of Control (physical) while motor vehicle trailer units and unit manufacturing motor vehicle parts work under the Simplified Procedure introduced in March, 1976. The tobacco stored in the warehouses is cleared under personal supervision of the Central Excise Officer after payment of central excise duty :

The collections of central excise duties during 1966-67 to 1980-81 are given below.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tobacco</u>	<u>Manufactures</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
1966-67	4,50,636	..	4,50,636
1967-68	4,63,693	90,065	5,53,758
1968-69	5,40,936	2,24,107	7,65,043
1969-70	4,02,508	2,63,453	6,65,961
1970-71	2,97,953	2,53,554	5,51,507
1971-72	2,31,301	3,03,487	5,34,788
1972-73	1,89,133	3,29,392	5,18,525
1973-74	1,41,253	3,64,431	5,05,684
1974-75	1,06,731	3,58,515	4,65,246
1975-76	2,57,468	6,73,067	9,30,535
1976-77	5,25,594	7,30,342	12,55,936
1977-78	5,23,747	7,93,390	13,17,137
1978-79	4,68,068	9,55,645	14,23,713
1979-80	..	8,87,861	8,87,861
1980-81	..	8,67,016	8,67,016

Income Tax.—The Indian Income Tax Act of 1922 has been replaced by the Income Tax Act of 1961 with effect from April 1, 1962. The collections under this Act during 1974-75 to 1980-81 were as under :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs.)
1974-75	3,89,276
1975-76	84,19,750
1976-77	82,30,825
1977-78	80,69,732
1978-79	77,31,672
1979-80	90,59,883
1980-81	86,20,000

Estate Duty.—The Estate Duty Act, 1953 (34 of 1953) came into force on October 15, 1953. The duty is leviable on the estate of those dying after this date. Proceedings for this levy have to be initiated within 5 years of the death but no time has been fixed for the completion of assessment. The collection under this Act during 1974-75 to 1980-81 were as follows :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs.)
1974-75	12,711
1975-76	37,626
1976-77	8,945
1977-78	11,521
1978-79	11,622
1979-80	69,879
1980-81	24,426

Wealth Tax.—The Wealth Tax Act, 1957, came into force from the assessment year 1957-58. In case of an individual the tax is leviable if the net wealth exceeds Rs. 1 lakh, and in case of Hindu undivided family, if it exceeds Rs. 2 lakh. The collections under this Act for the year 1974-75 to 1980-81 were as under—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs.)
1974-75	9,06,149
1975-76	5,06,105
1976-77	7,07,585
1977-78	6,98,090
1978-79	6,44,621
1979-80	70,024
1980-81	4,89,000

Gift Tax.—The Gift Tax Act, 1958, was enforced on April 1, 1958. It is leviable subject to certain exemptions on all gifts made after April 1, 1957 if the total value of the gift (movable and immovable) exceeds Rs. 5,000. The collections under this Act for the period 1974-75 to 1980-81 were as follows:—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u> (Rs.)
1974-75	43,494
1975-76	29,494
1976-77	40,508
1977-78	69,612
1978-79	71,114
1979-80	54,812
1980-81	53,000

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

INCIDENCE OF CRIME

During the 19th century cattle lifting raids on a large scale were common occurrences in the district. Bands of armed robbers on horses and camels made attacks on villages and carried off their cattle and other movables. The man who was most successful in lifting the cattle of his enemies, either by force or fraud, was honoured most among his fellows. The villages were often surrounded with a thick hedge of thorns or a deep ditch and had only one gateway which was closed at night. It was guarded by the village watchman so that no suspicious character could come in and that no cattle could get out. Many cases of house-breaking and theft were committed by professional thieves living in the adjacent areas. These crimes were most prevalent in July, August and September when the people were busy in the fields.¹

In the beginning of the 20th century, cattle theft remained the commonest form of the crime. Crimes of violence were comparatively of rare occurrence. Dacoities were not common and were chiefly confined to wandering gangs.²

An estimate of the crime position obtaining in the district from the year 1910 onwards may be had from the data given below about the cases of cognizable offences :—

Year	No. of Cases Reported	Convicted	Acquitted	Percentage of Conviction	Percentage of Conviction to Cases Tried
1	2	3	4	5	6
1910	297	82	51	27.6	61.7
1920	326	79	43	24.2	64.7
1930	605	148	98	24.4	60.0
1940	334	87	67	26.0	56.4
1950	421	122	109	29.0	60.0
1960	295	116	78	39.6	44.5
1970	448	146	182	32.2	43.1
1971	399	125	165	31.3	56.7
1972	448	230	175	51.3	64.4
1973	394	236	130	59.8	..

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District, in the Punjab, 1879—83*, pp. 207-208.

2. *Hisar District Gazetteer, 1915*, pp. 193-94.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1974	459	247	172	37.4	58.9
1975	396	189	118	29.7	53.5
1976	333	186	109	55.9	63.1
1977	462	94	36	20.4	72.3
1978	586	149	163	25.4	47.8
1979	738	188	238	25.5	44.1
1980	728	154	212	21.0	42.1
1981	690	97	187	14.1	34.1

It is apparent that crime situation has been changing since the beginning of this century and it is difficult to assign any specific reason. In recent years, however, the change in social values and increase in population may be regarded among major contributory factors. The disturbed conditions prevailing on the eve of the Partition in 1947 caused great havoc and the law and order situation at the time became virtually unmanageable. It took a few years for conditions to become normal and the downward trend in the incidence of crime started after 1952. With the increase in communication and transport facilities, education, and change in values, etc. a rising trend in criminal tendencies is again noticeable, and unless curbed, will create serious law and order problems.

Some anti-social elements seem to be very active near the bed of the Ghaggar river in the jurisdiction of Rania and Ellanabad police stations. They are in the habit of making country liquor and sell the same in the district. The bordering area of Rajasthan, known as Talwara Jheel, is known for the manufacturing of unauthorised arms. Since these activities are carried on the border of the state, the culprits many times manage to escape to Rajasthan. Nevertheless, police always remain active to thwart their activities. Many people living under the jurisdiction of Dabwali, Kalanwali and Bada Gudha police stations are opium addicts, which encourages smuggling of opium from the nearby Rajasthan border into this district.

Murder.—Murder figures fluctuate depending upon sudden outburst of violence. Some of the motives in the offence of murder in this district, as elsewhere, include land disputes, illicit relations, domestic quarrels, blood feuds

and the lure of property. The incidence of this type of crime is mainly confined to rural areas. The incidence of murder in the district since 1910 to 1981 has been as follows —

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	7	5	2
1920	8	6	—
1930	17	11	4
1940	11	6	4
1950	26	6	18
1960	13	8	3
1970	21	10	9
1971	20	14	6
1972	18	8	4
1973	13	7	4
1974	29	13	16
1975	11	3	1
1976	9	17	19
1977	11	4	2
1978	16	4	7
1979	20	11	10
1980	24	12	7
1981	29	1	18

The highest number of murders was reported in 1974 and 1981. The increase is noticeable since 1930 with a sudden decrease in 1976.

Culpable homicide not amounting to murder.—The motive for this type of crime are identical as in the case of murder, however, this crime is not premeditated and is committed in a state of rage. It lacks the intention to kill a person.

The following figures show the incidence of this crime from 1910 to 1981 :—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	3	—	—
1920	6	2	2
1930	4	4	—
1940	8	—	3
1950	1	—	1
1960	8	7	1
1970	3	1	—
1971	3	2	—
1972	2	—	1
1973	—	—	—
1974	2	—	2
1975	5	1	—
1976	—	5	5
1977	1	5	1
1978	5	3	3
1979	7	6	8
1980	8	3	2
1981	4	—	2

Dacoity.—Dacoity has become rare in the district. However, this form of crime was never high since 1910. In 1920, only one case of dacoity was reported, while in 1940 five cases were reported, out of these five cases three culprits were convicted. In 1950, only two dacoities were reported and in 1974, there was a single case of dacoity which was reported and the culprit was acquitted. The following table shows the incidence of this crime since 1975:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1975	—	—	—
1976	—	—	—
1977	1	—	—
1978	—	—	—
1979	1	—	—
1980	—	—	1
1981	1	—	—

Robbery.—Robbery has been either non existent or quite negligible in the district, except for the years 1930, 1940 and 1950. Patrolling and other preventive measures adopted by the district police have almost eliminated it. The following table shows the incidence of this crime since 1910:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquit- ted
1910	3	1	—
1920	9	1	1
1930	27	10	2
1940	25	7	3
1950	11	1	2
1960	—	—	—
1970	—	—	—
1971	—	—	—
1972	—	—	—
1973	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—
1975	1	—	—
1976	1	—	—
1977	—	1	1
1978	1	—	—
1979	4	—	—
1980	—	—	1
1981	6	—	—

Burglary.—The following table shows the incidence of burglary in the district since 1910:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	62	10	8
1920	106	22	16
1930	227	29	27
1940	102	22	12
1950	121	22	
1960	49	10	6
1970	73	21	3
1971	49	11	7
1972	58	13	19
1973	51	4	18
1974	55	9	7
1975	51	11	4
1976	42	28	14
1977	76	13	2
1978	83	33	23
1979	127	28	4
1980	123	25	6
1981	84	22	6

There was sudden increase in the incidence of this crime during 1930—40 and 1950. The number of cases during 1930 was the highest. Further in the year 1950 i.e. after the Partition, the number of cases under this head comes at second place. The Partition and consequent immigration of people from the West Punjab (Pakistan) presented unprecedented problems. The deteriorated economic situation and un-settled conditions then prevailing adversely affected the morale of the people. Burglary was committed by some of the people who had exhausted the resources and had no means of livelihood. The criminal elements took

full advantage of unsettled conditions. Despite handicaps, considerable improvement was brought about by the effective working of the district police. The incidence of burglary which showed an abnormal increase during the period from 1930 to 1950 started showing downward trend thereafter. But it was on the high side again in 1970 after which the downward trend started again.

Burglars are usually active during the summer nights when people sleep outside in the open. The proportion of conviction, it is no doubt low and this is due to the fact that circumstantial evidence and other possible clues left by the criminal at the time of the commission of crime are destroyed unwittingly by the parties concerned through ignorance.

Theft.—The following table gives the incidence of theft in the district since 1910:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	109	25	17
1920	78	19	3
1930	113	31	17
1940	66	20	11
1950	74	25	9
1960	46	15	2
1970	51	20	7
1971	60	18	20
1972	77	26	19
1973	70	16	26
1974	86	14	40
1975	87	14	4
1976	51	27	5
1977	83	11	6
1978	133	30	15
1979	153	58	31
1980	144	46	18
1981	149	14	12

The incidence of crime under this head though fluctuating, shows an increasing trend during the year 1930 and thereafter downward trend is noticeable. From the year 1971 again there is increase in the crime under this head. The free registration of cases is also one of the factors in the increase of reported cases of theft. A large number of theft cases are usually of minor nature involving small amounts of stolen property.

Cattle Theft.—The following table shows the incidence of cattle theft in the district since 1910:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	12	5	1
1920	9	3	1
1930	19	8	4
1940	8	3	1
1950	11	3	2
1960	7	2	1
1970	10	4	2
1971	12	4	4
1972	16	5	6
1973	14	3	5
1974	5	2	3
1975	8	2	—
1976	7	6	2
1977	12	1	1
1978	7	5	4
1979	8	5	3
1980	19	6	2
1981	11	5	4

Like other forms of crimes, cattle theft was also increased during the year 1930. It again increased in the year 1970. The cattle lifted from this district are usually passed on to the adjoining districts of Rajasthan and Punjab where they fetch attractive prices.

Cheating.—The following table shows the incidence of crime during the past 70 years:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	4	1	2
1920	2	—	—
1930	8	2	3
1940	5	—	1
1950	11	4	3
1960	4	1	2
1970	8	—	4
1971	5	1	4
1972	3	1	1
1973	6	1	3
1974	8	3	3
1975	13	1	—
1976	6	5	3
1977	13	2	1
1978	8	1	3
1979	13	3	4
1980	9	—	1
1981	3	—	2

The offence is not common. The highest number of cases reported under this head was during the years 1975, 1977 and 1979.

Rioting.—Personal enmities and family dispute about possession of land, flare up for momentary provocations take the shapes of riotes usually among the rural people. The incidence of this crime since 1910, is given in the following table:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	9	5	2
1920	10	—	4
1930	16	4	6
1940	12	2	1
1950	11	2	7
1960	3	2	2
1970	3	—	3
1971	4	—	3
1972	1	—	—
1973	3	—	3
1974	5	2	2
1975	1	—	—
1976	—	—	—
1977	2	—	—
1978	4	—	—
1979	6	—	2
1980	7	—	1
1981	1	—	3

The number of rioting cases was comparatively higher during 1920, 1930, 1940 and 1950. It was negligible in 1972, 1975, 1976 and 1981.

Abduction and Kidnapping.—The incidence of this crime, since 1910, is shown in the table below:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	3	1	1
1920	6	3	—
1930	22	6	2
1940	10	—	3
1950	12	—	6
1960	3	1	1
1970	7	3	3
1971	—	—	—
1972	3	—	3
1973	9	1	5
1974	3	—	1
1975	5	—	—
1976	8	1	1
1977	19	1	1
1978	24	2	4
1979	13	2	15
1980	14	1	3
1981	10	1	1

The incidence of crime under this head registered an increase during 1930, 1940 and 1950. The reported cases were isolated in character and not the work of any organised gang. Generally, these cases were the result of love affairs, abducted women often being consenting parties. Lack of education and persecution of women among some classes are other factors responsible for it.

Sex Crime (Rape).—The following table shows the incidence of sex crime since 1910:—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	1	—	—
1920	—	1	—
1930	4	2	2
1940	4	—	2
1950	7	4	2
1960	6	2	2
1970	4	2	2
1971	3	1	1
1972	4	2	2
1973	5	2	3
1974	3	1	1
1975	5	—	—
1976	2	1	3
1977	4	—	1
1978	2	3	5
1979	4	—	5
1980	13	5	4
1981	6	1	7

Juvenile delinquency.—During 1974, only 10 juveniles were involved in different offences. Out of these, 3 were between the age group of 10 to 14 years and the remaining 7 between 14 to 21 years. In 1975, 14 juveniles were reported to be involved in various offences out of which 5 were between 12 to 16 years and the remaining were in the age group of 16 to 20 years. In the offences against property, the juveniles were responsible for petty thefts.

The crime position among juveniles during 1976 to 1981 is given below :

Year	Cases Reported	Juveniles arrested			Convicted	Acquit- ted
		Age group				
		12—16 years	16—21 years	Total		
1976	8	—	13	13	8	—
1977	12	—	16	16	10	—
1978	102	10	102	112	—	—
1979	112	13	110	123	—	—
1980	110	10	105	115	2	2
1981	98	5	117	122	9	11

With a sudden increase of juveniles offences in 1978, there was steep rise in juvenile delinquency during 1979, 1980 and 1981.

Criminal tendencies in juvenile offenders may be traced to the loose control of parents and economic stress. The high index of prices has also been a factor for crime against property. Juveniles who are of immature mind find an easy solution for their needs in resorting to thefts and commit offences under the Excise Act. Illiteracy is another cause. The police officers on their part were given special instructions to handle the juvenile offenders with particular care and not to mal-treat them during interrogation. They were advised to treat young offenders leniently, not to mix them up, while in custody, with the hardened criminals and adult suspects, and to strictly abide by the provision of section 160 Cr. P. C. and interrogate them at their houses wherever possible.

Traffic Offences.—Apart from the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, road traffic is regulated by various other Acts. During 1974, 845 cases were challaned and Rs. 34,520 were realised as fine. During 1981, 594 cases were challaned and Rs. 13,370 were realised as fine. The following table shows the number of cases challaned and fine realised :—

Year	Cases Challaned	Fine Realised (Rs.)
1975	1,491	48,350
1976	1,965	41,882
1977	993	29,050
1978	430	6,725
1979	401	7,240
1980	570	12,680
1981	594	13,370

The increase in the cases during 1975 and 1976 is due to the large number of motor vehicles and other means of transport plying on the roads in the district. Another consequence is the increase in the number of motor vehicles accidents. The failure to observe traffic rules is responsible for most of the road accidents. The following table shows the number of cases of accidents registered since 1910 :

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	1	—	—
1920	—	—	—
1930	2	2	—
1940	1	—	—
1950	6	1	1
1960	13	2	8
1970	16	9	6
1971	19	9	7
1972	16	5	7
1973	27	11	13
1974	39	11	20
1975	51	18	1
1976	57	34	18
1977	26	21	8
1978	72	13	21
1979	83	18	15
1980	56	24	17
1981	54	18	22

Offences against local and special laws .—These offences comprise cases of public nuisance and those covered under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 (including illicit distillation), the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Indian Railways Act, 1890, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1955 and the Defence of India Rules. However, special mention needs to be made about the cases under the Police Act, Excise Act, Arms Act, Gambling Act and smuggling under the Essential Commodities Act.

Under the Police Act, which deals with smaller offences relating to peace, regulation of traffic, etc. 162 cases were challaned and fine of Rs. 415 was realised from the offenders in 1975 and 177 cases were challaned and Rs. 2,710 was realised as fine in 1981.

The following table shows number of cases detected under Excise Act and Opium Act since 1910 :—

Year	Cases Reported under		Cases Convicted under		Cases Acquitted under	
	Excise Act	Opium Act	Excise Act	Opium Act	Excise Act	Opium Act
1910	—	1	—	1	—	—
1920	4	—	3	—	1	—
1930	9	17	6	10	1	2
1940	17	8	13	8	2	—
1950	225	32	94	28	29	3
1960	157	51	125	47	30	4
1970	313	149	253	128	59	21
1971	373	172	286	136	74	36
1972	402	165	246	123	154	62
1973	399	222	247	134	151	88
1974	535	257	279	120	254	137
1975	746	293	286	98	30	25
1976	939	540	377	154	57	38
1977	415	320	268	264	208	95
1978	497	336	327	294	212	99
1979	622	335	444	412	194	168
1980	606	329	336	230	178	91
1981	676	278	164	91	125	40

The table above shows a gradual increase. The considerable increase may be attributed to increase in population and sustained efforts of the police to detect and curb this social evil. Increase in the number of liquor vendis also contributes to the growing incidence of this crime.

Likewise, there has been steep increase in the cases detected under Arms Act after Independence. The year-wise statistics relating to this Act are given in the following table :—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	19	14	3
1920	19	12	3
1930	28	16	4
1940	29	19	7
1950	173	146	23
1960	76	61	11
1970	147	85	54
1971	145	74	60
1972	164	97	62
1973	229	123	98
1974	217	81	33
1975	308	46	22
1976	428	89	26
1977	102	37	106
1978	118	103	167
1979	160	129	122
1980	270	75	64
1981	255	35	54

Gambling.—The table given below shows the incidence of gambling since 1910 :—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1910	—	—	—
1920	—	—	—
1930	—	—	—
1940	6	6	—
1950	8	6	2
1960	24	6	8
1970	29	28	1
1971	43	28	15
1972	65	47	25
1973	74	47	27
1974	73	44	29
1975	65	27	3
1976	112	71	36
1977	65	42	35
1978	99	60	36
1979	106	43	14
1980	124	83	48
1981	132	80	45

Gambling was not known to the people of the district till 1940. The gradually increasing trend towards gambling may be attributed to the ever increasing population.

Smuggling.—(in foodgrains)—The incidence of this offence is given under the following table since 1960 :—

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1960	11	6	3
1970	2	1	1
1971	1	1	—
1972	3	—	2
1973	24	8	13
1974	35	4	7
1975	49	4	6
1976	6	23	14
1977	1	18	8
1978	4	7	5
1979	9	6	4
1980	28	7	1
1981	10	5	2

Statistics under this head mostly include figures of cases detected for smuggling of various kinds of foodgrains punishable under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The traders smuggle wheat into the adjoining state of Rajasthan as it fetches higher prices.

POLICE

In Sirsa, the police force employed was controlled by the District Superintendent of Police, Hisar who was immediately under the District Magistrate. There were thanas at Sirsa, Dabwali, Rori and Rania, outposts at Jamal, Chutala, Ellanabad and Road post at Odhan.¹

In the beginning of the present century, the position of police set up remained more or less the same except that the police outpost at Chutala ceased to function. Besides, there was a railway police station at Sirsa for investigation of crimes committed on railways in the district.

With the formation of Sirsa as a separate district, a Superintendent of Police was posted at Sirsa in 1975. At present (1981), the police in the district is under the overall charge of the Superintendent of Police, who next to the Deputy Commissioner, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The Superintendent of Police is assisted by two Deputy Superintendents of Police, posted at Sirsa and Dabwali respectively. He, however, functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police Hisar Range, Hisar.

On March 31, 1981, the police force in the district was as follows :—

	Senior Superintendent of Police	Deputy Superintendent of Police	Inspectors	Sub-Inspectors	Assistant Sub-Inspectors	Head Constables	Constables
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Executive Police							
(a) Supervisory Staff ..	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
(b) For Investigation at Police Post and C.I.A. Staff ..	—	—	—	12	22	22	183
(c) Watch & Ward Staff at Sirsa and Dabwali	—	—	—	—	2	7	78
(d) Offices establishment and Communication room ..	—	—	—	1	7	18	17
(e) Police Lines establishment, Sirsa including reserves	—	—	—	2	4	14	81
(f) Treasury Guard, Judicial Lock ups Court duties and other miscellaneous duties and Contingencies reserves ..	—	—	1	2	5	34	129
2. Anti Smuggling Staff ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Prohibition Staff ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	2	3	17	40	95	488

1. Hisar District Gazetteer, 1892, p. 221.

There are nine police stations and eight police posts as under :

Sr.No.	Name of Police Stations	Name of Police Posts
1	City Sirsa	—
2	Sadar Sirsa	1 Jamal 2 Ding
3	Bada Gudha	1 Rori
4	Dabwali City	—
5	Dabwali Sadar	1 Chutala
6	Rania	1 Kariwali
7	Ellanabad	—
8	Kalanwali	1 Odhan
9	Nathusari (Chopta)	1 Jamal

The civil police is detailed for duty at the police stations and police outposts. Each of the police station is under the charge of a police officer known as Station House Officer, generally in the rank of a Sub-Inspector. He is assisted by one or more second officers, a Head Constable, a Moharrir or clerk constable and a number of constables, depending upon the load of work. The Station House Officer maintains law and order and investigates offences occurring within his jurisdiction. Wireless sets have been provided in all police stations and outposts. Mobile sets have been provided in the vehicles of police officers.

The district armed reserves are kept in the Police Line, Sirsa for utilisation during exigency that may arise in connection with the maintenance of law and order. However, the Haryana Armed Police contingents are also deployed for the protection of vulnerable points in the district.

The railway police is not allotted to any district in particular but it is a part of a separate state organisation functioning under the Assistant Inspector General, Railway Police, Haryana, Ambala Cantonment. The circle of the railway police are formed according to sections of the railway lines and they are concerned with the prevention, detention and control of crime committed in railway trains and on railway tracks within the railway premises.

There is a railway police post located at Sirsa which functions under the railway police station, Hisar. Its jurisdiction extends to the railway premises in the Sirsa district. The staff consists of one Head Constable and 4 Constables. They perform routine duties of maintaining law and order and investigation of cases of minor nature. The major crimes are, however, handled by the personnel of railway police station, Hisar.

Village Police.—For over a century some of the police functions at village level in the district which was then a part of the Hisar district, were performed by Zaildars, Sufaidposhes, Chowkidars and Inamkhores. All other institutions were abolished in 1948 but for the institution of Chowkidars. The Chowkidars

report births and deaths in the police station fortnightly, give information of crime, keep surveillance over the bad-characters residing in the village and report their movements. Besides attending to watch and ward duties, they generally assist the public officer on tour.

In the remote past, the village Chowkidar used to receive, as his remuneration, as a share from each cultivator's produce which was reckoned according to the number of hearths. Now the Chowkidars are paid by the government.

Previously, Thikar Chowkidars were selected by lot from among the residents of a village, those unwilling to serve were obliged to pay the cost of a substitute. These Chowkidars were provided only during epidemic outbreak of crime and emergencies. With passage of time the Thikar Chowkidari system became weak and is not of much help in the field of watch and ward. People generally are averse to Thikri Pahra but the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, has authorised panchayat to raise their own voluntary force for the purpose.

HOME GUARDS

Home Guards was formed in the district in 1960. It is governed by the Haryana Home Guards Act, 1974. It boosts up of the morale of the people by infusing in them a spirit of self-confidence and self-reliance to over-come emergencies. The training to the Home Guards personnel is designed to tone up the self-discipline, engender self-sacrifice, national pride and promote a feeling of dignity of labour among members. The overall charge of the Home Guards in the district is with the District Commander, Sirsa. In 1981, there were 4 rural blocks and 3 urban companies with strength of 400 and 303 respectively.

JAILS

There is only one sub-jail¹ at Sirsa. It was established in 1957 and is located in the heart of the city. The Sub Divisional Officer (Civil) holds part-time charge as Superintendent of the Jail. He is assisted by 1 Deputy Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 1 Head Warder, 12 Warders, 1 part-time Doctor² and two Sweepers.

The authorised accommodation of the jail is for 86³ prisoners who are generally under trial. However, there is a provision to keep convicts for a period of three months in this sub jail and they are generally sent to the District Jail Hisar within three months of conviction.

1. The Sub-Jail at Sirsa has been upgraded as District Jail.
2. One full time pharmacist is also working here.
3. The authorised accommodation has increased to 100 prisoners.

The sub-jail is located in a spacious two storeyed building. The prisoners are provided the facility of books, newspapers and a radio. Occasional cinema shows and dramas are arranged for the recreation of prisoners. A small canteen is also run by the prisoners under the supervision of jail authorities.

Besides, there are police lock ups in the police stations and revenue lock ups at Sirsa and Dabwali tahsil headquarters.

JUSTICE

Civil and Criminal Justice.—Sirsa was a separate district before 1884 and comprised the tahsils of Sirsa, Dabwali and Fazilka. The Deputy Commissioner who was the Chief Magistrate, was responsible for the criminal, civil and revenue justice in the district. The district was abolished in 1884 and Sirsa sub-division including Sirsa and Dabwali was merged in the Hisar district. The Deputy Commissioner of Hisar assisted by 4 Extra Assistant Commissioners was responsible for the judicial administration in the district. One of the Extra Assistant Commissioners was invested with powers of a Subordinate Judge for the purpose of civil business and another was entirely employed on revenue work. The Deputy Commissioner was also a District Judge. There was also a Munsif at the district headquarters. The Sirsa sub-division was under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner stationed at Sirsa.

In the beginning of the 20th century, the Deputy Commissioner, Hisar exercised the powers of magistrate of the 1st class and was empowered under section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code to try all offences not punishable with death. He also heard appeals from the orders of magistrates of 2nd and 3rd class. The Extra Assistant Commissioner incharge of the Sirsa sub-division was a sub-divisional magistrate with first class powers. There was a Sub-Judge at Hisar for civil judicial work. There were also two Munsifs at Hisar who exercised civil powers of the petty suits. The District and Sessions Judge, Ferozpur tried criminal cases committed to the sessions courts and appeals from the lower criminal and civil courts. For this work he used to visit Hisar, three or four times a year. Later a District and Sessions Judge was appointed at Hisar and looked after this work. There was a Tahsildar at Sirsa who was invested with powers of a 2nd class Magistrate. Besides, there were two Naib-tahsildars, one each at Sirsa and Dabwali who were Magistrates of the 3rd class. For revenue judicial work, the Deputy Commissioner was the collector and the principal revenue officer of the district.

After the Independence in 1947, the District Magistrate and other Executive Officers continued to function as judicial officers till the Punjab Separation of Judicial and Executive Function Act, 1964, was enforced in October, 1964. After the passage of this Act, the criminal judicial powers which were exercised by the Magistrates under the control of the District Magistrate, Hisar were shifted to Judicial Magistrates under the District

and Sessions Judge, Hisar. The Judicial Magistrates were also invested with the civil judicial powers and were designated as Judicial Magistrates-cum-Sub-Judges or Sub-Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrates. A Senior Sub-Judge and a Chief Judicial Magistrate assisted the District and Sessions Judge for civil and criminal work, respectively.

After the formation of Sirsa as a separate district, in 1975, a Senior Sub-Judge-cum-Chief Judicial Magistrate was posted at Sirsa, with appellate powers to hear appeals from the orders passed by the subordinate courts in the district. In 1981, there was an Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sirsa, a Senior Sub-Judge-cum-Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sirsa, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Sub-Judge, Sirsa, a Sub Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate at Sirsa and a Sub-Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Dabwali. These courts jointly disposed of the civil and criminal cases. The presiding officer of the court while acting on civil side is called Sub-Judge and on the criminal side he is known as Judicial Magistrate. The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sirsa hears appeals against the civil and criminal judgements passed by the subordinate courts in the district. The over all administrative control over these courts was of the District and Session Judge, Hisar because the Sirsa district was included in the Hisar Sessions Division. The jurisdiction, functions and powers of these courts in the district are detailed below :—

Name and place of the court.	Jurisdiction	Functions	Powers
Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sirsa	Sirsa District	To decide civil and criminal appeals arising out of the judgments passed by the lower courts in Sirsa district	On appellate side full powers of a District and Sessions Judge
Senior Subordinate Judge-cum-Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sirsa	Sirsa District	Distribution of work relating to civil suits and administration of class III and IV Officials belonging to the process serving agency	Enhanced appellate powers to decide small cause cases of Rs. 1,000, unclassified cases of Rs. 500 and land suits of Rs. 250. Powers of 1st Class Magistrate and summary powers under section 260 of Cr. P. C.
Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Sub Judge 1st Class Sirsa	Sirsa District	Distribution of work relating to criminal cases and Police Stations to all courts dealing with criminal cases. He also assigns duty work to the Judicial Magistrates on holidays	Full powers on civil side and can award sentence upto 7 years on Criminal side. Summary powers under section 260 of Cr.P.C.
Subordinate Judge 1st Class-cum-Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Sirsa	Sirsa District	To dispose of civil and criminal cases of I, II and III classes.	Full powers on civil side and can award sentence upto 2 years and a fine upto Rs. 5,000 in criminal cases.
Subordinate Judge 1st Class-cum-Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Dabwali	Sirsa District	Iditto	Iditto

The information regarding pending and disposed civil and criminal cases are given below for the years 1975 to 1981 :

Year	No. of Old Cases		No. of New Cases Instituted.		No. of Cases Disposed		No. of Cases Left Pending	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
1975-76	243	547	233	615	324	443	152	719
1976-77	152	719	1,657	1,463	1,447	1,077	362	1,103
1977-78	533	1,105	2,093	1,514	1,578	1,014	1,048	1,605
1978-79	1,048	1,605	1,952	1,412	1,998	1,678	1,002	1,339
1979-80	1,199	1,379	3,520	2,817	2,847	2,204	1,872	1,992
1980-81	2,163	2,128	2,954	1,280	2,441	1,172	2,576	2,236

After the passing of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, some of the functions of the civil, criminal and revenue courts were made over to the panchayats. Where cases lie in the exclusive jurisdiction of the panchayats, their cognizance by other courts is barred. The Chief Judicial Magistrate is empowered to revise their decisions and he in turn can delegate these powers to the Illaqa Magistrate. The panchayats being elected bodies, however, do not generally consist of persons with an adequate knowledge of law. The usual formalities and procedure are thus conspicuously absent in the trial of cases by a panchayat.

REVENUE COURTS

The collector is the highest revenue judicial authority in the district and an appeal or revision against his orders lies to the Divisional Commissioner and Financial Commissioner. The Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars are Assistant Collectors 2nd grade but in partition cases Tahsildar assumes the powers of Assistant Collector 1st grade. The General Assistant to Deputy Commissioner and Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil) are Assistant Collector 1st grade but Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil) have been delegated the powers of collectors under certain Acts.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney, conducts civil and criminal cases in the courts of the district. For civil cases, he is controlled by the Legal Remembrancer, Haryana and for criminal cases by the Director of Prosecution, Haryana. The latter is the administrative head of the District Attorney. In 1981, the District Attorney, Sirsa was assisted by five Assistant District Attorneys.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The organisational set-up, staff, duties and functions of the departments not mentioned in other chapters, are briefly described.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Health, Buildings and Roads and Irrigation are three wings of the Public Works Department located in the district.

Public Health

The public health works which include sewerage, water-supply and sanitary installations in Sirsa district are under the charge of two Superintending Engineers, Public Works Department's Public Health Circle and World Bank Public Health Circle both with headquarters at Hisar. They are further assisted by two Executive Engineers each holding charge of Public Health Division and World Bank Public Health Division, both located at Sirsa. The Superintending Engineers are under the administrative control of Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department, Public Health, Haryana, Chandigarh.

Public Health Division, Sirsa.—This division was established on November 1, 1970 and is one of the two divisions under the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Hisar. This division is headed by an Executive Engineer who is assisted by four Sub-Divisional Engineers namely ; Sub-Divisional, Engineer, Public Health Sub-Division, Sirsa, Sub-Divisional Engineer, Construction, Public Health Sub-Division, Sirsa ; Sub Divisional Engineer Public Health Sub-Division, Dabwali; Sub Divisional Engineer, Public Health Sub-Division, Fatehabad¹ (Hisar).

The division is mainly concerned with works relating to the maintenance and original works of water supply and sewerage schemes of Sirsa, Dabwali and Kalanwali towns, rural water supply scheme of Sirsa district and water supply and sewerage works in the mandi towns of Sirsa, Ellanabad, Rania, Kalanwali and Dabwali.

World Bank Public Health Division, Sirsa.—This division was established on December 31, 1978 under the control of Superintending Engineer, World Bank Public Health Circle, Hisar. This division is headed by an Executive Engineer who is assisted by four Sub-Divisional Engineer who look after World Bank Project, Public Health Sub-Divisions at Sirsa, Dabwali, Kalanwali and Sirsa.

1. The Public Health Works in Fatehabad tahsil, Hisar falls within the jurisdiction of this Sub-Division.

Under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme launched in 1954, 129 villages were provided with water supply facilities by March 1982. Similarly under another scheme of National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (World Bank Project) introduced on August 14, 1978, 35 villages were provided water supply facilities by 1982.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

The buildings and roads (except national highway) in the district are under the charge of the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads), Hisar. Under him are two Executive Engineers, each heading a separate division both located at Sirsa. In addition to eight sub-divisions functioning under these Executive Engineers, there are two electrical sub-divisions and one mechanical sub-division at Sirsa. The administrative control at the state level lies with the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads), Haryana, Chandigarh.

Provincial Divisions I and II, Sirsa.—The buildings and roads (except national highway) in the district are under the control of Executive Engineers, Sirsa Provincial Division No. I (created in 1966) and Sirsa Provincial Division No. II (in 1978). These divisions are under the control of Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads) Circle, Hisar. The Executive Engineers are assisted by 8 Sub-Divisional Officers, who are incharge of the 6 sub-divisions at Sirsa and one each sub-division at Dabwali and Kalanwali.

Mechanical Sub-Division P.W.D., B & R., Sirsa.—Created in 1971, the mechanical sub-division is responsible for operation, maintenance and repairs of all machinery belonging to Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads) in the Sirsa district. The mechanical sub-division Sirsa works under the mechanical division, Hisar, which in turn functions under the mechanical circle, Karnal.

Electrical Sub-Division Sirsa, No. I and No. II.—The work of electric installation and maintenance of all government buildings in the district is carried out through electrical Sub-Divisions No. I and II located at Sirsa. Sub-Division No. I was created in 1971 and No. II in 1980. These sub-divisions function under the Electrical Division, Rohtak and over all control of Electrical Circle, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads), Karnal.

Irrigation

The main source of canal irrigation in the district is the Bhakra Canal System. The system is in operation under Sirsa-Bhakra Canal Circle, Sirsa headed by the Superintending Engineer. The canal irrigation of this circle is looked after by 3 divisions; viz., Bhattu Division, Fatehabad (Hisar), Sirsa Division, Sirsa and Rori Division Sirsa, each headed by an Executive Engineer. Each of the divisions is assisted by various sub-divisions. For meeting the requirements of circle, there is also one Procurement Division at Sirsa headed by an Executive Engineer. Under Drainage Circle, Hisar, there exists a Drainage Division at Sirsa which is also headed by an Executive Engineer. There are two sub-divisions under this division. This division is engaged in the maintenance of the Ghaggar Canal System.

For minimising the wastage of available water in the district, a Canal Lining, Circle headed by a Superintending Engineer, is functioning at Sirsa. Under the circle, there exists four divisions two functioning at Sirsa and one each at Tohana and Fatehabad. Each division is functioning under an Executive Engineer.

HARYANA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

The Operation Division, Sirsa of the Haryana State Electricity Board functions in the district for the distribution and maintenance of electricity to urban and rural areas and provides new industrial, agriculture and domestic connections, besides, Grid Sub-Station Construction Sub-Division, Sirsa, Civil Works Transmission Sub-Division, Sirsa, Stores Sub-Division, Sirsa, Tower Line Construction Sub-Division, Sirsa, Tower Line Grid Construction Sub-Division, Sirsa and Operation-cum-Construction, Sub-Division, Ding.

Operation Division, Sirsa.—The Operation Division, Sirsa is under the charge of an Executive Engineer. He is assisted by eight Sub-Divisional Officers four located at Sirsa, and other four located at Sub-Divisions one each at Dabwali, Kalanwali, Rania, and Ellanabad with two Sub-offices at Sahuwala and Chutala. This division falls within the Operation Circle, Hisar which is under the charge of a Superintending Engineer. The division is mainly responsible for providing electric connections and the maintenance of electric supply in the district.

Grid Sub-Station Construction Sub-Division, Sirsa.—(33 KV Works).—The sub-division is under the charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer who functions under the jurisdiction of Executive Engineer, System Improvement Division, Bhiwani. The division falls under the Grid Sub-Station Circle System Improvement Circle, Chandigarh. This Sub-Division is responsible for the high tension Grid Station and their augmentation in the district.

Civil Works Transmission Sub-Division, Sirsa.—The sub-division is under the charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer which falls under the jurisdiction of Executive Engineer, Civil Works (Transmission) Division, Narwana. The division falls under the Civil Works (Transmission Circle) Hisar, and was created in 1962. This sub-division is responsible for construction of all residential and non-residential buildings in the area.

Stores Sub-Division.—This sub-division is under the charge of Sub-Divisional Officer and comes under the jurisdiction of the Executive Engineer, Central Stores Division, Hisar. This sub-division was created in 1969. The sub-division is responsible for the collection and distribution of all electrical items and material required for construction, operation and maintenance in the district.

Operation-cum-Construction Sub-Division, Ding.—The sub-division at Ding is under the charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer who comes under the jurisdiction of Executive Engineer, Operation Division, Fatehabad (Hisar district). It is the responsibility of the sub-division to provide electric connections and maintain electric supply in parts of Sirsa and Hisar districts.

Tower Line Construction Sub-Division, Sirsa.—This sub-division is under the charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer and functions under the jurisdiction of the Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Construction Division, Hisar and Superintending Engineer, Transmission Construction Circle, Hisar. It is responsible for the erection of new extra high tension sub-station and lines in the district.

Grid Construction Sub-Division, Sirsa.—This sub-division is under the charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer and functions under the Executive Engineer, Tower Line Construction Division, Hisar. This sub-division is responsible for the construction of 220 KV grid sub-station in the district.

COOPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

The department is represented in the district by an Assistant Registrar with headquarters at Sirsa and is under the supervision of the Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Hisar under the overall administrative control of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Haryana, Chandigarh. The Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies, Sirsa is responsible for the healthy growth and development of the cooperative movement in the district. He arranges for the agriculturist (through central cooperative bank, land development banks and agriculture credit and service societies) adequate and timely supply of short, medium and long term credit and agricultural requisites, such as chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, insecticides and pesticides. To ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, the produce is routed through the marketing cooperative societies. Besides, consumer goods like sugar, foodgrains, kerosene oil etc. are also arranged through the net work of cooperatives in the rural and urban areas. In June 1981, the Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Sirsa and Dabwali were assisted by 12 Inspectors, and 34 Sub-Inspectors, besides ministerial staff. Six Inspectors were deputed with the Sirsa Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., for recovery and advancement of loans to the cooperative societies. Besides, there was one Industrial Inspector and four Industrial Sub-Inspectors for supervision of industrial societies. Total number of Cooperative Societies of all types (except industrial) as on 30th June, 1981 was 482 with the membership of 1,18,724.

DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND BACKWARD CLASSES

This department is represented by the District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, who is assisted by two Tahsil Welfare Officers, one in each tahsil, and the male and lady social workers with lady attendants working in the community centre in the district. The administrative control at the state level is with the Director, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The main functions of the District Welfare Officer for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes include creating public opinion against untouchability and to adopt measures for the welfare and uplift of Scheduled Castes, Vimukhat Jatis and other Backward Classes.¹ He also guards the interest of these classes against victimisation, untouchability, ejection, etc.

¹. For details about schemes for their welfare and uplift, see Chapter XVII on 'Other Social Services'.

The male social workers hold adult classes and deliver lectures against the evil practice of untouchability and also work for the uplift of Harijans. This work is intensively carried through the welfare community centre located at Odhan (Dabwali tahsil).

The lady social workers hold sewing and *balwadi* classes and arrange *satsang* at the welfare community centre. They deliver lectures to Harijan women on the care of babies and general cleanliness. Besides, they visit Harijan *bastis* and create public opinion among the residents to spread the idea of equality. The lady attendants are trained *dais* and provide maternity aid.

During 1978-79, an employment cell was set up to watch the reservation of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in government services. For this purpose a statistical assistant was posted in 1979 at Sirsa to assist the District Welfare Officer.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The district treasury is under the control of Treasury Officer assisted by two Assistant Treasury Officers one each for the sub-treasuries at Dabwali and Kalanwali.¹ The administrative control at the state level rests with the Finance Department. The functions of the treasury and sub-treasuries are to make receipts and payments on behalf of the government and to maintain accounts thereof. The cash transactions on behalf of the government are conducted by the State Bank of India at Sirsa, Dabwali and Kalanwali.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The department is represented by the District Public Relations Officer, who is assisted by one Assistant Public Relations Officer, Dabwali, 4 Field Publicity Assistants (including one lady Field Publicity Assistant), 1 Cinema Operator, 1 Radio Mechanic and *bhajan* party at Sirsa and 3 Block Level Publicity Workers at Sirsa, Raria, Bada Gudha and Dabwali. There are two information centres one each at Sirsa and Dabwali. The administrative control of this office at the state level is with the Director of Public Relations, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The District Public Relations Officer maintains constant liaison with the press and the public in general for putting across the government point of view. He undertakes publicity, drives through meetings, cinema shows, drama performances and personal contacts with a view to inform and educate the people about various programmes and policies formulated by the government and the development made in different fields. He also keeps the government informed of public reactions to its plans and policies and conveys public grievances to the district and state authorities. He is in charge of the community listening scheme under which radio sets have been allotted to panchayats, cooperatives and schools.

¹. A sub-treasury at Ellanabad is functioning since May 30, 1981. The transactions are conducted through State Bank of India, Ellanabad.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

This department is represented by a District Food and Supplies Controller who is assisted by one District Food and Supplies Officer, three Assistant Food and Supplies Officers, 21 Inspectors and 19 Sub-Inspectors besides other ministerial establishments. He functions under the administrative control of the Director Food and Supplies, Haryana, Chandigarh. He is responsible for procurement of foodgrains and their dispatches to other states, proper storage of the stocks of the grains and maintenance of buffer stocks in the lean period. He also arranges equitable distribution of sugar, kerosene oil, diesel, cement, coal/fuel, vegetable ghee and other essential supplies at reasonable controlled prices through 342 fair price shops (66 in urban and 276 in rural areas). These activities are regulated/carry out through various control/licencing orders issued by the Food and Supplies Department mainly under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Economic and Statistical Organisation is represented in the district by a District Statistical Officer. He collects, compiles, analyses and maintains statistics relating to various socio-economic aspects of the district. He also checks and scrutinises periodical progress reports prepared by the Block Development and Panchayat Officers and by various other district officers and prepares the District Statistical Abstract containing comprehensive data on various socio-economic aspects. He also prepares municipal year book giving detailed statistical information regarding towns.

He conducts various socio-economic surveys assigned by the Economic and Statistical Adviser to Government Haryana, Chandigarh from time to time. For preparing consumer price index, he collects data relating to weekly prices of essential commodities and services. His duties include maintenance of record about the arrival of essential commodities in different *mandis*/markets and their disposal, checking of season and crop reports, maintaining and checking of register of farm holdings and forming budget survey and conducting of annual census of government employees etc. The District Statistical Officer coordinates the statistical activities of various departments in the district and also renders them technical guidance regarding the collection and compilation of statistics.

The District Statistical Officer is actively engaged in monitoring the various plans/schemes being implemented in the district.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government was introduced in the district with the constitution of Sirsa municipality in 1867. Later in 1906, Dabwali was declared a notified area. Kalanwali was constituted into a small town committee in 1924. Dabwali was converted into a small town committee in 1926, a notified area in 1942 but was declared a municipality in 1952. In 1955, Kalanwali was also converted into a municipality. With the enforcement of Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, Kalanwali municipality was made notified area. In 1974, Rania was declared a notified area but it started functioning in 1976. Later in 1979, Rania and Kalanwali were also converted into municipalities. As such in 1981-82, there were four municipalities. The main sources of income of the local bodies include octroi, house tax, toll tax, water rate, *teh-bazari*, rent on municipal properties, licence fee and sale proceeds of compost.

The detailed account of each local body is given in the following pages :—

SIRSA MUNICIPALITY

A municipality at Sirsa was first constituted in 1867. In 1892, it was a second class municipality. On August 21, 1970, it was declared as class 'A' municipality. As a result of the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the elected municipal committee was superseded on July 20, 1973, and since then the affairs of the municipality are being looked after by an official Administrator, appointed by the government. It covers an area of 19.3 square kilometers and serves a population of 89,068 persons (as per 1981 census).

The municipal water works were commenced in 1965. Since the population of the town has increased considerably, the existing water supply do not meet the actual requirements. A project to augment the water supplies through construction of inlet channels from Sukhchain distributory to water works and receiving an additional supply of 2½ cusecs was under execution. In 1981, the *per capita* water supply was 70 litres per day and there were 245 public stand posts and 4,660 private connections were provided in the town.

The municipality has provided under-ground sewerage. The first phase has since been completed while the construction of second phase is under consideration. In the first phase, almost the whole of the old town has been covered. In the second phase, the remaining work is proposed to be

completed covering the outer areas of the municipality. The municipality has sanctioned 2,643 sewer connections as on March 31, 1981. Storm water channels have been constructed in various parts of the town for the drainage of rainy water.

Prior to the introduction of electric street lighting in the town in 1939, oil lamps were used for the purpose. In 1981, there were 178 electric bulbs, 1,013 fluorescent tubes and 36 mercury lamps for street lighting in the town. The municipality is contemplating to replace all the electric bulbs gradually with the fluorescent tubes. It has provided 8 sets of blinking lights to check the traffic accidents.

The municipality has provided eight parks in different localities of the town for the recreation of the people. Coloured fountains have also been installed in some parks. Besides, the construction of a stadium is under progress.

The municipality has appointed one chief Sanitary Inspector, 3 Sanitary Inspectors, 4 Jamadars, 4 Tractor Drivers and 159 Sweepers for proper sanitation of the town. The refuse is collected at filth depots by private sweepers. The municipality has provided wheel barrows to its sweepers. Besides, private sweepers have also been provided 100 wheel barrows and 400 covered drums. The refuse of the town is auctioned for compost making.

The municipality has been running a fire station since 1965. There are two motor fire engines equipped with fire fighting instruments. The staff of the fire station comprises 18 personnel.

The municipality is maintaining 6.5 kilometres of metalled roads, 15 kilometres of paved streets and 42 kilometres of Kachcha streets. A coloured fountain has been installed near central octroi post on the crossing of the Sirsa-Hisar road.

The municipality is running a library-cum-reading room which is located in the town hall. It contains about 4,000 books in Hindi, English, Punjabi and Urdu, and subscribes a few newspapers and journals.

The municipality derives income from various sources, viz., octroi, house tax, toll tax, water rate, rent on municipal property, various licence fees, sale proceeds of sullage water and compost etc. The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1960-61 to 1980-81, as detailed below show that there has been a desire to augment resources and to expand

developmental activities :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1960-61	5,56,678	5,30,351
1961-62	7,31,616	7,82,959
1962-63	11,12,561	11,73,619
1963-64	6,70,409	6,82,740
1964-65	6,97,053	6,34,548
1965-66	10,41,891	10,41,874
1966-67	8,12,281	8,54,846
1967-68	9,52,027	9,02,078
1968-69	11,57,178	11,98,511
1969-70	17,18,875	16,67,760
1970-71	16,12,438	16,93,130
1971-72	19,04,918	18,95,858
1972-73	17,09,118	17,09,152
1973-74	20,05,393	19,90,857
1974-75	20,76,226	24,85,713
1975-76	37,02,389	34,27,557
1976-77	30,46,513	29,19,422
1977-78	38,47,167	34,37,278
1978-79	54,79,806	51,96,773
1979-80	54,79,194	56,61,764
1980-81	54,55,452	63,33,992

MANDI DABWALI MUNICIPALITY

A notified area committee was constituted at Mandi Dabwali in 1906 which was converted into a small town committee in 1926. The small town committee was, however, again made a notified area committee in 1942 and was raised to a second class municipality in 1952. The last elected committee

was, superseded in June 1969 and since then the affairs of the municipality are being looked after by an official Administrator appointed by the government. It covers an area of 7.11 kilometres and serves a population of 29,071 persons (as per 1981 census).

Prior to the introduction of electric street light in 1954, kerosene oil lamps were used. In 1981, 236 electric bulbs, 116 fluorescent tubes and 125 mercury lamps light up all the parts of the town.

The piped water works was installed in 1959-60. The water works is located in the territory of Punjab State. Another water works to augment the water supply is under execution. In 1981, there were 112 public water stand posts and 3,360 private water connections. The per capita water supply was 18 gallons per day.

An underground sewerage has been provided in a part of the town. The disposal works are located in the territory of Punjab State. In 1981, there were 882 private connections and two sets of flush latrines.

For general sanitation, the municipality has employed 2 Sanitary Inspectors, 2 Jamadars and 90 Sweepers. The municipality has provided covered wheel barrows to its staff to carry the filth to the specified places from where it is removed by means of two tractors to the dumping ground located outside the populated area for preparing compost. The manure so prepared is sold out.

The municipality has been running a fire station since 1971. The station is equipped with fire fighting arrangements. Its staff comprised 12 persons.

The municipality is running a reading room in its office building.

The main sources of income of the municipality are octroi, rent, water rate, sale of compost and sullage water. The following figures of income and expenditure of the municipality from 1960-61 to 1980-81 indicate steady rise in the annual budget and reflect its expanding activities :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1960-61	4,33,740	5,48,480
1961-62	3,68,288	3,82,374
1962-63	7,38,982	7,06,466
1963-64	4,83,527	3,90,581

1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1964-65	4,88,618	5,39,198
1965-66	5,74,424	4,38,381
1966-67	5,54,525	4,92,175
1967-68	5,57,270	6,35,021
1968-69	6,13,421	6,36,166
1969-70	9,28,488	8,87,225
1970-71	12,18,068	13,23,885
1971-72	12,39,228	12,56,185
1972-73	13,51,494	13,43,521
1973-74	14,01,911	13,96,128
1974-75	14,42,688	13,40,796
1975-76	15,96,735	16,41,025
1976-77	17,24,616	17,12,885
1977-78	22,30,469	21,70,962
1978-79	36,82,368	37,68,112
1979-80	34,49,610	32,75,281
1980-81	54,01,258	54,95,132

KALANWALI MUNICIPALITY

Constituted as small town committee in 1924, it was converted into a municipality in 1956. In 1973, it was declared a notified area committee and since then the affairs of the committee are being looked after by an official Administrator, appointed by the government. It was converted into a municipality in 1979. It covers an area of 2.59 kilometres and serves a population of 9,643 persons (as per 1981 census).

Electricity was introduced in the town in 1968. Prior to it kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1981, 70 fluorescent tubes and 110 electric bulbs light up various parts of the town. The piped water supply to the town was made in 1962 and in 1981, there were 110 public stand posts and 1,240 private water connections. The per capita water supply was 30 litres per day.

The municipality maintains 1.5 kilometres of metalled and 3 kilometres of un-metalled roads.

Drains have been constructed in almost all the streets of the town. For general sanitation, the municipality has employed 1 Sanitary Inspector, 1 Jamadar and 21 Sweepers who have been provided with necessary equipment including 20 covered wheel barrows. One tractor has been provided for the removal of night-soil. The rubbish and night-soil of the town are sold on yearly contract basis through open public auctions.

The municipality maintains a small library which contains 512 books.

The main sources of income of the municipality include octroi, toll tax, water rate, *teh-bazari* and house tax. The income and expenditure of the municipality from 1960-61 to 1980-81 is given below :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1960-61	85,856	78,530
1961-62	88,377	93,442
1962-63	92,883	83,096
1963-64	1,05,395	90,965
1964-65	1,21,892	1,05,469
1965-66	1,31,690	1,55,311
1966-67	1,58,337	1,65,487
1967-68	1,76,196	1,46,854
1968-69	2,07,965	2,24,971
1969-70	1,89,859	1,94,473
1970-71	2,38,385	2,34,878
1971-72	4,62,214	4,20,609
1972-73	4,01,899	3,69,229
1973-74	3,65,819	3,34,825
1974-75	3,60,635	4,66,188
1975-76	6,50,365	6,45,192
1976-77	4,74,699	4,87,284
1977-78	6,11,180	6,05,849
1978-79	9,54,060	7,48,906
1979-80	8,95,064	7,57,671
1980-81	6,54,583	8,24,692

RANIA MUNICIPALITY

Rania was declared a notified area in 1974 and it started functioning in 1976. It was converted into a municipality in 1979. Its affairs are looked after by an Administrator appointed by the government. It covers an area of 2.93 kilometres and serves a population of 16,714 persons (as per 1981 census). Eighty fluorescent tubes light up various parts of the town. There are 13 Sweepers (12 on regular basis and one on daily wages) for maintaining cleanliness of the town. Besides, two animal driven carts and eight hand-driven carts have been provided for the removal of refuse and night soil from the town.¹

The sources of income of the municipality include octroi and house tax. The figures of income and expenditure of the municipality from 1976-77 to 1980-81 are as under :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1976-77	1,09,461	48,937
1977-78	1,76,345	1,58,167
1978-79	2,14,450	2,47,416
1979-80	1,75,010	1,79,385
1980-81	1,71,449	1,74,594

PANCHAYATI RAJ

The panchayats have existed in villages from ancient times, though such panchayats were not established under any law. The heads of various tribes or communities were members of such panchayats. These panchayats played a vital role in the life of the people. With the passage of time, such community panchayats became ineffectual. After Independence, the panchayats were revived.

The Punjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952, with its subsequent amendments, and the Punjab Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, are the legal basis for the rural local government, popularly called Panchayati Raj. The structure comprises two tiers, a panchayat at the village level and a Panchayat Samiti at the block level. However, these do not constitute a hierarchy but have defined spheres of activity and independent sources of revenue. Previously, there used to be a Zila Parishad at the district level, but the institution was abolished in 1973.

1. The piped water supply was made available in the town in 1984. There were 16 public stand posts and 330 private water connections.

Panchayats

Generally, there is one panchayat for each village, but in few cases of small villages having a population of less than 500 persons, there is a joint panchayat. A panchayat consists of 5 to 9 members called as *panches*. There is at least one Scheduled Caste *panch* and one woman *panch*. In 1980-81, there were 283 panchayats in the district and the total membership of all panchayats was 1965.

Functions.—The main functions of panchayats are rural development with particular reference to increase in the agricultural production. It includes agriculture, animal husbandry, health and sanitation, education, social welfare, village public works, sports and recreation. In fact panchayats are supposed to work in almost all spheres which concern the betterment of village community. The details of public utility work done by the panchayats in the district during 1975-76, 1977-78 and 1980-81 are given in the Table XV of Appendix.

Judicial Powers.—The panchayats are empowered to try certain minor offences like petty thefts, trespasses, encroachments on public property and public nuisance. The panchayats have also been given powers to try cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. They are empowered to impose fines. They are not bound by the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and as such lawyers are not permitted to appear in the proceedings before a panchayat. The Chief Judicial Magistrate hears appeals against the order of the panchayats. He is empowered to transfer cases from one panchayat to another.

The panchayats try civil and revenue suits for recovery of movable property or the value of such property for money or goods due on contract or the price thereof, for compensation for wrongfully taking or injuring movable property and suits mentioned in clause (j), (k), (i) and (n) of sub-section 3 of section 77 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887. The panchayats are under the control of District Judge in civil suits and Collector in revenue suits and they are also appellate authorities.

Sources of Income.—The panchayats are authorised to levy taxes, duties and fees. Apart from miscellaneous items, the main sources of income are grants-in-aid from the government, income from *shamlat* land, voluntary contributions, 3 per cent of the land holding tax of the panchayat area, fees and fines. The income and expenditure of panchayats in the district from 1966-67 to 1980-81 are given in the following table :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1966-67	11,06,299	10,59,309
1967-68	13,41,316	12,31,636
1968-69	19,14,059	18,61,481
1969-70	16,07,858	15,02,071

1	2	3
1970-71	20,81,529	18,14,844
1971-72	21,88,541	19,78,422
1972-73	22,03,341	20,04,114
1973-74	28,87,651	20,71,547
1974-75	33,74,042	32,03,657
1975-76	33,75,016	39,61,029
1976-77	29,65,630	27,21,632
1977-78	45,85,670	43,47,329
1978-79	74,91,315	55,07,991
1979-80	72,86,250	80,92,457
1980-81	63,11,588	57,45,748

Panchayat Samitis

The district has been divided into 4 blocks each having a Panchayat Samiti. Each Panchayat Samiti has primary, associate, co-opted and *ex-officio* members. Out of primary members, 16 members are elected by *panches* and *sarpanches*, 2 members by members of co-operative societies within the jurisdiction of the Panchayat Samiti and one member by members of market committees in the block. If this membership does not include 2 women and 4 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, the balance is made up by co-option. Every member of the Haryana Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of which the block forms a part, is an associate member. The Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) having jurisdiction in the block and Block Development and Panchayat Officer are *ex-officio* members. The *ex-officio* and associate members do not have the right to vote. The Block Development and Panchayat Officer of the concerned block is the *ex-officio* executive officer of the Panchayat Samiti. The chairman and vice-chairman are elected by the primary and co-opted members from amongst themselves for a term of three years.

Duties.—The duties of Panchayat Samiti are numerous, being an important agency of the Panchayati Raj. It is the duty of the Panchayat Samiti to provide for and make arrangements for carrying out the requirement of the block in respect of agriculture, animal-husbandry and fisheries, health and rural sanitation, communication, social education, cooperation and miscellaneous development works.

Income.—The income of the Panchayat Samiti is derived from a Samiti fund which comprises ; apportionment made by the government out of the balance of district fund, 7 per cent of the total land holding tax realised within the area of Panchayat Samiti ; taxes, cesses and fees imposed by the Panchayat Samiti ; grants, contributions and funds allotted by the government, local bodies and panchayats as well as rents and proceeds accruing from property vested and managed by the Panchayat Samiti. These are authorised to impose taxes with the prior permission of the government. The government also provides funds whenever any subject is transferred to their control. A portion of the cattle fair income is also transferred to the Samiti. The income and expenditure of the Panchayat Samitis in the district from 1966-67 to 1980-81 are given below .—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1966-67	4,91,968	5,00,384
1967-68	6,23,899	4,62,665
1968-69	9,39,506	10,24,762
1969-70	8,38,364	8,91,803
1970-71	10,75,056	9,35,504
1971-72	13,17,707	11,80,049
1972-73	12,99,370	10,97,239
1973-74	16,60,301	10,33,393
1974-75	18,30,188	20,56,110
1975-76	19,41,163	23,75,648
1976-77	12,95,936	12,48,443
1977-78	13,86,922	14,20,860
1978-79	25,12,677	19,46,449
1979-80	26,20,552	29,07,443
1980-81	29,88,673	23,81,945

TOWN PLANNING

The town planning helps to eradicate the evils of haphazard and ugly growth of towns. To coordinate town planning activities in the district, the office of the District Town Planner, Sirsa was established in 1975-76. The overall control of the office and its activities lie with the Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The District Town Planner provides necessary technical guidance to municipal committees, improvement trusts and various government departments.]

Controlled areas are declared to check haphazard growth around towns and development plans, showing distinctly the areas under various land uses, are prepared to guide future development of the towns. Area around Sirsa town was declared as controlled area on September 22, 1976, under the Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development Act, 1963. In 1981, its draft development plan was in progress.¹ The declaration of controlled area in Dabwali was also under process. Various development schemes have been planned for Sirsa and Dabwali towns. Besides, *mandi* township master plans and lay out plans have been prepared for all the four towns in the district, viz., Sirsa, Dabwali, Kalanwali and Rania and plots have been sold in most of the areas. A list of works pertaining to *mandi* townships, set up in the towns of the district, is given in table below :

(In acres)

Name of the Town	Residential Area	Commercial Area	Industrial Area	Area Under Other Uses
Sirsa	158.50	25.00	57.30	341.90
Dabwali	24.35	24.80	22.30	48.55
Rania	11.10	22.51	3.10	11.11
Kalanwali	47.73	32.09	12.95	305.23

Mandi townships have been set up at Ellanabad, Ding and Bada Gudha. At Ellanabad, number of plots have already been sold. Master plans (for model villages) of Chutala and Bada Gudha have also been prepared.

Development of Sirsa Town

Sirsa town was planned on grid-iron pattern by Captain Thorsby. However, due to phenomenal growth and mixed land uses, a lot of unplanned construction has come up. To ensure systematic development of the town an out-line interim master plan was prepared in 1973.

Municipal limits were extended so as to include the built-up area within it. This resulted into a lot of unplanned construction. In order to check unregulated and unplanned urban development, it became necessary to review the interim master plan. After the declaration of the controlled

1. The final development plan was published, vide Haryana Govt. notification No. 5040-10DP-83, dated 25th July, 1983.

area around Sirsa town, steps were taken for the preparation of a draft development plan for the town. This work, as stated earlier, was in progress.

Projects completed in the Sirsa town include maternity hospital, parks in various parts of the town, mini secretariat complex, new grain market, new vegetable market and housing board colony comprising 433 houses. A new 100-bed hospital is under construction in an area of about 15 acres in Mandi Township, Sirsa.

Development of Mandi Dabwali Town

A new mandi township has set up in an area of 120 acres comprising grain market, residential area, industrial area, town centre, warehouses, tahsil offices, etc.

CHAPTER-XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

No information is available about the education in the district during the ancient or medieval period. However, the discovery of a stone slab inscription in Sanskrit (5th/6th century AD) and an inscription of the time of Bhōja (C-836—890 AD) from Sirsa and another inscription of 9th century in beautifully carved alphabets of the Northern group from Jodhkan indicate that some system of education was prevalent in the district in those days. Since the district was located in the Sarasvati valley, it has been a part of cultural mainstream of northern India.

During the medieval period, the system of education was still at a rudimentary stage. Primary schools in the modern sense did not exist and only places where some sort of education was imparted appears to be temples or mosques. These were also called *pathshalas* and *maktabs*.

The district was depopulated during the great famine of 1783. During the 19th century, the education was backward in Sirsa district. So late as 1856, the Superintendent of the then Sirsa district reported that there was not a single school in whole of the district. An Anglo-Vernacular middle school was opened at Sirsa in 1863, but very few boys attending this school were above the lower primary classes. Later a few vernacular primary schools were opened.

In 1892, the district had one Anglo-Vernacular middle school at Sirsa and 11 vernacular primary schools at Jodhkan, Kheowali, Naurang, Mithri, Matho Dadu (Matdadu), Chutala, Jagmalwari, Rania, Maujgarh, Rori and Abub Shahar. These schools were run by District Board. Besides, there was a zamindari school at Jamal. This school intended to supply sons of zamindars and *Kamins* with really needful rudimentary education, such as simple reading, counting and *bantias'* accounts.¹ This school used to remain closed during harvesting. Besides, there were indigenous schools. Most of them were in village mosques where teaching was of Persian character. The teacher was mosque attendant who gave lessons as part of his religious duties. In few schools Nagri or Shastri character was taught. In school at Sirsa *lunde Mahajani* were taught by a Brahman and was attended by sons of Brahmans, Bantias and Aroras. The usual subject of instruction was mental arithmetic with a

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1904, p. 312.

little writing which the boys practised at home. In all these schools, attendance was often irregular and school education given to them was of most elementary nature. The education was almost confined to trading classes and the number of peasants who could write their names was exceedingly small. The education among females was negligible.

By 1904, the number of vernacular primary schools in the district rose to 14. These schools were located at Mangala, Rania, Jagmalwali, Sahuwala, Jhiri, Rori, Matho Dadu, Desu Malkana, Kalanwali, Naurang, Dabwali, Sakta Khera, Bhurtwala and Ding.¹ Zamindari school at Jamal continued to exist. Though the number of vernacular primary schools rose to 14 in 1904, but vernacular primary schools at Jodhkan, Kheowali, Mithri, Matho Dadu, Chutala, Maujgarh, Abub Shahar were closed between 1892 to 1904 and new vernacular primary schools were opened at Mangala, Sahuwala, Jhiri, Matho Dadu, Desu Malkana, Kalanwali, Dabwali, Sakta Khera, Bhurtwala and Ding during the same period. Besides a girls' primary school was opened at Sirsa. In all these schools, Urdu script was used. Besides, an aided primary school for European boys is reported to exist at Sirsa.

As a general rule, however, the majority of the children taught in all these schools were either the sons of officials or of the shop-keeper class. The value of education was as yet not understood by the great mass of the agricultural population.² Indigenous schools were generally decreasing as vernacular primary schools increased, despite increase in the number of schools the education remained confined to well-to-do classes only.

Things materially changed after Independence and even female education expanded at a rapid rate. With the passage of time, the initial prejudice of people against the western system of education also disappeared. As a result of keen interest taken by the government and voluntary organisations in the spread of education, a number of new educational institutions were opened after Independence.

In 1980-81, there were 407 different types of educational institutions which included 3 degree colleges, 1 teachers' training college, 57 high/higher secondary schools, 52 middle schools, 290 primary schools, 1 polytechnic, 3 industrial training institutes/schools/centres and 1 oriental college.

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab* 1879-83, pp. 127-128.

2. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 241.

The following table shows the vast expansion of education during 1975-76 to 1980-81 :—

Type of institution	Year	No. of Institutions			Number of students		
		Govt.	Non-Govt.	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Colleges	1975-76	—	3	3	1,058	653	1,711
	1976-77	—	3	3	1,284	607	1,891
	1977-78	—	3	3	1,507	982	2,489
	1978-79	—	3	3	1,424	1,245	2,669
	1979-80	1	2	3	1,498	1,216	2,714
	1980-81	1	3	4	1,705	1,211	2,916
High/Higher Secondary Schools	1975-76	35	5	40	15,246	6,471	21,717
	1976-77	35	5	40	13,824	6,085	19,909
	1977-78	35	6	41	14,924	5,685	20,609
	1978-79	39	6	45	20,223	10,243	30,466
	1979-80	46	6	52	23,807	11,446	35,253
	1980-81	51	6	57	26,139	13,262	39,401
Middle Schools	1975-76	36	3	39	6,896	3,511	10,407
	1976-77	36	3	39	7,926	3,621	11,547
	1977-78	36	3	39	8,325	3,882	12,207
	1978-79	36	3	39	9,588	4,288	13,876
	1979-80	48	3	51	10,643	5,319	15,962
	1980-81	49	2	51	12,213	7,125	19,338
Primary Schools	1975-76	291	4	295	43,617	19,172	62,789
	1976-77	291	4	295	22,840	10,920	33,760
	1977-78	291	4	295	23,038	11,039	34,077
	1978-79	287	5	292	22,621	11,293	33,914
	1979-80	288	5	293	21,615	11,197	32,812
	1980-81	284	6	290	20,048	10,363	30,411

EDUCATION OF WOMEN

Education of women remained completely neglected in the areas now forming Sirsa district till the close of 19th century. Female education was confined to religious instructions only and that too was imparted to them in their homes. Girls were not allowed to go outside their homes for education. It was only in the beginning of the present century that a girls primary school was opened at Sirsa. The school was aided by municipal funds. Majority of the students in this school were Mohammedans and Urdu script was used.

The progress of female education accelerated only after Independence when voluntary organisations like Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Ayr Samaj and others opened number of schools for girls. In 1980-81, the district was well ahead in the field of female education and there were 2 colleges, 8 high and higher secondary, 2 middle and 4 primary schools exclusively for girls. Besides, the district had one industrial school for girls. All schools in rural areas were co-educational.

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Before Independence, hardly any effort was made in the direction of eradication of mass illiteracy among the Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes. They remained educationally the most backward section of society till then. It was only after Independence that the government vigorously directed its policy towards raising general level of literacy among them.

The students belonging to these classes are provided with various facilities by way of reservation of seats in professional and technical institutions, exemption from payment of tuition fee and reimbursement of examination fee and also by giving financial assistance in the form of stipend. School books are supplied to them free of cost in 9th, 10th and 11th classes. Free college education is also provided to students belonging to these classes. Stipends under the State Harijan Welfare Scheme and Government of India Post Matriculation Scholarship Scheme are also awarded. Despite these concessions and the efforts made by the government in this direction, literacy among these classes is still low as they prefer to employ their children on odd jobs to supplement their meagre family income and are not quite alive to the benefits of education.

The following table shows the enrolment of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes students in different institutions in the district during

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

1975-76 to 1980-81 :—

Enrolment of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes

Type of Institution	Year	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Schools :	1975-76	3,417	1,280	5,598
	1976-77	5,015	1,406	6,421
	1977-78	4,260	1,419	5,679
	1978-79	5,087	1,696	6,783
	1979-80	4,912	1,640	6,552
	1980-81	3,803	1,267	5,070
Middle Schools :	1975-76	1,443	378	1,821
	1976-77	1,469	466	1,935
	1977-78	1,525	509	2,034
	1978-79	2,081	694	2,775
	1979-80	1,995	665	2,660
	1980-81	2,418	805	3,223
High/Higer Secondary Schools	1975-76	2,534	622	3,156
	1976-77	2,488	823	3,311
	1977-78	2,576	859	3,435
	1978-79	3,808	1,269	5,077
	1979-80	3,307	1,468	5,875
	1980-81	4,925	1,641	6,566

LITERACY RATIO

Backwardness of the district in the field of education can be easily assessed from the fact that according to 1911 census, the then Hissar district (also having areas now comprising Sirsa district) ranked twenty fifth among the twenty-eight districts of the then Punjab Province in respect of literacy of its population.

According to 1991 census, there were 4,258 (2.31 per cent) literates in the then Sirsa tahsil. Literacy among males was 4.31 per cent and females

only 0.13 per cent. In 1911, even after two decades, the literacy ratio remained almost the same. There were only 4,694 (2.45 per cent) literates in the tahsil. Literacy among males was just 4.33 per cent and among females barely 0.15 per cent. There was marginal rise in literacy ratio in 1931 (3.6 per cent for total, 6.3 per cent for males and 0.3 per cent for females). Thus literacy remained almost negligible among females even up to 1931.

With the expansion of educational facilities after Independence, the literacy took a significant upward trend. According to 1951 census, the percentage of total literates in the then Sirsa tahsil work out to 8.35 per cent and that of males and females, respectively to 13.00 per cent and 2.92 per cent. There was significant increase in the literacy ratio among males in 1961 which rose to 21.42 per cent and only marginal increase in case of females where it just increased to 4.61 per cent.

Literacy both among males and females took significant upward trend in 1971. According to 1971 census, the percentage of total literates in the district rose to 22.70 per cent and that of males and females, respectively to 31.60 per cent and 12.40 per cent.

The extent of literacy of the Sirsa district as revealed by the census of 1981 is 51.51 per cent (59.30 per cent for males and 42.34 per cent for females) in urban areas and 24.32 per cent (34.37 per cent for males and 13.24 per cent for females) in rural areas. The overall percentage of literacy is 29.87 per cent (39.52 per cent for males and 18.98 per cent for females). The extent of literacy in the urban and rural areas of the district shows a wide divergence more so in the case of females.

Despite marked increase in the number of literates in 1981, the district remained educationally a backward district. Literacy wise, it ranked 11th in the 12 districts of the state. Literacy ratio of the district was also lower than the state average which is 36.14.

DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL SET UP

The District Education Officer is responsible for the administration and control of all primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools. He is directly under the administrative control of the Director, School Education, Haryana, Chandigarh. The District Education Officer is assisted by one Deputy Education Officer, two Sub-Divisional Education Officers (one each at Sirsa and Dabwali) and 6 Block Education Officers. The area of operation of Block Education Officer is normally coterminous with the development block but few development blocks have been sub-divided according to the number of schools.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Pre-primary Education

Pre-primary education caters to the need of children in the age-group 3—6 years. The system of pre-primary education has not yet developed and it is not well organised. But for few nursery schools run by the private bodies, there is no pre-primary and nursery school run by the government.

There are 5 balwaris (two each at Sirsa and Dabwali and one at Rania) run by the Haryana Child Welfare Council.

Primary Education

The course of primary education covers children in the age-group of 6—11 years and consists of five classes i.e. from Class I to Class V. Since 1961 primary education has been made compulsory. The education at this stage is imparted free. Teachers are provided at the pupil teacher ratio of 40 : 1. Single-teacher schools are very few and function only in villages with a small population. In March 1981, there were 290 primary schools in the district.

Middle Education

The middle education covers children in the age-group of 11—14 years and consists of classes VI to VIII. The pupil teacher ratio of 30 : 1 has been adopted for this stage and the education is free in all government schools. In March 1981, there were 51 middle schools in the district.

Secondary Education

The secondary education comprises Classes IX and X but it also extends to Class XI in higher secondary schools. For majority of students, the secondary education is of a terminal character. To meet the requirement of those who wish to earn their livelihood after completing secondary education, besides providing broad base for admission to higher courses of study, diversified courses were provided in some of the schools which were converted into higher secondary schools.

In March 1981, there were 57 high/higher secondary schools in the district.

Medium of Instruction

The medium of instruction in the schools of the district is Hindi. The teaching of Hindi as the first language and as medium of instruction starts from Class I. English is taught from Class VI as a second language. Sanskrit, Urdu, Telugu or Punjabi is taught as an optional language in Classes VII and VIII. However, a few private schools, which had Punjabi as the medium of instruction prior to the formation of Haryana in 1966, have been

allowed to continue instruction through the medium of Punjabi. To provide safeguard to the linguistic minorities, provision has also been made for the teaching of Urdu/Punjabi as an additional subject from Class I, provided 10 pupils in a class or 40 in whole of a primary school, or primary section of a middle, high or higher secondary schools, are desirous of studying this language. But the medium of instruction and the first language even for such schools remains Hindi.

INCENTIVES

Education is free upto middle. Thereafter, boys and girls belonging to poor families are charged a reduced scale of fee up to high/higher secondary level. The education is free for all whose family income is less than Rs. 1,000 per annum in the case of boys and less than Rs. 3,000 per annum in the case of girls. Boys whose family income is between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 3,000 are charged fee at half rates. Boys whose family income exceeds Rs. 3,000 per annum are charged fee at full rates whereas the girls are charged fee at half rates.

The students belonging to Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes, who are studying in 9th, 10th and 11th classes, are given stipend at the rate of Rs. 20 per mensem under the Haryana State Social Welfare Scheme, provided the income of their parents/guardian does not exceed Rs. 10,000 per annum. They are also allowed refund of examination fees. Scheduled Castes are exempted from the payment of tuition fee, but the students belonging to other Backward Classes are allowed this concession subject to the above income condition.

Scheduled Castes are also given stipend under the Government of India Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme. The stipend includes maintenance charges, refund of examination fee, tuition fee and other compulsory non-refundable charges. The rate of stipends varies from Rs. 50 to Rs. 200 per mensem according to different income slabs and for different post-matric courses.

No tuition fee is charged from the children of serving defence personnel or of defence personnel who have been killed or disabled.

HIGHER EDUCATION

There were no facilities of higher education in the district before opening of Guru Nanak College for Girls at Dabwali in 1951.¹ The National College, Sirsa was opened by Sirsa Education Society in 1957. Maharana Partap College (for Women) was opened at Mandi Dabwali in 1968 and C.M.K. National Girls College at Sirsa in 1970. Bhagwan Shri Krishan College of

Education for Women was opened at Mandi Dabwali in 1980. All colleges in the district are affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

Government National College, Sirsa.—Located on Hisar road, the college was started in 1957 by Sirsa Education Society, Sirsa. The college campus covers an area of 30 acres. An evening shift in the college was started in 1968. The college was taken over by the government in 1979 and was re-named as Government National College. It is a co-educational institution.

Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities, commerce and science up to degree level and honours courses in English, Hindi and Mathematics.¹

The college has a well-stocked library with 21,294 books and subscribes to 50 periodicals and journals. A book bank has been set up in the library to help deserving and needy students.

It has extensive playground for various games, well-equipped laboratories, an open-air theatre, a day scholars centre and a shooting range. The college also has a hostel for its students.

In 1980-81, 1,577 students were on its roll in morning shift and 166 in evening shift. It included 31 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and 156 to other Backward Classes in both the shifts. It had 81 members on its teaching staff. The college had one N.C.C. company and a unit of N.S.S. The college brings out annually a magazine named 'Ghaggar'.

Maharana Partap College (For Women), Mandi Dabwali.—The college was founded in 1968. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities up to degree level.

The college has a library with 6,495 books and subscribes to 30 periodicals and journals. It also has playgrounds for various games and a hostel for its students.

In 1980-81, 258 students were on its roll, which included 3 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and 2 to Backward Classes. It had 16 members on its teaching staff. The college brings out annually a magazine named 'Partap Jyoti'.

C.M.K. National Girls College, Sirsa.—The college was started in 1970 by Sirsa Education Society. Initially housed in Sanatan Dharam Mandir, the college shifted in 1979 to its new premises covering an area of 8 acres.

Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides courses in humanities up to degree level. The college maintains a library with 7,010 books and subscribes to 40 periodicals and journals. Book bank facilities also exist for needy and deserving students.

¹ This college now falls in Punjab side of the town known as Mandi Killanwall.

¹ Post-graduate classes in Economics were started in 1982 in evening shift.

It has extensive playground for various games, a students centre and well equipped laboratory for home science.

In 1980-81, 604 students were on its roll, which included 5 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and 9 to Backward Classes. It had 18 members on its teaching staff. It has one N.S.S. unit. The college brings out annually a magazine named 'Pragya'.

Bhagwan Shri Krishan College of Education (for Women) Mandi Dabwali.—Located near bus stand, the college was opened in 1980. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, the college provides degree course in education.

The college library has 976 books and subscribes to 9 journals and periodicals.

In 1980-81, 96 students were on its roll and it had 6 members on its teaching staff.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

No effort was made to provide technical education in the district prior to the Independence. The first and only technical institution opened in the district was a Government Polytechnic at Sirsa, in 1962. Besides two industrial training institutes one at Sirsa and another at Nathusari Chopta and an industrial school for girls at Sirsa were opened to ensure a steady flow of skilled workers in different trades for industry.

Government Polytechnic, Sirsa.—Opened in 1962, this institute is affiliated with State Board of Technical Education, Haryana, Chandigarh. It provides three years diploma courses in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering.

It has well equipped laboratories and workshops and extensive playgrounds for various games. It also provides hostel facilities. It has a well stocked library containing books on technical subjects.

It had 381 students on its roll in 1980-81 including 89 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 27 to other Backward Classes. It had 57 members on its teaching staff.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There are two industrial training institutes one each at Sirsa and Nathusari Chopta and one industrial school for girls at Sirsa. Training is provided in these institutes in various crafts for the award of National Trade Certificate of the All India Council of Vocational Training, New Delhi. Incentives are provided by way of award of stipends of Rs. 25 per mensem per student on poverty cum merit basis to one-third of the students on roll in each institution. Trainees belonging to Scheduled Castes are given a stipend of Rs. 45 per mensem. Besides, technical training, medical facilities and workshop clothes and hostel accommodation is provided to all trainees free of cost.

A brief account of these institutes is given below :

Industrial Training Institute, Sirsa.—The institute was opened in 1962, with a capacity of 64 trainees. The number of seats for various trades has now been raised to 384. It imparts training to both males and females in engineering and non-engineering trades viz. fitter, electrician, radio and T.V. mechanic, motor mechanic, wireman, draughtsman civil, draughtsman mechanical, machinist and turner of two years duration and diesel mechanic, stenography English and Hindi, painter and cutting and tailoring of one year duration.

The institute has a library of technical books. Facilities also exist for indoor and outdoor games. It has a well-equipped workshop, and administrative block and a hostel for trainees.

In 1980-81, it had 340 trainees (320 boys and 20 girls), out of which 20 boys and 4 girls belonged to Scheduled Castes and 18 boys to Backward Classes. The strength of the teaching staff was 33. During 19 years of its existence, this institute has trained 2,242 personnel.

Industrial Training Institute, Nathusari (Chopta).—The institute was started in 1977 with a capacity of 32 trainees. The number of seats for various trades has now been raised to 260. It imparts training to both males and females in engineering and non-engineering trades viz., fitter, radio mechanic, electrician, turner, motor mechanic of two years duration and diesel mechanic, tractor mechanic, welder, stenography English and Hindi of one year duration.

In 1980-81, it had 224 trainees (216 boys and 8 girls) on its rolls. It included 26 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and 17 to Backward Classes. The strength of the teaching staff was 19.

Government Industrial School for Girls, Sirsa.—It imparts training to females only in non-engineering trades viz., cutting, tailoring and embroidery. In 1980-81, it had 44 trainees on its roll.

ORIENTAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Sanatan Dharam Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Sirsa is the only institution for teaching of Sanskrit in the district. It was established in 1931. Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra it prepares students for *Shastri* (Honours in Sanskrit), *Pragya* (proficiency in Sanskrit) and *Visharad* (higher proficiency in Sanskrit). In 1980-81, it had 25 students on its roll. All students are provided free boarding and lodging facilities. Books are also provided to the students free of cost. It had two members on its teaching staff.

SPORTS

Sports activities in the district include school tournaments, panchayat tournaments and open tournaments. These activities in the district are organised by the District Sports Officer who is assisted by 15 Coaches. These coaches

provide specialised coaching to schools and college students and department/club players in various games at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Stadium, Sirsa.

To promote sports activities in rural areas, 15 rural sports centres have been started at Chutala, Abub Shahar, Dabwali, Odhan, Maujgarh, Kharian, Rori, Bada Gudha, Panjauana, Rania, Nathusari, Ding, Jodhkan, Bhaudin and Jiwan Nagar. Besides, rural sports playgrounds are under construction in few villages. These grounds have already been completed at Madho Singhana and Ganga.

Scholarships.—To encourage young players, who are at least state level players, the state government awards sport scholarship at the rate of Rs. 50 and Rs. 40 per mensem for college and school players respectively.

Tournaments.—The coaches coordinates the sports activities at the district level and organise school/college tournaments. To promote sports in rural areas, the District Sports Officer organises tournaments at the block level.

Following voluntary sports organisations are also engaged in promotion of sports activities in the district :—

1. District Olympic Association, Sirsa
2. District Athletic Association, Sirsa
3. District Cricket Association, Sirsa
4. District Volley-ball Association, Sirsa
5. District Archery Association, Sirsa
6. District Badminton Association, Sirsa
7. District Hockey Association, Sirsa
8. District Table Tennis Association, Sirsa

These associations also organise exhibition matches and district level tournaments.

Stadia.—Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Stadium is under construction at Sirsa and its first phase has been completed. The stadium is spread over an area of 16.7 acres.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

National Service Scheme (N.S.S.) introduced in the educational programme in 1969, was adopted in the colleges of Haryana in 1970-71. It aims at educating the students through community service. It enriches the students personality and deepen their understanding of the social environment in which they live. It helps the students to develop an awareness and knowledge of the social reality and to have a concern for the well being of the community.

Under the scheme, the students undertake activities to tackle social problems and promote social welfare. Its activities are multifarious and include adult education, tree plantations, family and child care, rural cleanliness, blood donation, etc. N.S.S. volunteers also render valuable help at the time of natural calamities like floods and famines.

N.S.S. training is imparted regularly during the academic sessions and through out-door camps.

The scheme is functioning almost in all the colleges of the district. In 1980-81, 407 students (200 males, 207 females) in various colleges of the district had opted for the scheme.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

The National Cadet Corps (N.C.C.) was introduced as part of educational programme in 1948, to develop the qualities of leadership, unity and discipline. Latter in July 1963, after the Chinese Aggression, it was made compulsory for all able bodied under-graduate boy students at college level. In 1969, two other programmes namely the N.S.S. (National Service Scheme) and sports were introduced as an alternative to N.C.C., which is no longer compulsory. The N.C.C. training is imparted regularly during academic sessions and through outdoor camps.

N.C.C. is organised in the district through Group Headquarters, Rohtak. It has under its jurisdiction 3 Haryana Battalion Sirsa. This battalion covers cadets of senior division in the colleges and junior division in schools.

In 1980-81, 107 cadets in senior division and 300 cadets in junior division had taken up N.C.C. in different institutions of the district.

Libraries

The history of the establishment of libraries in the district dates back to 1927 when Shri Parmeshwari Yuvak Library was established at Sirsa. Shri Bal Amar Samiti Library was established at Sirsa in 1932. The library movement in the district gained momentum after the Independence. Village library scheme was introduced in 1950 when some panchayats collected subscriptions and opened libraries and reading rooms.

In 1980-81, there were 288 libraries and reading rooms in the district. Of these, 113 libraries were owned by colleges and schools for their students and staff, 160 libraries under panchayats and the remaining 15 libraries and reading rooms were maintained by local bodies and private organisations.

CULTURE

The district in course of its historical growth made worthy contribution to the development of culture. It is testified by the discovery of sculptural pieces and architectural remains from various parts of the district. Among

the sculptures representing gods and goddesses and suggesting influence of Hinduism mention may be made of Vishnu with *Kritmukha* and partly preserved *Prabhamandal* in grey stone, Narasimha along with attendants and a copper image of Samaji (Samadeva) riding a horse belonging to 1143 A.D. A building of temple was considered an important cultural activity in the district. It can be gathered from the Sirsa inscription (836—890 A.D.) that it is a majestic temple of Yogisvara (Siva) made of burnt bricks and thick slabs of stone with a golden *sikhara* and adorned with images of Vishnu and Lakshmi and various other gods and goddesses. It must have been indeed, a magnificent piece of architecture. The influence of Buddhism in the region is gathered from the *Divyavadin* while many Jain sculptural pieces and architectural remains recovered from Sirsa and Sikanderpur testify to the growth of Jainism in the area.

No evidence is available about the literary traditions of the district in ancient period. However, in the medieval period literary traditions of the district can be traced to 16th century. Maldev, first Hindi poet of Svetambar sect of Jain's belonged to the district. He was disciple of Acharya Bhavdev Suri, a Jain saint. He wrote about 20 poetry books in Hindi. His prominent Hindi works are *Purandar Chopai*, *Sur Sundari Chopai*, *Virangad Chopai*, *Anjana Sundari Chopai*, *Dhandev Chopai* and *Bohj Prabhand* (having nearly 2,000 verses). Among his Sanskrit works *Kaloantar Vachay* figures prominently. Anandghan or Labhanand was another noted Hindi poet of the district during 17th century. His notable poetical works are *Bahotari* and *Chobisi*.

The district has made significant contribution in the field of literature particularly after Independence. A number of writers and poets of the district have been honoured by Haryana Sahitya Akademi for their works. Surender Verma was awarded prize in 1979-80 for his book *Hasht Bili Pahunchhe Delhi*. In 1982-83, the Akademi awarded prizes to Sugam Chandel Muktesh for his book *Yugantar* (poems), Sukhchain Singh Bhandari for his book *Sarak Udhas Thi* (stories) and Harbhajan Singh Renu for his poetical work *Manak Andar Suraj*.

Number of cultural organisations are actively engaged in promoting literary activities in the district. Prominent among these are Kala Sangam, Haryana Pradeshik Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Sirsa branch, and Pragatisheel Adhyan Sansthan, all located at Sirsa.

Modern noted classical singer Pandit Jas Raj belongs to this district and was born at village Malari in Sirsa tahsil. During late 19th century, Rameshwar Das Pujari was noted *tabla* player and *thumri* singer of the district. Sirsa town had a tradition of holding Sangeet Sammelans till few years back. Of late, efforts have been made by cultural organisation, Ras Lok to revive this tradition by organising Sugam Sangeet Sammelan. A few music teachers are

running *sangeet vidyalayas* and impart training to students, in both vocal and instrumental music and classical dances. One of the sangeet vidyalaya has a library which has over 6,000 books on music, the only of its kind in Haryana.

The colleges and other educational and technical institutions lay a great emphasis on the promotion of cultural pursuits. Some colleges have introduced music and dance as the regular discipline in the course of studies while others have cultural societies for the promotion of fine arts, music, dance, drama, etc. These societies organise cultural functions and partake in various cultural competitions and youth festivals organised at regional and university levels.

CHAPTER-XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

No records are available about the state of public health and medical facilities that obtained in the district in early times. During the pre-Muslim period, Ayurvedic system of medicine flourished all over the country. The Unani system of medicine was introduced during the Muslim period under the patronage of Muslim rulers. By and large, the Hindu families patronised the Ayurvedic system while the Muslim favoured the Unani system. Thus, both the systems of medicine flourished side by side.

The Allopathic system of medicine was introduced during the British period. This system was based on scientific lines and vast research conducted in the western countries gave a progressive outlook to it. The British gave patronage to this system and a number of dispensaries were opened. We can have an idea of the popularity which the Allopathic system of medicine was gaining in the district towards the teens of the twentieth century from the following description:—

“The work done in the larger institutions is of a very high order, and these dispensaries are freely resorted to by the poorer classes and to a large extent by the well-to do middle classes. Operations for stone and cataract are done to a large extent, and the people (except in outlying villages) realize the benefits of European methods for these diseases and resort freely to the dispensaries for them. Other operations such as removal of tumours, amputations for necrosis, etc. are also performed with good results. The large attendance is itself a guarantee of the good work done. *Balds* and *Hakims* are still, it is true, found in most towns, but they are slowly becoming less popular: and those that remain often prescribe European medicines”¹

In 1890, there was a 1st class dispensary at Sirsa under the charge of an Assistant Surgeon who worked under the Civil Surgeon, Hisar. The dispensary contained four wards having accommodation for 32 male and 8 female in-door patients. The staff consisted of an Assistant Surgeon, Compounder, Dresser and helpers. The dispensary was partly supported by the District Board

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 242

(Hisar) and partly by the Sirsa municipality. There was another 3rd class dispensary at Ellanabad which functioned under a Hospital Assisant. It was maintained exculsively out of the district funds.¹ The number of patients treated at both these dispensaries and the expenditure incurred during 1890 is gi ven below^a :

Particulars	Sirsa Dispensary	Ellanabad Dispensary
Outdoor patients treated	12,905	2,177
In-door patients treated	428	—
Expenditure (in Rs.)	3,191	614
Operations performed	974	77

Dispensaries at Dabwali and Rania were started in 1896 and 1901 respectively.² However, Dabwali dispensary had to be closed down in April 1904.⁴ In 1935, there were ten dispensaries in the area now forming the Sirsa district. These dispensaries were located at Sirsa, Mandi Dabwali, Dabwali, Rania, Chutala, Rori, Madho Singana, Kalanwali, Ellanabad and Bada Gudha.⁵

After Independence, the national government was much concerned about extending medical and health services to the people. Medical institutions on modern lines were opened and provided with the necessary equipment and other facilities. Government also realised the importance of indigenous systems of medicine and established a Directorate of Ayurveda in November 1956. Besides, many new programmes to control and eradicate diseases were undertaken. In 1966 there were 27 (Allopathic 17 and Ayurvedic 10) institutions in the district which increased to 38 (Allopathic-23 and Ayurvedic 15)³ in 1981. With the increasing medical aid and the availability of life-saving drugs, most of the fatal diseases now no longer remain a source of fear. Consequently, mortality has decreased considerably.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

The medical and health services in the district are controlled and looked after by the Chief Medical Officer, Sirsa. He is assisted by a Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Health), Malaria Officer, District Family Welfare Officer, District School Medical Officer and District Tuberculosis Officer. He functions directly under Director Health Services, Haryana, Chandigarh. The General Hospital Sirsa is under the charge of a Medical Superintendent while the General

1. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, p. 225-26.

2. *Ibid*, Table XXXVIII.

3. *Hisar District and Loharu State Gazetteer*, 1912, *Statistical Tables*, Table 53.

4. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1904, p. 312.

5. *Hisar District Gazetteer, Statistical Tables*, 1935, Table 53.

Hospitals at Dabwali and Chutala are each under the charge of a Senior Medical Officer. Each primary health centre (at block level) is under the charge of a Block Medical Officer who also supervises various health schemes, family welfare work, programmes for the control and eradication of malaria, smallpox, tuberculosis, trachoma etc. All dispensaries function under the supervision of a Medical Officer. Likewise, each Ayurvedic or Unani dispensary is under the charge of a Vaid or Hakim who functions under the control of the Chief Medical Officer, Sirsa.

Medical service is essentially a hospital organisation for medical relief to the public. This organisation embraces all Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani institutions, which on December 31, 1982 numbered 44 viz., 3 hospitals, 8 rural dispensaries, 3 canal dispensaries, 4 primary health centres, 2 subsidiary health centres, 1 T.B. centre, 1 E.S.I. dispensary, 1 railway dispensary, 19 Ayurvedic dispensaries and 1 Unani dispensary. A list of these institutions is given in Table XVI of Appendix. Besides, there were two private hospitals. The important institutions are described below :

General Hospital, Sirsa.—The hospital is located near Rori Gate. It has departments of medicine, surgery, gynaecology and dentistry. It also provides facilities of radiology and laboratory. It had 100 beds, 50 each for males, and females and 17 doctors and 72 members of ancillary staff in 1981-82. The number of indoor and outdoor patients during 1981 was 4,513 and 69,714 respectively.

General Hospital, Chutala.—Located on Dabwali-Sangaria road, the hospital was inaugurated in February, 1981. It is a 30 bedded hospital with dentistry, X-ray and laboratory facilities. It had 3 doctors and 24 members of ancillary staff in 1981. The number of indoor and outdoor patients during 1981 was 428 and 26,858 respectively.

General Hospital, Mandi Dabwali.—Initially started as a maternity hospital in 1958, it was converted into a civil hospital in 1968. It is a 28 bedded hospital with dentistry, X-ray and laboratory facilities.

In 1981, it had 2 doctors and 18 members of ancillary staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients in 1981 was 1,782 and 15,959 respectively.

Janta Maternity Hospital-cum-Child Welfare Centre, Sirsa.—Inaugurated in 1979, the hospital is located in the New Mandi area. The hospital provides medical facilities to the general public at minimum cost and even free to deserving poor patients. A Medical Superintendent is in-charge of the hospital who is assisted by a male medical specialist, a gynaecologist and other ancillary staff.

It is a 30 bedded hospital with laboratory facilities. The number of outdoor and indoor patients treated in the hospital during November 1979 to December 1981, was 28,486 and 2,657 respectively.

Seth Ram Dutt Charitable Eye Hospital, Sirsa.—Started in 1951, the hospital is run by Seth Ram Dutt Charitable Trust, Sirsa. The hospital runs free eye O.P.D. and has facilities for the eye surgery including cataract, glaucoma and squint. It is a 35 bedded hospital.

In 1981, it had one doctor and 7 members of ancillary staff. The number of indoor and outdoor patients in 1981-82 was 320 and 5,413 respectively.

DISEASES COMMON TO THE DISTRICT

The common diseases which occur in the district are gastro-enteric diseases and typhoid group of fevers, chest infection, tuberculosis, malaria and trachoma. Epidemic diseases viz., cholera, plague and smallpox are the three notifiable diseases under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. Of these, plague and small-pox have been eradicated. The incidence of cholera is dependent largely on the chance of importation of infection and laxity of preventive measures to check them. No case of cholera has, however, been reported in the district since 1967.

Plague has become non-existent. Gastro-enteric diseases, cholera and small-pox have been effectively contained. Malaria has again raised its ugly head but effective steps are afoot to control this parasitic disease. Leprosy is completely alien to this area. The checking of diseases is attributable to the adequate preventive measures taken by the government after Independence. Medical facilities are being expanded and provisions are being made to make available more and more specialised treatment to the people.

Cholera.—Cholera used to occur in this area in an epidemic form before 1947 and there was always high rate of mortality. It was occasionally imported from outside the district especially after the dispersal of gatherings at fairs and festivals of all-India fame, viz., the periodical Kumbh fairs at Hardwar (U.P.), solar and lunar eclipse fairs at Kurukshetra and similar gatherings at other places. Cholera epidemic cropped up by infection from water. Generally, there was great scarcity of drinking water. Human beings and cattle used to drink in most cases from the same village pond, and both bathed in it promiscuously. The water used to get contaminated and consequently spread the disease.

The position has now greatly improved due to the strict prophylactic and other anti-cholera measures like medical inspection posts and mass inoculation in hospitals and dispensaries. But the most important measure necessary to obviate the incidence of this disease was arranging the supply of safe and secure potable water. By 1982, safe drinking water-supply has been provided to 139 villages while the scheme for providing piped water to 12 more villages is in progress. Besides, people now also get drinking water from hand pumps, wells and tubewells. In some villages people have constructed pucks

tanks with arrangements for storing clean water. With the development and expansion of public health activities relating to disinfection of water, anti-fly and other general sanitation measures, the disease stands completely controlled.

Plague.—The plague first appeared in the district in 1903 and thereafter it showed itself with greater or less severity every year.¹ This epidemic was the most feared and always resulted in a loss of big number of human lives. Between October 1904 and May 1905 the epidemic was particularly violent. In 1910, another severe epidemic visited the district. There was recurrence of plague again in 1925 and also in 1926. Thereafter, it has completely subsided. Fortunately, this horrible disease has now become an occurrence of the past. The factors determining its disappearance have been spraying of houses with insecticides to kill rat fleas and systematic de-ratting measures.

Small-pox.—One of the most contagious and killer diseases, small-pox earlier used to occur in an epidemic form and many people became disfigured, lost their eyes or other organs or died of it. In the beginning of the present century vaccination was not compulsory. The people were averse to it, though its good effects had been repeatedly explained to them. As a result of various preventive measures taken by the government including mass vaccination and re-vaccination, small-pox has become non-existent. Under the Small-pox Eradication Programme, Supervisors and Vaccinators were posted in health centres and municipalities. Special care is taken to vaccinate all the new born babies and children.

The following figures show the work done under the Small-pox Eradication Programme during the period 1976 to 1981:—

Year	Vaccinations Performed	
	Primary	Re-vaccination
1976	21,609	54,459
1977	27,480	33,271
1978	24,523	20,954
1979	27,925	23,384
1980	23,365	11,386
1981	13,497	5,070

1. *Sirsa District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 51-52

Malaria.—In the past, malaria was responsible for a very heavy toll of life. As the village reporting agencies were not qualified to distinguish between Malaria or other fevers, no reliable figures of death are available. However, in 1915, the use of quinine as a cure for the malady was becoming more understood by the people, though they did not properly appreciate its prophylactic qualities.¹ In 1942, there was a severe and wide spread epidemic of malaria. To control this disease which was a major health menace from the point of view of sickness, vitality and mortality, the Government of India initiated a centrally sponsored and aided National Malaria Control Programme in 1953. This programme was redesigned as the National Malaria Eradication Programme in 1958. The object originally was to curb the malaria menace to such an extent that it may not cause any set-back in economic and social development of the country. The insecticidal spray on mass basis in the first phase, known as the attack phase, gave encouraging results and the incidence was controlled to the desired level. In 1958, the scope of the campaign was enlarged to ensure eradication of the disease from the community. All the areas, both urban and rural, were covered under this programme. Besides, the insecticidal spray in each and every house, every fever case or every case having a history of fever was also screened by basic health workers during house to house visits fortnightly. The blood slides so collected were examined microscopically for detection of malaria parasites and the persons found positive for malaria were given radical treatment for five days. Other remedial measures were also taken under the supervision of senior supervisory staff. As a result of these intensive activities malaria was effectively controlled and curbed by 1963. It was followed by a maintenance phase in which surveillance alone was kept.

Of late, however, the mosquitoes responsible for transmission of malaria have developed resistance against insecticides, viz., D.D.T. and B.H.C. and as a result, there has been a recurrence of malaria cases. The influx of labour on a mass scale from the other states where surveillance had not been properly kept has also caused increase in malaria incidence. A tendency among people to treat the malaria cases as a ordinary fever cases and thus avoiding prompt action has also led to its increase. As malaria cases increased, steps had to be intensified against this disease as in the past.

A separate malaria unit for the Sirsa district was started in October 1975. The Malaria Officer under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer implements the Malaria Eradication Programme. In 1976, he was assisted by the one Assistant Unit Officer, 10 Senior Malaria Inspectors, 52 basic health workers, one senior laboratory technician, 2 laboratory technicians and five Swasth Sahayaks. In 1981, the malaria unit was strengthened and placed

1. *Bhar District Gazetteer*, 1915, p. 52.

under a District Malaria Officer who was assisted by a biologist, one Assistant Unit Officer, one senior laboratory technician, three Senior Malaria Inspectors and 198 members of malaria staff.

Selective areas of the district was taken up for D.D.T. spraying in 1976. The flood affected areas were sprayed with B.H.C. However, the cases of malaria detected in the district during 1976 to 1981 were as follows :—

Year	Malaria Cases Detected
1976	21,948
1977	24,180
1978	18,730
1979	13,703
1980	7,443
1981	7,595

Tuberculosis.—This is common in the district though not to the extent of posing a major public health problem. During 1976 as many as 2,030 cases were registered and 4 deaths occurred in government medical institutions in the district. A B.C.G. team is functioning effectively for providing B.C.G. inoculation as a preventive measure against this disease. A T.B. centre is functioning at Sirsa for providing specialised treatment to the patients. The patients are examined here and necessary medicines are prescribed. Besides, precautions are explained to them so that they could continue their treatment while staying at home. Serious cases, however, are given indoor treatment whenever necessary in hospitals and primary health centres. Cases requiring further specialised treatment are referred to T.B. Hospital, Hisar, for admission.

Trachoma.—To eradicate this common disease of the area, Trachoma Eradication Programme, a centrally sponsored scheme is functioning in the district. Children below the age of 10 years are given application with antibiotic eye ointment twice a day for 5 days in a week extending over a period of 6 months. The work is supervised by four Trachoma Supervisors stationed at the primary health centres of Rania Madho Singhana, Odhan and Bada Gudha. Facilities for the treatment of this disease are also provided in the general hospitals and rural dispensaries.

Leprosy.—The district is almost free from this disease. During 1976, only two patients were given outdoor treatment and both had come from outside the district.

Gastro-enteric Diseases.—The most common infectious diseases are typhoid and enteric group of fevers, dysentery and diarrhoea, disease of 5F's—flies, fingers, faces, fomites and food. Every effort is being made to control these diseases by adopting preventive measures like protection and disinfection of drinking water, wells, chlorination of drinking water and general sanitation measures taken by the public health staff.

VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics about births and deaths are the most important for planning and working of health programmes. In towns, the municipalities keep the relevant record and in villages, Chowkidars report the day to day statistics at the police station of their area. After compilation, the statistics are passed on by the Station House Officer to the Chief Medical Officer.

The satisfactory results achieved by the Health Department are reflected in reduced incidence of disease and lower mortality—both infant and adult. The table XVII of Appendix showing the number of deaths caused by different diseases from 1976 onwards and the following table showing birth and death rates and the infant mortality from 1976 onwards illustrates this position :—

Year	Birth Rate per Thousand of Population	Death Rate per Thousand of Population	Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age) per Thousand of Live Birth
1976	20.35	5.71	43.61
1977	20.06	6.71	51.69
1978	19.64	5.57	42.79
1979	20.63	5.17	35.26
1980	21.50	5.41	41.73

GENERAL STANDARD OF HEALTH

The general standard of health of the people in the district is fair. They are generally tall and healthy. Their diet though rich in carbohydrates, is deficient in protein and to some extent in fats and vitamins. Majority of the people are vegetarians and only few take meat, eggs and fish. Bishnois are strictly vegetarians.

Large families among low income groups are generally underfed. They suffer from both mal-nutrition and under nutrition. The family welfare services have still to make an effective impact on family budgets and nutrition.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH

The modern concept of good health lays greater emphasis on prevention of diseases and this necessitates various kinds of measures. The younger generation must be given health education which is perhaps the most important activity for any effective preventive measure. Health education is equally necessary for older persons. Like-wise, family welfare and maternity welfare require greatest attention if the problem of over population has to be solved. It is equally necessary to take suitable measures to prevent adulteration of food, promote desirable knowledge and the practice of nutritive articles of food, make supply of clean and safe drinking water possible for even those living in rural areas and to take other such steps as will improve environmental hygiene.

School Health Service.—The first school health clinic in the district was started in 1976. In 1972, school health service was made an integrated part of all hospitals, primary health centres and rural dispensaries. The District School Medical Officer looks after the school health services in the district. He renders advice to heads of schools in health matters, viz., appointment of medical officers and pharmacist for schools and for proper sanitation arrangements.

School children studying in classes, I, VI and IX are thoroughly checked and arrangements are made for the treatment of those found ill. The following figures show the school health work done in the district since 1979.

Year	Children Examined	Children Found Ill and Treated
1979	2,283	1,235
1980	3,342	727
1981	3,450	537
1982	4,187	992

Health Education.—Health education aims at providing integrated curative and preventive service for better health of the citizens.

Health education has been made an integral responsibility of all medical and para-medical personnel in the district. It is mainly carried out through the staff of the health centres. It is generally imparted by means of lectures,

film shows, leaflets, posters, radio, T.V. and newspapers. Interviews, group discussions, seminars and panel discussions are also arranged to create health consciousness among the people.

Family Welfare.—For family welfare programme, a three dimensional approach of education was formulated, viz., the mass approach, the group approach and the individual approach. In mass approach, all available modern communication media are employed for creating awareness among the people and building opinion against population explosion and in favour of small family. The group approach is carried out through group meetings, debates, group lectures, seminars and orientation training camps. It is the individual approach which ultimately leads to motivation of cases. Under this approach, efforts are made to convince the couples in the child bearing age-group to adopt family planning methods. The efforts of local leaders, social workers and the users of family planning methods are utilized in motivating people.

All activities of family welfare programme in the district are carried out under the guidance and supervision of the Chief Medical Officer. Under him, the District Family Welfare Officer is responsible for proper implementation of this programme. At block level, a rural family welfare unit is attached with each primary health centre and is under the charge of a Medical Officer. He is assisted by an extension educator, family welfare field workers, lady health visitors, auxiliary nurse midwives and trained *dais*. At village level, services are rendered by field workers and rural dispensaries.

The Haryana branch of Family Planning Association of India runs 10 family welfare centres. These centres are designed to supplement and complement government efforts in regard to fertility control by providing referral services, motivation, follow-up and maternity and child health care. The family welfare units aim at extending family welfare services in the outlying rural areas by intensifying educational net-work and providing on the spot clinical services to the rural and semi-urban community which is not well served. These centres serve through sub-centres established in the peripheral area. A team comprising medical officer, auxiliary nurse midwife and field workers pays regular visits to the sub-centres and provides services at the door steps of the acceptors.

The family welfare practices cover methods for limitation of families as also for spacing of children. The former include sterilization of males and females and the insertion of I.U.C.D. (intra uterine contraceptive device popularly known as the 'loop'). The latter include the use of condoms, diaphragm, jellies, foam tablets and oral pills. The conventional contraceptives such as condoms, diaphragm, foam tablets, jellies, etc. are distributed through contraceptive depots/centres including rural post offices. Besides, free medical and surgical services, transport and diet are arranged for sterilization cases. Cash incentives are also offered.

The family welfare programme in the district have made considerable progress. The following data shows the progress of family welfare work in the district from 1975-76 to 1980-81.

Year	Conventional Contraceptives Distributed (Pieces)	Sterilization Cases	Inter-Utrine Contraceptives Device Cases
1975-76	16,29,845	4,577	6,613
1976-77	16,23,875	8,833	7,689
1977-78	5,83,850	410	1,476
1978-79	4,07,739	1,039	1,273
1979-80	4,19,319	1,928	1,394
1980-81	3,75,696	2,300	1,305

Maternity and Child Health.—A considerable number of women used to die as a consequence of child-birth, many more who survived suffered from lasting ill-health. The work for attending to maternity services had, therefore, to be taken in hand on priority basis.

Considerable progress has been made in the expansion of maternity and child services. It has been made an integral part of the family welfare programme. When the idea of small family is advocated, it is obligatory on the part of the government to provide due coverage to maternity and child health. The service in this regard starts as soon as a woman conceives. Special trained staff is employed for pre-natal, post-natal, infant and toddler care through domiciliary and clinic visits. The required medicines and immunization of mothers and children against various diseases are provided. The maternity and child health work in rural areas is carried out by lady health visitors (auxiliary nurse midwives) and trained *dais*. Arrangements are made to train *dais* who already practise in villages. The services in urban areas are provided by all the health and medical institutions including maternity and child health centres at Sirsa and Kalanwali.

Primary Health Centres.—The modern concept of health promotion lays basic stress on prevention of diseases through measures of health education and community involvement. So far as the rural area is concerned, these activities, besides medical care and family welfare programme are carried out by the trained and skilled staff of the primary health centres.

All available resources of these centres are mobilised against the particular infection prevalent in a specific area. There are 4 primary health centres in the district which are located at Odhan, Bada Gudha, Rania and Madho Singhana. Each primary health centre is manned by 3 Medical Officers except primary health centre Rania, where there are 2 Medical Officers. The Medical Officers are assisted in their work by other para-medical staff.

These centres take care of preventive and curative programmes. These include treatment of outdoor and indoor cases, maternity and child health, family welfare, environmental sanitation, nutrition, school and industrial health services, immunization programme and control of communicable diseases.

Prevention of adulteration in food stuffs and drugs.—Adulteration in food stuff is checked under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Besides, the Food Inspector in the district, specially appointed and authorised under the provisions of the Act, all the Medical Officers have been invested with the powers of Food Inspector.

Samples of food stuffs are seized in routine as well as through specifically organised raids. The following table shows the work done during 1976, 1980 and 1981 :—

	1976	1980	1981
Total number of samples seized	331	88	192
Samples found adulterated	60	26	47
Prosecutions launched	62	26	48
	(2 relating to samples of last year)		
Fine realised (Rs.)	7,680	10,500	11,850
Number of persons sent to jail (convicted)	4	12	16

The Drug Inspector, Hisar used to look after the work relating to drug adulteration in the district prior to the appointment of an independent Drug Inspector at Sirsa in July, 1976.

Nutrition.—The primary health centres deal with oral nutrition, particularly at maternity and child welfare centres by organising milk feeding programme, providing vitamin A and D capsules, iron, multi-vitamin and B-complex tablets received by them from the UNICEF. They also help in arranging nutrient and medicines under school health services to the Education Department and the Red Cross Society. With the assistance of Government of India and UNICEF, the Applied Nutrition Programme is being carried out in all the blocks. It aims at educating people in taking a balanced and nutritive diet from among the available food items.

Environmental hygiene.—After personal hygiene and domestic cleanliness environmental hygiene is equally important. The sanitation of towns and village streets and lanes and disposal of kitchen wastes and human excreta are some of the other health problems.

With the coming up of development blocks, there has been an all-round activity for the improvement of villages in regard to link roads, pavement streets, pukka drainage and clean water-supply by providing hand pumps, tube-wells and ideal wells. It is advised that the cattle excreta be deposited in dung pits located outside the villages. The sullage water is disposed of either in ponds or drained off in open fields. Checking of food adulteration, sanitation, school health services and measures to control communicable diseases are some of the other factors which have contributed towards the improvement of environmental hygiene in rural areas. The villagers themselves are required to pay attention to environmental sanitation, legal action can be taken against defaulters. However, the staff of primary health centres carry out environmental sanitation activities in their areas. The co-operation of village panchayats is also sought to keep the habitations clean and tidy. The Medical Officer, the Sanitary Inspectors and other health workers guide the people. The villagers are advised to maintain manure pits and use public or individual latrines. But on the whole the position cannot be called really satisfactory and there remains much to be done. The position is some what better in the urban areas. Sullage water is disposed of in the fields and the cattle and human excreta is deposited in pits away from the residential areas where it is converted into compost and sold to farmers. These arrangements are looked after by the municipalities with the help of health and scavenging staff.

The description of programmes, functions and activities shows undoubtedly that a great deal has been done, a great deal more is planned, and objectives and methods have been defined. It would be wrong, however, to conclude that all is well. The fact is that the aim of good health has to become a part of the social and environmental habits of the individual particularly the family.

UNICEF work and other preventive programmes.—UNICEF is aiding promotion of public health in the district in many ways. In addition to providing vehicles for various health programmes and also to the primary health centres, it supplies to the latter, medicines and equipment including microscopes and refrigerators. All the primary health centres in the district are getting UNICEF assistance.¹

The programme being aided by UNICEF include malaria, trachoma, nutrition, school health clinics, milk distribution, maternal and child health and B.C.G.

1. To qualify for such assistance, a primary health centre must fulfill certain conditions e.g. the staff must consist of at least one Medical Officer, one Pharmacist, one Lady Health Visitor and one Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

Water Supply (Rural).—Village ponds and percolation wells were the only source of drinking water in rural areas of the district in the past. At present, even source of drinking water in most of the rural areas include open percolation wells and kachcha ponds which are filled with canal water. The underground water is generally brackish. In certain areas where the canal water is collected in exposed kachcha ponds, it is used both by human beings and the animals. This adversely affects the health of the people and they are subjected to water borne diseases. In order to ameliorate the miserable plight of the people, government decided to provide piped drinking water-supply after thorough filtration of the canal water. This project has been taken up under the National Water-Supply and Sanitation Programme. All the villages in the district are to be covered under this programme by 1990. At the time of the formation of Haryana on November 1966, only 19 villages were served with piped drinking water-supply. By March 1981, 91 more villages were provided piped water-supply and this brought the total number of such villages to 110. Besides, the work for providing piped water-supply was in progress in 54 villages. By March 1982, 129 villages were provided water supply facilities in the district.

The total expenditure on water supply scheme in the district as on March 31, 1981, has been Rs. 353.68 lakh. Some details of these schemes are given in Table XVIII of Appendix.

Water Supply (Urban).—The piped water supply to Kalanwali was made in 1957, Dabwali in 1959-60 and to Sirsa in 1965. The water supply was not sufficient and did not cover the entire towns. These municipalities took up the projects to supplement the water supply and to cover the entire town. A scheme to supply piped water to Rania was commissioned in 1981.

SANITATION

The Health Department is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of sanitation. The Chief Medical Officer has the overall charge of the sanitation work in the district. He is assisted by Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Health). The senior Sanitary Inspector at district headquarters, tahsil Sanitary Inspectors at tahsil level and Sanitary Inspectors at primary health centres look after the sanitation within their respective jurisdiction. In urban areas, municipalities through their sanitary and conservancy staff look after the removal and disposal of refuse, night-soil and liquid waste and cleanliness of the surroundings of the towns. The underground sewerage facilities were available in Sirsa and Dabwali towns and even these towns were not covered entirely.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

GENERAL

Labour is now highly protected by law. Machinery has been set up to settle labour disputes and to ensure proper compensation in case of physical damage. Collective bargaining for better wages and work facilities through accredited unions has been recognised. Labour laws have become a highly protective umbrella for the working classes.

The government has taken up many social welfare schemes which provide relief and social security to the needy and deserving people. Under such schemes financial assistance is given to old, destitute and physically handicapped persons.

The state has also taken upon itself the task of improving the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. They are given loans to purchase land or build houses and are no longer entirely at the mercy of money-lenders. Interest-free loans are also given for establishing or expanding small trades, i.e. shoe-making, dairy, etc. Besides, Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam also provides loans on nominal interest for various trades. Untouchability which was a cancer in the social set-up has been legally abolished.

LABOUR WELFARE

Prior to Independence, there was no regular government organisation to watch and ensure the welfare of industrial workers and to settle industrial disputes and other connected labour problems. A separate Labour Department in the composite Punjab was established in 1949. Till the creation of Haryana (November 1, 1966), all labour matters relating to the area now comprising the Sirsa district were looked after by the Labour Officer, Rohtak and Conciliation Officer, Bhiwani. Thereafter, these two offices were combined and a Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer was posted at Bhiwani. His jurisdiction then extended to Hisar, Bhiwani and Sirsa districts. In 1978, a separate Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer was posted at Hisar who looks after the Sirsa district also. He works under the overall charge of the Labour Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Hisar, is assisted by a Labour Inspector stationed at Sirsa. As Conciliation Officer, he initiates proceedings for the settlement of industrial disputes as provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and tries to settle them by mediation and joint

discussions. If he fails to settle a dispute, he submits his report to government and after scrutiny the matter is referred to the Labour Court/Industrial Tribunal¹ for adjudication.

Labour Legislation.—Labour legislation is necessary to tackle economic and social problems as civil laws in general do not particularly deal with labour problems. Labour laws are motivated by humanitarian approach as propounded by the International Labour Organisation and are based on the principles of social justice. Labour, under the Constitution of India, is a concurrent subject and as such both the central and the state legislatures are empowered to make laws. Accordingly, the state government has also enacted certain labour legislations to suit local needs. The more important labour laws in force and their main provisions are detailed in Table XIX of Appendix. However, the Factories Act, 1948, is one of the most important labour legislations. Since it is the primary duty of the state government to look after the health of the workers, it has appointed a certifying surgeon for the state with headquarters at Faridabad who has been provided with a mobile van fitted with an X-ray plant. He visits factories having hazardous operations, checks up the health condition of the workers and takes remedial measures to forestall any deterioration.

The factory wing of the Labour Department has been strengthened by appointing more Factory Inspectors to enable the state government to conform to the all India norm of inspections. The Factory Inspector, Hisar inspects the factories of Hisar and Sirsa districts. Besides, one Senior Inspector of Factories has been posted at Sonapat for super check. There is one Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and one Additional Chief Inspector of Factories to assist the Chief Inspector of Factories and Labour Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh, for the administration of the Factories Act.

To look after the general welfare of its employees, every factory employing 500 or more workers is required to appoint a Labour Welfare Officer. There is, however, only one such factory namely Gopi Chand Textile Mills Sirsa, employing more than 500 workers.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The relations between the employees and the employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer Hisar is responsible for enforcing it in the district. His efforts are directed towards fostering amicable relations between the management

1. There is a National Tribunal also to which reference is made by Union Government to cover such cases as are of national importance or those in which establishment in more than one state may be affected.

and the workers by removing, as far as possible, the causes of friction by prompt intervention and by timely redress of the grievances of the parties. Emphasis is laid on settlement of disputes through direct negotiations across the table or voluntary arbitration rather than through adjudication.

The functions of the Conciliation Officer are advisory and he has no direct powers to make or vary awards. He has been successful in bringing about a large number of agreements between the parties. During the period from November 1, 1966 to March 31, 1981, 134 disputes were handled by the Conciliation Officer in the Sirsa district. Of these, 33 were settled through his intervention, 43 were referred to adjudication/arbitration, 12 were withdrawn and 39 were rejected/filed by the government.

Works Committees

To promote harmonious relations between the employees and the workmen, to consider matters of mutual interest and to solve day to day problems, there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for setting up of works committees in the industrial establishments employing 100 or more workers. Such committees consisting of equal number of representatives of the management and workmen exist in (i) M/s. Gopi Chand Textile Mills, Sirsa and (ii) M/s. Harji Ram Balwant Singh Cotton Ginning Factory, Sirsa.

Strikes

Despite the best efforts to resolve difficulties, to promote good relations and harmony between the employers and workmen, strikes do occur now and then. During the period November 1, 1966 to March, 1981, four strikes occurred in M/s. Gopi Chand Textile Mills, Sirsa. In all 3,095 workers were involved in these strikes and 19,815 mandays were lost.

Trade Unions

The trade union movement is gaining momentum in the district. On March 31, 1981, there were eight registered trade unions as shown below :

1. The Central Co-operative Bank Employees Association, Sirsa.
2. Municipal Employees Union, Sirsa.
3. Palika Karamchari Sangh, Sirsa.
4. Gopi Chand Textile Mazdoor Sangh, Sirsa.
5. Bijlee Karamchari Union, Sirsa.
6. Haryana State Electricity Board Staff Union, Nathusari.
7. Mandi Mazdoor Union, Sirsa.
8. Safai Mazdoor Union, Sirsa.

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS SCHEME

The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme framed by the Government of India under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, was designed to provide security to workers. The scheme was introduced on November 1, 1952.¹ Initially, it was applicable to factories employing 50 or more persons but the limit was lowered from December 31, 1960 and factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons are covered under the scheme. The provident fund contribution was deducted at the rate of 6½ per cent from the monthly wages of the employees subscribing to the fund and an equal amount was contributed by the employers. The rate of contribution was enhanced from 6½ per cent to 8 per cent in January, 1963 in respect of certain industries/classes of establishments employing 50 or more persons. By March 31, 1981, 31 factories/establishments were covered under the scheme in the Sirsa district.

The entire amount is deposited with the State Bank of India in the Employees' Provident Funds Account. The administrative charges at a fixed rate are contributed additionally by the employers. The fund rests with the Central Board of Trustees having nominees of the central government, state government and representatives of employers and employees. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner at Chandigarh is responsible for the implementation of the scheme in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The subscribers can withdraw money from their provident fund for certain approved purposes, such as (i) payment of premia on life insurance policies, (ii) meeting expenses in case of serious illness of any member of his family, (iii) purchase of a dwelling house, dwelling site or construction of a house, (iv) daughter's marriage and (v) post-matriculation studies of their children. In the event of calamities of exceptional nature, such as floods, earthquakes, the subscribers are entitled to draw an advance. In the case of factories/establishments having been continuously closed down or locked up for more than six months, the advance can be taken subject to certain conditions.

To afford financial assistance to the nominees/heirs of the deceased subscriber, a Death Relief Fund was set up in 1964. A minimum of Rs. 750 is assured by way of relief.² A non-refundable advance is also granted in case of individual retrenchment in order to mitigate immediate hardship.

1. In March 1982, educational institutions, schools, colleges, universities, research and training institutions were also brought under the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952.

2. The amount of relief has been increased to Rs. 1200 with effect from August 19, 1981.

A subscriber is allowed to withdraw the full amount standing to his credit in the fund under such circumstances as (i) on completing 15 years of membership, (ii) on attaining the age of 55 years, (iii) after retirement from service, (iv) retirement on account of permanent and total incapacity for work, (v) migration from India for permanent settlement abroad and (vi) termination of service in the case of mass retrenchment/individual retrenchment.

FAMILY PENSION-CUM-LIFE ASSURANCE SCHEME, 1971

This scheme was introduced by the Government of India by amending the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952, and was enforced on March 1, 1971. It provides family pension to the heirs of the members who die prematurely while in service. Employees who were subscribing to the fund on February 23, 1971, were given the choice to opt for this scheme which has been made compulsory since March 1, 1971, for all those subscribing to the fund.

Although no additional liability on the members is levied under the scheme, 1-1/6 per cent of his wages are transferred to Family Pension Fund out of the amount of the subscriber as well as employer's contribution payable under the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme.

The members who join the Family Pension-cum-Life Assurance Scheme at the age of 25 years or less and retire after attaining the age of 60 years, are eligible for retirement benefits under this scheme to the tune of Rs 4,000. Similarly, those leaving service for reasons other than death are also allowed withdrawal benefits. For those who join this scheme after 25 years of age, a percentage of reduction in benefits has been prescribed.

The benefits are admissible only if the member has contributed for 2 years¹ otherwise his own share of contribution to Family Pension Fund along with interest at the rate of 5½ per cent is refundable to him.

DEPOSIT-LINKED INSURANCE SCHEME, 1976

Notified by the Government of India, this scheme came into force on August 1, 1976. The scheme applies to the employees of the factories/establishments which are covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. An employer is required to pay 0.5 per cent of the aggregate of basic wages, dearness allowance (including the cash value of food concession) and retaining allowances, if any, payable to the employees and 0.1 per cent of the aggregate of basic wages for meeting the expenses in connection with the administration of the insurance scheme.

1. The duration of the contribution has been reduced to one year with effect from April 1, 1982.

2. The rate of interest has been raised to 7½ per cent with effect from April 1, 1981.

On the death of an employee who is a member of the fund, the person entitled to receive the provident fund accumulations of the deceased, shall, in addition to such accumulation, be paid an amount equal to the average balance in the account of the deceased in the fund during the preceding three years, provided that the average balance in the account of the deceased member is not below the sum of Rs. 1,000 at any time during the preceding three years. This payment shall not exceed Rs. 10,000.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Old Age Pension.—The protective umbrella of social security in the form of old age pension was provided to old, destitute persons in 1964 for the first time. The pension was fixed at Rs. 15 per month per head. The old, destitute or disabled persons who were in the age group of 65 years or above in the case of men and 60 years or above in the case of women, and who were without subsistence or support, were made eligible for the pension. However, relaxation of 10 years from the prescribed age limit is permitted to the permanent disabled persons. The scheme was abandoned in 1967 but was revived in April 1969 and the pension amount was enhanced to Rs. 25 per month per head. The quantum of pension was enhanced to Rs. 50 per month in April 1977 and it was again enhanced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per month with effect from October, 1981. As many as 397 persons were getting benefit under this scheme during 1981.

Foster Care Service Scheme.—Under this scheme, orphan and destitute children upto the age of 16 years are placed in the foster families to provide home atmosphere to children. A foster family is provided a sum of Rs. 30 per month per child towards maintenance of the child. Upto March 31, 1981, only 2 children were benefited under this scheme.

Financial Assistance to Destitute Children.—The scheme was started during 1978-79. Under this scheme, children (below 21 years of age) deprived of parental support or care due to death, continued absence from home or physical or mental incapacity of parents and whose parents or guardian's income does not exceed Rs. 150 per month are eligible for financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 30 per month. Upto March 31, 1981, 10 children received benefit under this scheme.

Financial Assistance to Destitute Women and Widows.—The scheme was started during 1979-80. Under this scheme, financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 50 per month is granted to those widows and destitute women who are less than 60 years of age and have been left without any means of livelihood after the demise of their husbands or due to their continued absence from home on account of their physical or mental incapacity. Girls who remain unmarried due to mental deficiency or any other social malaise are also entitled to this aid. Upto March 31, 1981, 7 widows and destitute women obtained benefit under this scheme.

Pension to Physically Handicapped.—The scheme for pension to physically handicapped was started during 1980-81. Under this scheme, physically handicapped persons (aged 21 years or above) who have no means of subsistence or cannot do any work to earn their livelihood are eligible for pension provided that in either case they are domiciled and have resided in Haryana for more than 3 years at the time of making the application. Upto March 31, 1982, 32 physically handicapped persons got benefit under this scheme.

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.—This scheme was started during 1979-80 at Madiho Singhana (Sirsa block). Under this scheme, a package of services (supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school education) is being provided to pre-school children, expectant and nursing mothers in an integrated manner. The programme covers the weaker sections of the community in rural and urban areas. On March 31, 1981, 4057 children and 963 pregnant and nursing mothers were benefited under this scheme. The scheme of functional literacy for adult women is also being implemented through the infrastructure of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.

Advancement of Backward Classes

The Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and Other Backward Classes¹ residing in the district are :

Scheduled Castes	Vimukt Jatis	Other Backward Classes
1	2	3
1. Ad Dharmi	Aheria	1. Aheria, Aheri, Heri Naik, Thori or Turi
2. Batwal	Bawria	2. Bargai, Bairagi
3. Bauria or Bawaria	Nat	3. Bharbhunja, Bharbhujia
4. Bazigar	Sansi	4. Bhat, Bhatra, Darpi, Ramiya
5. Balmiki, Chura or Bhangi		5. Chimba, Chhipi, Chimpa, Darzi, Tank
6. Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Regar, Raigar, Ramdasi or Ravidasi		6. Dhobis
7. Dhanak		7. Dakaut

1. Scheduled Castes have been defined in Article 341 of the Constitution of India. Vimukt Jatis connote such a tribe, gang or class of persons or any part of a tribe, gang or class of persons which were deemed to be criminal tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act VI of 1924. Other Backward Classes include Backward Classes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, recognised as such by the State Government on social and/or economic basis. Scheduled Castes professing a religion other than Hinduism are deemed to be 'Other Backward Classes.'

1	2	3
8. Dumna, Mahasha or Doom	8. Dhimar, Mallah, Kashyap Rajputs	
9. Kabirpanthi or Julaha	9. Gwaria, Gauria or Gwar	
10. Khatik	10. Gwala, Gowala	
11. Kori, Koli	11. Hajjam, Nai	
12. Mazhabi	12. Jhangra Brahman	
13. Megh	13. Jogi Nath	
14. Nat	14. Kahar, Jhinwar or Bhinar	
15. Od	15. Kanjar or Kanchan	
16. Sansi, Bhedkut or Manesh	16. Kuchand	
17. Sapela	17. Kumhar (including Prajapats)	
18. Sikligar	18. Khati	
19. Sirkiband	19. Labana	
20. Lohar		
21. Madari		
22. Mochi		
23. Mirasi		
24. Pinja, Penja		
25. Raigar		
26. Rai Sikh		
27. Singikaut, Singhiwal		
28. Shorgir		
29. Teli		
30. Thathera, Tampora		
31. Vanzara		
32. Julaha		

Removal of Untouchability.—Article 17 of the Constitution of India abolished untouchability and forbade its practice in any form. The practice of untouchability has also been declared an offence under the untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, which came into force on June 1, 1955. Despite these constitutional guarantees, it is practised in one form or another especially in the rural areas. A special programme is, therefore, necessary and is carried on through community centres known as Sanskar Kendras and Balwadis under the aegis of the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Department in the state at places where there are large concentrations of

members of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. These centres are open to all classes without distinction. Besides, the 3 R's (reading, writing and arithmetic) women are taught cooking, first-aid, home nursing, care of the baby, mending of clothes and some crafts by a lady social worker, while children are taught cleanliness, games, good behaviour and cultivation of good habits. The expenditure on cloth, sewing machines, books, etc. is incurred by the state government. The male social worker attached to the centre holds adult literacy classes, teaches techniques of cottage industries, organises sports, games and cultural programmes besides, propagating against untouchability.

In the district, there is only one centre at village Odhan (Dabwali tahsil) and the staff consists of one male and one lady social worker and one lady attendant.

PROMOTION OF EDUCATION

The persons belonging to these classes are, by and large, illiterate. Special measures taken by the government to spread education among them are described in the Chapter on 'Education and Culture'.

SUBSIDY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOUSES

In order to provide shelter to the homeless members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukat Jatis, subsidies are given for the construction of new houses. Such a subsidy is given to a person who has no house of his own. From 1974-75, the amount of subsidy has been increased from Rs. 900 to Rs. 2,000. The proprietary rights of the house remain vested in the government for 20 years and thereafter the house becomes the property of the beneficiary. The latter, of course, has free use of the house during this period. Year-wise details of subsidy provided are given below :

Year	Amount	Number of Beneficiaries
	Rs.	
1975-76	58,000	29
1976-77	56,000	28
1977-78	78,000	39
1978-79	84,000	42
1979-80	—	—
1980-81	1,42,000	71

SUBSIDY FOR HOUSE SITES

Overcrowding of houses in Harijan *bastis* in the rural areas poses a serious problem. Although the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961, has conferred upon Harijans the proprietary rights over the sites under their houses, yet the problem remains unsolved. The scheme envisaged grant of subsidy of Rs. 200 to each deserving and needy member of the Scheduled Castes for the purchase of a new house site to relieve congestion in the *bastis*. The scheme was introduced during 1958-59 and was withdrawn on April 1, 1967. House sites are now being given to the members of the Scheduled Castes under a special programme initiated by the Government of India through the State Housing Department/Board.

DRINKING-WATER AMENITIES

A scheme of cash grants to Harijans in rural as well as in urban areas for the provision of drinking-water facilities was introduced during 1955-56. The wells and hand-pumps constructed as such are open to the general public also. A grant of Rs. 3,000 is given for the sinking of new well, Rs. 300 for the installation of hand-pump and Rs. 500 for the repair of an old well. The unskilled labour is provided by the people of the Scheduled Castes. A sum of Rs. 69,800 was given to 29 beneficiaries during 1975-76 and 1980-81 for projects as shown below :

Name of the Scheme	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount
		Rs.
1. Sinking of wells	25	58,100
2. Construction of diggi	4	11,700

Facilities for Industrial Training.—To improve the economic condition of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukat Jatis, their young men are trained as skilled workers by giving them training on an apprenticeship basis in various trades in different institutions.¹ Twenty per cent of the seats stand reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Vimukat Jatis and two per cent for Other Backward Classes. During the course of training, which varies from one year to two years, a monthly stipend of Rs. 60 is granted to a candidate belonging to Scheduled Castes or from the Vimukat Jatis. No stipend under this scheme is admissible to a candidate of Other Backward Classes. This particular scheme is calculated to improve the status not only of the individuals concerned but also of the families to which they belong.

1. For details about these institutions, the Chapter XV on 'Education and Culture' may be referred to.

Grant of Interest-Free Loan.—For lack of finance, members of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes find it difficult to establish themselves in the professions of law, medicine, engineering and architecture. They also need money for establishing or expanding an industry, business or trade such as shoe-making, cattle-breeding, dairy, sheep-breeding, wood work, weaving, sewing, etc. They are helped with loans free of interest, under the Punjab Backward Classes (Grant of Loans) Act, 1957 which was implemented, in 1958-59. These loans are recovered in 20 half-yearly instalments and the first recovery starts after the lapse of four years from the date of drawal of the loan. The maximum amount which is granted to a borrower is Rs. 2,000. Year-wise details of loans granted from 1975-76 to 1980-81 are given below :

Year	Amount	Number of beneficiaries
	Rs.	
1975-76	21,500	18
1976-77	25,000	17
1977-78	20,700	35
1978-79	22,100	19
1979-80	20,350	20
1980-81	23,000	23

Subsidy/Loan for the Purchase of Agricultural Land.—Members of Scheduled Castes and Vimukat Jatis in rural areas often depend on land for their livelihood but most of them have no land of their own. To help the deserving landless members of these communities to acquire land, the scheme as it existed before 1969-70, provided a subsidy of Rs. 2,000 to a member who in turn had to contribute the remaining amount from his own resources to acquire not less than 5 acres of land costing not less than Rs. 900 per acre. A beneficiary so settled was given a subsidy of Rs. 500 for constructing a house or a well on the land purchased. A subsidy of Rs. 360 to meet the expenses on stamp duty for registration of such land was also provided in each case.

In 1969-70 the subsidy oriented land purchase scheme was remodelled into a loan scheme. Under it, a loan of Rs. 4,500 is granted for the purchase of 3 acres of land. The loan bears 13 per cent interest and is recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments commencing after 4 years from the date of disbursement. After the land is bought, a subsidy of Rs. 500 is paid to the loanee for the purchase of agricultural implements. Besides, a person so settled is given a subsidy of Rs. 500 for the construction of a house or a well if one does not exist. This subsidy of Rs. 500 is also given to others who have their own land but no well or house thereon.

In 1972-73, the amount of loan was raised from Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 6,000 but the amount of subsidy for the construction of a well and a house remained the same.

Loan/subsidy for the purchase of agricultural land has been stopped since 1973-74 and under the Haryana Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972, the members of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes are now entitled to the surplus area declared under the law. The year-wise details of the amount distributed and the number of beneficiaries are given below :

Year	Amount (Rs.)	Number of Beneficiaries
1969-70	9,000	2
1970-71	18,000	
1971-72	—	—
1972-73	16,000	3

Legal Assistance.—The members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukhat Jatis are provided with legal assistance to defend themselves in cases involving ejectment from land, abduction cases, etc. This scheme came into force in 1958-59. During 1975-76, 11 persons benefited under this scheme. It involved an expenditure of Rs. 480. There had been no expenditure under this scheme during the subsequent years.

Subsidy for the Purchase of Pigs/Poultry Birds.—The deserving and needy members of the Scheduled Castes are given a subsidy of Rs. 800 each for the purchase of four pigs of imported or *desi* breed. The subsidy is given in kind, and the purchase is effected from the Government Piggery Farm, Hisar. The condition to purchase imported breed from Government Piggery Farm, Hisar was relaxed in 1969-70. Pigs now can be purchased from the open market as well. Year-wise details of subsidy given during 1975-76 to 1980-81 are given below :

Year	Amount (Rs.)	Number of Beneficiaries
1975-76	5,600	7
1976-77	5,600	7
1977-78	7,200	9
1978-79	7,200	9
1979-80	—	—
1980-81	—	—

Advance of Loans (Miscellaneous).—An interest-free loan to the tune of Rs. 200 (it was Rs. 150 prior to 1969-70) to each post-matric and Rs. 400 to each post-graduate Scheduled Castes student is advanced for the purchase of books and stationery. This loan is recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments, and the recovery commences after four years of its disbursement. The scheme was introduced in 1967-68, and up to 1980-81 Rs. 7,600 was paid as loan to 38 persons.

The Scheduled Castes were advanced loan out of the Harijan Kalyan Fund for setting up different trades and professions. The maximum amount of loan was Rs. 2,000 (Rs. 5,000 in the case of certain specified trades) and the rate of interest was 3 per cent. It was recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments and the recovery commenced after four years of its disbursement. The scheme was introduced in 1967-68 and discontinued in 1971-72. During this period Rs. 2,80,300 were advanced to 235 persons in the district.

Under another scheme which was operative only for the year 1968-69, a sum of Rs. 14,000 was advanced as loan to 14 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes for the purchase of residential plots. The loan is recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments with 3 per cent interest to commence four years after disbursement.

Subsidy for Construction/Repair of Chopals.—Scheduled Castes have no place of their own where they can celebrate festivals or marriages of their children. In order to remove this difficulty the government introduced a scheme in 1970-71 under which Rs. 5,000 are given as subsidy for the construction of a new *chopal* and Rs. 2,000 for the repair of an old one. This subsidy is given from the Panchayat Samiti fund. The year-wise details of subsidy given and the number of *chopals* received the benefit are given below :

Year	Amount (Rs.)	Number of Chopals
1975-76	98,000	3
1976-77	1,31,000	44
1977-78	24,500	8
1978-79	2,24,500	233
1979-80	27,500	4
1980-81	1,75,000	38

Loans Advanced by Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam Limited.—The sole object of this Nigam is to give financial assistance to the Harijans for their socio-economic and educational upliftment. The Nigam advances loans for various trades/professions, such as dairy farming, leather work, purchase of sheep and goats, piggery, legal profession, higher studies, flour mills, tractors, purchase and development of agricultural land, sub-dealership in tractors, tempes and taxis. The rate of interest is seven per cent¹ per annum except loans for higher studies, in which case it is four per cent per annum. All loans are recoverable in ten equated half-yearly instalments starting one year after the date of drawal of loan, and during the first year, only one half-yearly instalment of interest is recovered.

A loan up to Rs. 10,000 is given to an individual and up to Rs. 50,000 to registered partnership firms and co-operative societies consisting of cent per cent Scheduled Castes members.

The Nigam has also extended its activities for setting up industrial units, at least one in each district with a view to augment the resources of the company and to provide gainful employment particularly to the members of the Scheduled Castes.

Loans advanced by the Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam to the members of Scheduled Castes of the Sirsa district for various trades/professions during 1976-77 to 1980-81 are as under :

(Figures in rupees)

Trade/ Profession	Loans Advanced									
	1976-77	Be- ne- fici- aries	1977-78	Be- ne- fici- aries	1978-79	Be- ne- fici- arie	1979-80	Be- ne- fici- arie	1980-81	Be- ne- fici- arie
Dairy Farming	5,500	3	17,000	8	34,000	14	8,000	4	2,08,000	105
Sheep and Goats	—	—	—	—	16,500	7	4,000	2	93,000	60
Piggery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,500	7
Poultry	—	—	2,000	1	—	—	—	—	3,000	2
Leather	—	—	—	—	31,500	12	8,000	4	33,500	20
Miscellaneous	4,000	1	16,000	4	68,900	22	36,800	12	1,17,500	63
Total	9,500	4	35,000	13	1,50,900	55	56,800	22	4,65,500	257

1. The rate of interest has been reduced to 4 per cent with effect from January 28, 1982.

PROHIBITION

A programme of partial prohibition of observing two dry days i.e. Monday and Tuesday in a week besides three closed days (i. e. Independence Day-August 15, Acharaya Vinobha Bhawe's birthday September 11 and Mahatama Gandhi's birthday October 2), was introduced on April 1, 1969, in the whole of the state including areas which now comprise the Sirsa district. The intention was to increase the number of dry days gradually in each successive year and thus achieve complete prohibition within three or four years.

Consequent upon the implementing of this policy of partial prohibition there was a loss in revenue collection. The loss apart, the policy of two dry days in a week did not bring about the desired result. The people had either been stocking liquor for consumption during the dry days or purchased their requirements from bootleggers. It also encouraged mal-practice of selling liquor on prohibited days. The whole situation was, therefore, reviewed and from April, 1, 1970, it was decided to enforce only the policy of observing three closed days in a year. However, since April 1, 1973, every 7th day of a month is also observed as a closed day. This has been done as a check for the labour class against purchasing liquor on the day when they normally get their pay packets. Further, no liquor shop should be opened within a distance of 50 metres from an educational institution or bus stand or bus stop or a place of public worship or public entertainment, and within 100 metres of a school or a college for women. The maximum limit of keeping only one bottle of country spirit in an individuals possession, introduced on April 1, 1969, continued.

Total prohibition was never enforced in the areas now comprising the Sirsa district, which was created on September 1, 1975. In 1974-75, there were 2 wholesale and 28 retail vends of country liquor and 19 retail vends of Indian made foreign liquor. In 1975-76, the number of wholesale vends of country liquor remained the same whereas the retail vends of the country liquor increased to 32 and that of Indian made foreign liquor to 23. Year-wise details on this account from the year 1976-77 to 1980-81 are given below :

Year	Country Liquor		Indian Made Foreign Liquor	
	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail
1976-77	2	35	1	24
1977-78	2	35	2	26
1978-79	2	22	2	25
1979-80	2	21	1	15
1980-81	1	22	—	15

The oral consumption of opium was prohibited on April 1, 1959 and there was no sale of *bhang* after April 1, 1965, due to total prohibition of its oral consumption. There were 25 registered opium addicts in the district.

The consumption of excisable articles during 1974-75 to 1980-81 was as under :—

Year	Country Spirit	Indian made Foreign Spirit	Foreign Liquor	Beer and Wine
	(L.P. litres)	(L.P. Litres)	(L.P.Litres)	(Bulk Liters)
1974-75	4,33,242	36,413	—	46,523
1975-76	4,14,074	47,509	13.5	54,733
1976-77	4,57,000	64,967	—	95,793
1977-78	4,43,007	1,20,213	—	1,43,141
1978-79	2,83,950	1,24,900	—	1,90,337
1979-80	2,86,080	1,74,809	—	2,24,606
1980-81	3,95,139	1,76,614	—	1,99,720

The increase in the consumption of country liquor was due to increased paying capacity of the consumers particularly the people inhabiting rural areas. The raids organised by the Police and Excise Departments discourage illicit distillation and as a result, people depend more on regular channels of supply for their requirements.

The increase in the consumption of Indian made foreign liquor from 36,413 L.P. litres in 1974-75 to 1,76,614 L.P. Litres in 1980-81 is due to its availability and also the paying capacity of the consumers.

The number of cases detected under Excise and Opium Acts during 1974-75 to 1980-81 were as follows :—

Year	Cases Detected	
	Excise Act	Opium Act
	(Number)	(Number)
1974-75	651	264
1975-76	733	380
1976-77	773	378
1977-78	315	574
1978-79	565	132
1979-80	619	140
1980-81	684	80

The following figures show the collections made under the Punjab Excise Act in the district during 1974-75 to 1980-81 :—

Year	Collections Under The Punjab Excise Act
	(Rs.)
1974-75	1,06,91,999
1975-76	1,31,15,647
1976-77	1,54,63,548
1977-78	1,96,45,907
1978-79	1,69,45,968
1979-80	2,64,79,176
1980-81	2,51,31,722

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE UNION AND STATE LEGISLATURES

All the six general elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha including Vidhan Sabha mid-term election held in 1968 have been conducted smoothly in the Sirsa district. A brief account of the elections since 1952 is given below :

Lok Sabha

The areas comprising the present Sirsa district formed part of Fazilka-Sirsa parliamentary constituency in the general elections held in 1952. During the general elections held in 1957 and 1962, it formed part of Hisar parliamentary constituency. In the general elections of 1967, 1971 and 1977, the said areas were included in the Sirsa(S.C.) parliamentary constituency. The following description shows the trend of the general elections held from time to time in these constituencies :—

First General Elections, 1952

Fazilka-Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency. —The areas presently comprising the Sirsa district formed part of this constituency. A candidate of the Indian National Congress was returned. However, due to his death, a bye-election was conducted in May 1954, when again the Indian National Congress captured the seat.

Second General Elections, 1957

Hisar Parliamentary Constituency.—During these elections, the areas now comprising the Sirsa district formed part of the Hisar parliamentary constituency. A candidate of the Indian National Congress captured this seat defeating four opponents. The number of contestants, valid votes polled and percentage of votes polled by each party were as shown below :

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seat Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Percentage
Indian National Congress	1	1	1,27,059	54.37
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	20,818	8.91
Socialist	1	—	41,815	17.89
Independents	2	—	44,007	18.83
Total	5	1	2,33,699	100.00

Third General Elections, 1962

Hisar Parliamentary Constituency.—There was no change in its previous limits and the present Sirsa district remained a part of Hisar constituency. The seat was won by a Socialist candidate. The number of contestants, valid votes polled and the percentage of votes polled by each party were as shown below :

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seat Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Percentage
Indian National Congress	1	—	1,25,136	36.43
Socialist	1	1	1,52,369	44.36
Jan Sangh	1	—	24,397	7.07
Independents	3	—	41,649	12.14
Total	6	1	3,43,551	100.00

Fourth General Elections, 1967

Sirsa(S.C.) Parliamentary Constituency.—As a result of re-delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies necessitated by the reorganisation of Punjab and creation of a separate Haryana State in 1966, the areas of the present Sirsa district (having four Assembly constituencies, viz., Sirsa, Dabwali, Ellanabad and Rori) were included in the newly created Sirsa(S.C.) parliamentary constituency. The seat was won by a candidate of the Indian National Congress. The number of contestants, valid votes polled and percentage of votes polled by each party were as shown below :

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seat Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Percentage
Indian National Congress	1	1	1,93,919	55.34
Samyukta Socialist Party	1	—	23,653	6.75
Swatantra	1	—	17,191	4.87
Communist Party of India	1	—	12,015	3.43
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	10,905	3.11
Independents	7	—	92,712	26.50
Total	12	1	3,50,395	100.00

Fifth General Elections, 1971

Sirsa(S.C.) Parliamentary Constituency.—There was no change in the limits of this constituency and the areas of the Sirsa district remained a part of Sirsa (S.C.) parliamentary constituency. This time again the seat was won by a candidate of the Indian National Congress (R). The number of contestants, valid votes polled and percentage of votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seat Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Percentage
Indian National Congress	1	1	2,13,610	67.26
Vishal Haryana Party	1	—	91,987	28.96
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	2,642	0.83
Republican Party of India	1	—	4,878	1.54
Independents	1	—	4,485	1.41
Total	5	1	3,17,602	100.00

Sixth General Elections, 1977

Sirsa(S.C.) Parliamentary Constituency.—The Sirsa (S.C.) parliamentary constituency covered the Sirsa district and a part of Hisar district comprising five Assembly constituencies viz., Sirsa, Dabwali, Ellanabad, Rori and Dabba Kalan. The seat was won by a candidate of the Bhartiya Lok Dal. The number of contestants, valid votes polled and percentage of votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seat Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Percentage
Bhartiya Lok Dal	1	1	2,70,861	68.43
Indian National Congress	1	—	1,17,693	29.74
Independents	2	—	7,234	1.83
Total	4	1	3,95,788	100.00

Seventh General Elections, 1980

Sirsa (S.C.) Parliamentary Constituency.—There was no change in the limits of this constituency. The seat was won by a candidate of the Indian National Congress(I). The number of contestants, valid votes polled and percentage of votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seat Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Perce- tage
Indian National Congress (I)	1	1	1,53,233	37.04
Janata (S)	1	—	1,31,732	31.84
Janata Party	1	—	96,996	23.44
Akhil Bhartiya Ram Rajya Parishad	1	—	1,802	0.44
Independents	8	—	29,950	7.24
Total	12	1	4,13,713	100.00

Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly)

First General Elections, 1952

During First General Elections, 1952, the areas comprising the Sirsa district had only two assembly seats, viz., Dabwali and Sirsa. The seat of the Sirsa assembly constituency was won by a candidate of the Indian National Congress while the Dabwali assembly constituency returned an Akali candidate. The Akali candidate was, however, unseated and disqualified in an election petition. Bye-election to this seat was held in September 1953, in which the Congress candidate was declared elected.

Second General Elections, 1957

During the Second General Elections, 1957, the delimitation of the constituencies was affected. A part of areas of the Sirsa district, namely, *zail* Darba Kalan was included in Fatehabad Assembly Constituency from where a candidate of the Indian National Congress was declared elected. The remaining areas of the Sirsa district constituted a two-member constituency i.e. Sirsa (general) and Sirsa (S.C.). A candidate of the Indian National Congress was declared elected from the reserved seat while an Independent was returned from the general

seat. The party-wise number of contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Perce- tage
Indian National Congress]	2	1	58,688	39.98
Praja Socialist Party	2	—	8,533	5.81
Communist Party of India	2	—	10,275	7.00
Independents	10	1	69,331	47.21
Total	16	2	1,46,827	100.00

An election petition was filed against the independent member from Sirsa (general) constituency and his election was declared null and void. In the bye-election held in March, 1959 a candidate of the Indian National Congress was returned.

Third General Elections, 1962

A part of the present Sirsa district, namely, Darba Kalan remained in the Fatehabad Assembly Constituency which returned an independent candidate. The Sirsa two-member constituency was bifurcated into Sirsa and Dabwali (S.C.) constituencies. Both the seats were captured by the Indian National Congress. The party-wise number of contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as shown below :—

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Perce- tage
Indian National Congress	2	2	42,743	44.89
Jan Sangh	2	—	11,667	12.25
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	9,910	10.40
Swatantra	1	—	2,215	2.33
Independents	10	—	28,727	30.15
Total	16	2	95,262	100.00

Fourth General Elections, 1967

After the formation of Haryana in 1966, the Fourth General Elections, 1967 were held to the Haryana Vidhan Sabha instead of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. The number of seats for the areas of the Sirsa district was increased from 2 to 4, namely, Sirsa, Ellanabad, Rori and Dabwali (S.C.). In these elections, three seats (Ellanabad, Rori and Dabwali) were won by the candidates of the Indian National Congress while the fourth seat (Sirsa) was captured by a Jan Sangh candidate. The party-wise number of contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as shown below :

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Perce- tage
Indian National Congress	4	3	67,599	44.67
Jan Sangh	2	1	19,553	12.92
Samyukta Socialist Party	1	—	2,539	1.68
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	1,502	0.99
Independents	9	—	60,148	39.74
Total	17	4	1,51,341	100.00

Mid-Term Elections, 1968

Haryana Vidhan Sabha was dissolved and President's rule was enforced on November 21, 1967. The mid-term elections were held in May, 1968. No change was made in the limits of the assembly constituencies. Out of the four seats, the Indian National Congress captured two seats, viz., Sirsa and Rori. The third seat of Ellanabad was won by a candidate of the newly created Vishal Haryana Party while the fourth seat of Dabwali was captured by an Independent candidate. The party-wise contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Perce- tage
Indian National Congress	4	2	59,480	40.29
Samyukta Socialist Party	1	—	1,456	0.99
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	1,434	0.97
Vishal Haryana Party	1	1	20,816	14.10
Jan Sangh	2	—	6,966	4.72
Akshai Dal	1	—	15,055	10.20
Independents	9	1	42,405	28.73
Total	19	4	1,47,612	100.00

In an election petition, the election of Vishal Haryana Party candidate from Ellanabad constituency was declared null and void. In the bye-election held in May, 1970, the Indian National Congress captured this seat.

Fifth General Elections, 1972

Haryana Vidhan Sabha was again dissolved in January, 1972 and the elections were held in March, 1972. No change was made in the limits of the constituencies and the number of assembly constituencies in the district remained four. All the seats were captured by the Indian National Congress (R). The party-wise number of contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as given below :

Party/Independents	Contes- tants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Perce- tage
Indian National Congress	4	4	1,03,138	57.78
Socialist	1	—	630	0.35
Communist Party of India	1	—	4,939	2.77
Independents	11	—	69,782	39.10
Total	17	4	1,78,489	100.00

The Congress member of the Vidhan Sabha elected from the Rori constituency expired and a bye-election was held in February 1975, when an independent candidate was declared elected.

Sixth General Elections, 1977

As a result of delimitation of assembly constituencies in 1974, the number of assembly constituencies in the district rose from four to five. Darba Kalan was a newly created assembly constituency. The Janata Party captured four seats while the fifth seat returned an Independent candidate. The party-wise number of contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as given below :

Party/Independents	Contest- ants	Seats Won	Valid Votes Polled	
			Number	Percentage
Congress	5	—	49,506	22.34
Janata	5	4	83,306	37.59
Communist Party of India	2	—	5,048	2.28
Socialist Unity Centre of India	1	—	772	0.34
Independents	19	1	83,008	37.45
Total	32	5	2,21,640	100.00

Seventh General Elections, 1982

Seventh General Elections to the Haryana Vidhan Sabha were held in May, 1982. There was no change in the limits of assembly constituencies. Three constituencies, viz. Darba Kalan, Rori and Dabwali returned candidates of the Indian National Congress (I) while the fourth seat of Ellanabad constituency was captured by a candidate of Lok Dal. The fifth seat, viz., Sirsa was won by an Independent candidate. The number of contestants, valid votes polled and percentage of votes polled by each party were as follows:—

Party/Independent	Contestants	Seats Won	Valid Vote Polled	
			Number	Percentage
Indian National Congress (I)	5	3	1,33,727	44.67
Lok Dal	4	1	1,08,119	36.14
Janata Party	3	—	4,963	1.65
Bhartiya Janata Party	1	—	16,678	5.57
Door Darshi Party	4	—	788	0.26
Communist Party of India	2	—	4,487	1.50
Independents	35	1	30,579	10.21
Total	54	5	2,99,341	100.00

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

There is no political party of significance in the district which may be regarded as purely local in character. The major ones are units of all-India parties. The Indian National Congress has been the most important party in the district in the years under review. It may be noted that independents have been steadily fighting with varying degrees of success in all the elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. As the name indicates the independents do not belong to any party nor do they have any programme completely in common. Some candidates who are not serious from the beginning realising their slender chances of success at once withdraw from the elections at the slightest persuasion rather than face the prospects of forfeiting their securities. Their existence and success reflect two features. Some defect from their previous political parties on account of personal difference or differences relating to their political programmes. Others are more like free lancers in the political field, who after their success, either continue to remain independent or give their

support to another party. The data given below show at a glance the degree of their popularity which is reflected in the percentage of votes secured by them at different elections:

Years of Elections	Percentage of Votes Secured by Independents			
	Vidhan Sabha	Lok Sabha		
	All Constituencies Collectively	Fazilka Sirsa	Hisar	Sirsa (S.C.)
1	2	3	4	5
1952	—	—	—	—
1957	47.21	—	18.83	—
1962	30.15	—	12.14	—
1967	39.74	—	—	26.50
1968 (mid-term Vidhan Sabha)	28.73	—	—	—
1971	—	—	—	1.41
1972	39.10	—	—	—
1977	37.45	—	—	1.83
1980	—	—	—	7.24
1982	10.21	—	—	—

The position of different political parties represented in the legislative bodies can be seen at a glance from the table given below :

Year of Elections	Name of Political Party	Number of Members Elected	Number of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
LOK SABHA				
1952	Congress	1	75,412	31.00
1957	Congress	1	1,27,059	54.37
1962	Socialist	1	1,52,369	44.36
1967	Congress	1	1,93,919	55.34
1971	Congress	1	2,13,610	67.26
1977	Bhartiya Lok Dal	1	2,70,861	68.43
1980	Congress	1	1,53,233	37.04

1	2	3	4	5
VIDHAN SABHA				
1952	Congress	1	18,572	56.00
	Akali	1	11,364	31.00
1957	Congress	1	58,688	39.98
	Independent	1	69,331	47.21
1962	Congress	2	42,743	44.87
1967	Congress	3	67,599	44.67
	Jan Sangh	1	19,553	12.92
1968 (Mid-Term)	Congress	2	59,480	40.29
	Vishal Haryana Party	1	20,816	14.10
	Independent	1	42,405	28.73
1972	Congress	4	1,03,138	57.78
1977	Janata	4	83,306	37.59
	Independent	1	83,008	37.45
1982	Congress	3	1,33,727	44.67
	Lok Dal	1	1,08,119	36.14
	Independent	1	30,579	10.21

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

No daily newspaper is published from the Sirsa district. The periodicals being published are detailed below :

Sr. No.	Name	Year of Establish-ment	Place of Publica-tion	Circula-tion	Classi-fication
1	Vir Haquiat (Hindi/Urdu)	1956	Sirsa	1000	News and current affairs
2	Shubh Smachar (Hindi)	1962	do	do	do
3	Sita Kund (Hindi)	1979	do	do	do

1. (i) District Public Relations Officer, Sirsa.

(ii) Jang Jari Hai (Weekly), Sirsa Tribune, Sewa Bhav, Sanghrash ki Rah Par (Fortnightlies) started circulation from 24th December, 1981, 1st November, 1981, 11th December, 1981 and 10th March, 1982, respectively.

A peculiar feature of the periodicals is that their publication is irregular; they do not seem to serve any real cause of journalism and do not follow any set principle or policy. Many a periodical voicing a local party or a group objectives has a short lived existence.

There is no local paper which provides a sort of public forum for the free and unbiased expression of views or which undertakes to impart political education to its readers by discussing local current socio-economic and political issues facing them. The intelligentsia have, therefore, to depend upon papers and periodicals published outside the district. The educated class favours the English dailies. Most older people depend for news on Urdu dailies though the younger generation, not knowing Urdu, depend on Hindi dailies. The periodicals also feed their readers with political reviews and comments in addition to general reading matter like short stories, biographies and poems.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

District Red Cross Society, Sirsa.—Unity, humanity, impartiality, neutrality, universality, independence and voluntary service are the seven principles that serve as guide lines to the Red Cross Societies all over the world and it is worth repeating these principles. Its activities are directed mainly towards the improvement of health, prevention of diseases and mitigation of sufferings. These include an extended sphere of social service like hospital welfare, community health sanitation, relief to defence personnel, maternity and child welfare, emergency relief of all kinds, training of doctors, lady health visitors, midwives, nurses, *dais*, etc. It also assists St. John. Ambulance Association and other charitable institutions.

The District Red Cross Society at Sirsa started functioning from October 16, 1975. It is affiliated to the Haryana branch of the Indian Red Cross Society. Its executive committee consists of 16 members (10 officials and 6 non-officials) with the Deputy Commissioner as President. In 1980, the Society had 26,449 members which included 50 life associates, 130 institutional members and 26,269 annual members.

The figures of income and expenditure from 1976 to 1980 were as under :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1976	3,61,383	2,66,634
1977	1,12,106	1,34,349
1978	1,36,976	95,290
1979	2,44,288	2,02,536
1980	2,99,755	2,75,229

The society runs 2 family welfare planning clinics one each at Kalanwali and Dabwali, 8 trained *dai* centres at Nezaola, Nillanwali, Kharekan, Mirpur, Panniwala Ruldu, Teja Khera, Jogewala and Ahmad Pur and one maternity and child welfare centre at Sirsa. It supplies free medicines to the deserving poor patients in different hospitals. It also renders assistance to the needy during calamities like floods, fire and epidemics. It organises seminars and camps to publicise its aims and objects for mobilising public support. The society also provides financial assistance to the institutions engaged in the work of ameliorating human suffering. During 1980, the society provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 66,900 to various institutions in the Sirsa district.

Hospital Welfare Section, Sirsa.—The Hospital Welfare Section was established in January, 1976 as an institution affiliated to the District Red Cross Society, Sirsa. Its membership is open to both men and women. In 1981, the section has 462 members. It undertakes hospital welfare work which includes supply of medicines, food, clothing, etc., to the needy patients in hospitals and health centres. It distributes fruits, and sweets to indoor patients on Independence Day and Republic Day. Besides, it arranges artificial limbs for handicapped persons. It also arranges blood donors for the blood bank of the Civil Hospital, Sirsa. The section re-imburses the cost of medicines to the deserving patients. It arranges ambulance conveyance for the poor and needy patients on the recommendations of the Senior Medical Officer.

The sources of income of the section are membership fee, assistance from the District Red Cross Society, grant from the Sirsa municipality and income from variety shows, etc.

The year-wise figures of income and expenditure during 1976 to 1980 were as under:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1976	10,084	1,296
1977	8,970	2,882
1978	6,922	1,309
1979	3,321	1,347
1980	8,432	12,605

St. John Ambulance Association, Sirsa.—The Association was formed in September, 1975. It is a branch of the All-India St. John Ambulance Association with its headquarters at Delhi. The association has provided an ambulance car to the Civil Hospital, Sirsa for carrying serious patients to the hospital and from one hospital to another. It also arranges classes for training in first-aid and child welfare. During 1980, 1913 persons were trained. These included conductors and factory workers.

The sources of income of the association are collections from the members, income from the ambulance car and fee from first-aid training besides the financial assistance given by the District Red Cross Society and the All India St. John Ambulance Association. The following figures show income and expenditure from 1976 to 1980:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1976	24,529	29,089
1977	16,295	24,437
1978	37,004	26,790
1979	53,249	39,230
1980	56,962	40,445

District Council of Child Welfare, Sirsa.—A branch of the Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, the District Council for Child Welfare Sirsa, was established in 1975. As its name stands, the council aims to promote the welfare of children and focus public attention on Child Welfare Work. The council functions under the supervision of Child Welfare Officer, Sirsa.

The Council runs two *balwadis* at Moriwala and Bhahuddin (tahsil Sirsa). Children of 3 to 6 years of age are admitted to these *balwadis*. Each *balwadi* accommodates 40 children and is looked after by a Balsevika and a helper. These children are provided supplementary feeding at the rate of 20 paise per child, per day. These *balwadis* give pre-school education to the children of the rural areas and to those who are economically poor and backward. The children are guided on cleanliness, environmental knowledge, colour recognition etc.

Besides, the council runs 23 creches in the district where children upto the age of 5 years are admitted. Each creche is looked after by a Balsevika and a helper. The council is also organising 7 supervised home work classes at Moriwala, Bhuratwala, Handi Khera, Bharokhan, Malekan, Jandwala Jatan and Burj Bhangu.

The Community Week, Children's Day and Teachers Day, etc., are celebrated by the council. The activities of the District Council for Child Welfare, Sirsa are gaining popularities and there is an all round demand for opening new *balwadis*, nursery schools and creche centres throughout the district.

The main sources of income of the council are membership subscription, donations and grant from Haryana State Council for Child Welfare,

Chandigarh. The figures of income and expenditure of the council from 1976-77 to 1980-81 were as under :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1976-77	25,655	32,462
1977-78	36,575	42,475
1978-79	1,16,976	55,469
1979-80	87,701	80,911
1980-81	75,018	1,03,420

District Olympic Association, Sirsa.—It was established on November 21, 1976, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner. The aims and objects of the association are to organise, promote, control, popularise and standardise sports according to the norms of the olympic games. It coordinates sports activities of various sports associations in the district and arranges district championship tournament and exhibition matches for games directly managed by it.

The sources of income of the association include subscriptions from different sports associations, *dangals*, film festivals, grants from the government and donations.

The like voluntary organisations functioning, mention may also be made of District Family Welfare Association, District T.B. Association, etc.

Zila Sainik Board, Sirsa.—There were 236 in service defence personnel and 1,291 ex-servicemen in the district in March, 1981. To look after the interests and welfare of soldiers, ex-servicemen and their families (5,699 in March, 1981) the Sainik Board earlier known as District Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen Board, was constituted in 1979. For resettlement of ex-servicemen under various schemes of self-employment, ample assistance and guidance is provided and for some trainings are sponsored. The board is also actively engaged in different welfare activities and spent about Rs. 10,540 for the benefit of *sainik partwar* of the district during 1980-81.

Besides, the above described voluntary social service organisations, the names of other institution rendering social service to the people in Sirsa in various spheres are: Lions Club, Rotary Club, Sirsa Club, Shri Sanatan Dharam Mahavir Dal, Welfare Society for the poor, Haryana Tarun Sangh, Tarun Kalyan Nidhi, Sewa Samiti, Shri Sarv Hitakari Sabha, Shri Mahabir Dal, Sewa Samiti, Yuvak Samiti and Bal Samiti. These organisations basically run on the donations but play an important role for the service of the community.

CHAPTER-XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

INTRODUCTION

The district, in the course of its historical growth made worthy contributions to the development of culture and Sirsa, Arnian Wali, Sikanderpur, Suchan and Mangiana were early historic and medieval settlements. Sirsa was located on the highway from Pak Pattan (Pakistan) to Delhi during the medieval period.

The following pages describe the places of interest which are known for their antiquity or have acquired importance due to economic development or have been developed as tourist resorts.

ELLANABAD (TAHSIL SIRSA)

Located 42 kilometres south-west of Sirsa, Ellanabad is situated near the border of Rajasthan. It is situated on the Hanumangarh-Sadulpur railway line. It lies 29°27' north latitudes and 74°40' east longitudes.

Earlier known as Khariāl, it was founded in the beginning of the last century by Bagri Jats and Baniyas from Bikaner territory, and was reported in 1837 as a large and increasing village with 700 houses, where there was good deal of traffic and barter. In 1863, the village was inundated and made very unhealthy by the floods of the Ghaggar. J.H. Oliver, the then Deputy Commissioner of the Sirsa district built a new town on the higher ground close by and named it Ellanabad after his wife Ellan. He laid it out in rectangular wide streets.¹

Ellanabad has remained a trading centre since its inception. In 1882-83, grain from Bikaner was exported through Ellanabad in exchange for sugar, cloth and metal vessels from east. It acquired further importance after Independence and is presently a big market for cotton, gram, wheat and paddy.

One of the temples, dedicated to Ram Dev, a saint whose origin is shrouded in mystery, though it is traced to Rajasthan, is held in high esteem by the people of the district. A big fair is held every year in *Magh* (January-February) and is attended by a large number of devotees. The town is provided with school, hospital and other basic amenities.

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District, in the Punjab 1879-83*, p. 194.

MANDI DABWALI (TAHSIL DABWALI)

Mandi Dabwali, headquarters of the tahsil and sub-division of the same name, is located 60 kilometres north-west of Sirsa on Delhi-Fazilka national highway. It lies on 29°58' north latitude and 74°42' east longitude and had a population of 29,008 in 1981. It is situated on the extreme corner of the district bordering Punjab. A part of the town falls in Punjab and is known as Killanwali Mandi.

The name Dabwali according to a tradition is derived from Doobwali, the place abounded with *doob* (a kind of grass). It was a small village but it came into prominence after the opening of Bathinda-Bikaner railway line in 1903. With the opening of railway line, it replaced Sirsa as a collecting centre. The process of development of Dabwali was further hastened by the construction of new grain market in the beginning of the present century. By 1923, it had developed into a chief market of the district. The town assumed further commercial importance after Independence. It is a big market of gram, wheat and cotton. A new *mandi* has been built here recently.

There are many temples which include Shri Krishan Mandir, Hauman-Mandir, Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Gurdwara Baba Nam Dev, and Ram Dev temple. Hanuman Mandir, located on railway road near new grain market is held in high esteem and a large number of devotees visit it on every Tuesday. The temple dedicated to Ram Dev is located near bus stand and fairs attended by large number of people are held in his honour on *Bhadon Badi* 10 (August-September) and *Magh Badi* 10 (January-February).

There are facilities for stay at P.W.D. rest house, market committee rest house and dharmshalas and the town is well provided with schools, colleges, hospitals and other basic amenities.

MANDI KALANWALI (TAHSIL SIRSA)

A station on Rewari-Bathinda railway line, 34 kilometres north of Sirsa, it lies on 29° 50' north latitudes and 74° 40' east longitudes.

The town is an important trading centre of the district and is a flourishing market for gram, cotton, *bagre* and *oilseeds*.

The town has a Durga Mandir, a gurdwara and Gita Bhawan. There are facilities for stay at canal rest house and dharmshalas and it is provided with school, hospital and other basic amenities.

RANIA (TAHSIL SIRSA)

Located 21 kilometres west of Sirsa on Sirsa-Jhansi Nagar road, it lies on 29° 28' north latitude and 74° 54' east longitude.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Nothing much is known about its earlier history but tradition has it that the place was founded by one Rai Biru during 14th century. The old name of the place was Rajabpur. The Rani of Rao Anup Singh Rathaur took up her abode here built a mud fort and changed the name of the Rajabpur to Rania, which it has since retained.¹ Rania has been a place of considerable importance during the 18th century and it remained inhabited although the time of anarchy in this tract which preceded British rule. In 1837, Rania was included in Bhattiana district.

The town assumed considerable commercial importance after Independence. An old fort, which now houses the police station, a few temples and a gurdwara exist in the town. It is provided with school, hospital and other basic amenities.

SIRSA

Sirsa, the headquarters of the district of the same name, is located on Delhi-Fazilka national highway, 82 kilometres north-west of Hisar. It lies on 29° 82' north latitudes and 75° 2' east longitudes.

Sirsa is said to be one of the oldest places of north India and its ancient name was Sairishaka, which finds mention in *Mahabharata*, Panini's *Ashatadhayi* and *Divyayadan*. In *Mahabharata*, Sairishaka is described as being taken by Nakula in his conquest of the western quarter.² Sirsa must have been a flourishing city in the 5th century B.C. as it has been mentioned by Panini.³ Its antiquity is further proved by the discovery of a stone slab containing last five of the total eighteen verses of a eulogy to a king whose name is entirely lost, in Sanskrit language, assignable to 5th or 6th century A.D.⁴ The discovery of Yaudheya, Kushan, Pratihara and later coins and various early medieval sculptures including an interesting Ekanamsa relief belonging to a period not later than 12th century A.D. from its ruins suggest its continued occupation upto medieval times.

The material remains of an ancient fort can still be seen in the south-east of the present town. It is about 5 kilometres in circuit. It resembles in appearance a mighty eruption. The general height of these remains is nearly 75 feet above the surrounding fields. Much of its material has been used for building the new houses.⁵

1. Hisar District Gazetteer, 1915, p. 25.

2. Mahabharata, (Cr. Ed.) II, 29, V.5.

3. V.S. Aggarwal, Paninikallna Bhartvarsha, Varanasi, V.S. 2012, p. 86.

4. Devindra Handa, Some Important towns of Haryana, Journal of Haryana Studies, III, No. 2 pp. 4-8.

5. Cunningham's Report of Archaeological Survey of India, Report of A Tour in the Punjab and Rajputana, 1883-84, Volume XXIII, p. 9.

There are a number of legends about the origin of the name of the town. As mentioned earlier, its ancient name was Sairishaka and from that it seems to have been corrupted to Sirsa. According to a local tradition, an unknown king named Saras founded the town in 7th century A.D. and built a fort. According to another tradition, the name has its origin from the sacred river Sarasvati, which once flowed near it. During medieval period, the town was known as Sarasuti. It has been mentioned as Sarasuti by a number of medieval historians. The derivation of the name Sirsa, is also attributed to the abundance of Sirish trees (*Acacia Speciosa*) in the neighbourhood of Sirsa. In ancient period Sirsa was also known as Sirsepattan.¹

Sirsa has seen many a vicissitudes. It lay in olden days on the way from Multan to the Ganga-Yamuna Doab and has to bear the burnt of Mohammedan invaders. A recluse was once interrogated by a band of pilgrims as to the correct name of the site. He in reply said, *Kabi Sirsa, Kabi Nirsa* (literally, sometimes extent, sometimes extinct), possibly referring to the countless wars which took place in the region necessitating its alternative inhabitation and desertion by the people.²

Sultan Mahmud's successor Masud is known to have himself marched to Sirsa where he found surrounding area remarkable for the growth of sugarcane which were used by his forces to fill the mote in course of their attack on the fort. Tomaras recaptured the fort of Sirsa from Ghaznavids and from Tomaras, it passed on to Chahmanas. It was captured by Shihab-ud-Din Ghuri in A.D. 1192. On the fall of the Khalji dynasty after the murder of Mubarak Khalji, Sirsa, which at that time, according to Wassaf (Abdullah Wassaf) was one of the chief towns in upper India and was among the first places to come into the hands of Ghias-ud-din Tughluq. On the death of Muhammad Tughluq his son Firuz marched from Multan to Delhi via Sirsa to secure the succession of the throne. During Firuz Tughluq's reign Sirsa was a headquarter of a district (*iktaat*).³

About 1341 A.D. Ibn Batutah, from Tangier, during his travels from Pak Pattan (now in Pakistan) to Delhi passed through Sirsa. He describes it as a large town which abounded with rice.⁴

1. Cunningham's *Report of Archeological Survey of India, Report of A Tour in the Punjab and Rajputana*, 1883-84, Volume, XIII, p. 9.

2. *ibid.*

3. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, pp. 32-33.

4. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83, p. 26.

In 1398 A.D., Timur marched into Sirsa, which his historians describe as a large and populous town. He plundered the town and its inhabitants fled at his approach but were pursued and killed in large number.¹

During the reign of Mubarak Shah Sayyid in early 15th Century, Sirsa was an important military centre. It is mentioned as being the rendezvous of the troops of the neighbouring districts for the expedition against the rebel fortress of Sirhind. During the reign of Sher Shah Suri, it became headquarters of Rao Kalyan Singh of Bikaner who had been driven from his territory by the Rao of Jodhpur. During Akbar's regime, it was headquarters of a *mahal* as well as *dastur* under revenue division or *sirkar* of Hisar Firoza.² In the eighteenth century, Sirsa was one of the strongholds of the Bhattis, and was taken by Amar Singh of Patiala in 1774 but restored to the Bhattis by the agreement of 1781.³

The great *Chalisa* famine of Sambat 1840 (1783 A.D.) had devastating effect on Sirsa. Large number of people died of famine and survivors fled to more favoured tracts and the town of Sirsa was wholly deserted. It completely lost its old glory. In 1837, the site of the town of Sirsa, once a populous and flourishing mart was then wholly deserted. But the tradition of its former prosperity were not forgotten, and numerous merchants residing in the neighbouring Rajputana states repeatedly urged Captain Thoresby, the Superintendent of Bhatiana district, to restore the town. In January, 1838, Captain Thoresby made a commencement of the new town in the uninhabited jungle to the east of the old Sirsa fort. The town was laid out as a square of 2,800 feet side, crossed by broad streets at right angles to each other and thus presented an appearance of regularity. The town continued to grow in size and importance as the surrounding country became more fully colonised. It was soon made the headquarters of the Bhatti territory, and became the great emporium for the trade of the neighbourhood.⁴ It remained the headquarters of the district till 1884.

The town has progressed much since Independence. It is no longer confined within the old gates; habitation has spread outside. Number of new colonies have come up in recent years. Haryana Urban Development Authority is developing an urban estate. It is a big market for cotton, gram, paddy and wheat. Industrially also, the town is taking new shape. Number of agro-based industrial units have been opened in recent years.

The places of religious and historical interest at Sirsa are tomb of Khawaja Pir, Dera Baba Sarsai Nath, Gurdwara Guru Gobind Singh, Jama Masjid and Dera Sacha Sauda.

1. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83, p. 26.

2. *Hisar District Gazetteer*, 1892, pp. 34-35.

3. *Imperial Gazetteer of India Provincial Series Punjab*, Vol. 1, 1908, p. 246.

4. J. Wilson, *Final Report on the Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab*, 1879-83, pp. 42-43.

Tomb of Khawaja Pir.—The tomb is said to have been built in the 13th century, in the memory of Khawaja Abdul Shakar. He was one of those who accompanied Muhammed Ghuri to India and resided here. A mosque was built adjoining the tomb later during the 16th century. However, no remains of tomb or mosque are there. Guru Nanak Dev is said to have stayed here for 40 days at the tomb along with his disciples Bala and Mardana. A gurdwara to commemorate his visit is under construction.

Dera Baba Sarsai Nath.—Located outside Hisar gate, the construction of the temple is assigned to the 13th century. It was built by Sarsai Nath, a saint of Nath sect, followers of Shiva who is said to have meditated here. It is held in high esteem by the people of the area. An inscription of Bhoja, the Pratihara ruler was found at Sirsa. It records that Nilkantha, a saint of Pashupati sect constructed a temple of Yogisvara (Shiva) made of burnt bricks and thick slabs of stones with a golden *Shikhra*. Though no remains of this temple have been found, yet it indicates that Saivism and Pashupati sect flourished at Sirsa during the 8th and 9th centuries.

Mughal emperor Shah Jahan visited the Dera Baba Sarsai Nath for blessings for his ailing son. The emperor built a dome and donated land to the temple. A document in Arabic, in possession of Dera authorities testify Shah Jahan's visit to the temple. The Dera has the temples of Shiva and Durga.

Gurdwara Guru Gobind Singh.—Located inside the town on a bank of a large tank, the gurdwara is said to have been built in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh who stayed here for some time. It is entirely made of marble.

The devotees take bath in the tank. The tank is of great antiquity and is said to have been excavated during the 3rd century A.D. simultaneously with the erection of fort of Sirsa paltan. It is said that there were seven sub-terraneous passages or caves leading from the tank's wall to the fort.¹

Jama Masjid.—Located in the town, it was built towards the close of the 19th century. It has two high minarets which overlook the town.

There are facilities of stay at P.W.D. rest house, Haryana State Electricity Board rest house, market committee rest house and dharmshalas. The town is well provided with schools, colleges, hospitals and other basic amenities. Surkhab, a restaurant with bar facilities of the Haryana Tourism Corporation has become popular with the people.

PLACES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL, RELIGIOUS AND TOURIST INTEREST

There are number of places in the district which have archaeological and religious importance. The Haryana Tourism Department has also opened two tourist complexes in the district. The details about them are given here.

¹ H.B.W. Garrick, *Archaeological Survey of India, Report of A tour in the Punjab and Rajasthan, 1883-84*, p. 10.

Places of Archaeological Interest.

The Archaeological Survey of India, during the archaeological exploration of the Ghaggar valley in Sirsa district in 1967-68, nearly 54 sites, yielding the painted grey, black and red, black slipped, grey and red wares and those belonging to Rangmahal culture were discovered. No Harappan settlement, however, could be located. Sites yielding Rangmahal pottery were found to be situated in close proximity to the Ghaggar.

Amongst the painted grey ware settlements, a mound locally called Lahoronwali Theri at Rania deserves special mention. The painted grey ware types found here mainly comprised dishes and bowls. Pottery of the later periods was also collected from this site.

Besides, two mounds at Sikanderpur from where stone slabs having marks of iron dowels were found can be ascribed to Rangmahal culture.¹ A few more archaeological sites were identified in the district.² The more important ones are described below:

Arrian Wali (Tahsil Sirsa).—It is situated 8 kilometres south of Sirsa on Sirsa-Bhadra road. A mound measuring nearly 4 acres and approximately 10 feet high lies 400 metres north of the village. It has yielded fragments of pottery of early historic and medieval times.

Sikanderpur (Tahsil Sirsa).—Located about 12 kilometres east of Sirsa, the village is approached by a link road from Sirsa-Fatehabad road. The site which has two mounds, one kilometre apart is located about 1.6 kilometres north-east of the villages and is nearly 30 feet high. Heavy stone slabs and a sculpture of Indra, specimens of a temple of early medieval times were found from the site. A sculpture of an 'Ekamukha Linga' of Shiva belonging to early medieval times has also been discovered. This specimen represents Shiva both in his human as well as phallic form. Sculpture of Indra recovered from the site is fine specimen representing two armed Indra as Dikpala. Another sculpture of Indra with his consort belonging to the early medieval times has also been found. The site has also yielded Rangmahal and medieval wares.

Suchan (Tahsil Sirsa).—Located about 16 kilometres east of Sirsa, the site has yielded fragments of pottery of Rangmahal and early medieval wares.

Mangiana (Tahsil Dabwali).—It is located about 13 kilometres east of Dabwali on Kalanwali-Dabwali road. The mound, located about a kilometre west of the village, is 15 feet high. It has yielded fragments of early historic and medieval wares.

¹ *Indian Archaeology, 1967-68, A Review*, pp. 20-22.

² Phogat, Silk Ram, *Archaeology of Rohtak and Hisar District, Haryana, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, M.S. 1972*, pp. 83-88.

Places of Religious Interest.

Dera Sacha Sanda (Shahpur Begu).—Located on the Begu road, the Dera was set up by Shah Mastana a saint, in 1948. He had a large following of all castes and laid special stress on chanting the name of God, service of the humanity and austere life. Dera is housed in a spacious building having 600 rooms, a hall and a big ground. There are arrangements for free kitchen (*langar*). No offerings are accepted and expenses are met from the income of land attached to it. A large number of devotees join the birth anniversary and death anniversary celebrations in April and November respectively.

Ram Dev Mandir, Kagdana (Tahsil Sirsa).—Ram Dev a saint of Rajasthan and the Bagar, is worshipped in the district. Though there are many temples of Ram Dev but the one at Kagdana in Sirsa tahsil is the biggest. A large number of devotees pay their obeisance in the temple. A fair attended by large number is held on *Magh Sudi* 10 (January-February).

Dera, Jiwan Nagar (Tahsil Sirsa).—Located 30 kilometres west of Sirsa, it is an important centre of Namdhari sect. Earlier known as Chichal, the village was named Jiwan Nagar after Jeewan Kaur mother of late Partap Singh, a Namdhari saint. A large number of followers of Namdhari sect came from Shekhupura, Sialkot and Gujranwala districts after the Partition and settled here.

The Dera is running a Guru Hari Singh Vidyalya and cow breeding centre. A Holi fair is held on *Chet Badi* 1 (March-April) which is attended by a large number of followers of Namdhari sect. An interesting feature of the fair is that simple marriages costing just Rs. 11 are solemnised.

Gurdwara, Chormar Khara (Tahsil Dabwali). Located 36 kilometres from Sirsa on Delhi-Fazilka national highway, the gurdwara is said to be associated with Guru Gobind Singh, who stayed here for a night. It is spread over an area of 8 acres and has tank with separate enclosure for ladies. There is a small museum and library. The gurdwara is held in high esteem.

Places of Tourist Interest.¹

Kala Teetar Tourist Complex, Abub Shahar.—It is located 74 kilometres north-west of Sirsa on Ganganagar-Bathinda road, Kala Teetar Tourist Complex having a Motel and restaurant was built in 1978. It is situated on the intersection of Rajasthan canal and Bhakra canal near Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan border. It has 4 suits (2 air-conditioned and 2 non-air conditioned) and a restaurant with bar facilities. Boating arrangements also exist.

Shikara Tourist Complex, Asa Khara.—It is located 80 kilometres north-west of Sirsa on Ganganagar-Bathinda road. It has two suites and a restaurant.

1. The Tourist Complexes at Abub Shahar and Asa Khara were closed in 1983-84. Now these have been re-opened.

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TABLE I
Normals and Extremes of Rainfall

Station	No. of years of data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual rainfall as % of normal & year**	Highest annual rainfall as % of normal & year**	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal & year**	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours*	Date
Sirsa	74 a	12.9	10.9	9.1	4.7	8.7	28.8	90.8	85.8	56.7	8.8	2.3	5.8	325.3	327 (1917)	34 (1920)	165.4	1917 Sep. 22
	b	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.8	2.0	4.8	4.6	2.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	19.6				
Sirsa (District)	a	12.9	10.9	9.1	4.7	8.7	28.8	90.8	85.8	56.7	8.8	2.3	5.8	325.3	327 (1917)	34 (1920)		
	b	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.8	2.0	4.8	4.6	2.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	19.6				

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more).

*Based on all available data up to 1977.

**Years of occurrence given in brackets.

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TABLE II
Frequency of Annual Rainfall
(Data 1901—1977)

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
101—200	14	601—700	1
201—300	18	701—800	0
301—400	16	801—900	0
401—500	7	901—1000	0
501—600	9	1001—1100	1

(Data during 1901—1977 is available for 66 years only).

TABLE III
Village-wise Census Statistics—1961
Dabwali Taluk

Serial No.	Name of village (Headset number)	Area of village in Hectares	No. of Households	Total Population		Literate		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers
				Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Fatehpur Jattan Wali (Jattanwali)	1,516-00	149	929	500	429	163	58	159	74
2	Lohgarh	2,125-00	461	2,974	1,569	1,405	616	227	428	323
3	Teja Khera	1,015-00	200	1,512	780	732	300	104	194	191
4	Chutala	7,710-00	1,315	9,522	5,037	4,485	1,989	577	1,730	666
5	Asa Khera	1,075-00	252	1,842	956	886	414	127	351	95
6	Bharu Khera	930-00	149	1,113	591	522	227	43	233	72
7	Jandwala Bishnoi	2,003-00	301	2,260	1,175	1,085	358	103	539	94
8	Sukheranwala	1,049-94	257	1,671	893	778	335	125	163	263
9	Ahub Shahar (Abubsher)	4,350-54	256	6,271	3,326	2,945	1,340	498	768	729
10	Sakra Khera	2,030-00	385	2,518	1,327	1,291	453	254	471	170
11	Gobindgarh	1,181-00	19	115	62	53	40	24	32	..
12	Lakhana	1,138-00	211	1,322	705	617	253	72	322	46
13	Gidder Khera (Girdarkhera)	1,422-00	100	567	346	321	89	34	136	95
14	Ganga	5,138-00	855	5,793	3,110	2,683	541	105	1,075	614

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15	Lambi	(288)	990-00	119	834	439	395	103	39	139	117
16	Modi	(256)	1,059-00	64	438	217	221	41	11	83	44
17	Moonanwali	(263)	783-00	138	1,063	562	501	256	66	237	54
18	Chakjalu	(257)	219-00	55	452	231	221	100	21	100	6
19	Goriawala	(255)	1,072-00	332	1,340	1,215	1,125	414	95	307	187
20	Jhuti Khera	(289)	666-00	94	697	370	327	201	47	171	11
21	Maddadu (Mathodadu)	(290)	1,424-00	305	2,104	1,134	970	417	125	440	182
22	Maujgarh	(291)	2,353-00	363	2,358	1,262	1,096	426	180	270	299
23	Masitan	(284)	2,214-41	565	3,232	1,732	1,500	494	223	433	457
24	Alka	(276)	1,497-00	345	2,184	1,184	1,000	281	102	400	219
25	Shergarh	(275)	1,524-02	304	1,707	913	794	348	100	244	155
26	Nai Dabwali	(277)	1,172-00	1	5	5	..	5	..	..	..
27	Dabwali	(278)	2,003-00	659	4,123	2,172	1,951	484	226	563	606
28	Sanwant Khera	(283)	914-58	141	894	500	394	196	74	88	112
29	Dewan Khera	(292)	1,124-00	88	619	305	314	140	42	51	112
30	Khuyan Malkhana	(293)	2,006-00	489	2,877	1,529	1,348	693	348	408	213
31	Nillanwali	(294)	685-00	163	1,037	564	473	240	95	217	108
32	Mangiana	(282)	1,194-00	303	1,944	1,048	896	328	86	376	193
33	Jogewala	(279)	1,293-00	237	1,540	813	711	161	52	296	158
34	Panniwala Moreka	(280)	933-00	282	1,675	881	794	262	124	292	198
35	Desu Jodha	(281)	2,464-00	709	4,256	2,306	1,950	619	220	824	289
36	Phulo (Phulla)	(296)	1,622-00	230	1,669	888	781	138	30	400	103

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
37	Chaita (Chitha)	(297)	538-00	122	834	427	407	176	31	178	44
38	Tigri	(298)	503-00	110	696	365	331	117	32	123	68
39	Naurang	(299)	1,141-00	184	1,170	618	552	222	66	210	99
40	Khokhar	(300)	1,345-56	166	1,057	561	496	113	28	227	84
41	Makha	(301)	679-86	127	880	494	386	136	23	188	78
42	Pipli	(308)	1,608-00	285	1,941	1,012	929	322	175	312	196
43	Tappi (Tipi)	(307)	1,067-00	100	651	337	314	104	38	122	63
44	Pana	(302)	931-00	121	790	421	369	107	47	122	89
45	Habuana	(295)	1,126-00	214	1,426	773	653	275	104	322	114
46	Panniawala Ruldu	(303)	1,215-00	277	1,642	859	783	277	122	229	166
47	Mithri	(304)	1,504-19	243	1,579	837	742	235	90	343	141
48	Kingran	(306)	787-00	133	942	476	466	96	44	198	76
49	Malakpur	(305)	912-00	154	1,176	606	570	190	58	197	83
50	Jandwala Jattan	(253)	1,094-00	167	1,281	672	609	199	79	268	48
51	Chormar Khara	(252)	1,272-00	293	2,069	1,102	967	191	81	343	316
52	Salam Khara	(250)	1,183-69	145	942	513	429	159	70	155	114
53	Odhan	(204)	2,079-00	639	4,302	2,288	2,014	766	334	712	254
54	Nuhiyan Wali (Nahi Yanwali)	(249)	1,559-06	416	2,810	1,457	1,353	605	137	601	168
55	Ghukanwali (Ghokanwali)	(221)	1,891-07	367	2,441	1,310	1,131	354	68	522	148

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56	•Ram Nagar	(206)	1,006-00	4	31	16	15	6	9	..	
57	Roharan Wali	(205)	882-00	132	844	456	388	218	47	212	40
58	Panniawala Mota (Panniwali)	(207)	1,777-00	613	4,311	2,260	2,051	739	196	602	380
59	Khuyian Nepalpur	(208)	798-83	147	988	505	483	197	78	109	84
60	Motranwali	(209)	453-65	16	121	63	58	32	17	24	1
61	Peer Khara	(219)	551-17	110	838	446	392	168	40	188	45
62	Bhagar	(220)	1,305-00	50	277	130	147	33	35	55	22
63	Khai Shergarh	(222)	935-00	192	1,450	767	683	234	47	348	19
64	Kharian	(216)	3,758-00	722	5,328	2,779	2,549	1,092	426	936	389
65	Bhoosa	(224)	957-00	142	1,025	523	502	277	91	264	15
66	Mehna Khara	(225)	1,360-00	60	407	200	207	45	19	105	7
67	Khoja Khara	(231)	530-00	87	689	367	322	145	46	90	76
68	Gindras	(242)	1,679-00	206	1,656	858	798	281	60	302	106
69	Ghoranwali	(243)	867-63	157	1,205	607	598	310	61	266	27
70	Chakan	(244)	1,110-00	402	2,936	1,497	1,439	700	165	495	139
71	Banwala	(223)	2,198-00	357	2,529	1,344	1,185	357	83	522	173
72	Rampura Bihonian	(254)	1,246-00	213	1,438	789	649	255	46	314	115
73	Rajpura	(248)	664-00	77	547	288	259	102	23	109	34
74	Ratta Khara	(247)	1,068-00	159	1,098	596	502	218	44	195	78
75	Risalia Khara	(246)	2,083-00	533	4,105	2,138	1,967	861	139	859	138
76	Ramgarh	(245)	1,001-00	4	33	18	15	11	..	9	..

*Although entered as 'Be-Chirag' (Un-inhabited) in the revenue record. The Population shown against this village was enumerated at the time of 1961-census.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
77	Peridpur (259)	674-00	11	97	48	49	21	3	23	3
78	Bijuwali (Bijuwala) (258)	1,118-00	168	1,090	585	505	253	124	125	147
79	Ahmadpur Darewala (261)	1,984-95	281	1,908	995	913	229	60	365	189
80	Godola (262)	1,554-00	178	1,258	666	592	259	81	217	100
81	Kabana (Kabana) (238)	3,670-00	468	3,255	1,728	1,527	645	131	596	215
82	Becher (Bachihar) (237)	1,269-00	149	1,139	622	517	220	36	244	49
83	Nathohar (236)	2,504-00	284	2,065	1,094	971	350	83	584	118
84	Member Khera (Mamer Khera) (239)	1,103-00	220	1,463	758	705	308	32	267	88
G. Total			21,382	149,401	78,918	70,483	26,730	8,503	26,746	12,401

SIRSA DISTRICT GAZETTEER

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Sirsa Tahsil

Serial No.	Name of village (Hadbast number)	Area of village in Hectares	No. of Households	Total Population		Literate		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers
				Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Bukhara Khera (218)	658-01	15	86	47	39	8	4	23	5
2	Darewala (217)	850-00	23	142	77	65	23	3	45	..
3	Jodhpuria (210)	698-00	291	2,126	1,082	1,044	401	84	451	92
4	Fatehpur Nimat- Khan (Fatehpur Nimat) (194)	652-00	189	1,448	765	683	238	59	251	117
5	Karamgarh (195)	1,469-00	152	956	508	448	207	91	183	62
6	Shekhupuria (193)	686-00	151	1,071	581	490	177	33	223	56
7	Panjuana (192)	1,154-00	313	1,814	989	825	474	212	161	99
8	Burj Bhangu (181)	907-00	200	1,542	833	709	272	65	216	201
9	Bhangu (191)	1,355-00	257	1,861	991	870	189	56	322	239
10	Sahuwala-I (196)	1,893-00	322	2,327	1,246	1,081	364	90	324	313
11	Chhatrian (197)	801-00	143	1,158	593	565	251	44	283	27
12	Raghuna (Raghu- ana) (198)	1,510-00	334	2,009	1,064	945	398	149	355	221
13	Bada Gudha (Gudha Kalan) (190)	1,847-00	516	3,025	1,628	1,397	625	248	441	226
14	Daulatpur Khera (189)	709-00	51	429	227	202	66	23	60	23
15	Subewala Khera (188)	804-00	97	670	363	307	97	44	137	119

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
16	Anandgarh	(199)	811-00	135	963	496	467	220	33	195	30
17	Kheowali	(202)	1,018-00	233	1,591	824	767	314	79	244	165
18	Lakharwali	(200)	1,775-00	389	2,525	1,369	1,156	313	49	596	176
19	Gidrana	(201)	1,808-00	335	2,313	1,267	1,046	344	71	521	177
20	Chukerian (Chankarian)	(203)	772-00	137	945	502	443	166	58	217	80
21	Jhalana (Jalanana)	(251)	1,665-00	327	2,187	1,138	1,049	242	68	328	299
22	Jagmalwali	(309)	1,765-00	521	3,220	1,745	1,475	379	135	558	206
23	Asir	(310)	1,060-00	178	1,176	632	544	127	32	277	130
24	Hasan	(311)	1,063-00	127	778	425	353	83	8	190	61
25	Desu Malkana	(312)	2,276-00	618	3,637	1,923	1,714	525	174	458	427
26	Kalanwali (Rural)	(313)	3,250-00	556	3,714	1,994	1,720	441	151	586	452
27	Taruana	(315)	1,236-00	206	1,295	687	608	284	76	256	104
28	Tilokwala	(316)	753-00	145	888	482	406	136	47	115	71
29	Takhatmal	(314)	1,079-00	249	1,618	900	718	299	65	361	94
30	Kewal	(322)	919-03	196	1,311	704	607	106	21	295	117
31	Dharanpura	(323)	494-11	144	966	524	442	123	36	208	72
32	Rampura	(324)	561-00	2	16	9	7	..	..	6	..

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33	Singhpura (Sigh Pura)	(325)	1,176-00	301	1,948	1,071	877	196	43	487	137
34	Dadu	(321)	1,913-00	366	2,332	1,248	1,084	337	93	483	251
35	Pacca	(320)	1,124-00	240	1,466	789	677	241	73	256	176
36	Kamal	(319)	658-00	81	554	309	245	96	20	159	29
37	Dogran Wali	(318)	303-00	12	65	36	29	10	1	21	1
38	Khatanwa (Khatranwan)	(317)	634-00	157	946	525	421	220	76	211	78
39	Sukhchain	(187)	2,171-00	415	2,853	1,524	1,329	395	126	625	219
40	Bhadra	(186)	885-00	133	989	524	465	182	39	288	48
41	Kuranganwali	(185)	1,479-00	301	2,116	1,136	980	191	66	372	230
42	Fagu	(169)	2,449-00	448	3,033	1,616	1,417	304	66	663	369
43	Surtia	(168)	2,283-00	442	3,014	1,598	1,416	379	87	601	272
44	Rori	(167)	5,091-00	1,161	7,627	4,116	3,511	1,008	438	1,012	534
45	Rohan	(171)	739-35	140	892	494	298	83	8	191	75
46	Desu Khurd	(170)	410-00	60	411	226	185	51	6	89	36
47	Thiraj	(174)	1,277-00	319	2,129	1,117	1,012	287	68	366	145
48	Panjwala	(175)	426-00	22	148	84	64	24	4	83	5
49	Bhiwan	(173)	1,012-00	230	1,599	894	705	176	49	235	141
50	Malari	(172)	763-00	158	1,099	597	502	75	32	158	96
51	Mattar	(166)	756-00	155	1,063	567	496	118	27	191	114
52	Lahengowala	(165)	549-00	103	750	408	342	98	24	150	75
53	Ranga	(164)	528-00	44	291	157	134	49	2	43	46
54	Alikan (Alika)	(176)	1,852-00	313	1,985	1,067	918	280	149	237	284

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
55	Jhri (Jhirri)	(177)	1,128-00	140	1,024	556	468	147	46	198	136
56	Jhorar Rohi	(184)	1,748-00	311	2,038	1,088	950	215	39	472	125
57	Biruwala Gudha	(183)	1,656-00	330	2,158	1,159	999	234	55	419	161
58	Dhaban	(182)	684-00	80	527	300	227	176	69	70	71
59	Bupp	(178)	1,696-00	391	2,307	1,213	1,094	621	345	338	129
60	Sawaipur	(180)	432-00	22	181	102	79	40	8	35	9
61	Nezadela Khurd (Nezadala Khurd)	(155)	574-00	193	1,094	594	500	268	120	133	109
62	Sahatan	(152)	495-00	140	811	434	377	175	105	99	119
63	Kharekan	(151)	1,001-00	296	1,812	948	864	372	122	255	180
64	Mirpur	(150)	892-00	261	1,459	767	692	345	193	225	45
65	Ahmaipur	(149)	634-13	158	946	493	453	183	98	166	106
66	Ban Sudhar	(148)	819-07	213	1,447	810	637	361	87	190	129
67	Chamal	(147)	1,526-00	390	2,451	1,283	1,168	458	162	267	328
68	Jhorar Nali	(145)	2,845-00	476	3,272	1,702	1,570	637	356	663	224
69	Kedian	(146)	1,023-00	214	1,643	864	779	321	72	278	117
70	Ram Nagria (Ram Nagar)	(84)	381-00	146	1,074	583	491	148	118	160	17
71	Khaja Khera	(83)	793-00	130	690	388	302	151	50	25	19
72	Sinsa (Rural)	(81)	935-00	Total Population and part area of the village has come within the municipal limits of Sinsa Town							

SIRSA DISTRICT GAZETTEER

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73	Shamshabad	(82)	1,009-00	120	752	409	343	140	76	163	34
74	Chattar Garh	(80)	569-00	27	145	81	64	29	8	10	22
75	Jhopra (Jodhpura)	(153)	320-00	39	231	120	111	52	37	43	20
76	Neza dela Kalan (Nezadala Kalan)	(154)	1,882-57	489	3,173	1,657	1,516	743	422	426	276
77	Kheirpur	(79)	865-00	172	737	450	287	157	36	42	11
78	Kanganpur	(78)	539-00	208	1,260	665	534	285	181	181	126
79	Bajaka	(77)	1,949-00	550	3,895	2,100	1,796	795	301	428	125
80	Khandanwali	(47)	757-00	2	10	4	6	3	2	2	..
81	Phoolkan	(48)	948-00	216	1,726	922	804	274	43	218	270
82	Baidwala	(76)	1,416-38	474	3,064	1,611	1,453	713	454	415	264
83	Handi Kheri	(75)	296-00	110	732	388	344	133	26	130	63
84	Sikandarpur	(73)	1,465-00	461	2,704	1,476	1,228	433	222	285	374
85	Rasulpur	(70)	836-00	222	1,303	668	635	307	183	230	135
86	Kasan Khara	(74)	712-00	22	117	63	54	38	13	37	4
87	Farwain	(158)	1,292-00	393	2,598	1,407	1,191	451	98	441	236
88	Malewala	(156)	765-25	180	1,235	656	579	262	102	225	101
89	Chak Bani	(179)	27-11	Uninhabited							
90	Budha Bhana	(157)	913-77	200	1,345	715	630	308	116	183	190
91	Kirar Kot	(160)	547-00	140	903	488	415	228	114	94	120
92	Nageeki	(161)	1,315-00	234	1,742	961	781	285	68	284	141
93	Panihari	(162)	1,537-00	447	2,815	1,450	1,365	431	146	503	230
94	Musahabwala	(163)	601-00	106	657	338	319	138	51	137	25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
95	Bhara Khan (68)	1,226-18	336	2,190	1,156	1,034	553	206	362	147
96	Burj Karamgarh (159)	543-89	99	636	340	296	164	102	80	32
97	Darbi (69)	1,866-00	501	3,126	1,656	1,470	634	353	540	455
98	Baruwalli-I (67)	1,932-00	323	2,080	1,083	997	468	250	483	75
99	Sanghar Sarishta (Saugar Shrishtwala) (66)	551-00	117	672	354	318	118	77	39	134
100	Moriwala (72)	646-00	244	1,497	786	711	420	271	224	232
101	Shakar Khara (71)	134-00	10	77	40	37	15	10	22	—
102	Baidin (Bahudin) (65)	2,277-00	645	3,991	2,068	1,923	764	431	525	452
103	Nared Khara (51)	948-00	236	1,520	791	729	280	89	255	150
104	Bagawali (50)	385-00	128	882	461	421	106	26	156	66
105	Padi Diba: (59)	947-00	334	2,306	1,205	1,101	513	239	337	256
106	Jodhkin (52)	3,004-34	718	4,679	2,486	2,193	1,019	346	783	348
107	Suchan (53)	725-00	351	2,211	1,160	1,051	559	226	227	8
108	Koli (Kotali) (64)	1,302-00	505	3,435	1,776	1,662	662	239	266	242
109	Kusanbi (50)	841-00	151	1,292	688	604	213	40	228	132
110	Kanwarwara (49)	859-00	160	1,115	589	526	226	44	198	62
111	Ali Mohammad (Ali Mohamad) (45)	930-00	176	1,309	668	641	250	64	222	82

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112	Chadiwal (46)	1,151-00	151	988	523	465	257	38	203	56
113	Sahuwala-II (53)	904-00	173	1,257	681	576	284	44	258	138
114	Tajia Khara (52)	966-00	144	1,131	606	525	223	38	264	28
115	Chak Suchan (51)	18-00	Un-inhabited							
116	Sherpura (54)	1,610-00	293	2,156	1,172	984	312	62	449	74
117	Kukar Thana (56)	573-00	69	429	228	201	88	21	63	65
118	Mochiwali (58)	1,277-00	244	1,615	877	738	372	109	345	48
119	Ding (57)	2,746-97	783	5,171	2,775	2,396	1,267	433	745	240
120	Gadli (55)	1,027-00	88	548	308	240	120	42	127	14
121	Narain Khara } (17)	922-00	90	664	355	309	175	47	141	28
122	Kairanwali (Kariwali) (18)	950-00	202	1,477	789	688	335	52	501	130
123	Naharan wali (19)	770-00	Un-inhabited							
124	Makho Soran (20)	1,513-00	211	1,470	762	708	303	24	264	102
125	Naharans (16)	1,415-00	239	1,678	890	788	360	50	316	71
126	Rupana Bishnoian } (15)	737-00	131	1,012	543	469	172	16	286	31
	(Rampura Bishonian)									
127	Ganja Rupana } (14)	651-00	154	1,120	596	524	255	44	220	33
	(Ganj Rupana)									
128	Shakar Mandori (13)	1,264-00	219	1,161	850	811	305	41	281	62
129	Chaharwala (2)	2,525-00	500	3,445	1,805	1,640	833	181	752	129
130	Jogiwala (1)	1,403-00	252	1,981	1,006	975	290	38	515	125
131	Ram Pura Bagrian } (3)	837-69	115	837	452	385	186	49	333	30
	(Rampur Bagrian)									
132	Kagdana (4)	1,625-00	355	2,412	1,277	1,135	473	91	589	65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
133	Shahpuria	(12)	1,201-00	176	1,387	741	646	264	17	253	94
134	Tarkanwali	(11)	1,101-00	175	1,232	652	580	338	55	251	46
135	Gigo Rani	(10)	1,548-00	206	1,533	795	738	335	55	362	17
136	Jasania	(9)	713-00	94	634	324	310	129	30	163	5
137	Kumharia	(5)	1,468-99	209	1,595	843	752	252	19	310	69
138	Kheri	(6)	1,359-00	172	1,333	696	637	229	27	351	7
139	Gusaiana	(8)	1,146-00	183	1,302	681	621	268	21	452	6
140	Rajpura Sani	(7)	508-00	79	537	275	262	100	17	126	10
141	Rampura Dhilanwala	(24)	1,824-00	267	1,910	1021	889	387	73	362	104
142	Kutiana	(35)	1,602-00	92	751	403	348	138	13	188	31
143	Jamal	(36)	4,332-00	706	5,110	2,705	2,405	891	152	925	322
144	Brasari	(34)	1,339-00	230	1,578	807	771	215	20	376	17
145	Jorian	(25)	647-00	92	786	394	392	192	40	149	31
146	Hanjira	(23)	1,399-00	214	1,531	795	736	294	40	330	103
147	Natnu sari Kalan	(21)	1,741-00	449	2,943	1,586	1,357	741	141	468	213
148	Nat'usari Khurd	(22)	474-00	Un-inhabited							
149	Darban Kalan	(30)	2,225-00	389	2,742	1,487	1,255	577	141	398	223
150	Manak Diwan	(29)	285-00	29	208	110	98	41	11	75	..

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151	Ludesar	(27)	1,524-00	319	2,227	1,139	1,088	531	111	246	249
152	Rupana urf Darban Khurd (Rupana Alias Darba Khurd)	(28)	902-00	177	1,331	705	626	283	28	292	66
153	Randhawa	(31)	1,176-00	181	1,314	669	645	214	51	244	61
154	Arinjanwali	(43)	1,180-00	287	2,238	1,170	1,068	407	49	581	50
155	Nezia Khara	(44)	1,016-00	159	1,125	601	524	226	43	220	52
156	Shahpur Begu	(86)	2,857-00	651	4,365	2,332	2,033	1,084	530	538	353
157	Kangri Anara	(81)	904-00	155	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
158	Dhingania	(42)	1,042-00	175	1,203	617	586	205	48	256	67
159	Chaurburja (Chaurburja)	(41)	823-52	139	893	466	427	139	47	147	57
160	Bakarianwali	(40)	1,477-00	301	2,253	1,164	1,089	423	68	461	109
161	Nirwan	(32)	1,333-00	170	1,244	660	584	207	20	225	114
162	Rupawas	(26)	1,846-00	304	2,085	1,100	985	402	37	418	92
163	Raipur	(33)	694-00	99	791	402	389	161	32	130	57
164	Dhookara (Dhookara)	(37)	1,722-00	258	2,197	1,127	1,065	293	23	544	87
165	Gulia Khara	(39)	1,282-00	282	2,104	1,131	973	472	38	542	40
166	Modis Khara	(93)	2,056-00	175	1,134	575	559	155	124	210	37
167	Shahi Danwali (Shahi Dabwali)	(88)	542-00	146	795	419	376	229	123	163	76
168	Natar	(85)	1,089-00	507	2,780	1,466	1,313	401	171	212	373
169	Mohamadpur Salarpur	(89)	775-00	170	1,180	615	565	291	134	184	78
170	Alipuritu Khara	(91)	767-00	343	1,731	959	772	254	118	177	153
171	Bhamboor	(90)	601-76	307	2,108	1,150	958	411	169	241	106

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
172	Alanoor	(144)	628-87	102	649	346	303	102	167	24
173	Mangala	(92)	2,539-00	782	5,049	2,645	2,404	376	642	629
174*	Liwalwali	(94)	803-00	14	67	36	31	6	20	..
175*	Baruwalli Doem (Baruwalli-II)	(38)	1,529-00	38	222	117	105	4	68	..
176	Madho Singhana	(95)	2,289-60	685	4,533	2,400	2,133	182	718	455
177	Malekan	(96)	3,150-00	608	3,750	2,024	1,726	258	674	478
178	Kesupura (Keshopura)	(101)	775-00	279	1,842	946	896	84	222	289
179	Gidranwali	(100)	442-00	148	1,051	516	535	72	152	170
180	Chak Arainyan (Chak Arian)	(141)	214-00	63	386	197	189	48	49	58
181	Chak Jiwa	(142)	64-00	Un-inhabited						
182	Chak Qasaban (Chak Qasaban)	(98)	119-00	156	949	473	476	66	103	170
183	Maujidi (Majid)	(97)	422-00	250	1,594	826	768	183	372	167
184	Kotli	(102)	320-00	70	462	235	227	54	98	8
185	Umedpura	(103)	1,120-00	146	1,066	550	516	47	187	75
186	Mehna Khera	(104)	548-00	118	854	459	395	35	154	31
187	Chilkani Dhab	(105)	1,357-00	199	1,334	700	634	24	350	50
188	Bharatwala	(106)	2,595-00	357	2,510	1,345	1,165	64	579	126

*A'rboush entered as 'Be-chirag' (unhabited) in the Revenue record, the population against this village was enumerated at the time of 1981-Census.

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189	Kuta Buih (Kuabadih) (107)	3,555-00	775	5,147	2,675	2,468	860	320	741	568
190	Nigrana	(136)	190-00	117	727	400	324	74	199	43
191	Rania (Rural)	(137)	5,222-00	102	714	376	338	18	193	17
192	Sultan Puria	(212)	915-00	218	1,456	760	696	319	307	71
193	Abholi	(138)	1,055-00	325	2,729	1,188	1,091	399	377	255
194	Ferozabad	(99)	627-00	237	1,800	941	859	353	361	169
195	Ottu	(139)	1,593-00	493	3,234	1,705	1,529	205	316	459
196	Abutgarh	(140)	252-00	62	434	233	201	59	68	40
197	Dhanoor (Dhannor)	(143)	1,042-00	329	1,929	1,006	923	417	368	147
198	Dhotar	(211)	1,953-00	298	2,296	1,211	1,085	277	522	180
199	Nanuana	(213)	965-00	175	1,185	595	590	175	194	98
200	Mangalia	(215)	701-00	111	702	398	304	137	178	144
201	Fathepuria	(214)	857-00	124	875	459	416	210	326	97
202	Mohamadpuria	(227)	675-00	187	1,271	685	586	265	237	82
203	Kussar	(226)	1,474-00	239	1,546	796	750	226	261	122
204	Balasar	(228)	1,528-00	366	2,493	1,379	1,164	345	435	162
205	Naiwala	(230)	711-00	107	693	371	322	131	130	22
206	Dhodianwali	(232)	1,959-00	294	1,907	1,026	881	355	369	122
207	Sadevala	(241)	1,415-00	184	1,217	657	560	269	234	33
208	Kaharwala	(260)	1,343-00	327	2,378	1,236	1,142	469	446	198
209	Mattuwalla	(240)	1,343-00	142	886	463	423	164	198	61
210	Sainpal	(235)	1,892-00	220	1,416	734	682	250	272	118
211	Bani	(121)	4,402-00	755	5,036	2,691	2,345	691	786	611

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
212	Bahia (Baia)	(234)	1,696-00	286	2,034	1,102	932	324	70	383	165
213	Kariwali	(122)	2,623-00	789	5,004	2,636	2,368	840	463	813	563
214	Harni Khurd	(123)	723-00	169	1,208	644	564	155	102	146	165
215	Jivan Nagar (124, 126, 127)		4,728-00	1,701	10,756	5,675	5,081	2,095	1,218	1,091	1,103
216	Haripura (Haripur)	(233)	626-00	220	1,305	688	617	171	75	120	255
217	Bharolanwali	(229)	1,211-00	365	2,322	1,246	1,076	330	129	271	335
218	Nakora	(128)	501-00	278	1,827	997	830	377	204	304	242
219	Budhi Mari	(130)	311-00	106	692	348	344	114	76	61	105
220	Moju Khara	(132)	1,141-00	289	1,957	1,070	887	275	102	267	368
221	Patti Kirpal	(133)	634-00	60	398	230	168	60	27	38	165
222	Shetu Khara	(134)	481-00	74	509	264	245	47	26	74	116
223	Wanpura Khara	(135)	550-00	129	1,122	555	555	160	75	110	191
224	Moosli	(108)	204-00	47	321	172	149	55	24	60	55
225	Pohrakani (Pohrika)	(109)	3,422-00	396	2,981	1,580	1,401	377	91	580	158
226	Mishi Surera	(110)	2,015-00	269	1,741	925	816	213	39	468	109
227	Manera	(131)	1,491-00	380	2,293	1,253	1,040	341	79	318	268
228	Amritsar	(129)	1,792-00	415	2,982	1,596	1,386	568	285	393	352
229	Mitza Pur	(125)	741-00	282	1,639	884	815	353	177	189	240
230	Thobaria	(119)	1,243-00	265	1,807	964	843	311	81	328	189

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231	Talwara Khurd I	(120)	3,337-00	707	4,781	2,516	2,265	929	489	763	591
232	Ellanabad	(118)	4,834-00	2,272	14,731	7,848	6,833	3,994	2,016	893	504
233	Khari Surera	(111)	1,658-00	133	1,704	905	799	289	32	418	45
234	Dhani Jatan	(117)	2,057-00	439	3,096	1,638	1,458	384	79	641	160
235	Karam Sana	(113)	1,453-00	159	1,210	633	577	217	31	239	73
236	Mithanpur	(112)	2,610-00	161	1,217	680	587	197	42	279	52
237	Neemla	(114)	1,436-00	234	1,724	915	809	235	1	351	26
238	Barwala Khurd	(116)	981-00	279	1,987	1,032	955	355	67	447	77
239	Dhol Palia	(115)	818-00	243	1,847	967	880	301	21	457	23
Grand Total				61,615	413,171	219,212	193,959	75,583	25,983	70,292	34,115

TABLE IV
Area under Principal Crops

(Thousand hectares)

Crops	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Foodgrains						
Wheat	84	91	91	112	96	97
Rice	13	16	16	18	18	20
Bajra	62	47	38	24	8	18
Barley	11	3	2	3	3	7
Gram	147	157	163	166	110	156
Cash Crops						
Sugarcane	1	1	1	..	..	..
Oilseeds	19	15	27	20	37	46
Cotton	74	84	91	101	107	98

APPENDIX

TABLE V
Yield Per Hectare of Principal Crops

(Kilograms)

Crops	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Rice	2,218	3,088	3,066	3,226	2,002	3,302
Jawar	254	274	230	215	215	..
Bajra	578	569	469	591	253	624
Wheat	1,899	2,030	2,083	2,507	2,381	2,471
Barley	1,154	766	867	1,118	949	678
Gram	905	738	794	926	529	613
Oilseeds	589	702	574	688	357	449
Sugarcane (in terms of Gur)	3,999	4,333	4,552	..	..	..
Potatoes	14,000	15,200	16,000	11,764	..	..
Cotton (American Lint)	361	380	340	462	346	371
Cotton (Desi Lint)	334	342	300	238	245	251

TABLE VI

Production of Principal Crops (thousand metric tonnes)

Crops	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Foodgrains						
Rice	29	49	49	58	36	66
Jowar	1	1	..	..	..	..
Bajra	36	27	18	14	2	11
Wheat	160	185	189	281	229	240
Barley	13	2	2	..	3	5
Gram	133	116	129	154	58	96
Mash	0.1	0.3	..	..	..	..
Moong	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Massar	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Oilseeds						
Groundnut	..	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.3	0.2
Rape and Mustard	11	11	15	13	13	21
Sugarcane (in term of Gur)	4	4	5	..	..	..
Potatoes	1.4	0.1	0.4	..	0.3	..
*Cotton (American Lint)	91	121	140	220	167	166
*Cotton (Desi Lint)	61	60	37	28	36	30

* Thousand Bales of 170 kg. each.

TABLE VII

As on March, 31, 1981

Veterinary Institutions

Veterinary Hospitals

1. Sirsa
2. Rania
3. Dabwali
4. Kalanwali
5. Ding
6. Ellanabad
7. Chutala
8. Sukhchain
9. Nathusarai Kalan
10. Bada Gudha
11. Dhudianwali
12. Rori

Veterinary Dispensaries

1. Amritsar
2. Bani
3. Pipli
4. Fatehpur
5. Bhaudin
6. Jamal
7. Darban Kalan
8. Maujgarh
9. Goriawala
10. Kingran
11. Lahengewala
12. Jhorar Rohi
13. Jandwala

Semen Bank

1. Sirsa

Artificial Insemination Centres

1. Malekan
2. Odhan

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3. Bhaudin

4. Kharian

5. Ganga

Stockman Centres

1. Mangala

2. Bhamboor

3. Randhawa

4. Nezia Khera

5. Nathu Sari

6. Bajeka

7. Moriwala

8. Sherpura

9. Suchan

10. Phoolkan

11. Jodhkan

12. Rasulpur

13. Bharokhan

14. Madho Singhana

15. Kherpur

16. Baidwala

17. Patlidabar

18. Kairanwali

19. Haripur

20. Bharolanwali

21. Pohrakan

22. Ottu

23. Keharwala

24. Talwara Khurd

25. Moju Khera

26. Mithi Surera

27. Kharian

28. Kutabudh

29. Bhurtwala

30. Kaluana

31. Alikha

32. Rasalia Khera

APPENDIX

33. Masitan

34. Shahpur Begu

35. Dharmapura

36. Nezaela Kalan

37. Nezaela Khurd

38. Bupp

39. Sahuwala

40. Jhorar Nali

41. Bhiwan

42. Anandgarh

43. Thiraj

44. Fagu

45. Abub Shahar

46. Matho Dadu (Mat Dadu)

47. Farwain

48. Kharekan

49. Dhanoor

50. Bhoona

51. Chormar Khera

52. Malikpura

53. Habuana

54. Desu Jodha

55. Nanakpur

56. Keshopura

57. Khuyan Malkhana

58. Dhoo Kara

TABLE VIII

Joint Stock Banks as on March 31, 1981

Name of the Bank	Location	Year of Opening
1	2	3
State Bank of India	Sirsa	1957
	do	1970
	do	1975
	Mandi Dabwali	1959
	Rania	1978
	Jiwan Nagar	1974
	Ellanabad	1971
	Rori	1971
	Odhan	1971
	Kalanwali	1973
	Chutala	1976
	Sikanderpur	1977
	Mandi Dabwali	1945
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur		
State Bank of Patiala	Sirsa	1980
Canara Bank	Sirsa	1978
Central Bank of India	Sirsa	1936
	Rania	1966
	Ellanabad	1967
Union Bank of India	Sirsa	1973
Punjab National Bank	Sirsa	1946
	Mandi Dabwali	1969
	Abub Shahar	1975
	Ding	1972
	Goriawala	1979
	Sirsa	1971
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Mandi Dabwali	1978
	Bhaudin	1981
	Sirsa	1971
New Bank of India	Madho Singhana	1978
	Jamal	1978
	Sirsa	1975
Punjab and Sind Bank	Mandi Dabwali	1975
	Bada Gudha	1978

1	2	3
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	Sirsa	1977
Hindustan Commercial Bank Ltd.	Sirsa	1976
Lakshmi Commercial Bank Ltd.	Sirsa	1976
	Panniwala Mota	1978
Traders' Bank Ltd.	Jiwan Nagar	1977
	Damdama (Majra-Jiwan Nagar)	1978

TABLE IX

Arrivals of Important Agricultural Commodities in the Regulated Markets during 1971-72 to 1980-81

(in quintals)

Market Committee	Years	Pulses									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sirsa	1971-72	..	4,07,222	4,26,248	2,36,811	2,67,826	22,714	..	454	25,003	5,820
	1972-73	..	4,67,323	6,11,201	1,38,032	2,79,813	11,386	..	308	79,223	6,323
	1973-74	..	2,36,396	4,89,921	2,67,698	3,11,630	26,931	..	554	87,495	6,851
	1974-75	..	2,73,394	2,89,424	1,63,852	2,28,015	23,501	..	6,999	73,663	6,238
	1975-76	..	2,88,365	3,87,668	65,931	4,11,364	59,441	..	10,610	79,935	4,568
	1976-77	..	4,80,596	86,971	3,69,760	5,08,290	42,114	..	4,199	77,941	11,917
	1977-78	..	5,28,342	46,986	3,52,132	5,26,979	31,925	..	6,882	96,208	9,292
	1978-79	..	4,18,686	76,912	4,91,833	5,53,152	9,590	..	177	1,00,869	9,347
	1979-80	..	7,38,473	58,568	3,40,224	6,32,036	2,256	..	3,044	59,848	5,249
	1980-81	..	5,34,375	60,669	1,09,296	5,40,794	3,118	..	3,281	14,754	1,268
	1971-72	..	91,396	2,04,986	1,26,232	..	2,985	..	162	32,809	477
	1972-73	..	1,09,038	2,27,405	53,918	..	3,317	..	411	31,344	23
Dabwali	1973-74	..	18,491	2,79,210	1,54,490	..	9,654	..	505	53,727	357
	1974-75	..	25,676	1,65,421	1,15,813	..	1,631	..	1,755	34,534	480
	1975-76	..	21,655	94,512	52,297	..	5,987	..	4,514	50,652	1,948
	1976-77	..	73,303	61,402	44,814	..	1,546	..	103	59,484	209
	1977-78	..	1,69,962	29,968	1,85,114	..	2,308	..	57	59,700	2,528
	1978-79	..	1,62,711	38,550	2,00,030	..	75	..	1,153	54,883	2,724

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Kalanwalli	1979-80	30,3,563	42,055	2,29,242	..	48	2,252	48,742	5,863
	1980-81	1,22,655	45,064	38,559	..	106	2,727	56,094	2,533
	1971-72	30,269	1,03,245	31,871	..	3,444	30	21,826	341
	1972-73	60,526	1,02,957	10,017	..	4,966	31	20,212	412
	1973-74	21,841	1,25,324	54,282	..	11,805	219	33,319	1,024
	1974-75	15,625	69,951	59,785	..	5,550	539	17,039	1,249
	1975-76	12,924	75,576	2,63,021	..	11,621	77	33,705	1,595
	1976-77	51,957	69,653	1,46,693	..	11,574	1,350	37,880	2,218
	1977-78	79,961	1,00,438	88,510	..	8,719	1,367	33,688	2,177
	1978-79	1,01,185	1,62,969	1,10,583	..	1,499	1,070	32,091	1,728
	1979-80	1,53,515	1,19,595	1,62,612	..	299	1,365	29,766	1,167
	1980-81	91,783	1,11,987	32,729	..	53	1,320	33,449	1,133
Ellanabad	1971-72	42,901	58,590	97,445	20,939	776	..	8,632	407
	1972-73	65,805	98,152	43,283	4,744	1,712	..	11,799	1,153
	1973-74	19,349	1,10,033	1,03,519	14,922	1,911	..	18,350	1,274
	1974-75	18,070	69,851	83,718	14,566	1,134	1,240	16,828	1,172
	1975-76	18,008	17,383	69,387	38,884	2,085	..	18,945	485
	1976-77	76,166	12,718	1,70,670	85,458	1,170	1,321	28,842	1,644
	1977-78	96,138	6,423	1,03,610	82,127	706	866	25,821	2,168
	1978-79	71,038	3,820	97,832	1,41,020	201	265	24,461	1,455
	1979-80	95,364	1,143	82,000	1,41,379	366	197	25,128	947
	1980-81	85,405	7,902	38,149	1,82,642	1,050	298	28,293	1,209

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ding		1971-72	2,756	4,913	9,935	..	2,485	421	894	136
		1972-73	14,155	48,444	3,864	..	876	378	2,256	191
		1973-74	6,682	24,375	6,913	..	1,553	596	2,622	213
		1974-75	201	9,863	2,162	..	1,085	168	1,522	161
		1975-76	22,131	11,673	2,431	..	4,518	519	2,281	129
		1976-77	21,172	19,449	23,238	..	5,162	387	1,809	214
		1977-78	17,789	13,031	8,639	..	3,456	162	1,848	180
		1978-79	17,110	5,817	13,384	..	1,481	2	1,557	89
		1979-80	31,893	1,872	12,063	..	299	66	1,867	103
		1980-81	9,482	2,073	3,167	..	80	50	983	55

TABLE X
Bus Routes Operating in the District as on March 31, 1981

Name of Transport Undertaking	Route
1	2
Haryana Roadways, Sirsa	.. Sirsa—Haridwar
	Delhi—Fazilka
	Sirsa—Jagadhari
	Delhi—Ellanabad
	Sirsa—Amritsar ¹
	Sirsa—Chandigarh <i>via</i> Kaithal
	Sirsa—Delhi
	Sirsa—Yamunanagar
	Sirsa—Chandigarh <i>via</i> Manaa
	Sirsa—Bhiwani
	Sirsa—Hansi
	Sirsa—Narwana
	Sirsa—Adampur
	Sirsa—Hisar
	Sirsa—Dabwali <i>via</i> Rania
	Sirsa—Sangria
	Sirsa—Dhalu
	Sirsa—Bhattu Kalan <i>via</i> Fatehabad
	Sirsa—Nahar <i>via</i> Fatehabad
	Sirsa—Dabwali
	Sirsa—Thiraj
	Sirsa—Ellanabad <i>via</i> Talwara
	Sirsa—Kariwali
	Sirsa—Kussar
	Sirsa—Kamal
	Sirsa—Kutiana ²
	Sirsa—Khai Shergarh
	Sirsa—Bharokhan
	Sirsa—Chaharwala
	Sirsa—Tajla
	Sirsa—Fatehpuria
	Sirsa—Kharian
	Sirsa—Ding Mandi

1	2
	Sirsa—Bada Gugha
	Sirsa—Baruwalli
	Sirsa—Rania
	Sirsa—Bappan (Bhupp)
	Sirsa—Bharokhan
	Sirsa—Kotli
	Sirsa—Darbi
	Sirsa—Modia Khera
	Sirsa—Phoolkan
	Dabwali—Ganga Nagar
	Dabwali—Hodal
	Dabwali—Karnal
	Dabwali—Yamunanagar
	Dabwali—Delhi
	Dabwali—Ganga Nagar
	Dabwali—Fatehsbad
	Dabwali—Manasa
	Dabwali—Sirsa via Rania
	Dabwali—Sangria via Sirsa
	Dabwali—Hanumangarh
	Dabwali—Sardulgarh
	Dabwali—Rania
	Dabwali—Sirsa—Odhan
	Dabwali—Banwala
	Dabwali—Nuhyanwali
	Dabwali—Sangria
	Dabwali—Ganga
	Dabwali—Kalanwali
	Dabwali—Panniwala Mota
	Dabwali—Phullo
	Dabwali—Chandigarh
Haryana Roadways, Hisar	Sirsa—Delhi
	Bhatinda—Delhi
	Fazilka—Delhi

1	2
	Ganga Nagar—Delhi
	Ferozepur—Delhi
	Ellanabad—Hisar
	Dabwali—Hisar
	Sirsa—Hisar
Haryana Roadways, Chandigarh	Dabwali—Chandigarh
	Rania—Chandigarh
Haryana Roadways, Rohtak	Ferozepur—Delhi
	Bathinda—Delhi
	Sirsa—Delhi
Haryana Roadways, Karnal	Dabwali—Karnal
Haryana Roadways, Sonapat	Dabwali—Sonapat
	Ellanabad—Sonapat
	Dabwali—Delhi
Haryana Roadways, Jind	Dabwali—Jind
	Sirsa—Jind
	Ganga Nagar—Jind
	Ellanabad—Jind
Haryana Roadways, Bhiwani	Dabwali—Narnaul
	Dabwali—Bhiwani
	Ellanabad—Kathal
Haryana Roadways, Kathal	Dabwali—Gurgaon
Haryana Roadways, Gurgaon	Dabwali—Yamunanagar
Haryana Roadways, Yamunanagar	Ganga Nagar—Delhi
Delhi Transport Corporation, Delhi	Ferozepur—Delhi
Punjab Roadways	Amritsar—Hisar
Private Routes	Sirsa—Hisar
Nili Bar Transport	Sirsa—Hisar
Hisar District Transport	Hisar—Bathinda
Hisar Bus Service	Hisar—Amritsar
Malwa Malwa Bus Service	Hisar—Amritsar
Samundri Transport	Sirsa—Nohar
Paris Bus Service	Sirsa—Dabwali
Dabwali Transport	Sirsa—Kharan
Sirsa Dehat Transport	

TABLE XI
Dharmasalas

1. Dharmasala Moti Lal, Sirsa
2. Dharmasala Arya Samaj, Sirsa
3. Dharmasala Dungar Mal Sahuwala, Sirsa
4. Dharmasala Satnaliwali, Sirsa
5. Dharmasala Seth Tula Ram Jhuthra, Sirsa
6. Dharmasala Durga Devi, Sirsa
7. Dharmasala Chirhanwanwali, Sirsa
8. Dharmasala Swarnkar Sabha, Sirsa
9. Dharmasala Aror vansh, Sirsa
10. Janta Bhawan, Sirsa
11. Dharmasala Mohan Lal, Sirsa
12. Dharmasala Paras Ram, Sirsa
13. Dhanak Dharmasala, Sirsa
14. Jat Dharmasala, Sirsa
15. Dharmasala Raja Ram, Mandi Dabwali
16. Dharmasala Tansukh Das Bihari Lal, Mandi Dabwali
17. Dharmasala Girdhari Lal Singhal, Mandi Dabwali
18. Dharmasala Khatian, Mandi Dabwali
19. Dharmasala Lala Pritam Das, Mandi Dabwali
20. Dharmasala Aror Vansh, Mandi Dabwali
21. Reggar Dharmasala, Mandi Dabwali
22. Balmiki Dharmasala, Mandi Dabwali

TABLE XI
Rest Houses

Sr. No.	Name	Accommodation Available	Reservation Authority
1	P.W.D. Rest House, Sirsa	5 suites	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B&R), Sirsa-I
2	Inspection Bungalow, Sirs	2 suites	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B&R), Sirsa-II
3	Civil Rest House, Chutala	1 suite	Deputy Commissioner, Sirsa
4	Canal Rest House, Panjuana	3 suites	Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Sirsa
5	Canal Rest House, Alike	2 suites	Executive Engineer, Sirsa Division, Sirsa
6	Canal Rest House, Ottu	3 suites	do
7	Canal Rest House, Khuyan	3 suites	Executive Engineer, Rori Division
8	Canal Rest House, Abub Shahar	3 suites	do
9	Canal Rest House, Desu Jodhan	3 suites	do
10	Canal Rest House, Kalanwali	3 suites	do
11	Canal Rest House, Odhan	2 suites	do
12	Canal Rest House, Keharwala	2 suites	do
13	Market Committee, Rest House, Sirsa	4 rooms	Secretary, Market Committee, Sirsa
14	Market Committee Rest House, Ellanabad	2 rooms	Secretary, Market Committee, Ellanabad
15	Market Committee, Rest House, Kalanwali	1 room	Secretary, Market Committee, Kalanwali
16	Market Committee, Rest House, Dabwali	1 room	Secretary, Market Committee, Dabwali
17	Haryana State Electricity Board, Rest House, Sirsa	2 suites	Executive Engineer, Operation, Sirsa

TABLE XIII

List of Post Offices as on March 31, 1981

Head Office	Sub-Office	Branch Office
1	2	3
1. Sirsa	1. Abub Shahar	1. Arnan Wali
	2. Amritsar Kalan	2. Bhuratwala
	3. Bada Gudha	3. Bhagsar
	4. Bahaudin	4. Chak Aranyan
	5. Bighar	5. Darba Kalan
	6. Chutala	6. Ferozabad
	7. Dabwali Town	7. Farwain
	8. Ding	8. Hanjira
	9. Ellanabad	9. Jamal
	10. Goriwala	10. Jodhkan
	11. Hazranwan Kalan	11. Jhorar Nali
	12. Haroli	12. Kuta Budh
	13. Kalanwali	13. Ludesar
	14. Khairpur	14. Madho Singhana
	15. Mandi Dabwali	15. Madho Soran
	16. Mandi Township Sirsa	16. Malkan
	17. Mohabatpur	17. Mangala
	18. Nai Mandi Sirsa	18. Maujain
	19. Odhan	19. Nathusari Kalan
	20. Rania	20. Nazadela Kalan
	21. Rori	21. Ottu
	22. Sirsa Courts	22. Panihari
	23. Sirsa Town	23. Sahuwala-II
	24. Jiwan Nagar	24. Shahpur Begu
	25. Sikanderpur	25. Suchan Kotli
		26. Umedpura
		27. Ahmedpur
		28. Goriawala
		29. Alike
		30. Anandgarh
		31. Bhupp
		32. Bhiwan

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1	2	3
		33. Bhadra
		34. Jhiri
		35. Jhorar Rohi
		36. Lakarwali
		37. Lahengewala
		38. Nagoki
		39. Sukhchain
		40. Thiraj
		41. Moju Khera
		42. Patli Dabar
		43. Kaluana
		44. Keharwala
		45. Mochiwali
		46. Berwala Khurd
		47. Kheri Sheoran
		48. Mirzapur
		49. Mehna Khera
		50. Mamera
		51. Pohrakan
		52. Talwara Khurd]
		53. Banwala
		54. Bijuwali
		55. Chakan
		56. Ganga
		57. Ghoranwali
		58. Jandwala Bishnoi
		59. Masitan
		60. Mat Dadu
		61. Maujgarh
		62. Moonanwali
		63. Rampur Bishnoi
		64. Risalia Khera
		65. Chak Aranyan

1	2	3
		66. Desu Malkana
		67. Gidrana
		68. Jagmalwali
		69. Jalanana
		70. Pacca
		71. Fagu
		72. Pipli
		73. Surtia
		74. Takhatmal
		75. Taruana
		76. Godeka
		77. Chormar
		78. Desu Jodha
		79. Habuana
		80. Khuyan Malkhana
		81. Lohgarh
		82. Mangiana
		83. Mithri
		84. Panniwala Ruldu
		85. Sakta Khora
		86. Sbergarh
		87. Burj Bhangu
		88. Kharekan
		89. Nezaola Khurd
		90. Nuhiyanwali
		91. Panniwala Mota
		92. Panjuana
		93. Sahuwala
		94. Dhottar
		95. Jodhpuria
		96. Kharian
		97. Sultanpuria
		98. Nanuana
		99. Bani
		100. Bahia

1	2	3	.
		101. Balasar	
		102. Bharolanwali	
		103. Damdama (Majra-Jiwan Nagar)	
		104. Dharampura	
		105. Dhudianwali	
		106. Dabwali Village	
		107. Haripura	
		108. Kairanwali	
		109. Nathohar	
		110. Nakora	
		111. Sant Nagar	
		112. Ther Shahidan	
		113. Bajeka	
		114. Baldwala	
		115. Bharokhan	
		116. Darbi	
		117. Moriwala	
		118. Phoolkan	

TABLE XIV
Selected Indicators to Measure the Level of Economic Development

District	Total Area in Sq. Km in 1981	Percentage of urban area to total area in 1981	Percentage of Working force as percentage to total area population in 1981	Percentage of Area sown more than once to Net Area sown in 1981-82	Percentage of gross irrigated to gross Area sown in 1981-82	Gross value from Hectare in (in Rs.) 1980-81	Percentage of Literacy in 1981	Number of Hospital Beds per lakh of population in 1981	Metalled (Surface) Roads per 100 Sq. Kms of Area in 1981-82		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
							Total	Male	Female		
1. Hisar	6,315.00	1.16	32.71	68.3	71.0	4,333	30.0	41.5	16.7	85	36.14
2. Sirsa	4,276.00	0.75	31.86	46.5	59.5	3,677	29.9	39.5	18.9	34	31.38
3. Bhiwani	5,099.00	0.86	33.42	78.5	27.1	2,531	33.1	48.1	16.3	184	37.11
4. Gurgaon	2,716.00	2.09	31.67	41.1	39.4	3,742	35.2	48.6	20.0	34	52.14
5. Faridabad	2,150.00	8.79	31.22	44.1	57.0	3,993	39.2	52.4	22.9	69	46.65
6. Jind	3,306.00	1.09	35.20	68.9	72.4	4,735	26.2	38.1	12.2	51	34.45
7. Mahendragarh	3,010.00	0.97	29.44	50.6	34.1	2,527	38.6	55.5	20.4	36	49.40
8. Ambala	3,832.00	2.84	29.61	53.0	46.2	5,593	44.6	53.0	35.0	70	54.85
9. Karnal	3,721.00	1.73	30.50	60.9	85.5	6,590	36.8	47.3	24.5	36	47.25
10. Kurukshetra	2,740.00	1.20	31.63	68.8	88.9	7,190	32.4	41.7	21.6	21	48.96
11. Rohtak	3,841.00	1.27	31.33	50.2	47.3	3,641	42.5	56.4	26.8	130	40.12
12. Sonapat	2,206.00	1.68	32.21	49.1	73.2	5,322	40.9	54.3	25.3	28	44.88
State	44,212.00	1.69	31.63	59.2	59.3	4,441	36.1	48.2	22.3	67	42.50

SIRSA DISTRICT GAZETTEER

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TABLE XV
Development and Public Utility Work done by Panchayats

Education	1975-76	1977-78	1980-81
1. School buildings constructed	127	16	42
2. School buildings repaired	124	67	134
3. No. of panchayats which made arrangements for drinking water for school boys	92	102	120
4. Libraries started	1	2	65
5. Reading rooms	59	72	—
Public Health			
1. No. of Panchayats which have constructed Panchayat Ghar	19	22	46
2. No. of public buildings constructed such as Janjghar, etc.	11	14	9
3. No. of Panchayats with street light arrangements	6	5	16
4. No. of Panchayats with Radio sets	91	182	28
Public Works			
1. Culverts constructed	182	386	115
2. Children parks opened	3	18	5
3. No. of Panchayats with water supply arrangements	8	17	56
4. No. of sweepers engaged in these panchayats	8	16	10

TABLE XVI

Allopathic Hospitals and Dispensaries

Name of the Hospital (Government)	Beds
1	2
1. General Hospital, Sirsa	100
2. General Hospital, Dabwali	20
3. General Hospital, Chutala	30
Primary Health Centres	
1. Rania	8
2. Bada Gudha	8
3. Madho Singhana	8
4. Odhan	8
Dispensaries (Rural)	
1. Ellanabad	4
2. Darba Kalan	4
3. Darbi	4
4. Ghoranwali	4
5. Kharian	4
6. Desu Jodha	4
7. Kalanwali	4
8. Rori	4
Civil Dispensary	
1. Ellanabad	11
T. B. Centre	
1. T. B. Centre, Sirsa	2
Subsidiary Health Centres	
1. Malekan	4
2. Jagmalwali	4
Canal Dispensaries	
1. Sirsa	—
2. Panjuana	—
3. Khuyan Malkhana	—
Railway Dispensary	
1. Sirsa	1
E. S. I. Dispensary	
1. Sirsa	—

1	2
Government Ayurvedic/Unani Dispensaries	
1. Jamal	—
2. Kagdana	—
3. Sahuwala-II	—
4. Sherpura	—
5. Ding	—
6. Bahudin	—
7. Jodhkan	—
8. Bharokhan	—
9. Alikha	—
10. Anandgarh	—
11. Kewal	—
12. Fagu	—
13. Ganga	—
14. Kaluana	—
15. Dharampura	—
16. Kuta Budh	—
17. Mithi Surera	—
18. Kanwarpura	—
Unani Dispensary	
1. Sikanderpur	—

TABLE XVII,
Deaths Caused by Different Diseases, Fevers, etc.

Year	Cholera	Smallpox	Plague	Fevers	Dysentery and Diarrhoea	Respiratory Diseases	Injuries	All other Causes	Total
1976	..	..	..	4	29	21	16	141	211
1977	..	..	..	1	17	39	20	151	228
1978	..	..	..	..	10	17	31	174	232
1979	..	..	..	4	5	34	8	227	278
1980	..	..	..	..	7	48	3	293	351
1981	..	..	..	..	—	30	56	178	264

TABLE XVIII
Rural Water Supply Schemes provided with Drinking Water Supply Facilities

(Position as on 31st March, 1981)

Sr. No.	Name of Scheme	Villages covered		Tahsil	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Remarks
		Number	Name			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Water supply scheme for village Goriawala and Jhuti Khara with Works at Jhuti Khara	2	Goriawala	Dabwali	3.00	Started during 1972-73
2	Water supply scheme for 5 villages namely Ganga, Modi with Head Works at Modi	5	Ganga, Modi Moonanwali, Godeta., Ahmadpur, Darewala	Dabwali	10.52	Started during 1973-74
3	Water supply scheme for village Chutala	1	Chutala	Dabwali	1.67	Started before 1st November, 1976
4	Water supply scheme for village Chormar Khara	1	Chormar Khara	Dabwali	1.33	Started during 1970-71
5	Water supply scheme for village Odhan	1	Odhan	Dabwali	0.91	Started before 1st November, 1966
6	Water supply scheme for village Mithri	1	Mithri	Dabwali	0.78	Started before 1st November, 1966
7	Water supply scheme for village Kalanwali	1	Kalanwali	Dabwali	4.39	Started during 1973-74
8	Water supply scheme for village Desu Malkana (Jodha)	1	Desu Malkana (Jodha)	Dabwali	0.81	Started before 1st November, 1966
9	Water supply scheme for village Shergarh	1	Shergarh	Dabwali	2.15	Started during 1973-74
10	Water Supply scheme for village Bijuwala	1	Bijuwala	Dabwali	0.20	Started before 1st November, 1966 cheap type filtration non-pumping scheme

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	Water supply scheme for village Panniwala Mota	1	Panniwala Mota	Dabwali	0-54	Started before 1st November, 1966
12	Water supply scheme for village Lakhmana	1	Lakhmana	Dabwali	0-25	Started before 1st November, 1966 Cheap type filtration non pumping scheme
13	Water supply scheme for Sherpura	1	Sherpura	Sirsa	3-06	Started during 1978-79
14	Water supply scheme for Tajia Khara	1	Tajia Khara	Sirsa	0-21	Started during year 1971-72 cheap type filtration non pumping scheme
15	Water supply scheme for village Kanwarpura	1	Kanwarpura	Sirsa	0-24	Started during the 1971-72
16	Water supply scheme for village Ding	1	Ding	Sirsa	0-81	Started before 1st November, 1966
17	Water supply scheme for village Darban Kalan	1	Darban Kalan	Sirsa	0-53	Started before 1st November, 1966
18	Water supply scheme for village Kalansa	1	Kalansa	Dabwali	0-57	Started before 1st November, 1966
19	Water supply scheme for village Nezia Khara	1	Nezia Khara	Sirsa	0-21	Started before 1st November, 1966 cheap type non pumping scheme
20	Water supply scheme for Baruwali	1	Baruwali	Sirsa	0-28	Started before 1st November, 1966 cheap type non pumping scheme
21	Water supply scheme for Jannat	1	Jannat	Sirsa	1-07	Started before 1st November, 1966
22	Water supply scheme for village Rampura Dabwali	1	Rampura	Sirsa	0-70	Started before 1st November, 1966
23	Water supply scheme for village Bera Gudha (Gudha Kalan)	1	Bera Gudha (Gudha Kalan)	Sirsa	0-53	Started before 1st November, 1966
24	Water supply scheme for village Shikola	1	Shikola (Not appearing Sirsa in Census)	Sirsa	0-12	Started before 1st November, 1966 cheap type non pumping scheme

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APPENDIX

25	Water supply scheme for Kagdana	1	Kagdana	Sirsa	0-73	Started before 1st November, 1966
26	Water supply scheme for village Nirwan	1	Nirwan	Sirsa	1-75	Started during 1972-73
27	Water supply scheme for village Ludesar group of 5 villages with Head works at Ludesar	5	Ludesar, Nathusari Kalan, Raipur, Rupawas, Rupana (Darta Khurd)	Sirsa	8-47	Started in first two villages during 1974-75 and running 3 villages during 1975-76
28	Water supply scheme for village Gusaina group of 3 villages with water works at Kheri	3	Gusaina, Rajpura Sani, Kheri	Sirsa	0-42	Started during 1975-76
29	Water supply scheme for village Gigo Rani	1	Gigo Rani	Sirsa	0-27	Cheap type non pumping scheme started during 1973-74
30	Water supply scheme for village Karanwali/ Karianwali	1	Karianwali	Sirsa	1-87	Started during 1971-72
31	Water supply scheme for village Sahuwala	1	Sahuwala	Sirsa	0-22	Started before 1st November, 1966 cheap type non-pumping scheme
32	Water supply scheme for village Bahudin	1	Bahudin	Sirsa	2-77	Starting during 1976-77
33	Water supply scheme for village Makho Soran	1	Makho Soran	Sirsa	..	Started during 1977-78
34	Water supply scheme for village Desu Jodha group of 7 villages (MNP)	7	Desu Jodha, Phulhu, Mangiana, Hbuana Panniwala Motta, Jogewala, Sanwant Khara	Dabwali	21-64	Started during 1977-78
35	Water supply scheme for villages Mithi Surera group (MNP)	2	Mithi Surera, Khari Surera	Sirsa	7-62	Started during 1978-79
36	Water supply scheme for villages Asa Khara group	5	Asa Khara, Teja, Khara, Bharu Khara, Sukheranwala, Jandewala (Bishnoian)	Dabwali	23-46	Started during 1978-79
37	Water supply scheme for villages Abubahar group (ARP)	2	Abub Shahar, Sakte Khara	Dabwali	16-68	Started during 1978-79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38	Water supply scheme for villages Alikha group (ARP)	3	Alikha Khara, Masitan	Dabwali	18.00	Started during 1978-79
39	Water supply scheme for villages Kheowali group (APR)	4	Kheowali, Chakerian, Anandgarh, Rohan	Sirsa	11.00	Started during 1978-79
40	Water supply scheme for village Kharian	1	Kharian	Dabwali	..	Started during 1979-80
41	Water supply scheme for village Dhokra	1	Dhokra	Sirsa	2.07	Started during 1979-80
42	Water supply scheme for villages Bhuratwala group (ARP)	5	Bhuratwala, Pohrka, Chikani, Mehna-khara, Umedpura	Sirsa	24.42	Started during 1979-80
43	Water supply scheme for villages Chzharwala group	1	Chaharwala	Sirsa	..	Completed in 1980-81
44	Water supply scheme for villages Arnianwali group	1	Randhawa	Sirsa	11.72	Started during 1980-81
45	Water supply scheme for villages Rori group	1	Rori	Sirsa	24.00	Started during 1980-81
46	Water supply scheme for villages Risalia Khara group	5	Risalia Khara, Bijuwala, Rangarh, Banwala, Chak Jalu	Dabwali	27.51	Started during 1980-81
47	Water supply scheme for villages Ratta Khara group	3	Ratta Khara, Rampura Bishnoyan, Rajpura	Dabwali	16.00	Started during 1980-81
48	Water supply scheme for village Jagmalwali	1	Jagmalwali	Sirsa	14.50	Started during 1980-81
49	Water supply scheme for villages Pipli group	5	Makha, Khokhar, Asihar, Pana, Pipli	Dabwali	26.50	Started during 1980-81
50	Water supply scheme for villages Khuiyan Malkana group	4	Khuiyan Malkana, Dewan Khara, Niliawali, Panniawala Rudu	Dabwali	25.44	Started during 1980-81
51	Water supply scheme for villages Sukhchain, group	3	Sukhchain, Khattranwa, Dogranwali	Sirsa	14.94	Started during 1980-81
52	Water supply scheme for villages Sahuwala group	3	Sahuwala, Karamgarh Chhatrian	Sirsa	12.57	Started during 1980-81
53	Water supply scheme for villages Salam Khara group	2	Salam Khara, Nuhyanwali	Dabwali	10.74	Started during 1980-81
54	Water supply scheme for villages Pilimandori group	6	Shakar Mandori, Nahrana, Ganj Rupana, Narain Khara, Rampura Bishnoian, Pili Mandori	Sirsa	9.56	Started during 1980-81
55	Water supply scheme for village Gadli	1	Gadli	Sirsa	3.86	Started during 1980-81

TABLE XIX

Important Labour Laws

Subject matter	Name of the Act	Whether Central or State Act	Main provisions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Working conditions industrial safety, hygiene and welfare inside the place of work	(1) The Factories Act, 1948	Central Act	Elaborate provisions have been made in the Act regarding the conditions of work inside factories including hours of work, employment of young persons, leave with wages, occupational diseases, safeguard for health, promotion of safety and welfare of workers and special provision for young persons and women. Welfare measures like first aid appliances, canteens, creches, cool drinking water, etc., near the places of work have also been provided under the Act.
	(2) The Employment of Children Act, 1938	Central Act	The Act prohibits employment of children below the age of 15 years in any occupation connected with the transport of passengers, goods or mail by railways or connected with a port authority within the limits of any port. It also prohibits employment of children in the workshops connected with bidi-making, carpet weaving cement manufacture (including bagging of cement), cloth printing, dyeing and weaving, manufacture of matches, explosives and fire-works, MICA CUTTING AND SPLITTING, Shellac manufacture, soap manufacture, tanning and wool cleaning.
	(3) The Punjab Shops and commercial Establishments Act, 1958	State Act	The Act regulates conditions of work and terms of employment of workers engaged in shops and commercial establishments and in those industrial establishments which are not covered under the Factories Act, 1948. It covers hours of work, holidays, leave, wages, employment of children and their working hours, closing and opening hours, health, safety, maternity benefits and welfares.
	(1) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936	Central Act	The Act regulates timely payment of wages without any unauthorised deductions. as a result of an amendment in 1975, the coverage of the Act has been extended to persons getting wages upto Rs. 1,000 per mensem.
	(2) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948	Central Act	The Act provides for fixation of minimum wages, working hours, weekly rest, etc.
	(3) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976	Central Act	The Act provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevention of discrimination on the ground of sex against women.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Industrial relations	(1) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947	Central Act	The Act provides for settlement of industrial disputes lay-off payment and payments at the time of retrenchment. As a result of an amendment (in 1965) in Section 2-A of the Act, any individual can raise a dispute relating to his dismissal. By another amendment in 1976, the industrial establishments employing 300 or more workers are required to obtain prior permission of the Government in matters of lay-off and retrenchment of workers and closure of their unit (s).
	(2) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946	Central Act	The Act requires employers to make standing orders defining terms of employment of workers on specified matters and to get them certified by the certifying officer.
Trade Unions	The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926	Central Act	The Act makes provisions for the registration of trade unions and describes the rights, privileges, obligations and OF REGISTERED trade unions.
Social Security	(1) The workmen's Compensation Act, 1923	Central Act	The Act provides for payment of compensation to workmen in the case of injury caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of employment. It also provides for payment of compensation for certain occupational diseases. As a result of an amendment in 1976, the coverage of the Act has been extended with retrospective effect to workers getting wages not exceeding Rs. 1,000 per mensem.
	(2) The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948	Central Act	The Act provides for five types of benefits to the employees, viz., sickness benefit, maternity benefit, dependents benefit, disablement benefit and medical benefit.
	(3) The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952	Central Act	The Act seeks to make a provision for the future of industry workers after he retires or is retrenched or for his dependent in case of his early death.
	(4) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961	Central Act	The Act provides for payment of cash benefit to women workers for specified periods: before and after child birth and for other incidental matters.
	(5) The Punjab Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1965	Central Act	All unpaid accumulations of workers have to be paid to the Labour Welfare Board, constituted for the purpose by the State Government, which shall keep a separate account to be utilised by it for defraying the cost of carrying out measures, for promoting the welfare of labour and their dependents.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)										
	(6) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972	Central Act	To provide for a scheme for the payment of gratuity for employees engaged in factories, mines, oil-fields, plantation, ports, railway, companies, shops or other establishments and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Gratuity shall be payable to an employee on the termination of his rendered continuous service for not less than five years. Gratuity payable under this Act shall not be liable to attachment in execution of any decree or any civil, revenue or criminal court.										
Housing	The Punjab Industrial Housing Act, 1956	State Act	The Act provides for the administration, allotment, realisation of rent etc., in connection with quarters constructed under the subsidised industrial housing scheme.										
Bonus	The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965	Central Act	Every establishment whether running a profit or loss is required to pay bonus at the rate of 4 percent or Rs. 40/- whichever is greater.										
Leave	The Punjab Industrial Establishment (National and Festival Holidays and Casual and Sick leave) Act, 1965	State Act	Every establishment has to allow to its employees the following : <table><tr><td>National Holidays</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">(i. e. 26th January, 15 August and 2nd October)</td></tr><tr><td>Festival Holidays</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Casual Leaves</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Sick Leaves</td><td>14</td></tr></table>	National Holidays	3	(i. e. 26th January, 15 August and 2nd October)		Festival Holidays	5	Casual Leaves	7	Sick Leaves	14
National Holidays	3												
(i. e. 26th January, 15 August and 2nd October)													
Festival Holidays	5												
Casual Leaves	7												
Sick Leaves	14												
Welfare of transport workers	The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961	Central Act	The Act provides for the welfare of motor transport workers and regulates the conditions of their work. It applies to every motor transport undertaking employing five or more workers.										
Welfare of Contract Workers	The contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970	Central Act	The Act regulates the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith.										
Labour	The Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976	Central Act	Prevention of forceful labour.										
	The Inter State Migrant workmen (Regulation of employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979	Central Act	The Act regulates the employment of inter-state migrant workmen.										

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GLOSSARY

<i>Auhutee</i>	.. Offering to sacred fire
<i>Abadi</i>	.. Inhabited spot or place
<i>Adna Malik</i>	.. Inferior owner
<i>Akhand Path</i>	.. Non-stop recitation of religious scriptures
<i>Ala Malik</i>	.. Superior owner
<i>Amavas/Amavasya</i>	.. Moonless night
<i>Anand KaraJ</i>	.. Marriage ceremony according to Sikh rites
<i>Angi/Choli/Kanchli</i>	.. Bodice
<i>Arhti</i>	.. Commission agent mainly dealing in agricultural produce
<i>Asadhi</i>	.. Autumn harvest
<i>Atta</i>	.. Flour
<i>Azan</i>	.. The call of a Muhammadan in a mosque for prayers
<i>Bagar</i>	.. A sandy area
<i>Bagri</i>	.. An inhabitant of <i>Bagar</i> tract
<i>Bald/Vaid</i>	.. A physician
<i>Bajigar</i>	.. An acrobat
<i>Bajra</i>	.. A kind of millet (<i>Pennisetum typhoides</i>)
<i>Balwadi</i>	.. A community centre for children
<i>Banderwala</i>	.. A monkey juggler
<i>Banjar</i>	.. Uncultivated land
<i>Bann</i>	.. A series of feasts given before the wedding
<i>Barani</i>	.. Land solely dependent on rainfall
<i>Barauthi/Dukuo/Milni</i>	.. Welcome of marriage party
<i>Basti</i>	.. An inhabited area

Bathua	.. A winter vegetable plant
Ber	.. A plum
Berseem	.. A fodder crop (<i>Trifolium alexandrinum</i> ; Egyptian clover)
Bhajan	.. A devotional song
Bhajan mandli	.. A group for singing devotional songs
Bhang	.. The dried leaves and small stalks of hemp (<i>Camallis indica</i>) used to cause intoxication either by smoking or when eaten mixed up into sweetmeat
Bhat	.. A gift from maternal uncle at the time of marriage
Bhat neotna	.. Invitation to a brother by his sister for the marriage of her child
Bhayachara	.. Brotherhood
Bhujje	.. A vegetable made with boiled leaves of <i>Bathua</i>
Blswedari/Malikana	.. Ownership of land
Boladari	.. Tenantship
Bura	.. Indigenous white uncrystalled sugar
Chadra	.. A sheet of cloth
Chahi	.. Land irrigated by wells
Channa	.. Gram
Charkha	.. A spinning wheel
Charl	.. Small millets (<i>Sorghum</i>)
Chatni	.. A mixture of salt and chillies
Chaukidar/Chowkidar	.. The lowest village official
Chhari	.. Long stick—a symbol of Gugga pir
Chhari marna	.. Hitting with a stick—a part of the ceremony at the time of reception of marriage party
Chola	.. A formal dress worn at birth, marriage and <i>Sanyas</i>
Chopal	.. A common meeting place of a village
Churma	.. A sweetmeat prepared with crushed chapati, ghee and sugar
Dai	.. Midwife

Dal	.. The generic name of pulses
Dalia	.. Porridge (made of semi-grinded wheat)
Dangal	.. Wrestling arena
Darshan	.. The visiting of a sacred shrine
Darwaja	.. A big entrance gate
Dasottan/Sirdhon	.. A feast arranged after the long awaited birth of a male child
Dastur	.. A revenue sub-division
Dera	.. An abode of seers
Deru	.. A kind of small drum
Desi	.. Indigenous
Deswali	.. A local inhabitant of Jat clan
Dhaba	.. Eating house
Dhaincha	.. A kind of fodder crop
Dhani	.. A hemlet
Dhenkli	.. An appliance in the form of a see-saw for lifting water
Dhobi	.. A washerman
Dhoti	.. A kind of wear used for covering the body below waist
Dohar	.. A gent's wrap of cotton cloth-double folded
Dudhiya	.. A milkman
Dupatta/Utla	.. A piece of cloth of two breadths forming, Ladies' headwear
Dupla/Sopli	.. A ladies' wrap of coloured cotton cloth-double folded
Gaushala/Goshala	.. Cowshed
Gayana	.. A priest of Bishnoi community
Ghagra	.. A skirt from waist to knee
Ghurchari	.. The ceremony in which the bridegroom at the time of marriage, goes to the bride's house (to be married) on a mare
Gopi	.. Women devotee of Lord Krishana

Gotra	.. Caste, family clan, lineage
Granth	.. Holybook
Gur	.. Unrefined sugar in lumps, rough brown sugar
Gwara/Guar	.. Forage crop (<i>Cyamopsis tetragonoloba</i> , cluster bean)
Guru	.. Master
Hakim	.. A doctor of Unani system of medicine
Hali	.. A ploughman
Halwa	.. A sweet dish made of sugar, ghee and rice/wheat flour
Halwai	.. Sweetmeat seller, a confectioner
Halqa	.. Jurisdiction, sphere of action
Hara	.. Oven
Hom	.. A sacrificial fire
Ikta	.. A district
Inamkhore	.. The holder of cash allowance
Jaimala	.. The garland which the bride puts around the neck of the bridegroom
Jalebi	.. A kind of sweet
Jamabandi	.. A book of record of rights
Jandi	.. A desert tree [<i>Prosopis Cineraria</i> (L) Druce]
Jassid	.. A kind of pest
Jhalars	.. An appliance for lifting water (from a well, etc.) a water wheel
Jhanki	.. A tableaux
Jhompra	.. Hut
Jowar	.. A kind of millet (<i>Sorghum vulgare</i>)
Juti	.. A kind of footwear
Kaj	.. A death feast
Kalgee	.. A crown or crest
Kallar	.. Lime concretions or saline deposits

Kamin	.. A menial
Kankar	.. Calcareous nodules found in the soil
Kanungo	.. A revenue official
Kanyadan	.. Giving a bride to bridegroom after <i>phera</i> ceremony
Kara	.. An iron/silver or gold bangle
Kazi	.. A Muslim priest
Khandsari	.. Indigenous white sugar
Khajanchi	.. A treasurer
Kharach	.. A death feast
Kharif	.. Autumn harvest
Kheer	.. Sweet dish made of milk and rice
Khes	.. A cotton wrap for protection against cold
Khichri	.. Porridge-prepared with <i>bajra</i> and pulse
Kirtan	.. Singing in loud tone in praise of God
Kohlu	.. A machine used for extracting sugarcane juice or mustard oil
Korda	.. Wrapping of cloth in the form of a rope
Kothli	.. A sort of present sent by parents to their married daughter
Kumhar	.. A potter
Kunba	.. A household, family
Kund	.. An indigenous reservoir of water for drinking. It is generally caused when rain water is collected at a low lying place
Kurta	.. A shirt
Kurti	.. A shirt of shorter length, Ladies' wear
Ladoo	.. A kind of sweet
Lagan	.. Actual date/time for the performance of marriage ceremony
Lambardar	.. A representative of cultivators who is registered by Government in order to collect land revenue
Lande/Mahajani	.. A script used by Banias

<i>Langoti</i>	.. A cloth passed between the thighs and ticked into a waist belt before and behind to conceal the privities
<i>Lassi</i>	.. Curd milk
<i>Late Siswal</i>	.. Study of pre-historic period on the basis of excavations carried out at Siswal (Hisar) village. This denotes to Harappan period
<i>Linga/Phalus</i>	.. The symbolic representation of Lord Shiva
<i>Mahal</i>	.. Revenue estate
<i>Maida</i>	.. Fine flour of wheat
<i>Maktab</i>	.. A primary school sometimes attached to a mosque
<i>Malikana</i>	.. Fee paid in recognition of proprietary title
<i>Mandi</i>	.. A market
<i>Mari</i>	.. A small minaret
<i>Maund</i>	.. A unit of weight-0.373 Quintal
<i>Mehndi</i>	.. Henna
<i>Mohalla</i>	.. Locality
<i>Moth</i>	.. A kind of pulse (<i>Phaseolus aconitifolius</i> , brown gram)
<i>Moong</i>	.. A kind of pulse (<i>Phaseolus aureus</i> , green gram)
<i>Muafis</i>	.. The land which is exempted from land revenue
<i>Mudha</i>	.. A stool (made of reeds or canes and corel)
<i>Mukta</i>	.. An officer dealing with the affairs of a district
<i>Mundan</i>	.. The shaving of hair on a child's head for the first time
<i>Muqadam</i>	.. An administrator of a village
<i>Nahri</i>	.. Land irrigated by canals
<i>Nahri Parta</i>	.. Cess on irrigated land
<i>Nakshatras</i>	.. Horoscope
<i>Nali</i>	.. Channel of the Ghaggar river
<i>Namaz</i>	.. Muhammadan form of prayer
<i>Neota</i>	.. Invitation
<i>Nikah</i>	.. Marriage ceremony according to Muslim rites

<i>Orhana</i>	.. A head wear of ladies
<i>Pachhotra</i>	.. A fixed percentage of the land revenue paid to Labma-rdar in the total collection made by him
<i>Pag/Pagri</i>	.. A headwear of a man
<i>Painted Greyware</i>	.. Typical type of earthen wares of grey colour with black or brown coloured painting. They denote the period between 11-10 B.C. to 7-6 B.C.
<i>Paledar</i>	.. A coolie
<i>Pan</i>	.. Betal leaves
<i>Panch</i>	.. Member of a Panchayat
<i>Pankha</i>	.. A hand fan
<i>Parshad</i>	.. An offering before the images of God/Goddesses or deities
<i>Pathshala</i>	.. A primary school
<i>Pathwari</i>	.. A heap of mud collected during Kartika bath and worshipped by devotee women
<i>Patra Pher</i>	.. A small amount given to bridegroom by bride's father to signify the attainment of bride's puberty.
<i>Patwar</i>	.. Jurisdiction of <i>patwari</i>
<i>Patwari</i>	.. A village official who keeps record of the village land
<i>Pauli</i>	.. An entrance room for the use of male members of the family
<i>Phera</i>	.. A part of the marriage ceremony among Hindus in which the bride and bridegroom go round the sacred fire
<i>Phul</i>	.. Knuckle bones
<i>Pidha</i>	.. A small stool
<i>Pir</i>	.. Muslim saint
<i>Powar</i>	.. A rainy season plant (<i>Cassia tora</i> . L)
<i>Punar Vivah</i>	.. Remarriage
<i>Purdah</i>	.. Veil
<i>Pureh</i>	.. A kind of sweet cake
<i>Purnima/Puranmashi</i>	.. A full moonnight

<i>Purohit</i>	.. A family priest
<i>Pyjama</i>	.. A pair of loose trousers tied round the waist
<i>Ragi</i>	.. A village singer
<i>Raita</i>	.. A solution of curd/curd milk and vegetable
<i>Randher</i>	.. Porridge of different kinds
<i>Rangmahal</i>	.. An archaeological site in Rajasthan. The excavated material carry some peculiarities which signify the period of first century A.D.
<i>Raya</i>	.. An oil seed
<i>Reechwala</i>	.. A bear-juggler
<i>Roti</i>	.. Chapati
<i>Rohi</i>	.. Soft loam
<i>Saag</i>	.. A vegetable made with the leaves of mustard plant
<i>Sagai</i>	.. Betrothal
<i>Sainik Pariwar</i>	.. An organisation engaged in the welfare of retired military personnel
<i>Samadhi</i>	.. A small construction made in the memory of dead person
<i>Sangit</i>	.. Music
<i>Sari</i>	.. A long cloth which constitutes the main part of a women's dress, wrap round the body and then thrown over the head.
<i>Sarkar/Sirkar</i>	.. A revenue division
<i>Sarpanch</i>	.. Head of village panchayat
<i>Sarson</i>	.. Mustard (<i>Brassica campestris</i> Linn).
<i>Sattu</i>	.. A sort of cold drink prepared from the roasted barley flour mixed with sugar and water
<i>Sawni</i>	.. The rainy season, kharif crop
<i>Sehra</i>	.. Bridal chaplet
<i>Seer</i>	.. A unit of weight -0.933 kilogram
<i>Sem</i>	.. Waterlogging
<i>Shakkar</i>	.. Unrefined sugar in form of powder

<i>Shamlat</i>	.. Common village land
<i>Shani</i>	.. Saturn
<i>Sharbat</i>	.. A kind of indigenous cold sweet drink
<i>Shikhara</i>	.. Top
<i>Shivala</i>	.. Shiv temple
<i>Sidha</i>	.. A present of uncooked eatables to a married daughter or a Brahman
<i>Sikhara</i>	.. A tomb
<i>Sindhara</i>	.. A present to married daughter and daughter-in-law on the day before Teej festival
<i>Singhara</i>	.. A fruit grown in village pond
<i>Snan</i>	.. Holy bath
<i>Sufaidposh</i>	.. A village official
<i>Sumar</i>	.. A goldsmith
<i>Taramira</i>	.. A kind of oilseed (<i>Eruca sativa</i> Mill, rocket)
<i>Taccavi</i>	.. Agricultural loans granted by government
<i>Tandoori</i>	.. Prepared in a cooking oven
<i>Tawa</i>	.. An iron pan used for baking chapati
<i>Teet/Teend</i>	.. A wild vegetable from <i>kair</i> tree
<i>Teh-bazari</i>	.. Rent charged for the use of municipal land
<i>Tell</i>	.. An oil-presser
<i>Thela</i>	.. Trolley, Wheel-barrow
<i>Thur</i>	.. Land affected by injurious salts
<i>Tibba</i>	.. Higher sandy areas in an undulating locality
<i>Tilak</i>	.. A sacred mark on the forehead

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About 5 kilometers in circuit and 18.75 metres high, this is *thel* at Sirsa. It lies in the south-east of Sirsa town and testifies the ancient most habitat. For confirming the antiquity of the district, the material remains of the ancient fort (*thel*) can still be seen. Much of its material has, however, been used for new constructions.



The above image of Kubera is made of buff sandstone and found from Sirsa. He is seated in *Ardhaparyankasana* with his left leg doubled and the right pendent resting on the ground. He holds a wine-cup in his right hand and *Nakulaka* in his left. He wears *Karamamukuta*, necklace and ear-rings. An ornamented halo is shown behind his head. Like other sculptures of early medieval period of the deity found from elsewhere he is shown without his mount. This sculpture may be assigned to circa 8th century A.D.

Kubera, the chief of the *Yakshas* is regarded as a god of wealth. He is one of the *Ashtadikapalas* and the guardian god of the northern region. According to the *Mahabharata*, he is the son of Vishravana and Idavida and grandson of Pulastya. Beside Hinduism, he has gained a considerable position in Buddhism and Jainism also.



This image of Mahishasuramardini, in buff sandstone, has been found from Sirsa. The eight-armed goddess is shown in the act of killing the demon Mahisha. She wears a necklace, ear ornaments, bracelets, armlets and a *dhoti* secured by a waist-band. The deity stands diagonally against the back slab putting her right foot on the back of the buffalo (Mahisha) and the left planted firmly on the ground. She holds the anthropomorphic demon coming out of the severed head of the buffalo with her proper left hand and pierces the back of the buffalo with a trident held in her proper right hand. Other hands hold anti-clockwise bow, bell, shield, sword, disc and arrows. Lion, the mount of the goddess, is depicted on the right as if attacking the demon from behind. It is a remarkable piece on the basis of its style and composition. It is representative of the Pratihara art of north India and may be dated to circa 10th century A.D.

Mahishasuramardini, a popular form of Durga, is one of the most popular goddesses of the Shakti cult in India. She obtained this particular form when gods evoked her aid against the terror of the demon Mahisha who had occupied the three worlds. To prevail upon the demon, all the gods concentrated their energies, transformed these into a female form and succeeded in killing Mahishasura. Therefore, this form of the goddess is called Mahishasuramardini.



This Yogasana Vishnu or Yoga-Narayana made of buff sandstone has been obtained from Sirsa. The deity, seated in the *Padmasana* pose on a lotus seat in a pillared niche, has four hands. The front two are placed in his lap, and back right and left hands hold a mace and a *Padma* (lotus flower) respectively. He is wearing a cylindrical crown *Kiritamukuta*, long garland, ear ornaments etc. Simplicity and grace are the distinctive features of this sculpture. It can be assigned to the 10th century A.D.

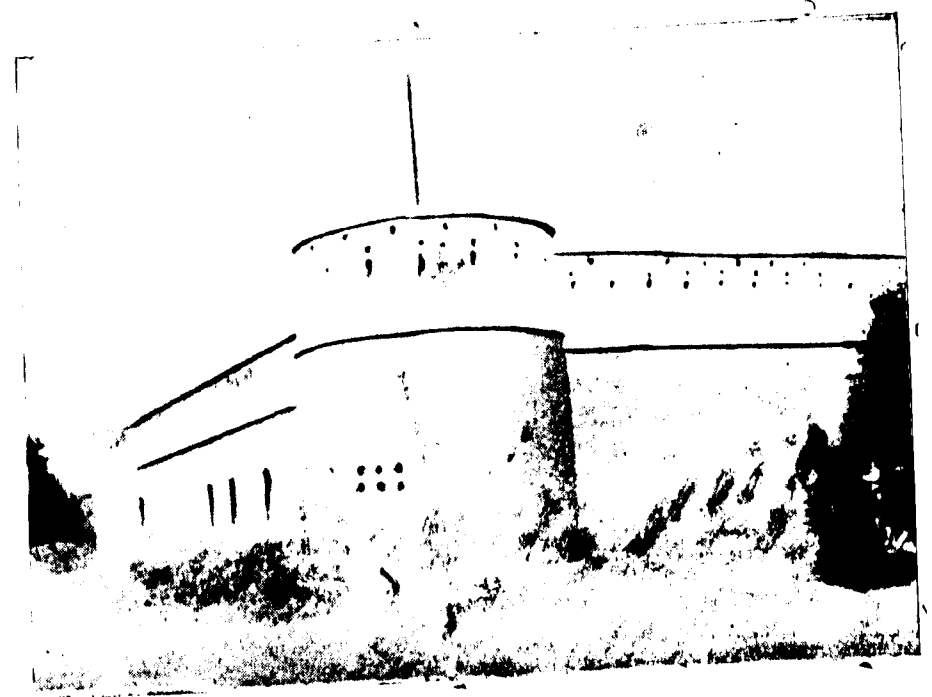


This Yama statue has been collected from Sirsa. It is made of buff sandstone. Image of the *Dikpala* is shown standing in a pillared niche. Yama holds a *Khatvang* in his right hand. The left hand is missing. The mount of Yama, buffalo is shown standing at the back. The head of the buffalo is completely gone. Yama is wearing a crown, *Kundalas* as ear ornaments, necklace, sacred thread, armlets and waistband. A thin lower garment with a few folds is also visible. Though this sculpture is damaged and has a mutilated face, yet it represents the beautiful artistic sense of Pratihara sculptures and may be dated back to 10th century A.D.



This representation of Ganesha with Shakti has been depicted in a medallion on a pillar. This buff sandstone pillar has been collected from Sirsa. Ganesha with Shakti has been beautifully shown in the medallion. The deity is depicted with an elephant head and big belly. He wears a tiara on his head. A snake has been used as belt on his belly. He has four hands. He holds a flower in the back right hand, a trident in the front right hand, a bowl of sweet balls in the back left hand and with the front left hand he is embracing the goddess. The goddess is seated on his lap. Her face is mutilated. Her right hand is thrown round the neck of the deity in an embrace and the left is broken. This image, though damaged and carved in limited space, is a beautiful piece of art and may be dated to *circa* 10-11th century A.D.

Ganesha has been regarded as the supreme God in the *Ganesha Purana*. He has been regarded as the great creator (Maha Brahma), the great protector (Maha Vishnu) and the great destroyer (Maha Shiva). The association with Shakti gave him the status of Maha Shakti also. Thus Ganesha became more elevated in status and beneficial to the human beings and was worshipped as an independent god around whom later evolved the *Ganpatya* cult.



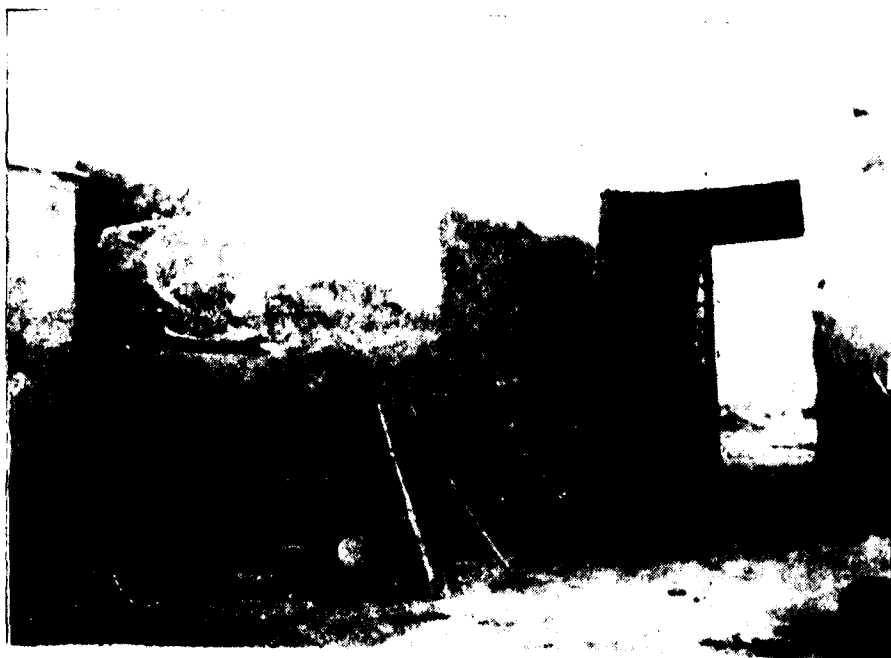
An old Fort, Rania—now housing the police station.



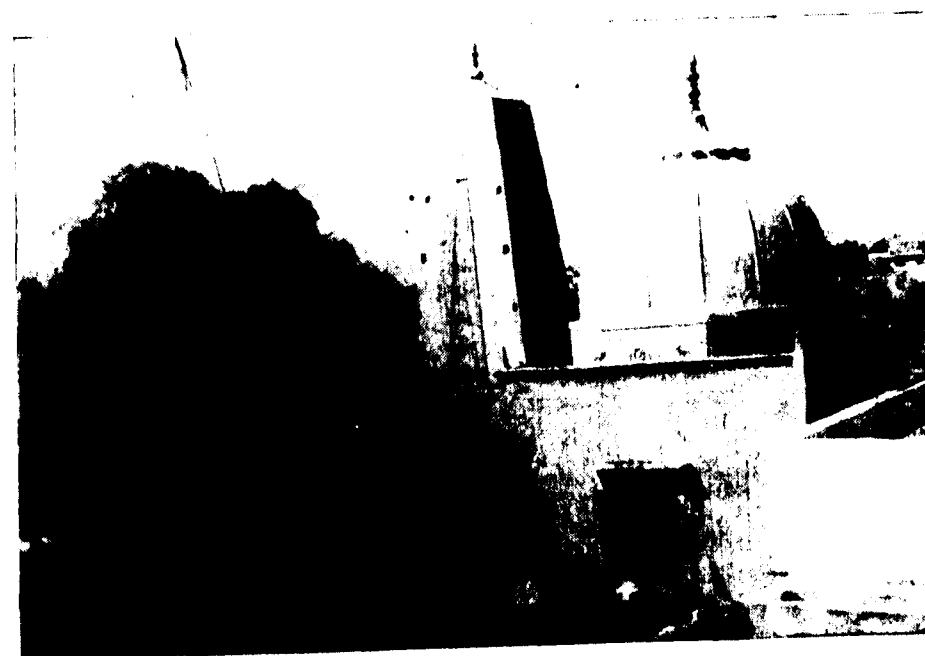
Shaheed Smarak, Ludesar.



This is an aged traditional Bagri couple of Ludesar village. Stout, sturdy, tall, simple and hardworking, the couple has led life in bad and good days. Scarcity conditions are now the events of the past, here. The past was gloomy and the present is certainly bloomy. What a healthy transformation in the district life it is !



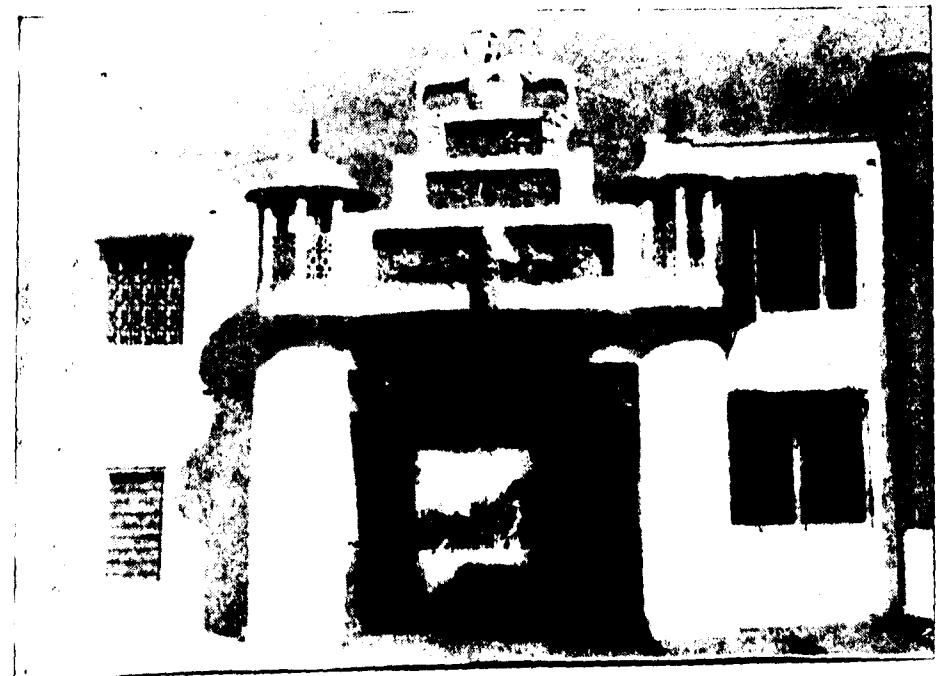
It is an inner glimpse of a traditional dwelling in Ludesar village. The houses in the district are generally spacious and hygienic. Earlier the *Chhattpars* were the abodes but now pacca houses are in galore. No uniform pattern is followed in constructions. Local conditions and necessity dominate the designs of houses.



Dera Baba Sarsai Nath, Sirsa—the temple is assigned to the 13th century.



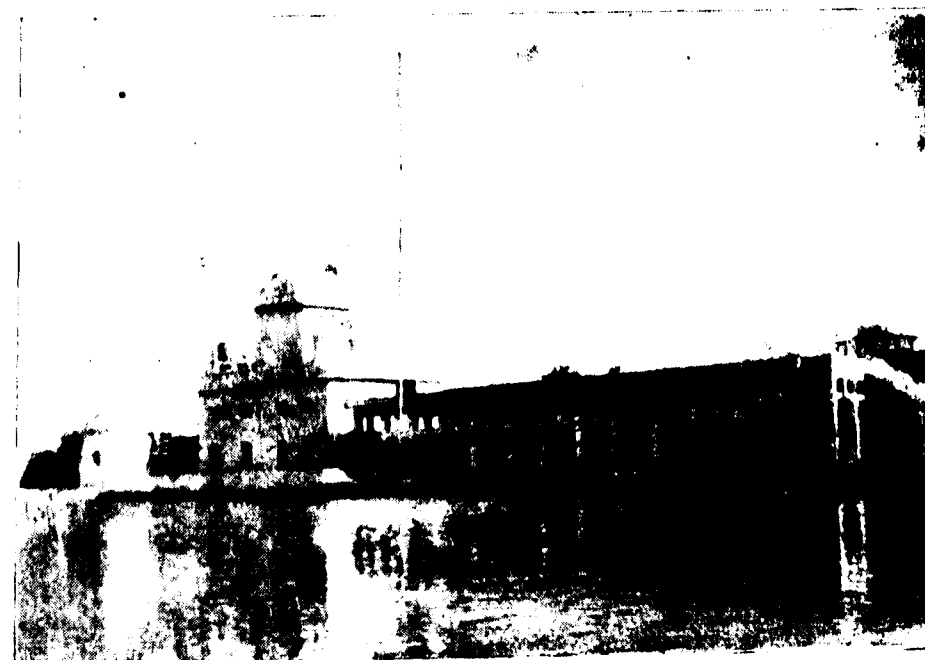
Shani Devta temple, Sirsa—a distinct temple of the state.



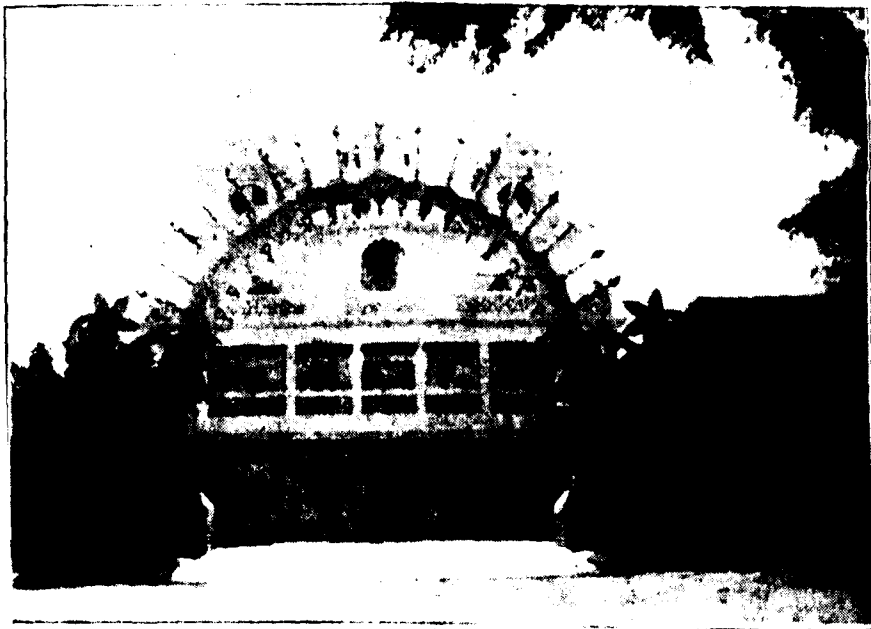
Dera Sacha Sauda, Sirsa—dedicated to the service of humanity.



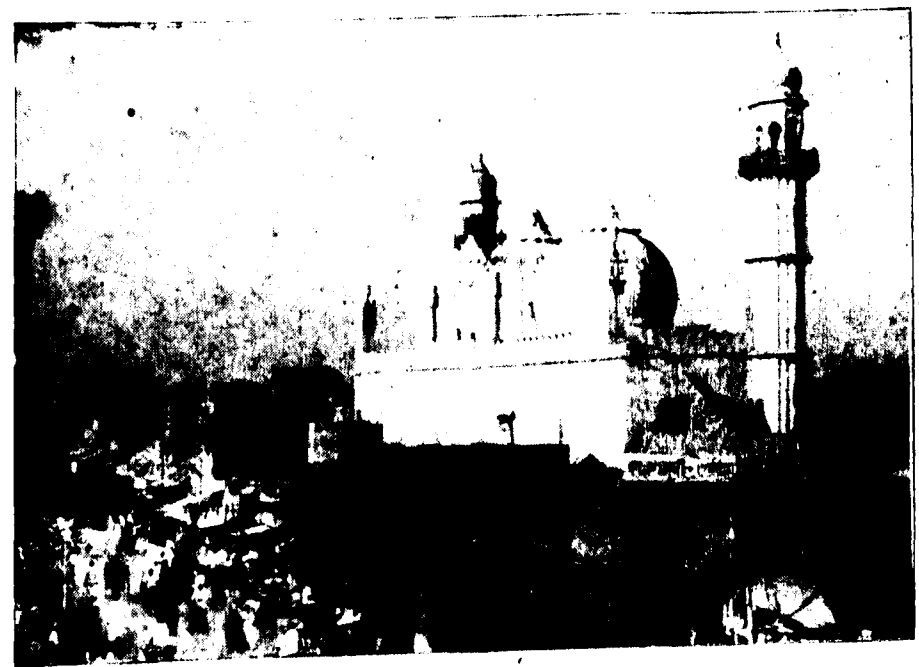
Namdhari sect centre, Jiwan Nagar—one of the five important centres of Namdhari sect in the country.



Gurdwara Guru Gobind Singh, Sirsa—a fine specimen of marble construction.



Gurdwara Chormar (Dabwali)—held in high esteem.



19th century, Jama Masjid, Sirsa—a front view.

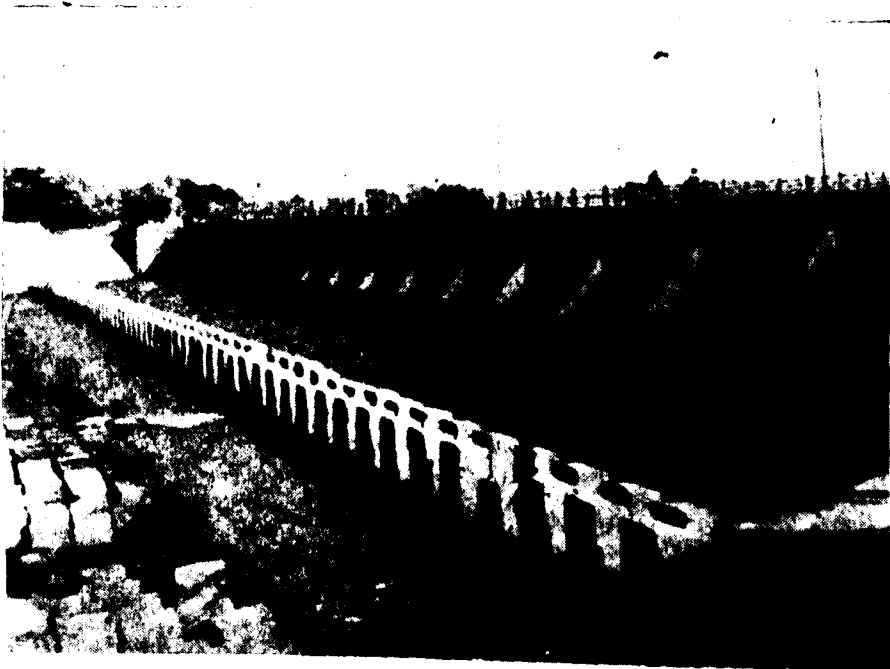


It is the view of vast sand dunes close by Ellanabad. Once a fertile tract irrigated by the legendary Sarasvati is now a sandy tract. How it happened is a sad mystery ?

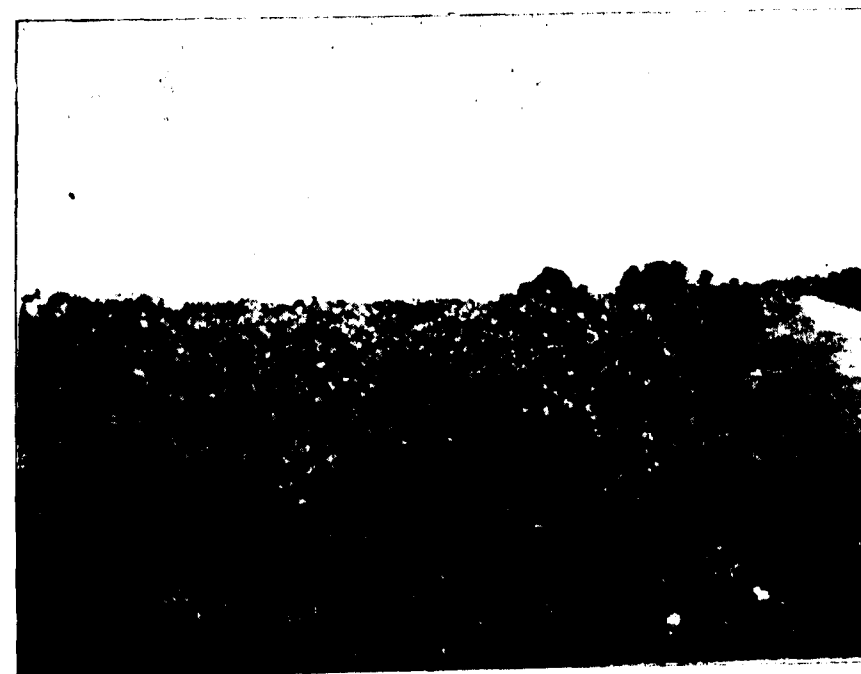


A view of Bhakra Main Canal near Village Khuyan Malkana—an absolutely real boon to the district.

Bhakra Canal water has given unprecedented impetus to district's overall development in general and agriculture in particular. It connotes greenery and opulance of the district.



A view of Head Works Ottu—channelising the canal water for irrigation parched but fertile land of the district.



A view of cotton field—a breakthrough in cropping pattern i.e. switching over from coarse grains to cash crops.

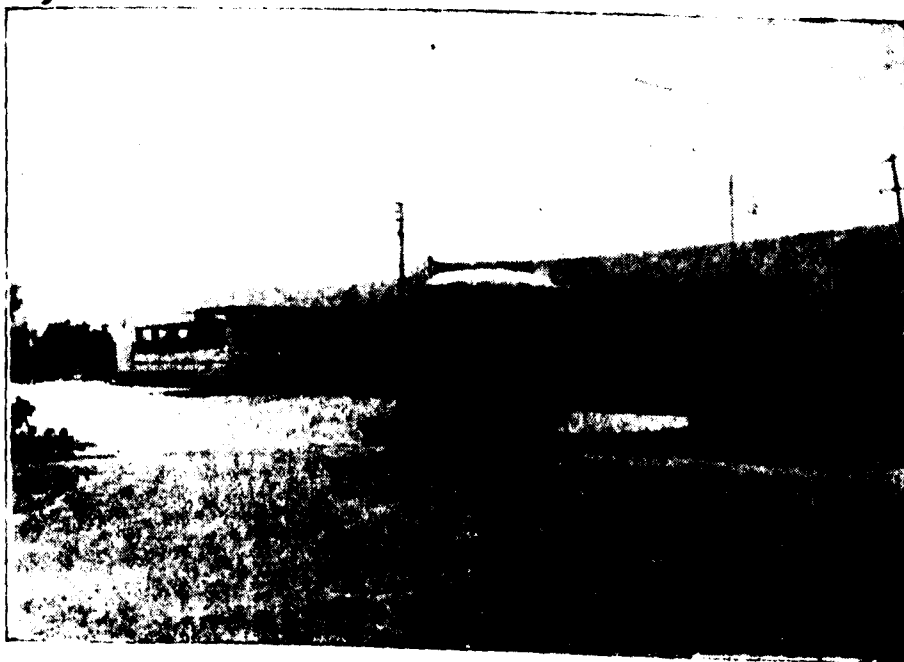
This is the most spectacular transformation in the district's agricultural economy.



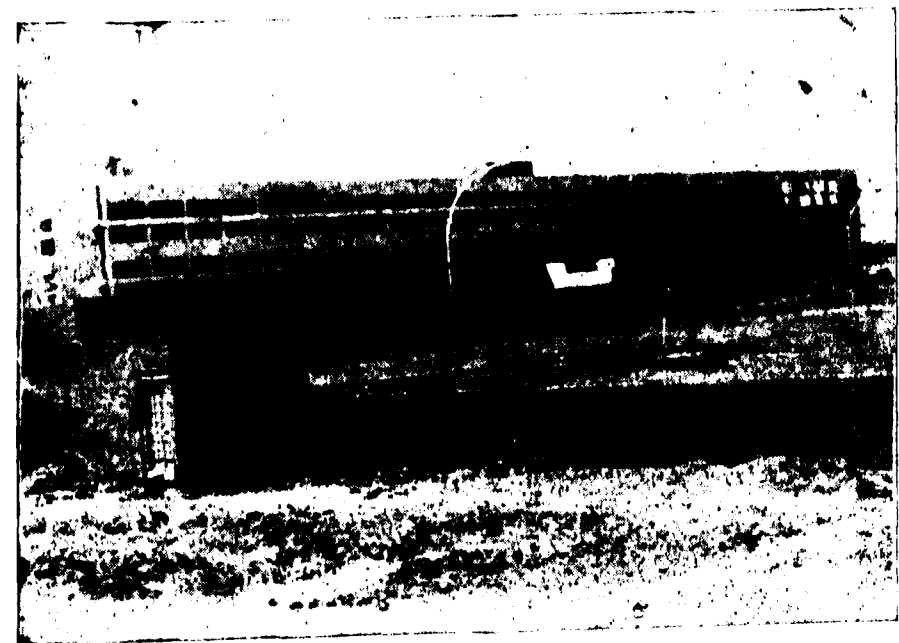
Seed Processing Plant, Sirsa—providing quality seeds to farmers, an essential input for enhancing agricultural production of the district.



Mini Secretariat, Sirsa—infusing new administrative culture, i.e. functioning of district administration under a single roof.

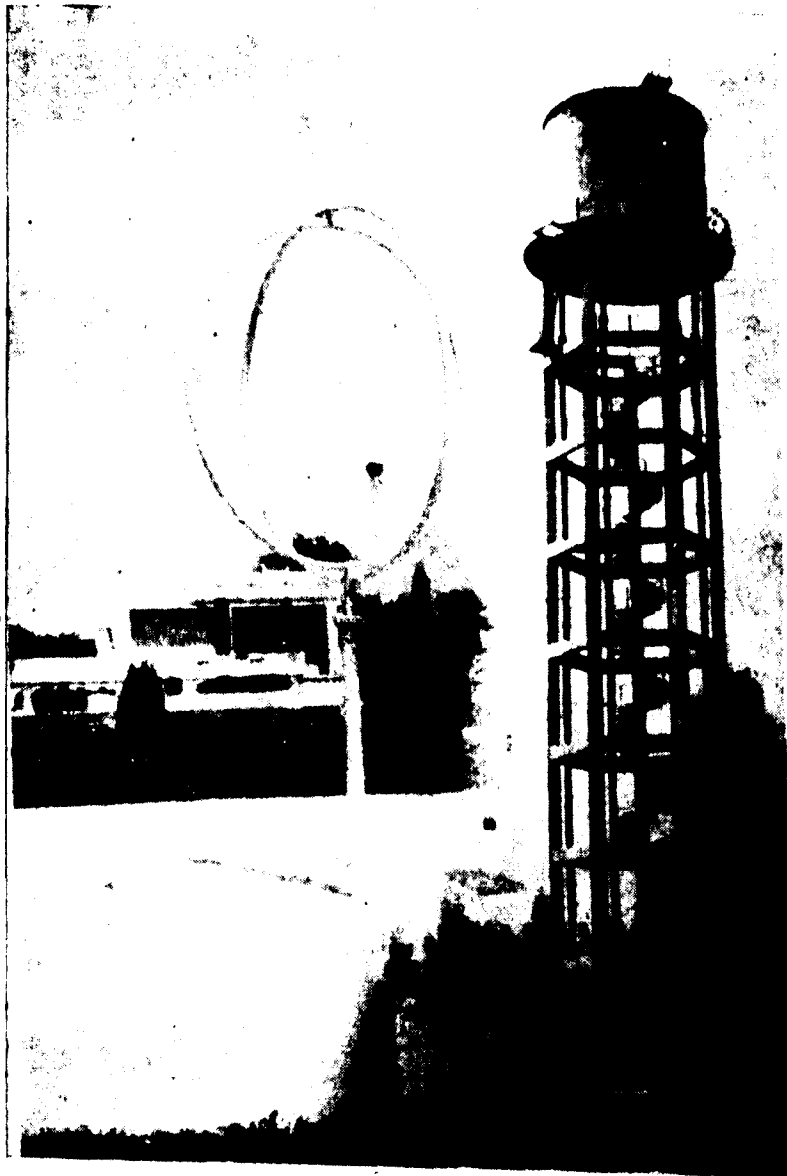


Judicial Complex, Sirsa—creating better environment for the independent judiciary.



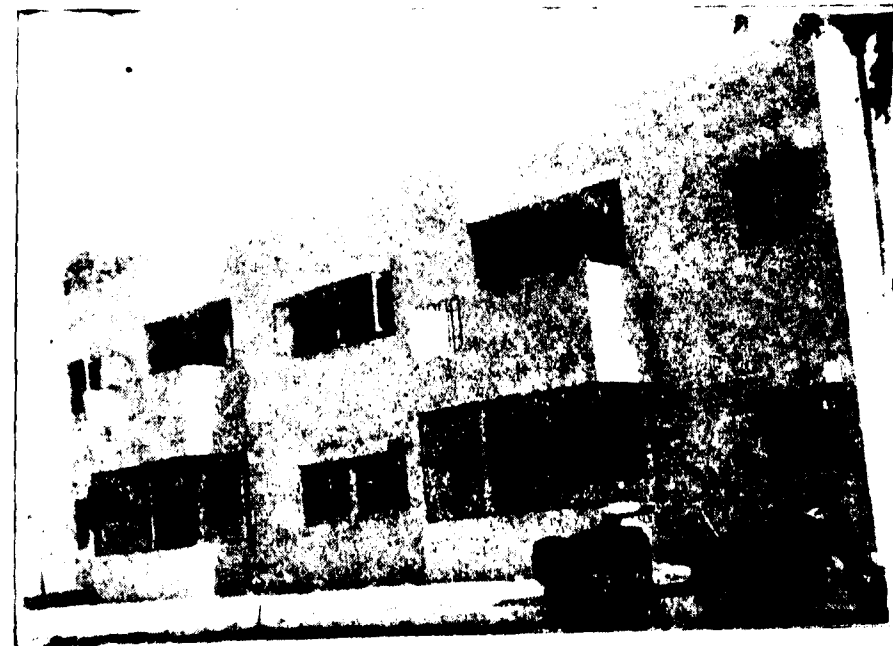
Civil Hospital, Sirsa—boasts of having all modern facilities.

The district has now well spread health cover through a chain of various health institutions.



Rural Water Supply Scheme, Asa Khera—the district is no more scarce in drinking water.

The district was handicapped of this basic necessity till sometime back. Piped water is now being supplied even to the remotest areas.



Working Women Hostel, Sirsa—social relevance in the present day context.



Janata Bhawan, Sirsa—a traditional concept in tourism i.e. providing low budget tourist facilities.



Surkhab Tourist Complex, Sirsa—a small delight in the town's *life*. Tourism was ushered into the district with the opening of this complex.



A view of Kala Teetar Tourist Complex, Abuh Shahar—modern tourist facilities in sandy hillock.

The complex has an outstanding architectural pattern ; it has been built on stilts, to stand on the Bhakra Canal bed. The environs have been beautifully landscaped.



Shikra Tourist Complex, Asa Khera—a modern concept for promoting tourism industry.

Away from the din of town life, the complex is covered with rich greens which have been developed in the shape of mounds and rolling levels.

